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



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown



# Way of the Week 8 (January 16-22, 2022)

**8.** JUMP IN. Life is full of unexpected problems and needs, large and small. Pay attention to moments when God calls you to action, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary the situation may be.<sup>a</sup> See "disruptions" as invitations to share Christ's love.<sup>b</sup> Write a note. Visit the sick or the grieving. Share a meal.

- <sup>a</sup>O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6: 8)
- <sup>b</sup>What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well" – but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. (James 2: 14 – 17)
- <sup>c</sup>Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. (1 John 3: 18)

**Ideas for Action:** Practice one of the actions listed in this week's description: Write a note, visit someone who lives alone, and/or share a meal.

# **Church Office Hybrid Workplace**

For the remainder of January, office employees will rotate in and out of the church office, working remotely and on-site according to a set schedule. The church office will NOT be closed during this time. All staff remain available by phone and email during the week. You may reach the church office at 856.235.1688.

#### January 16-22, 2022

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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 adult class, which is open to those 7th grade and older.

#### The Four Gospels

NEW: Seminary intern Paul Savage leads a four-week study on The Four Gospels beginning Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. The class will meet from 9:45-10:45 am in Room 8, and be accessible via Zoom or in person.

#### January Session Meeting

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

#### January 30, 2022

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

#### **Revised Protocols**

At a special Session meeting January 12, the following enhanced protocols were approved:

#### **Worship Services**

- Masks required for all persons
- Physical distancing encouraged in both worship spaces
- No congregational singing. All who lead singing will continue to wear masks

#### **Indoor Meetings**

- Everyone who enters the building is required to mask, regardless of their vaccination status.
- Groups are welcome to meet at church, though some are moving to virtual meetings.
- Our Annual Meeting, set for Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 12:15 p.m. will be offered virtually via Zoom.
- No food will be served indoors.

Read a letter from Stuart Spencer

# 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 virtually via Zoom. 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 30. 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 **Monday, 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>.

#### 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 soon.

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

#### **Service Pledges**

The New Year is upon us ... is there something new you'd like to try? Do you want to serve as an usher, prepare snacks for VBS or become a trustee? Or maybe you'd rather stuff envelopes, or coordinate games for middle schoolers at youth group. **Service Sunday** is coming. Watch for a link to our new online Service Pledge in the next weeks. There are countless ways to make an impact and utilize your skills, all for the glory of God.

#### **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 <a href="https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/">https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/</a> <a href="prayer">prayer</a> to share your prayer request with the prayer team.

#### 2022 offering envelopes have been mailed

#### **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.

The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday: March 2 First Sunday in Lent: March 6

#### **Blanket Sunday**

January 30, our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, is Blanket Sunday, a program of the Deacons. Each blanket is \$10 and will provide critical needs for this Church World Service effort. Donate whatever amount you wish. Checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with Blanket Sunday in the memo line, use special pew envelopes or online drop down for Blanket Sunday.



#### **Annual Statements**

Annual giving statements for 2021 are being finalized, and will be mailed to households in January.

#### **Boards of the Church**

The Nominations Committee will soon be hard at work staffing the three Boards of the church: Elders, Deacons and Trustees. Is God calling you to serve? What ministry area calls to you? Please pray about where you may "join hands." Look for an online sign up shortly.



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# Come see us in Sunday School 9:45-10:45 am

# No Sunday School January 30

There will be no children's Sunday School, adult education or nursery care on Sunday, January 30, which is a Fifth Sunday. Worship will be at **9:30 a.m.** 

# Winter Break for Fellowship Groups

- $\Rightarrow$  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 School Retreat Rescheduled February 18-20, 2022

Due to concerns with the Coronavirus by the host organization, the high school winter retreat scheduled for Jan. 21-23 has been rescheduled for **February 18-20**, President's Day weekend. Price is \$150 per person and covers two nights lodging, towels and linens, snacks on Friday night, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Save the date!!

# Deadline to register: January 20th Sign up online

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

# **Preschool Registration is OPEN**

PARENTS: Registration is OPEN for 2022-23 preschool classes for Step by Step Christian Preschool. Look for applications on our <u>website</u>. Early registration for church members and current enrollees will be **January 3-14**, **2022**. Open registration for all others begins January 18, 2022. Classes begin in September 2022 and are available for 2 ½ year olds, 3-year olds, and Pre-K students. Step by Step offers flexible options for morning or afternoon sessions and is open to members of the church and surrounding communities.



Visit the preschool's website for more information at <u>https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/growth/step-by-step-preschool/</u> or contact director <u>Amy Delgado</u> at 856.235.1688, x132.

children's MINISTRY

