First Presbyterian Church 101 Bridgeboro Road MAIL: PO Box 868 Moorestown, NJ 08057 <u>fpcmoorestown.org</u> 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 II 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 information 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 FP



January 9-15, 2022

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

ELEBRATE OUR UNITY SAVOR OUR DEVERSITY

Way of the Week 7 (Jan. 9-15)

- 7. CELEBRATE OUR UNITY, SAVOR OUR DIVERSITY. Thank God that, like parts of the human body, we're not all the same. Be open to learn from others, regardless of their age, background, experience, or tenure with our church. We make better decisions and grow as people when we consider multiple perspectives. Listen with curiosity to others and consider how to use their ideas.
- Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. (Ephesians 4: 3-4)
- Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. (Romans 12: 3-5)

Ideas for Action: Seek out someone from a different background, culture or race and meet three or four times to get to know their lives and stories. Pray with them for racial and social healing.

Church Office Closed; Activities Unchanged

Due to many of the office staff currently being ill or testing positive for COVID-19, the church office will be CLOSED Friday, January 7th through Tuesday, January 11th. Staff will be working remotely and available by email, cell phone and text. During this closure the office will be thoroughly sanitized by the property staff. **The building will be OPEN for scheduled meetings, activities, concerts and worship services**, just the church OFFICE is closed. Property staff will be on site each day. Lead-ership will reassess the situation on Tuesday, January 11th.

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Adult Education

Lorenzo Eagles leads a Sunday morning Adult Education class from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come participate in this Discovery Bible Study-style adult class, which is open to those 7th grade and older.

Online Class: The Confession of

Belhar — Zoom class/in person, 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 30, 2022

- 9:30 AM 5th Sunday Worship
- No nursery care, adult education or Sunday School

January Session Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 Joint meeting with Deacons 6:30 pm Prayer, 7:00 pm Meeting Session reports due Jan. 21

Revised Protocols

In light of the change in the CALI score for Burlington County to HIGH, the following protocols remain in effect into January 2022:

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

INDOOR MEETINGS

Mask required for vaccinated and 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).

CREDO Confirmation

Begins Sunday, January 9 9:45-10:45 a.m. ~ 3rd Floor Register online

Congregational Meeting and Annual Report

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday**, **Feb. 6, 2022** at 12:15 p.m. and will be held in person in Fellow-ship Hall (masks required) and via Zoom hybrid. The purpose of the meeting is to share the Annual Report, receive the 2022 church budget, and approve the 2022 pastors' terms of call. The Annual Report will be available Sunday, January 31. Committee reports are due to the church office by **Friday, January 14th**.

Mission Trip

The Missions Committee is hoping to arrange a missions team to head to Kentucky in the first quarter to help with disaster relief following the December tornadoes that ravaged the area. Are you interested? We are looking for 14 individuals. Please contact Linda Jagiela at <u>missions@fpcmoorestown.org</u> or cell (267) 275-7582.

January 31: PW Winter Gathering



On **Sunday, January 31** at 7:00 p.m., Kelly Maxted will be our guest speaker in Miller Commons and also via live stream for the PW Winter Gathering.

The program, "When God says,

'Go!'", will tell about her faith journey. Kelly and her husband, Luke are currently Fellows at Urban-Promise 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. All are welcome to this event.

2022 Inquirers Class

The Membership Committee will be holding a three -part Winter Inquirer's Class for those interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church and possibly joining the congregation.

- Wednesday Feb. 23; 7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom
- Saturday, Feb. 26; 9:00AM-1:00 PM (in person)
- **Sunday, Feb. 27;** 12:00-1:00 PM with Session, received into membership (in person)
- Sunday, March 6: welcomed at worship

To SIGN UP contact Alison at 856-235-1688, Ext. 113 or <u>amackey@fpcmoorestown.org</u> or **register** on the <u>online Events page</u>.

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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 Choristers, Chapel Choir and Adult Choir will be singing carols, songs, and anthems of the season. The concert will also air via live stream. The church office is closed until Wednesday, Jan. 12 but the building is OPEN for all activitites.

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 check in. If you need help, please see the volunteer. <u>REMINDER</u>: When watching the live stream at home or attending in person, **check in** on your smart phone to note participation.

MLK Observance

The church campus is CLOSED on Monday, January 17



Lenten Prayer Retreat March 15-18, 2022

Pastor Spencer leads a four-day, three-night retreat at Holy Cross (NY) Monastery, an Episcopal community of faith. Join members from FPC Moorestown and friends from other churches for a study of the parable of the Prodigal Son and lots of time for rest, reflection and renewal. Our study is Henri Nouwen's masterpiece *The Return of the Prodigal: A Story of Homecoming.* Save the date and watch for registration information coming soon.

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

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.

NEW: Submit an online prayer request to the Prayer Committee. Visit the prayer page on the website at https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/ prayer to share your prayer request with the prayer team.

2022 Pulpit Flowers

Reserve Sunday flower donations for 2022 to honor loved ones and special dates in your life. Vases are \$40 each and 2 vases are available each Sunday. To reserve your date (s), contact Rumi Sinunu at 856-266 -4047 or rts319@gmail.com.

Preschool

PARENTS: Register for 2022-23 preschool classes in January for Step by Step Christian Preschool. Look for applications in January on our <u>web-</u> <u>site.</u>

Early registration for church members and current enrollees will be **January 3-14, 2022.** Open registration for all others begins January 18, 2022.

2022 offering envelopes will be mailed in early January

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." Phil. 1:3.

I want to thank the congregation for your incredible outpouring of love and support this past year as I underwent cancer treatments and our grandson, Joshua, was born with serious medical issues. Words cannot adequately express how meaningful the heartfelt prayers, the many cards, phone calls, delicious meals, and beautiful flowers have been to all of us. We felt truly connected as part of our church family. During this long year I discovered the truth from Nehemiah that "the joy of the Lord is my strength" and the Lord used all of you to help carry me through. As Joshua and I continue to recover, we still appreciate continued prayers for our healing and recovery. And I appreciate prayers for the self -less caregivers, Mark and Matthew & Holly. God bless you and thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

> In His Hands, Mary Christensen



Sunday School 9:45-10:45 am (no class January 30th)

Winter Break for Fellowship Groups

- ⇒ Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) returns Wed. Feb. 2.
- \Rightarrow Crossing Zone (4th-6th) returns **Wed. Feb. 2.**
- \Rightarrow Middle School (grades 7-8) returns Wed. Feb. 2.
- \Rightarrow High School (grades 9-12) returns Sun. Jan. 30

High Schoolers Head to Lake Champion! January 21-23, 2022



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

And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (I Peter 5: 5) For Families and Children: Holly Asciutto 856-235-1688, ×116 hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth: The search is underway for a new youth director



Welcome Sam Caraballo

Sam Caraballo has been hired to the Property Team as a part-time staffer, filling a vacancy in that department. Sam will be assisting with the maintenance of the grounds and equipment. He will assist in the upkeep of the building providing assistance to property supervisor Steve Margerum, Steve Cashmer and others. He will be here to help in any way possible on Sunday mornings before, during, and after services. He is a hard worker with a great attitude, and is always willing to help. Please introduce yourself to Sam next time you see him.

The Season of Christmas

