

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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[fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)  
856.235.1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
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[sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

**Rev. Wes Allen**  
Associate Pastor  
[wallen@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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**  
**11:00 am Contemporary**  
**9:30 am 5th Sunday**  
**Blended Worship**

Worship streams live from  
each worship space.

Log on from any device to  
[www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://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](mailto: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**

**November 20-27, 2022**



## Way of the Week 2: Speak the Truth with Love

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

**Read:** Ephesians 4: 29; Ephesians 4: 31; Ephesians 4: 15



**Ideas for Action (see if you can give this a try by Tuesday at noon:** 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.

### **Thanksgiving Postcards**

On **Sunday, Nov. 20** we will have Thanksgiving postcards available in worship guides for both services to send to those for whom you are thankful. Please mail them yourself, or put **addressed** in the offering plate for the church office to mail Monday, November 21.

### **Session Meeting for November Moved**

The November Session meeting has been moved to **Tuesday, Nov. 29** from Nov. 22 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Information and reports for Session packets are due by **Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 10:00 am**.

### **Holiday Closures**

The church office will be closed beginning at 1:00 pm **Wednesday, Nov. 23** through the weekend so staff may be with family. Wednesday fellowship groups will be OFF for November 23. God's blessings to you and your household.

## Advent Guide

Look soon for a special *Advent Activity Guide* with programming information for the season's events and special dates. There is something meaningful for all ages:

**Emerson Toy Drive** -- Steve and Mary Emerson will be continuing a tradition started 30 years ago by Skip and Annette Emerson, which is the annual Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children. FPC Moorestown's generosity over the years has been truly wonderful. Please look for a box or table in the Commons Lobby in which to place your **unwrapped** toys.

**Deacons Drive**—see this page for ways to give with the online drive for Christian Caring Center.

**Advent Devotional** — As we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ, we will be reading "*Prophets & Promises.*" Copies are \$4.00 and available in the church office. Devotionals begin Nov. 27.

## Advent & Narnia Devotionals

See our event page and website for Advent devotionals we will be using as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Copies are available in the Commons Lobby beginning **Sunday, Nov. 20** or to download. Contact [Wes Allen](#) for questions. Some resources begin Nov. 15.



## Advent Small Groups

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. There will be 2 groups meeting **Sundays at 9:45 am** (Nov. 27-Dec. 18) for Adult Spiritual Formation led by Wes Allen, and **Wednesdays at 7:00 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*. Advent in Narnia Devotional: \$14 (purchase online, in Commons Lobby)



## Budget Update

Watch a presentation from president of the Board of Trustees Jeff Legath, during worship on November 6, 2022 with a budget update for the church.

## 2023 Estimates

THANK YOU to everyone who submitted their 2023 Estimate of Giving. Budget discussions are addressing a projected shortfall for 2022 and 2023. We've received 174 pledges compared to last year's 194. If you have not submitted your Estimate of Giving, kindly do so online, by mail, drop off at church, call in, or put in the offering plate.



## Help Needed with Christmas Brunch

**NEW:** First Presbyterian Church is hosting a brunch following our 9:30 am blended Christmas Day worship on Sunday, Dec. 25th. All are welcome to share in this fellowship and celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth. **Please contact Jan Martin in the church office if you can help set up, serve or clean up, or provide a breakfast casserole or baked goods.**



## Online Holiday Gift Drive Nov. 4-28

Like last year, the Deacons have organized an online gift drive for Christian Caring Center to provide much needed items to local families this holiday. Please visit [yougivegoods.com/fpcm2022](https://yougivegoods.com/fpcm2022) to go to our personalized event page from **Nov. 4-28** where you can "shop" 24/7. Simply select the items you would like to donate from the choices given (hats, gloves, scarves, books, games, blankets and PJ pants) and pay online. All items will ship directly to the Christian Caring Center. The organization plans to use the items as part of their Christmas basket distribution to families in December.

**Please complete online gift purchases by Monday, Nov. 28.** Any questions, please contact Deacon Caroline Joyce at [dmcljoyce@comcast.net](mailto:dmcljoyce@comcast.net).

## Manger Sunday Dec. 11

In one of our congregation's beautiful traditions, members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts on Sunday, December 11th for Manger Sunday. Please place the gifts in the manger where they will be blessed by the pastors during worship. Gifts will be taken to [Oaks Integrated Care](#) for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families. Those NOT attending services may drop gifts off from 10:30-11:30 am at the Blessing Box. See our event page for a [suggested Wish List](#).

**First Sunday in Advent**  
**November 27, 2022**  
**Narnia Adult Series Begins**



## Poinsettia Orders

Remember or honor loved ones by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in our two worship spaces on **Manger Sunday Dec. 11**. Poinsettias are \$15. Plants being taken home will be available after worship on Dec. 11. [Order online](#), or with the order form in *Connections*. Orders are due with payment **BY Sunday, Nov. 27**.

## 2022 Financial Statements

If you need a copy of your 2022 giving statement to see where you are with your pledge, contact the church office at 856.235.1688. Thank you for completing 2022 pledges before **December 31**.

## Longest Night

On **Sunday, Dec. 4** we will present our Longest Night worship service. Please share this event with those you know who might need a quiet place in the rush of December, or with those who have experienced a loss. *If you know someone you would like us to invite to this service, please provide their name and address to Alison Mackey in the church office so we may send them an invitation letter.* Contact Alison at [amackey@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org) or (856) 235-1688, Ext. 113.



**Alternative Gift Market**  
**November 30-December 24**  
**Watch for Catalog**

## Help us Show God's Love With Flowers

The Deacons are in need of both flower arrangers and delivery volunteers for the third Sunday of the month. You can volunteer for any month from September through next August, and the time commitment is minimal. **Please consider helping with this wonderful ministry for our congregation!** For details or to sign up, please contact [Deacon Vicki Terry](#) (856-577-9248) or Alison in the church office.

## Year End Giving

Please remember the church in your year end giving. Options for donations are listed on our [website](#) and event page.

## 2023 Worship Flowers

Reservations are being taken for 2023 to provide Sunday flowers in our worship spaces. Honor special dates in your life and those you love with flowers crafted by our talented Flower Guild. Each vase is \$40 and you may reserve one or two vases. Contact Rumi Sinunu at [rts319@gmail.com](mailto:rts319@gmail.com) or 856.266.4047 to reserve your dates and submit payment.

## Prayer on the Porch

**Prayer on the Porch** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We have heaters so it will be warm and cozy. Bring a blanket! **NEXT: Wed. Nov. 23.**

## Christmas Events

- ♦ **Dec. 14-18:** Christmas Parties during regular hours for fellowships groups ages K-12
- ♦ **Dec. 18:** Jesus Birthday Party during Sunday School, 9:45 am (Room 3-4)
- ♦ **Dec. 23:** Christmas Eve Eve Worship (3:00 pm, 7:00 pm—outside)
- ♦ **Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Worship (4:00 pm Family, 6:00 pm Family, 8:30 pm Communion, 11:00 pm Choir Concert/Lessons and Carols)
- ♦ **Dec. 25:** Christmas Day Worship (9:30 am); No Sunday School; NEW: Christmas Brunch
- ♦ **Jan. 1, 2023:** Blended Worship Service, 9:30 am, Sanctuary (no Sunday School)



# FAMILY MINISTRY

**November 23: Wednesday groups ARE OFF for Thanksgiving**

## Narnia Night Family Reading

December 2  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

## Happy High School Thanksgiving

**High Schoolers (grades 9-12):** meet on the 3rd Floor at 1:00 pm on **Sunday, Nov. 20** to hang out, watch the Eagles game, eat (of course!) and celebrate all for which we are thankful.

## High School Winter Retreat

- WHEN: **December 2-4, 2022**
- WHERE: Lake Champion Young Life Camp (NY)
- WHAT: Zip line, ropes course, rock wall, club, giant swing, awesome food, gym, game room, new friends ... !
- ⇒ REGISTER: \$195 each, limited spaces available
- ⇒ Form: <https://forms.gle/hucaRhKkDqexKaA38>

## Sermon Series Memory Verse

**But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. (2 Timothy 3: 10)**

For Families and Children:

**Holly Asciutto**

856-235-1688, x116

[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

Middle School and High School:

**John Roberts interim director**

724-967-1646 cell

[jroberts@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:jroberts@fpcmoorestown.org)

**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

## Special Family Event: Narnia Night

On **Friday, December 2**, there will be an interactive Narnia Night at the church from 6:00-8:00 pm. Walk through the Wardrobe and visit our own Narnia. It would help if, as a family, you read the book ahead of time. [On our event page](#), see links to different book formats for different ages. We will have lots of surprises in store!

## Thanksgiving Schedule

Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone and Middle School Youth Group will NOT MEET Nov. 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Advent Wreaths Available

A limited number of Advent wreath kits will be available in the Commons Lobby to pick up with the gingerbread kits.

## Advent Devotional

**Families:** This Advent, take advantage of a four-week family Advent devotional guide (one per week), based on the Narnia Book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.

## Virtual Gingerbread House Challenge

Our Gingerbread Challenge will be virtual again this year. Come to the church Nov. 16-27 and pick up a kit for families to decorate together. **Challenge is Nov. 23-midnight Dec. 2.** Kits are train-themed and traditional houses. It is a basic kit; YOU personalize it. Make it colorful, interesting, unique! HAVE FUN! You do not have to use the kits from the church. When you have completed your challenge, take pictures, and either post them on the FPC Family Ministries Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455452324633585> (ask Holly to join). Or send photos to Holly Asciutto. **Judging will be held Dec. 3-9.** And there will be prizes!! Contact Holly at 609-273-7465 or [hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org).

**Family Dinner** is Wednesdays from 6-7 pm; \$5 each or conveniently pre-pay \$125 per family. [Sign up online](#) or mail a check to the office. *We also need volunteers each week to help set up and clean up.* Contact [Angie Slane](#) at 856.235.1688, x124. **There will be NO Wednesday groups on Wednesday, Nov. 23. We will see you on Nov. 30!**