

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
**MAIL: PO Box 868**  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)  
856.235.1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
Pastor/Head of Staff  
[sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

**Rev. Wes Allen**  
Associate Pastor  
[wallen@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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**

**Dec. 19-Jan. 1, 2022**



## Way of the Week 4 (Dec. 19-26)

**4. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE.** Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere. Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice. Pass on good reports that you hear about others.

**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 1: 3, 4; Acts 11: 22, 23

**Ideas for Action:** Write a text or a note to someone close to you who just did something wonderful or important. With many details, tell them why you're grateful or delighted by them.

## Way of the Week 5 (Dec. 26-Jan. 1, 2022)

**5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT.** Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge – it doesn't help. Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.

**Read:** 1 Peter 4: 8; Matthew 7: 1; 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

**Ideas for Action:** Take a "criticism inventory." Just how critical are you, really? Ask someone you love and trust to tell you how you're doing in this area. Try a 24-hour fast from all forms of criticism. No complaining or criticism for an entire day.



## **CREDO Confirmation**

CREDO is FPC Moorestown's confirmation class for high school students. Confirmands meet weekly during the Sunday education hour (9:45-10:45) in room 2. [Sign up online by January 1.](#) These interactive sessions are designed to help confirmands engage their faith, wrestle with difficult questions, and reflect on what it means to be a member of the church. After a few weeks of meeting confirmands will begin crafting their statement of faith. Students are encouraged to review these statements with their parents and mentor as they prepare to present it to Session (the church elders) at Credo's conclusion in April. The cost of CREDO is \$35 and covers all materials for students, parents and mentors (cost should not deter students from participating in confirmation, scholarships are available for students, please reach out to Wes Allen ([wallen@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:wallen@fpcmoorestown.org)) if financial assistance is needed).

## **Revised Protocols**

In light of the change in the CALI score for Burlington County to HIGH, the following changes were effective Dec. 12 and will remain in effect into January 2022:

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

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

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Masked required for all persons for services except for 11:00 pm which is 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.

### **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).

## **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.



### **January 2, 2022**

- ◆ 8:30 a.m. Traditional
- ◆ 11:00 a.m. Contemporary
- ◆ Sunday School 9:45 am
- ◆ Adult education and nursery care

### **January 30, 2022**

- ◆ 9:30 am 5th Sun. Worship
- ◆ No nursery care, adult education or Sunday School

## **Christmas Worship Schedule**

### **Thursday, December 23**

#### **Christmas 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 required)
- 8:30 pm Communion (masks required)
- 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](http://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**

For 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](mailto: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.



### **Special Holiday Giving Opportunities**

For these offerings, you may mail a check, [give online](#), use the special envelopes in boxed sets or leave in the offering box. Please note in memo line. THANK YOU to all who have generously responded to the pastor's recent end of year letter.

- ♦ **Year-End Stock Donations** — Please remember the church in your year-end donations. Process gifts expediently by contacting your broker or [Norman Vandergrift](#) at 856-235-1688, Ext. 112.
- ♦ **Christmas Green Offering**— this offering directly assists our church's program areas. Special envelopes are in both worship spaces.
- ♦ **General Budget Help**— this year-end gift above your pledged giving keeps us moving forward!
- ♦ **Please Note:** *Online donations must be received by December 31, 2021 and checks post-marked by December 31, 2021. Checks may be received in the offering plate up to January 2, 2022 with a date of December 31 on the check.*

### **Christmas Toy Drive**

Annette Emerson wishes to thank everyone who generously donated toys to the Presbytery Food Shelf in Camden. She was overwhelmed at your generosity!

See page 4 for Winter Break dates for our children and youth groups

### **Alternative Gift Market Catalog**

Purchase gifts at church through December 19 or ONLINE.

### **Epiphany Concert January 9, 2022**

Please join us on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. to conclude the Season of Advent. The Adult and Chapel Choirs as well as the Choristers will be singing carols, songs, and anthems of the season. The concert will also air via live stream.

*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.

### **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.

### **Preschool**

PARENTS: Register for 2022-23 preschool classes in January for Step by Step Christian Preschool. Look for applications in January. Early registration for church members and current enrollees will be January 3-14, 2022. Open registration for all others begins January 18, 2022.

Sign up for 2022 Altar Flowers



# FAMILY MINISTRY

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

### 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 Haddonfield UMC. She is also a Stephen Minister.

### High School Youth Group Christmas Party

**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



**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 Ascitutto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

For Families and Youth:

**The search is underway for a  
new youth director**



### Winter Break for Fellowship Groups Happy Holidays!

- ⇒ 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**

### Christmas Worship Schedule

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**

**Christmas Eve Eve Worship (courtyard)**  
3:00 pm Outdoor and 7:00 pm Outdoor

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**Christmas Eve Worship (sanctuary)**

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**

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