

First Presbyterian Church
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fpcmoorestown.org
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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 on 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

December 18-31, 2022



Way of the Week #6: Forgive Again

6. FORGIVE ... AGAIN. Just as God forgives us, heal relationships by extending forgiveness with grace and generosity. Forgive everyone everything. Start by praying for those you resent or hate. Ask for every blessing you would want for the one you're struggling to forgive.

Ideas for Action: Work on "dropping" the anger you have. Don't let it come between you and someone else. Stop bringing up the hurt in public or with friends. Stop nursing the memory of how you've been wronged.

Way of the Week #7: Celebrate Our Unity, Savor Our Diversity

7. CELEBRATE OUR UNITY, SAVOR OUR DIVERSITY. Thank God that, like parts of the human body, we're not all the same. Be open to learn from others, regardless of their age, background, experience, or tenure with our church. We make better decisions and grow as people when we consider multiple perspectives. Listen with curiosity to others and consider how to use their ideas.

Ideas for Action: Seek out someone from a different background, culture or race and meet three or four times to get to know their lives and stories. Pray with them for racial and social healing.

Year End Giving



THANK YOU for remembering the church in your year-end giving. As Church leadership continues to prayerfully struggle with projected shortfalls for 2022 and 2023, your year-end gift can make a difference.

Gifts over and above your pledge may include stocks, Christmas Green offering, and General Budget Help.

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.

For important details, see our [event page](#) for 2022 opportunities, [our website](#) for giving information, or contact the church office at 856.235.1688.

2022 Advent Guide

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

Emerson Toy Drive -- Steve and Mary Emerson continue the tradition started 30 years ago by Skip and Annette Emerson, of the Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children. Look for a box in the Commons Lobby.

Advent Small Groups — There are two Advent in Narnia small groups meeting Sundays at 9:45 am (ends **Dec. 18**) for adult spiritual formation led by Wes Allen, and Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (ends **Dec. 21**) in Room 3-4, led by Jim Cole and Gayle Payne. We are discussing the *Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Reports will be due in January for the Annual Report. Watch your email for information.

Epiphany Concert January 8, 2023

Save the date for the 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.



Please wear your nametag and warmly welcome visitors and guests



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. Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org/budget-shortfall/.

Kids and Youth Groups

Following winter break, our fellowship groups will return on the following dates:

- ⇒ High School: Jan. 15
- ⇒ Middle School: Jan. 18
- ⇒ Kingdom Kids: Feb. 1
- ⇒ Crossing Zone: Feb. 1
- ⇒ Family Dinner: Feb. 1

Christmas Worship Schedule

- ◆ **Dec. 23: Christmas Eve Eve Worship**
3:00 pm & 7:00 pm — outside, fire pits
- ◆ **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**
4:00 pm Family Service
6:00 pm Family Service
8:30 pm Communion Service
11 pm Lessons and Carols (Chapel Choir Carol Concert 10:45 pm)
- ◆ **Dec. 25: Christmas Day Worship (9:30 am);**
No Sunday School; NEW: Christmas Brunch
- ◆ **Jan. 1: New Year's Day Worship (9:30 am)**

Coming in January:

The Lord's Supper

Sunday, January 1, 2023 (moved from 1/8/23)

Blanket Sunday Offering

[Blanket Sunday](#), sponsored by our Deacons and Church World Service, is coming **Sunday, January 30 (Fifth Sunday)**. Your contributions enable CWS to help families around the world shelter from the elements, recover from disasters and displacement, and help rebuild viable communities.

PW Winter Gathering

Monday, January 23, 2023

Speaker: Dawn's Place

Alternative Gift

Our [Alternative Gift Market](#) will be available in person after services on **December 18** as well as virtually through the church's website fpcmoorestown.org through **December 24**.

Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. The Alternative Gift Market Catalog is available online and on the Church Center events page.

For questions contact:

Linda Jagiela
missions@fpcmoorestown.org
 cell 267.275.7582

The Alternative Gift Market Catalog [is available for download](#)

Holiday Hours...



The church campus will be CLOSED at 1:00 pm Friday, Dec. 23, and closed Dec. 26, 27, and 30th for the Christmas holiday.

The church office will be OPEN Dec. 28, 29 and Jan. 2, 2023.

SAVE THE DATE
PW Winter Gathering
Monday, January 23
Speaker: Dawn's Place

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.

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**.

There will be no Session meeting for December. Happy Holidays!

Worship With Us

See our [website](#), the [Advent Guide](#) and page 2 of this issue for Christmas worship schedule of events

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. Please contact Rumi Sinunu at rts319@gmail.com or 856.266.4047 to reserve your dates.

Preschool Open House

Step by Step Christian Preschool will be having its Open House at the preschool on **Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023** from 6:00-7:30 pm. Adults only please. Come in and see the school and sign up for fall classes.



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 easily check in. If you need help, please see the volunteer. **REMINDER:** When watching the live stream at home or attending in person, **check in** on your smart phone to note participation.

Contact the church office to give a one-time gift electronically or set up recurring automatic withdrawal at any time

2023 Offering Envelopes

2023 offering envelopes will be mailed at the end of December. If you do NOT want envelopes for 2023, please contact Angie Slane at aslane@fpcmoorestown.org or call at 856.235.1688, Ext. 124 by **December 22**. As always, we appreciate your giving hearts and pray that your holiday time with family and friends is wonderfully spent and your New Year is blessed. *Please note that envelope numbers have been consolidated and may have changed this year.*

FAMILY MINISTRY

Last Sunday School: Sunday, December 18 ~ Jesus Birthday Celebration



High School Youth Group Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18

6:30-8:30 pm

Grades 9-12

For questions reach out to John Roberts or Dave Fauvell



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

"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

Sunday, December 18

- ♦ Jesus Birthday Celebration during Sunday School hour (combined, **Room 3-4**), 9:45 am. Last Sunday School meeting for 2022. We will return on **January 8, 2023**.

Wednesday Groups & Family Dinner

Wednesday night groups and Family Dinner concluded December 14 and will be on hiatus for our Winter Break. We will see you on **Wednesday, February 1, 2023**.



Our high school youth group had an amazing time on the Young Life Winter Retreat at Lake Champion (NY) Dec. 2-4, led by our interim youth director John Roberts. It was very impactful for the kids, great for the young people to process the Gospel with their leaders, and for them to experience Kingdom culture in many ways.