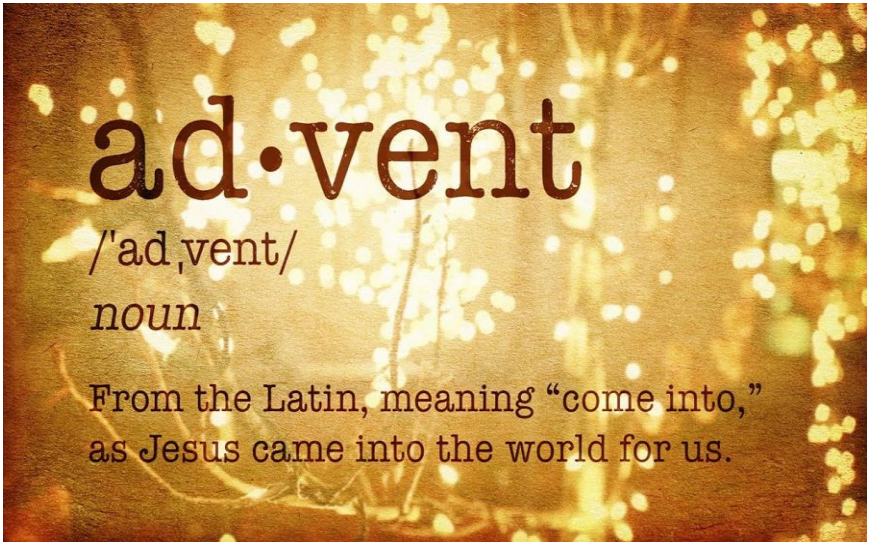


Advent Guide 2022

**A season of special opportunities
and experiences**



Advent is the season of reflective preparation for the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the expected return of Christ in the Second Coming. The season of Advent lasts four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This year Advent 2022 will begin on Sunday, November 27, and end on Saturday, December 24.

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown
P.O. Box 868 · Moorestown, NJ 08057

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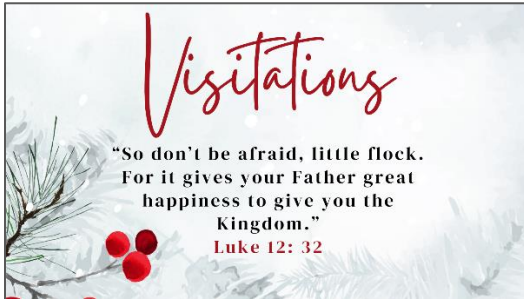


"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7: 14

Advent Worship Schedule 2022

Throughout Advent, our pastoral staff presents the sermon series “Visitations” which begins Nov. 27th and runs through Dec. 18th.



November 27

First Sunday in Advent (Lord's Supper)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship ~ 11:00 a.m. Contemporary
Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation, 9:45-10:45 am

December 4

Second Sunday in Advent (Lord's Supper)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship ~ 11:00 a.m. Contemporary
Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation, 9:45-10:45 am

December 11 ([Manger Sunday](#), [Poinsettias](#))

Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship ~ 11:00 a.m. Contemporary
Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation, 9:45-10:45 am

December 18

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship ~ 11:00 a.m. Contemporary
Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation, 9:45 am Jesus Birthday Party

December 25 ~ Merry Christmas

9:30 am Worship, No Sunday School, Adult Education, Nursery
Brunch following worship (volunteers needed)

Online Gift Drive: Christian Caring Center Available now; purchase November 4-28

Like last year, the Deacons have organized an online gift drive to provide much needed items to local families this holiday season. From Nov. 4-28, please visit yougivegoods.com/fpcm2022 to go to our personalized page where you can shop the specific items you'd like to give (hats, gloves, scarves, books, games, blankets, PJ pants etc.) and pay online. All of the items will ship directly to the Christian Caring Center.

The organization will use the items as part of their Christmas basket distribution to families in December. **Please complete online gift purchases by Monday, November 28.** Please contact Deacon Caroline Joyce at dmcljoyce@comcast.net for assistance or questions.

Poinsettia Sales (\$15 each) Order Forms and Payment due by Nov. 27

Each year during the Advent season the congregation has the opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by [purchasing a poinsettia](#) to be placed at the front of the sanctuary on Manger Sunday, December 11, 2022.



Order forms are available Nov. 13, 20, and 27th and [ONLINE!](#) Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Manger Sunday December 11, 2022. Plants being taken home will be available after worship that day or may be picked up in the Commons Lobby.

Virtual Gingerbread House Challenge Begins Nov. 23; Posts due by Dec. 2

Our annual Gingerbread challenge will be virtual again this year. Come to the church between Nov. 16-27 and pick up a kit for your family to decorate together. **The challenge begins on Nov. 23 and ends on Dec. 2 at midnight.** The kits this year are train-themed and traditional houses. It is a basic kit, YOU personalize it! You do not have to use the kits from the church. You can use one of your choosing. Make it colorful, make it interesting, make it unique!! HAVE FUN!

REMEMBER: When you have completed your challenge, please take pictures, and either post them on the FPC Family Ministries Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455452324633585> (ask Holly to join) or email your photos to Holly at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org. Judging will be held from December 3-9. And there will be prizes!!

For questions contact Holly Asciutto at 609-273-7465 cell/text or via email at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.

Family Advent Devotionals, Wreaths Create special memories of Christmas

We have a limited number of **Advent Wreath kits** available that will be in the Commons Lobby, as well as the gingerbread houses and trains for families to pick up, beginning November 16.

Also, continuing with our Advent theme, we will be producing a 4-week (four **devotionals** one per week) family Advent guide based on the Narnia book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. Questions? Contact Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.

Advent Small Groups

Meets Sundays AM or Wednesday PM

Our Advent focus on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* continues with two small group opportunities. Choose from:

- Sunday mornings at 9:45 am (**Nov. 27-Dec. 18**); Adult Spiritual Formation in Fellowship Hall A, led by Wes Allen
- Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm (**Nov. 30-Dec. 21**) in Room 3-4, led by Jim Cole and Gayle Payne.

Come to the first session having read chapters 1-2 of the *Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The book will be the *Advent in Narnia* Devotional: \$14 (purchase online, in Commons Lobby).

Alternative Gift Market

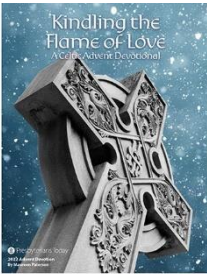
December 1-24

This year, our [Alternate Gift Market](#) will be available in person after services on Dec. 4, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 as well as virtually through the church's website fpcmoorestown.org. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. The Alternative Gift Market Catalog will be available at fpcmoorestown.org and on the events page starting **December 1st**. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broader range of 50 gifts is now available to assist our ministries. Visit the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby on Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18th to purchase your alternative gifts. Online orders, cash or checks please (checks made payable to FPC Moorestown). Or pick up your gifts at a contact-free pickup. For information contact Linda Jagiela at cell/text 267.275.7582 or missions@fpcmoorestown.org. Fulfillment volunteers are needed to staff the Alternative Gift Market on Sundays in December. Please contact Linda Jagiela if you can help.

Advent Devotional Resources, Guides

Purchase online; select copies at church

Give yourself the gift of God's presence in your life this Advent as together we prepare for the coming of Christ. A variety of Advent devotional resources will be used this season and can be ordered from your preferred online retailer or purchased at church beginning Sunday, **November 20:**



Kindling the Flame of Love: A Celtic Advent Devotional

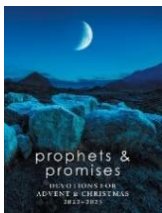
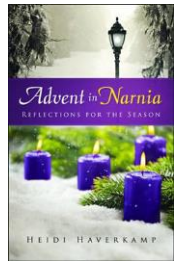
This 40-day devotional starts on November 15th and goes through Christmas Day. You can download this FREE resource on our event page and website:

[Download 'Kindling the Flame of Love' here](#)

From the devotional introduction: “Beginning the practice of Advent on November 15 gives us more breathing room, space to allow God’s presence and the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. It allows us to begin our spiritual practices a little earlier to center ourselves in God’s Word and open ourselves up to God’s call upon our lives.”

Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season (\$14)

This book offers 28 daily devotionals and reflections corresponding with CS Lewis’ book *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. To get the most out of this resource plan on reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.



Prophets & Promises (\$4)

This short devotional offers daily scripture readings combined with short quotes to ponder, reflections and guided prayers.

All devotionals, with the exception of *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* will be available to purchase in the Miller Commons Lobby beginning Sunday November 20. Copies can also be purchased online through your preferred online retailer. Contact [Wes Allen](#) for questions.

- *Advent in Narnia* - \$14
- *Prophets & Promises* - \$4
- *Kindling the Flame of Love* – free downloadable resource

Lighting the Advent Wreath November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 24

During both the traditional and contemporary worship services, members of our church family will serve as candle lighters for the Advent wreath. Generally, the themes for each week of Advent are:

Week 1: Hope (purple candle)

Week 2: Love (purple candle)

Week 3: Joy (pink candle)

Week 4: Peace (purple candle)

Christmas Eve: Christ Candle (white candle)

Mitten Tree “Blooms” December 4

On Sunday, December 4th, visit the Mitten Tree presented by the Knitting Network in the Commons Lobby. It will be decorated with handmade mittens, hats and scarves. You are welcome to add your handmade objects to the tree. All items will be donated to Urban Promise and local charities.

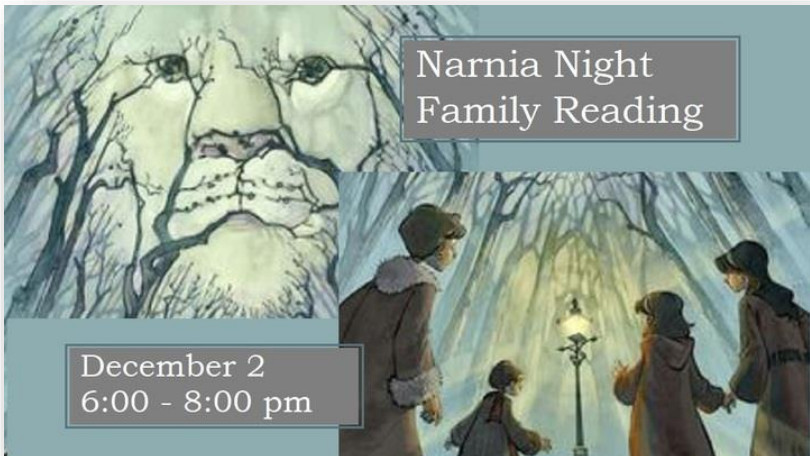
If you knit or crochet, join the Knitting Network on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am.

Interactive Family Event: Narnia Night

Friday, December 2 at 6:00 pm

This year during Advent, we will be basing our family devotional on the C.S. Lewis's book, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. We will focus on Aslan and what the Lion teaches us about Jesus: God is the Creator of all; God's voice is sweet; and there is tremendous power in His breath and His Word. There will be an interactive Narnia Night at the church on **December 2, 2022**, from 6:00-8:00 pm. Walk through the Wardrobe and visit our own Narnia! We will have lots of surprises in store. You may even get to sample some Turkish Delight but not too much! Come and bring your family, friends, and neighbors. It will be open to ALL.

It would help if, as a family, you read the book ahead of time. Age appropriate formats have been provided. Reading together is a great way to help build a parent-child bond and to be able to answer questions while discussing what is happening.



The Chrismon Tree

One delight of the Advent season is seeing the Chrismon tree in place in the sanctuary. “Chrismon” combines two words - Christ and monogram. The ornaments are white and gold, white being the liturgical color for Christmas, and gold being the symbol for the glory and majesty of God. Chrismon designs are simple copies of symbols from early Christianity. Some familiar ones are the star, the cross, the fish, the Rose of Sharon, the crown and the Dove. The triangle symbolizes the Triune God, and some have significant Greek words.

The Presbyterian Women have been decorating our church’s Christmas tree for over 50 years, and will decorate the tree on **November 28th**. As we view the tree, we reaffirm the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior in its symbols. Thank you Presbyterian Women!

Longest Night Service December 4 (7:00 pm)

This unique service provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression this holiday season who may not feel the joy or celebration seen in others – for many reasons. [The Longest Night](#) includes the Lord’s Supper, special music, remembrances and a time for



prayer. Stephen Ministers will be available, and all ages and faiths are welcome. The service will be live streamed for those who may wish to participate from home. Rev. Spencer will lead this service. Please share this opportunity with those you know

who have experienced a loss or may benefit from this worship service, and come with them to a meaningful evening.

Emerson Christmas Toy Drive

Steve and Mary Emerson continue a tradition started 30 years ago by Steve's late parents Skip and Annette, which is the annual Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children. Please look for a box in the Commons Lobby in which to place your **unwrapped** toys for the families at Your Food Shelf in Camden. Thanks very much! Questions can be directed to Steve Emerson at 856.905.3529 or semerson9@comcast.net.

West Jersey Chamber Music Society: "Christmas Music Made in England" December 11 (7:30 pm)

Please join us for "Christmas Music Made in England" performed by the West Jersey Chamber Chorale featuring works by James Whitbourn – "Missa Carolae." Plus, the American premiere of "Magnificat" performed by English-born Sam Scheibe, our member and former intern. The program will include shorter English pieces. Congregational singing included.

All are invited for a post-concert reception/fundraiser with raffle baskets, silent auction and a sumptuous dessert buffet. Additional music will be provided at this fundraiser by Vikram Joshi, Harpsichord.

Concert tickets are available for purchase at the door or online at <https://wjcms.org/concerts/>. For ticket information please contact Joann Nawrocki at info@wjcms.org.

The concert will also be live streamed by visiting <https://wjcms.org/live/>.

Manger Sunday

Return unwrapped gifts December 11

Members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts to worship on Sunday, December 11th for our [Manger Sunday presentation](#). Gifts will also be received outside under the portico for easy drop off. Gifts will be given to the clients of Oaks Integrated Care for the clients to use as gifts for their own families.

For those not attending services, gifts may be dropped off between 10:30-11:30 am at the Blessing Box.

For gift suggestions, [see the complete list on our website](#) and Manger Sunday current event page. For information or questions contact Linda Jagiela at missions@fpcmoorestown.org.



2022 Giving Statements Available

Need a copy of your current 2022 giving record to see where you are with your 2022 pledge? Statements are always available by contacting the church office and Norman Vandergrift at 856.235.1688, Ext. 112 or nvandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org.

Special Holiday Giving Opportunities

NOTE: *Online donations must be received by midnight December 31, 2022 and checks postmarked by December 31, 2022. Checks may be received in the offering plate up to January 1, 2023 with a date of December 31 on the check.*

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, x 112.

Christmas Green Offering (December)

This offering directly aids our First Presbyterian Church program areas. Special envelopes are in the pews and the offering is available each Sunday throughout the month of December. Envelopes are also in boxed sets and you may give easily online.

Christmas Joy Offering (December 11, 2022)

Our denominational gift to assist racial-ethnic schools and retired church workers who need financial assistance. Online giving available.

2022 Pledge Commitments

Please remember to fulfill your commitment for your 2022 pledge by December 31, 2022. For questions or stock gifts, which can easily be processed, call the office at 856.235.1688.

General Budget Help

These year-end donations above your pledged giving keep our ministry going forward. Every love gift will enable us to start the new year with the needed funds to support our programming and staff. Donate online at www.fpcmoorestown.org.

A Message From Jeff Legath, Trustees President

On November 6, 2022, Jeff Legath, president of the Board of Trustees, addressed the congregation with an important budget update. [Read the text in full here](#) and prayerfully consider any help that you may offer.

Electronic Giving

All gifts may be made online at <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/giving>.

A Reminder: Special Funds too!

In addition to pledged and unpledged, please remember you can give online through December 31, 2022 to Christmas Green, Year-End Budget Help, Deacons 2023, and September 12th Fund.

Christmas Parties

During regular group meeting times

Wednesday, December 7 (4:45-6:00 pm)
Kingdom Kids Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 7 (6:30-7:30 pm)
Crossing Zone Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 14 (6:30-8:00 pm)
Middle School Youth Group Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18 (6:30-8:30 pm)
High School Youth Group Christmas Party
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Jesus Birthday Party, Christmas Tree Event **Sunday, December 18 (9:45-10:45 a.m.)**



During Sunday School on December 18, the third week of Advent, we will celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. Happy Birthday!



Christmas Eve Eve Worship

Friday, December 23

It's our new tradition, born out of the Coronavirus pandemic. We will gather for an outdoor candlelight service on Christmas Eve Eve, as we did in 2020 at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic and in 2021. This 30-minute service will be held in the sanctuary courtyard and accented with fire pits, luminaria, Christmas carols and the glow of the Christmas season. Bring your own chair, if you wish.

- 3:00 pm Outdoor Worship
- 7:00 pm Outdoor Worship



Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24

This year's four candlelight Christmas Eve worship services mark a return to fully in-person Christmas Eve services for our congregation. In 2020 Christmas Eve services were safely held via live stream only or outdoors. In 2021 the congregation and choirs were masked and parishioners distant, following state and national protocols.

- 4:00 p.m. Family Service
- 6:00 p.m. Family Service
- 8:30 p.m. Communion Service
- 11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (pre-worship concert by Chapel Choir 10:40 pm)



Christmas Day Sunday, December 25 (Blended Worship)

9:30 a.m. Combined Worship

Sanctuary

No Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation, or Nursery Care

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Miller

First Presbyterian Church is hosting a brunch following our 9:30 am Christmas Day worship on Sunday, December 25th. All are welcome to share in this fellowship and celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Help is needed to successfully present this holiday ministry. Please contact Jan Martin in the church office at 856.235.1688, x133 or jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org if you can help set up, serve or clean up Christmas Day, or provide a breakfast casserole or baked goods.



New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2023 (Blended)

9:30 a.m. Combined Worship
Sanctuary

No Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation, or Nursery Care

Epiphany Concert

Sunday, January 8, 2023 (8:30 am)

Save the date for the annual Epiphany Concert featuring the Choristers (grades 5-8), Chapel Choir (grades 9-12) and Adult Choir.

This year the Epiphany Concert will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2023 **during** the 8:30 am Traditional Worship Service.



