

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
MAIL: PO Box 868
Moorestown, NJ 08057
fpcmoorestown.org
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
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
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

FPC 
Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

Nov. 27-Dec. 3, 2022



Way of the Week #3: Listen Generously

3. LISTEN GENEROUSLY. Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention. Minimize the distractions and let go of the need to agree or disagree. Suspend your judgment and be curious to know more rather than jumping to conclusions. Above all, listen to understand.

Ideas for Action (try to do this by 12 noon Tuesday): Put aside phones and laptops. Turn off the TV or computer and face someone you love. Focus on what the other is saying; not on what you want to say. Be careful that you're not interrupting because you're not listening to them.

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 Ascianto. **Judging will be held Dec. 3-9.** And there will be prizes!! Contact Holly at 609-273-7465 or hascianto@fpcmoorestown.org.

[Advent Guide](#)

Copies of the 2022 Advent Activity Guide are now available at church and [online](#), detailing programming information for the season's events and special dates. There is something meaningful for all ages.

[Deacons Drive](#)—see event page for ways to give with the online drive for Christian Caring Center.

[Emerson Toy Drive](#) -- Steve and Mary Emerson continue a tradition started 30 years ago by Skip and Annette Emerson, of the Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children. Please look for a box in the Commons Lobby in which to place your **unwrapped** toys.

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

[Advent Small Groups](#) — There will be two [Advent in Narnia](#) small 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 (see [Advent Guide](#) or website)

["Christmas Music Made in England"](#) — **Dec. 11**, 7:30 pm. Please join us for this performance by the West Jersey Chamber Chorale. All are invited for a post-concert reception/fundraiser with raffle baskets, silent auction and sumptuous dessert buffet. Additional music provided at the fundraiser by Vikram Joshi, harpsichord. Tickets: available at the door, online at <https://wjcms.org/concerts/>, or via email to Joann Nawrocki at info@wjcms.org. The concert will also be live streamed by visiting <https://wjcms.org/live/>.



[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. We've received 181 pledges compared to last year's 194. Budget discussions are underway to address projected shortfalls for 2022 and 2023. 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 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.

Manger Sunday Dec. 11

Church 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 Due

Deadline to order poinsettias is Sunday, Nov. 27. 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*.

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 or (856) 235-1688, Ext. 113.



Alternative Gift Market

December 1-24

Watch for Catalog December 1

Essence of Harmony

[Essence of Harmony Choral Society](#) welcomes the congregation to its holiday concert *Joy! A Soulful Celebration of the Season* on **Saturday, Dec. 3rd** at 4:00 pm in Miller Commons. For information on the holiday concert, visit <https://www.essenceofharmonycs.org/>. Tickets also available at the door.

Year End Giving

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

Alternative Gift

Our [Alternative Gift Market](#) will be available in person after services on **Dec. 4, 11 and 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 online and on the Church Center events page starting **December 1st**.

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, reserve one or two vases. Contact Rumi Sinunu at rts319@gmail.com or 856.266.4047 to reserve your dates.

Christmas Events

- ♦ **Dec. 7-18:** Christmas Parties during regular hours for 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

FAMILY MINISTRY

Wednesday groups resume November 30th

Narnia Night Family Reading

December 2
6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

"So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom." (Luke 12: 32)

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto

856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School:

John Roberts interim director

724-967-1646 cell

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*.

Family Dinner

Family Dinner is offered Wednesdays from 6-7 pm. Cost is \$5.00 per person. You may also 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.

A reminder that Family Dinner will not be held on November 23rd and will resume on Wednesday, November 30th with Michael Georgetti's famous Taco Night.

We would like to apologize for the problem with the dinner last week on November 16 and reassure you all that the issues have been corrected and we look forward to our next dinner with you! We would also encourage any member of the congregation that may have either a complaint or compliment to direct them to Earl Gage our Administrator. Please do not reach out personally to Michael or other staff.