

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
MAIL: PO Box 868
Moorestown, NJ 08057
fpcmoorestown.org
856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
wallen@fpcmoorestown.org

Worship. Connect.
Serve. Devote.

JOIN US from the safety of
your home or safely gather
at church to worship on
Sunday morning:

8:30 AM: Traditional
11 AM: Contemporary

Worship streams live from
each worship space and
participants in attendance
observe health protocols
per state regulations.
Log on from any device to
www.fpcmoorestown.org
or [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

The service is also posted
later in the week
to our website.

"Connections" is published
weekly for Sunday worship and
**every two weeks in the
summer.** Please submit infor-
mation **by noon Tuesdays** to:
Editor Jan Martin
jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org
856-235-1688, Ext. 133

**Are you receiving our Friday
e-blast** with announcements,
Connections and upcoming
events? If not, contact the
[church office](#).



Connections

FPC
Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

December 12-18, 2021



Way of the Week 3 (Dec. 12-18)

3. LISTEN GENEROUSLY. Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention. Minimize the distractions and let go of the need to agree or disagree. Suspend your judgment and be curious to know more rather than jumping to conclusions. Above all, listen to understand.

Read: James 1: 19, 20; Proverbs 18: 13; Proverbs 12:15

Ideas for Action: Put aside phones and laptops. Turn off the TV or computer and face someone you love. Focus on what the other is saying; not on what you want to say. Be careful that you're not interrupting because you're not listening to them.

Revised COVID Protocols per Session

Session met December 8th to consider our COVID protocols, in light of the change in the CALI score for Burlington County to HIGH. The following changes will be effective Sunday, December 12 and will remain in effect into January 2022 when Session will reevaluate.

FOR INDOOR SUNDAY WORSHIP -- SANCTUARY AND MILLER COMMONS

Masked required for all persons, no congregational singing, all choir singers masked

INDOOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Masked required for all persons for services except for 11:00 pm which will be a mask optional service. Two verses of "Silent Night" will be sung as a congregation at each service. Participants are asked to mask at all services.

FOR INDOOR MEETINGS

Protocols are unchanged -- mask optional for vaccinated adults, recommended for unvaccinated adults. If one or more participants are 18 years of age or younger, all participants are required to wear masks. Participants in choir rehearsals are required to wear masks. No food will be served indoors (with the approved exceptions still in place).

Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 12 (7 pm)

This unique service provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression who may not feel the holiday joy or celebration seen in others. Seminary intern Paul Savage preaches. The event will stream live on the church's website. The Longest Night is a Service of Remembrance, including the Lord's Supper, special music and a time for prayer. All ages and faiths are welcome to take communion. Please share this event with those you know who might need a quiet place, an authentic respite in the midst of busy holiday activities, or who have experienced a loss.



Manger Sunday

December 12, 2021

In one of our congregation's many beautiful traditions, members may bring **unwrapped** gifts to services on Sunday, Dec. 12th for Manger Sunday. Upon entering the Sanctuary or Miller Commons, place your unwrapped gifts in the manger to be blessed by the pastors during worship. That day, gifts will be taken to [Oaks Integrated Care](#) for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families. For those NOT attending services, gifts may be dropped off between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at a contactless drop at the Blessing Box.

Advent Guide

We've prepared a special *Advent Activity Guide* with programming information for the season's events and special dates. There is something meaningful for all ages. Pick up your copy at church or download online.

Alternative Gift Market

Catalog available

Purchase gifts at church December 12, 19 or ONLINE.

Christmas Toy Drive

Annette Emerson is conducting the annual toy drive for the Presbytery Food Shelf in Camden. Can you help? Drop off new, **unwrapped** toys labeled "Emerson" at church or at the Emerson home (329 Springhouse).

NEW: Adult Spiritual Formation

Rev. Wes Allen and Dr. Leslie Spencer co-lead a 6-week study on the Confession of Belhar. **Starts January 6, 2022; [sign up online on Church Center](#)**. Class is limited to 8 people. The Confession of Belhar emerged out of apartheid South Africa in 1986 and was adopted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a Confession of Faith in 2016.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Thursday, December 23

Christmas Eve Eve Service

- 3:00 pm Outdoor and 7:00 pm Outdoor

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve (sanctuary)

- 4:00 pm Family Service (masks required)
- 6:00 pm Family Service (masks optional)
- 8:30 pm Communion (masks optional)
- 11:00 pm Lessons & Carols (masks optional)

Sunday, December 26

9:30 a.m. blended worship, no Sunday School, nursery care or Adult Education

Save the Date: PW Winter Gathering



On Sunday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m., Kelly Maxted will be our speaker in Miller Commons and also via live stream (www.fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream).

The program, "*When God says, 'Go!'*", will tell about her faith journey. Kelly and her husband, Luke are currently Fellows at UrbanPromise Camden. They are preparing to answer God's call to found UrbanPromise London with their two young sons Judah and Reuben. Luke is also currently working with our middle school youth program.

Check-In Help Needed

With two worship services, we're looking for lots of help on Sunday mornings assisting with attendance check-ins. [Sign up online](#) for one Sunday or as many as you can to help those who need it to check in on our tablets or call the church office. Teens and adults; teens, earn service credit! Contact Alison in the church office 856-235-1688, x113. Super easy to train!

Evergreens Worship

Second Monday of the Month
NEXT: Monday, January 10
10:00-11:00 a.m.

2021 Giving Record

If you would like a copy of your current 2021 financial statement to see where you are with your pledge, contact Norm Vandergrift in the church office at nvandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org. Final statements for 2021 will be sent in January. Thank you for completing 2021 pledges before Dec. 31.

Yes, I'm Here or Watching

THANK YOU for registering your attendance each Sunday you're here. Our simple automated check-in replaces the Friendship sign-in pads and provides accurate records for the Membership Committee, staff and member care. Download the Church Center app on your phone to easily check in. If you need help, please see the volunteer. **REMINDER:** When watching the live stream at home or attending in person, **check in** on your smart phone to note participation.



Sunday Worship Flowers

Reservations are being taken now for 2022 Sunday flower donations. Vases are \$40 each and two vases are available each Sunday. To reserve dates, contact Rumi Sinunu at rts319@gmail.com or (856) 266-4047 or the church office. What better way to commemorate loved ones or special dates in your life.

Have you noticed someone missing from church? Give them a call.

Cookbook Gifts

Looking for a Christmas gift or stocking stuffer? A few of our PW Cookbooks "Giving Thanks" are available for \$10 in this season of deliciousness! See Debbie Heller.

Year-End Giving

As 2021 comes to a close, several year-end giving opportunities are available including stock gifts, Christmas Green (December), and Christmas Joy mission fund (Dec. 12). For information see our current events page and a mailed letter from Pastor Stuart Spencer recapting our year 2021. What a year it has been!

Advent Devotional in a Bag

A few bags remain! Families can still pick up an Advent Devotional in a Bag from the Commons Lobby, as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. Pick a time when the family can sit down together and follow the included devotional guide and its family activity, which will usually take about an hour. Make memories that include preparing your hearts for Baby Jesus. Holly Asciutto has assembled these kits and lessons specifically with your families in mind.

Power of Prayer

Sunday mornings following both worship services a member of the Prayer Team and an elder will be in the Prayer Chapel for about 10 minutes to greet anyone with a prayer request. You're encouraged to take a couple minutes to stop by.

See page 4 for dates for our children and youth group Christmas parties/schedules



Thank you to the PW ladies and Steve Margerum for decorating our beautiful Christmas tree!

Preschool

PARENTS: Register for 2022-23 preschool classes in January for Step by Step. More details soon.



FAMILY MINISTRY

No Sunday School December 26th (9:30 a.m. worship)

Annual Christmas Parties

- ♦ **Wednesday, December 8:**
Kingdom Kids (4:45-6:00 pm)
Crossing Zone (6:30-7:30 pm)
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 15:**
Middle School Youth Group Party (6:30-8:00 pm)
- ♦ **Sunday, December 19:** High School Youth Group Christmas Party (6:30-8:30 pm). Bring a \$5 silly gift for a white elephant gift exchange



Welcome Angie Slane

Angie Slane joins the staff as a temporary placement for our open part-time administrative assistant position. Angie will support children's and youth activities, as well as the general office. She will staff Wednesday night children's groups. Angie served for 10 years as a legal secretary in the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, and for 7 years as a call center specialist with a transportation company in Delanco. For over 5 years she has taught Sunday School and assisted with VBS operations for Had-donfield UMC. She is also a Stephen Minister.

Kingdom Kids: Grades K-3
Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 pm
Crossing Zone: Grades 4-6
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm
Middle School: Grades 7-8
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm
High School: Grades 9-12
Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm

Sermon Series Memory Verse

"Can any of the worthless foreign gods send us rain? Does it fall from the sky by itself? No, you are the one, O Lord our God! Only you can do such things. So we will wait for you to help us."
- Jeremiah 14: 22

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto
856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:

The search is underway for a new youth director

Gingerbread Challenge Awards

THANK YOU to everyone that participated in our Gingerbread Challenge 2021! Here are the winners:

- ⇒ The Most Colorful and Yummiest Train: **Sofia and Nico de la Cruz**
- ⇒ The Most Traditional and Most Rideable Train: **Cole Legath**
- ⇒ Best Integration of Church, Christmas and Pop Culture Train: **Kyle Perkowski**
- ⇒ The Cutest and Best Train for a Sweet Tooth: **Steven Margerum**
- ⇒ Most Traditional and Best Constructed Gingerbread House: **Amy Coombe**



Please keep an eye out for your prizes which will be in the mail! We hope you had as much fun making your houses as we did seeing them! Merry Christmas!



Happy Holidays! Winter break is coming!

- ⇒ Kingdom Kids last meeting **Wed. Dec. 8.** Returns **Wed. Feb. 2.**
- ⇒ Crossing Zone last meeting **Wed. Dec. 8.** Returns **Wed. Feb. 2.**
- ⇒ Middle School last meeting **Wed, Dec. 15.** Returns **Wed. Feb. 2.**
- ⇒ High School last meeting **Sun. Dec. 19.** Returns **Sun. Jan. 30**