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 FPO



Jan. 30-Feb. 5, 2022

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown



10. **JOIN HANDS.** Work as a team. Collaborate with each other, our professional staff, our lay leaders, and our congregants to find the best solutions. Collaboration lightens the load, generates better ideas than individuals working alone, and unleashes the gifts God has given us all.

Read: Ecclesiastes 4: 9; Galatians 6: 2, 3; Proverbs 27: 17

Ideas for Action: Is there some task you're doing at church that you could invite someone to share with you? Think of someone from our church who can help you sort out a challenge or problem you're facing.

Dear Congregation:

The acknowledgement expressed from you last week, marking fifty years in your service, was totally amazing. I am grateful for the many direct planners and participants who thoughtfully arranged a celebration of those years. I am thankful that so many came in person and that so many sent me notes which were encouraging. Many wrote reminiscences that were thoughtful and enjoyable.

Whatever came forth in music ministry that glorified God and edified His people is to His praise, not mine. Whatever happened in the lives of participants which created and/or strengthened their relationship with Jesus – may it rebound unto the further making of disciples!

Joel Krott

If you were unable to be with us for the surprise event on Sunday, January 23rd, you can watch the tribute on our website at <u>www.fpcmoorestown.org/krott-50</u>.

Page 2

January 31: <u>PW Winter Gathering</u>

On **Monday, January 31** at 7:00 p.m., Kelly Maxted will be our guest speaker for this event, which has been moved to Zoom to maintain health and safety at this time.

Log on to <u>www.zoom.com</u> Meeting ID: 872 6792 3579 Passcode: 959782

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 Urban-Promise London with their two young sons Judah



and Reuben. Luke is also currently working with our middle school youth program. All are welcome to tune into this event.

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. Find the link on our events page and website. 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 online and at the church.

Looking for Lenten Group Leaders

This year our Lenten small group studies will be reading *Way of A Pilgrim* by R.M. French. If you are interested in leading or hosting a group this year, please contact Wes Allen or Alison Mackey in the church office (856.235.1688) and they'll sign you up!

Adult Spirtual Formation

Lorenzo Eagles leads a Sunday morning Adult Spiritual Formation 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 fourweek study on The Four Gospels beginning **Sunday**, **February 6th. The class meets from 9:45-10:45 am** in Room 8, and is accessible via Zoom or in person.

CREDO Class

The CREDO confirmation class meets Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m. on the third floor.

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>.

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. SIGN UP online on our event page or website.

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

Boards of the Church

The Nominations Committee is 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.

Check in to Church

Using the Church Center app on your phone, please "check in to church" each Sunday you're in person or home watching the live stream. This simple automated check-in replaces the Friendship sign-in pads and provides accurate records for the Membership Committee, staff and member care. Download the app on your phone from the App Store or Google Play. Need help? Please see the volunteer in the narthex or at the desk.

Annual statements are being mailed in January

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. Fill out our new online Service Pledge. 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 https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/ prayer to share your prayer request with the prayer team.

2022 offering envelopes have been mailed

The Season of Lent

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

Our church-wide Lenten small group study will be *The Way of a Pilgrim* by R.M. French and will begin the week of Ash Wednesday March 2. Sign ups begin Feb. 13.

January 30, 2022

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

Blanket Sunday

January 30, our 5th 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 <u>online drop</u> <u>down</u> for Blanket Sunday.



Step by Step Preschool

Support our Preschool on Third Tuesdays at Chick Fil-A. **Mention the school** in the drive-through, dining in or curbside carry out. **Next: February 15 (5-8 PM)**

Centerton Square Shopping Ctr. 58 Centerton Square

Per Capita

In February, look for mailed information regarding our annual Per Capita giving. As Presbyterians, we are a *connectional church*. This assessment is a "per member" contribution of **\$38.75 per member** that each church pays annually to the larger church to support the General Assembly, Synod and West Jersey Presbytery.

Page 3



There is no Sunday School January 30 (5th Sunday)

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.**

WE WILL SEE YOU SOON!

- \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 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. Register now to reserve your space!!

Deadline to register: January 20th <u>Sign up online</u>

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>. Open registration began on **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 web site for more information at <u>https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/</u> growth/step-by-step-preschool/ or contact director <u>Amy Delgado</u> at 856.235.1688, x132.



