

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
**MAIL: PO Box 868**  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)  
856.235.1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
Pastor/Head of Staff  
[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

December 4-10, 2022



## Way of the Week #4: Always Encourage and Celebrate

**4. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE.** Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere. Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice. Pass on good reports that you hear about others.

**Ideas for Action (try to do this by 12 noon Tuesday):** Write a text or a note to someone close to you who just did something wonderful or important. With many details, tell them why you're grateful or delighted by them.

## Longest Night

On **Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 pm** 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. The Lord's Supper will be served and Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer. Live streamed.



### [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 & 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 are two [Advent in Narnia](#) small groups meeting Sundays at 9:45 am (**Nov. 27-Dec. 18**) for adult spiritual for-

mation 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. We are discussing 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. Tickets available at the door, online at <https://wjcms.org/concerts/>, or via email to Joann Nawrocki at [info@wjcms.org](mailto:info@wjcms.org). The concert will also be live streamed by visiting <https://wjcms.org/live/>.

### **Come to Narnia!**

**Friday, December 2 (6-8 pm)**

ALL welcome, come when you can. Walk through the wardrobe to be transported into Narnia!

*Fellowship Hall*

### [Virtual Gingerbread Challenge](#)

The challenge ends Dec. 2 at midnight. Have fun! Make your gingerbread creation unique and colorful! 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 Ascutto. **Judging will be held Dec. 3-9**. And there will be prizes! Contact Holly at 609-273-7465 cell/text or [hascutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hascutto@fpcmoorestown.org).

### [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/](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org/budget-shortfall/).

### [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)

### [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.

See our [event page](#) for more details or contact the church office at 856.235.1688.

## 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](#).

***If you ordered a poinsettia you may take it home after worship Sunday, December 11***



### **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](http://fpcmoorestown.org).

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.



## **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.

## **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.

## **Holiday Schedule**

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 January 2, 2023.

## **Holiday Hours...**



## **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**.

## **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 Market**

**December 1-24**  
**Catalog Available**

## **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](mailto:rts319@gmail.com) or 856.266.4047 to reserve your dates.



*Thank you to the women of PW for decorating our Christmas tree in the sanctuary*



# FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Narnia Night  
Family Reading

December 2  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

## 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

Christmas  
PARTY

**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 Ascitutto**

856-235-1688, x116

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

Middle School and High School:

**John Roberts interim director**

724-967-1646 cell

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

## 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 incredible Narnia! Bring friends, neighbors and family — all are welcome. We will have lots of surprises in store!

### Christmas Schedule

- ◆ **Dec. 7:** Kingdom Kids Christmas Party (4:45 pm)
- ◆ **Dec. 7:** Crossing Zone Christmas Party (6:30 pm)
- ◆ **Dec. 14:** Regular meeting for KK, CZ (last of 2022); Christmas Party for Middle School Youth Group
- ◆ **Dec. 18:** Jesus Birthday Celebration during Sunday School hour (combined, Fellowship Hall)

### Advent Wreaths Available

A limited number of Advent wreath kits are 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.

Remaining dinners for the year will be **Wednesday, Dec. 7** and **Wednesday, Dec. 14**, before we break for the holidays. We will return on February 1, 2023.

MENU for **December 7:** Breakfast for Dinner