

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 5-11, 2021



Way of the Week 2 (Dec. 5-11)

2. SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH LOVE. Speak honestly and directly in a way that clearly reflects love and support for one another.^a Be courageous enough to say what needs to be said, even when it's difficult.^b Address issues directly with those who are involved or affected; speak to, not about, others.^c

- ◆ ^aLet everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (Ephesians 4: 29)
- ◆ ^bGet rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. (Ephesians 4: 31)
- ◆ ^cInstead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (Ephesians 4: 15)

Ideas for Action: Is there a difficult conversation you've been delaying? Is there someone you've been talking about instead of being direct? Pray for courage and grace to have the conversation, in person, if possible.

Advent Devotional Resource

As we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ, we are reading "Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer for our Advent devotionals. This is a beautiful resource. Order your copy from [Amazon](#) or www.christianbook.com. We are out of copies in the church office. You may be best served by ordering yourself online.

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.

If you have someone you would like us to invite, please provide their name and address to Alison Mackey in the church office so we may send them an invitation letter. Contact Alison Mackey at 856.235.1688, Ext. 113 or amackey@fpcmoorestown.org.

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.

Poinsettia Sales

Order forms and payment are due by Sunday, Dec. 5.

Order forms available at church and online. \$15 per plant



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).

Alternative Gift Market Catalog is now available

Purchase gifts at church December 5, 12, 19 or ONLINE.

Special Singing on Christmas Eve

During each service on Christmas Eve we will be singing Silent Night as a congregation. **Masks will be required during the song so please bring one along.**

For our children's safety, masks are required during the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve family service. Masks are optional during the 6:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services.

CREDO Meeting

High schoolers and their parents are invited to an information meeting **Sunday, Dec. 5** at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a spring CREDO confirmation class. The hybrid meeting will also be available via Zoom:

www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 856 3774 1204

Passcode: FPCCREDO

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

WJCMS Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 5 at 7:30 pm in our Sanctuary

West Jersey Chamber Chorale and Brass, directed by Joel Krott, presents a Christmas concert "An International Christmas Celebration." Enjoy music from many cultures that tell the saving grace of God from the promise of Advent to the Nativity through Epiphany. Pieces are short and colorful and filled with variety; listeners young and old will enjoy the beauty and truth of Christmas through music: familiar, ancient, and new.

TICKETS: \$28 regular, \$18 senior (65+), 18 years or younger FREE. Tickets available at the door or by calling Andrew Cates at 856-495-4636. Visit www.wjcms.org. Live streamed on our [website](#).

Manger Sunday Gifts

In one of our congregation's many beautiful traditions, members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts to services on Sunday, December 12th for our Manger Sunday presentation. 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.

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, Dec. 8

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 December 31.

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

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.

Looking for a Gift?

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.

Advent Devotional in a Bag

A few bags remain! Families are encouraged to 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 Ascitutto has assembled these kits and lessons specifically with your families in mind.

Year-End Giving

As 2021 comes to a close, several year-end giving opportunities are available including stock gifts, Christmas Green, and Christmas Joy mission fund. For information see our current events page.

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

Preschool

Register for 2022-23 preschool classes in January. More details soon.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Pick up a Family Advent Devotional Bag in the Commons Lobby

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



SIGN UP for High School Retreat **January 21-23, 2022; DUE DEC. 7**

HIGH SCHOOLERS: Get ready for one of the best weekends of the year. Pull back from every day life and reconnect with God. This weekend at Lake Champion has been a formative one for our students for years. If you've never been with us on a wintercamp retreat, this is the year! Build memories that will last a lifetime and grow a relationship with a loving God.

REGISTRATION DUE BY DEC. 7. Cost: \$150 per person for the weekend. See [Dave Fauvell](#) for questions.

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

Holiday Schedule

Thursday, December 23: Christmas Eve Eve Service (sanctuary courtyard)

3:00 pm and 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Candlelight Worship

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (sanctuary) — *During each service we will be singing 'Silent Night' as a congregation. Masks will be required during the song so please bring one.*

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)

Sunday, January 2, 2022 will be regular schedule of two services and Sunday School 9:45-10:45 a.m.

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.** Return date to be determined
- ⇒ High School last meeting **Sun. Dec. 19.** Returns **Sun. Jan. 30**

