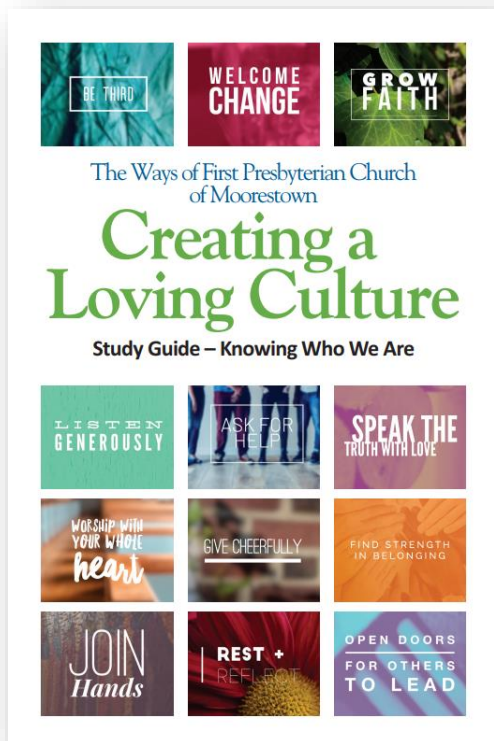


The Ways of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown



Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

- Hebrews 10: 24

As people who've experienced the merciful welcome of Jesus Christ, we belong to Him and to one another. In our desire to grow deeper in our faith, stronger in our love, and more effective in our service, we've outlined the following *ways* based on God's Word, to be the foundation for creating a culture or an atmosphere "thick with love."

What is Culture and why does it matter for First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown?

WHEN PEOPLE GATHER, they create culture. The culture is the atmosphere or the “feel” of a community or group, and every group has one. Culture is “how things work around here.” Some churches may be warm and friendly while others are cold and uninviting. “Culture,” according to author David Friedman, *“is the commonly-held set of values and principles that shows up in the everyday behavior of the people.”*

While culture has been a buzzword in the business world for more than a decade, the Church has been committed to creating a Christ-like atmosphere since Pentecost. In Acts 2, we find an atmosphere of extravagant generosity as new believers in Christ “shared everything they had.” (Acts 2: 44)

To develop a healthy church culture requires that we intentionally agree how we will live and work together. We pay close attention to whether our actions match our words. With humility, gentleness and patience, we remind one another of the people we’re striving to become. Culture is pervasive and affects everyone and everything we do. A Christ-centered, healthy culture will profoundly and positively impact all of our activities.

Our Session approved these Ways in January 2019. Since then, we have thoughtfully studied these fundamentals and strive to live them together. Every week, starting on Sunday morning in worship, we lift up the Way of the Week. Throughout the week, we talk about this Way to begin meetings, Bible studies, classes, rehearsals, activities, and even in our homes. This revised study guide been designed to help you understand each Way with applicable Bible verses and suggested Ideas for Action. Please feel free to share this guide with your friends and invite them to travel along with us as we strengthen the loving culture of FPC Moorestown. Read more at www.fpcmoorestown.org.

Note: All scripture references are from the New Living Translation, with the exception of reference “c” in the Preamble that is from The Voice Translation.

The Ways Concepts

Knowing Who We Are

1. Be Third
2. Speak the Truth with Love
3. Listen Generously
4. Always Encourage and Celebrate
5. Assume Positive Intent
6. Forgive ... Again
7. Celebrate our Unity, Savor our Diversity
8. Jump In
9. Pray First and Pray Again
10. Join Hands
11. Make Others at Home Here
12. Own Our Church
13. Open Doors for Others to Lead
14. Grow Faith
15. Welcome Change
16. Give Cheerfully
17. Show Who You Really Are
18. Ask for Help
19. Accept and Don't Cast Stones
20. Find Strength in Belonging
21. You're Sent, Now Go
22. Rest and Reflect
23. Worship with Your Whole Heart
24. Tell Your Story
25. Rejoice Always

Preamble to the Ways

Creating our Culture

The Ways of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown were developed collaboratively, and are based on God's Word. They are meant to set the foundation for creating a culture or an atmosphere "thick with love."^c They're not rules or laws to be obeyed but rather the ways we train, remind, and encourage one another to be the church.^d

- ^a You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)
- ^b May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere. (Psalm 66: 2)
- ^c As a prisoner of the Lord, I urge you: Live a life that is worth of the calling He has graciously extended to you. Be humble. Be gentle. Be patient. Tolerate one another in an atmosphere thick with love. (Ephesians 4: 1, 2; The Voice)
- ^d Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. (Romans 5: 1-2)

The Session and Staff of FPC Moorestown thanks David Friedman of High Performing Culture for his generous offering of time and insight in the formation of our Ways.

Way #1

Be Third.

God is first, others are second, and you're third.^a Don't just think about your own interests, be interested in others.^b Don't think less of yourself, just think of yourself less and others more.^c

^a **And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**
(1 Peter 5: 5)

^b **Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.** (Philippians 2: 4)

^c**And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.** (John 13: 14, 15)

Ideas for Action: Ask God, “Whom can I serve today?” Look for an opportunity to be last ... in line, the last to speak, or last to be served.



Way #2

Speak the Truth With Love.

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

^a **Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.** (Ephesians 4: 29)

^b **Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.** (Ephesians 4: 31)

^c **Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.** (Ephesians 4: 15)

Ideas for Action: 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.



Way #3

Listen Generously.

Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention.^a 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.^{b,c} Above all, listen to understand.

^a **Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.**

(James 1: 19, 20)

^b **Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.** (Proverbs 18: 13)

^c **Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.**

(Proverbs 12: 15)

Ideas for Action: 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.



Way #4

Always Encourage and Celebrate.

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

^a **We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (1 Thessalonians 1: 3, 4)

^b **When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord.** (Acts 11: 22, 23)

Ideas for Action: 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.



Way #5

Assume Positive Intent.

Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church.^a Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge – it doesn't help.^b Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.^c

^a **Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.** (1 Peter 4: 8)

^b **Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others.** (Matthew 7: 1)

^c **Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.** (Matthew 7:12)

Ideas for Action: Take a “criticism inventory.” Just how critical are you, really? Ask someone you love and trust to tell you how you’re doing in this area. Try a 24-hour fast from all forms of criticism. No complaining or criticism for an entire day.



Way #6

Forgive ... Again.

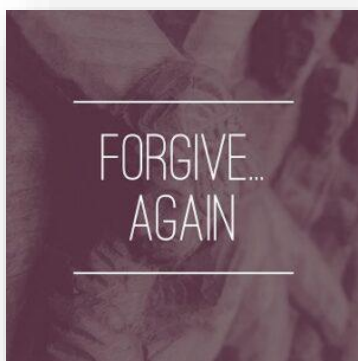
Just as God forgives us, heal relationships by extending forgiveness with grace and generosity.^{a,b} Forgive everyone everything.^c Start by praying for those you resent or hate. Ask for every blessing you would want for the one you're struggling to forgive.

^a **If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.** (Matthew 6: 13, 14)

^b **Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.** (Ephesians 4: 31)

^c **Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.** (Colossians 3: 13)

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 #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.^{a,b} 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.^c

^a **Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.** (Ephesians 4: 3-4)

^b **There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.** (Galatians 3: 28)

^c **Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.** (Romans 12: 3-5)

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.



Way #8

Jump In.

Life is full of unexpected problems and needs, large and small. Pay attention to moments when God calls you to action, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary the situation may be.^a See “disruptions” as invitation to share Christ’s love.^b Write a note. Visit the sick or the grieving. Share a meal.

^a **O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.** (Micah 6: 8)

^b **What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Goodbye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well” – but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.** (James 2: 14-17)

^c **Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.** (1 John 3: 18)

Ideas for Action: Practice one of the actions listed in this week’s description: Write a note, visit someone who lives alone, and/or share a meal.



Way #9

Pray First, and Pray Again.

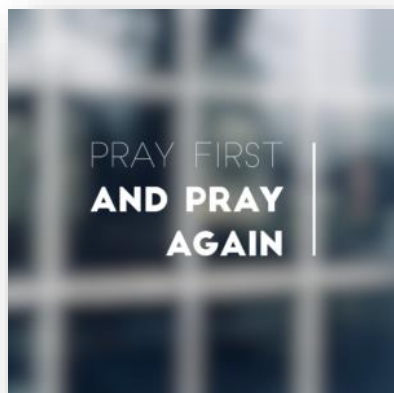
Ask first for God's guidance and blessing in everything you do.^a Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God's will to be done.^b Pray for others as well, that God's love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.^c

^a **Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.** (Proverbs 3: 5, 6)

^b **"May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."** (Matthew 6: 10)

^c **Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.** (Ephesians 6: 18)

Ideas for Action: On your next walk, run, or in your quiet time, intentionally pray for neighbors, other churches, schools, EMTs, police and fire personnel, and local officials. If you're stalled in your prayer life, reach out to one of the pastors or a member of the Prayer Team for a suggestion.



Way #10

Join Hands.

Work as a team.^a Collaborate with each other, our professional staff, our lay leaders, and our congregants to find the best solutions. Collaboration lightens the load^b, generates better ideas than individuals working alone, and unleashes the gifts God has given us all.^c

^a **Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.** (Ecclesiastes 4: 9)

^b **Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.** (Galatians 6: 2, 3)

^c **As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.**
(Proverbs 27: 17)

Ideas for Action: Is there some task you're doing at church that you could invite someone to share with you? Think of someone from our church who can help you sort out a challenge or problem you're facing.



Way #11

Make Others at Home Here.

Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors.^a Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know after worship, during Coffee Hour, in Youth Group or Sunday School. Show a genuine interest in others.^b

^a **Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.** (Romans 15: 7)

^b **Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!** (Hebrews 13: 1-2)

Ideas for Action: Look for someone you don't know very well. Invite that person for coffee, a walk or a meal and get to know them. Keep your eyes peeled for the guest or visitor at our church and offer your name and a smile of welcome. Stay open to adding a new friend.



Way #12

Own Our Church.

The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ.^a Claim ownership of FPC Moorestown's mission, programs, and property. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church – because you are!^b

^a **All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.**
(1 Corinthians 12: 27)

^b **This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.** (1 Corinthians 12: 26)

Ideas for Action: Spend a few minutes on our website to learn about some aspect of our ministry or mission that's new or unknown to you. Fuel your curiosity and consider getting involved in an area of ministry that brings you joy!



Way #13

Open Doors for Others to Lead.

Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring.^{a, b} Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not solely the future of our church but are vitally important for our present.^c

^a **But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.** (1 Peter 2:9)

^b **My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart.** (Proverbs 4: 20, 21)

^c **Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.** (1 Timothy 4: 12)

Ideas for Action: As you consider whatever it is that you do regularly here, keep a look out for a younger person or a new member to invite to join you in the task. If the job requires training or coaching, offer it. Look to let go and hand off.



Way #14

Grow Faith.

Take advantage of every chance you have to form our faith – through small groups, classes, and personal study. Be a disciple and look to learn from those who know more of the Bible and Christian life than you do, then look for opportunities to share what you’ve gained with someone else. ^{a b c}

^a **Then, calling the crowd to join His disciples, He said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.** (Mark 8: 34)

^b **You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.** (2 Timothy 2: 2)

^c **Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.** (Philippians 3:17)

Ideas for Action: If you’re not currently in a small group, contact the church office and ask for assistance in finding one. Ask for some time with someone whose faith you respect and pick their brains on their practices of faith formation.



Way #15

Welcome Change.

Be curious about new ideas, perspectives, and approaches. Get excited by the possibilities that change can bring.^a What worked in the past won't always work in the future, for God is doing a new thing.^{b,c}

^a **And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.** (Mark 2: 22)

^b **And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"** (Revelation 21: 6)

^c **This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!**

(2 Corinthians 5: 17)

Ideas for Action: This is a simple one, so try it. Sit in a different pew in the sanctuary or seat in Miller Commons next Sunday. See what happens.



Way #16

Give Cheerfully.

Rejoice, you get to give!^a Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that's been entrusted to you – time, abilities and money – ask, "How is God calling me to share what I've been given?"^b

^a **You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."** (2 Corinthians 9: 7)

^b **"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full – pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."** (Luke 6: 38)

Ideas for Action: Consider making a special financial gift this week to the church or one of our mission partners. What else, besides money, can you give this week? How about your time or your forgiveness?



Way #17

Show Who You Really Are.

Our church is for “real” people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths, and your weaknesses.^a God loves you as you are.^{b,c} Don’t hide your struggles, failures or problems.

^a **When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.** (Romans 5: 6)

^b **For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.** (John 3: 16)

^c **Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.** (Psalm 55: 22)

Ideas for Action: This week, sit down with or talk to another member by phone and share one area of struggle, failure or a fear you have.



Way #18

Ask For Help.

Part of being a real and authentic member of the church is to acknowledge your weaknesses and be willing to ask for God's help and the support of others.^a None of us can go it alone. Vulnerability is a sign of strength and a gift to others.^b

^a **“Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble, and he rescued them from their distress.** (Psalm 107: 6)

^b **Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.** (2 Corinthians 12: 9)

Ideas for Action: First think about what you need help with right now. Then, share that need with someone else from our congregation this week.



Way #19

Accept and Don't Cast Stones.

God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are.^a It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally, and as Christ has received you, receive others.^b

^a Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people – even eating with them! (Luke 15: 1, 2)

^b Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. (Romans 15: 7)

Ideas for Action: Approach someone you normally avoid at church for whatever reason. Make a point to speak to them this week.



Way #20

Find Strength in Belonging.

At FPC Moorestown, you're loved and valued. Claim us as your family.^a Rather than withdrawing, allow struggles and disappointments to deepen your sense of belonging.^b Pray for chances to bring healing to relationships. Please be patient! God isn't yet finished with us or with you.^c

^a **They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.** (Acts 2: 46)

^b **I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. And I ask you, my true partner to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News.** (Philippians 4: 2, 3)

^c **The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.** (Psalm 103: 8)

Ideas for Action: Is there a disappointment you've been carrying about the church? In prayer, offer it to the Lord and ask for His help in releasing it. If you've been sitting on the sidelines at home, get back in the game by returning to worship and joining a small group, a class or a committee. We need you, and you need us.



FIND STRENGTH
IN BELONGING

Way #21

You're Sent, Now Go.

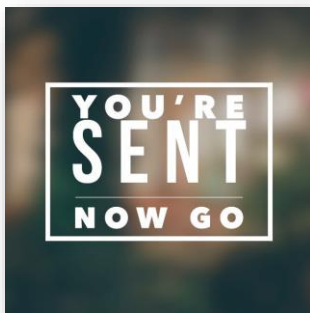
We're blessed to be a blessing.^a God intends to use you to bless, heal, restore, and liberate a dark and hurting world.^b We're here for others: in our families and our community and in the world. Go to the need. Live missionally.^c

^a **I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.** (Genesis 12: 2, 3)

^b **You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.** (Matthew 5: 14-16)

^c **Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”** (John 20: 21)

Ideas for Action: Check out the Missions tab on our website. Look at our local mission partners' websites for information and ideas for service. Contact Linda Jagiela, director of outreach, for additional suggestions. Make plans to go and serve ASAP.



Way #22

Rest and Reflect.

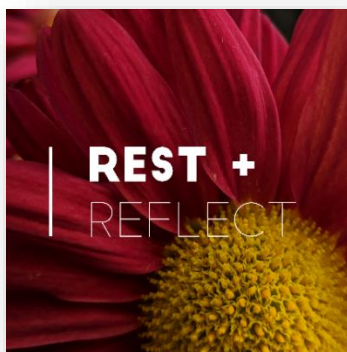
Make time in your week to step back from work, school, and stressful demands.^a Since Christ has freed us, we no longer have to be obsessively driven.^b Take a walk, play, nap, meet up with friends, share a meal, or just take some time in solitude.^c

^a **On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.** (Genesis 2: 2, 3)

^b **Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.** (Matthew 11: 28)

^c **This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it.** (Isaiah 30: 15)

Ideas for Action: Can you make your Sunday more of a Sabbath day of rest for you and your family? Connect with God using worship music. Unplug from the devices for part or all of the day. Seek the joy of the Lord in Creation. Eat a meal together. Be silent with God and pray. Prioritize wholeness and rejuvenation in Christ.



Way #23

Worship With Your Whole Heart.

Your life is meant to be an act of worship.^a Every breath, action, and thought flows from God and can bring him glory.^b Praise God everywhere and embrace the opportunities to regularly worship with your church family.^c

^a **And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.** (Mark 12: 30)

^b **And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.** (Romans 12: 1, 2)

^c **Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!**
(Psalm 150: 6)

Ideas for Action: Every morning this week, recite the Jesus Creed: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12: 29-31)



Way #24

Tell Your Story.

God has done and is doing something unique in your life.^a Has God answered a prayer, provided help, or blessed you? Share it ^b Ask God for opportunities to share your faith in Christ by words and deeds. ^c

^a **“No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him. (Luke 8: 39)**

^b **Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies. (Psalm 107: 2)**

^c **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes uponyou. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1: 8)**

Ideas for Action: At the start of each morning this week, think about one thing you’re grateful to God for from the previous 24 hours. Got it? Now share it with someone else in the course of today.



Way #25

Rejoice Always.

The Kingdom of God is a party!^a Let healthy laughter fill our meetings, our meals, and even our worship.^b Allow the joy of our faith to be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces.^c

^a **But his father said to the servants, “Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.” So the party began.** (Luke 15: 22-24)

^b **Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice!**
(Philippians 4: 4)

^c **A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person’s strength.** (Proverbs 17: 22)

Ideas for Action: Plan a party for the coming weekend and invite a couple of individuals or families over to celebrate. Don’t forget the cake! What’s the occasion? The joy of knowing and serving Jesus and belonging to our church family are reasons enough.

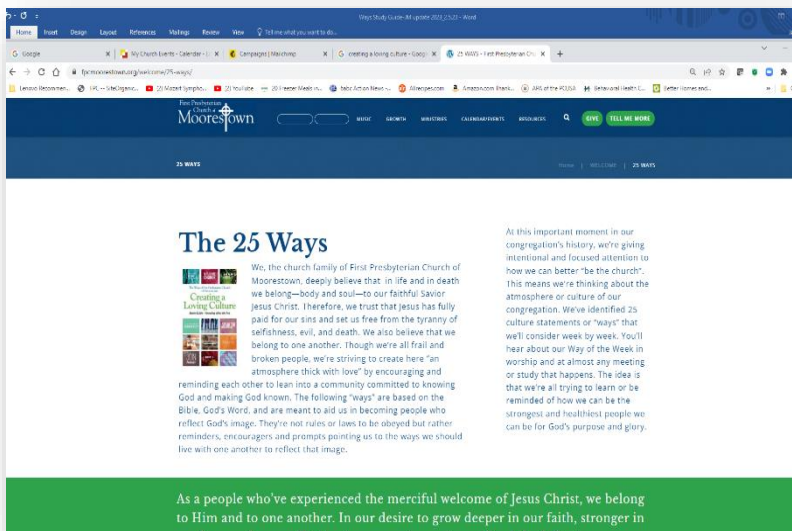


Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org

Welcome / The 25 Ways

A complete listing of these principles and what they mean can be found throughout the church building and on our website www.fpcmoorestown.org.

On the website, each of the 25 Ways is represented by an individual graphic image, a corresponding testimony and video from church members or friends of the church, Ideas for Action, scriptural references, and personalized devotions.



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the homepage of the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown. The navigation bar includes links for Home, Trust, Design, Counsel, References, Meetings, Register, and News. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled "The 25 Ways" with a grid of 25 small images representing different ways. To the right of the grid, there's a text block explaining the purpose of the 25 Ways. At the bottom, there's a green banner with a welcome message.

The 25 Ways

We, the church family of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, deeply believe that in life and in death we belong—body and soul—to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we trust that Jesus has fully paid for our sins and set us free from the tyranny of selfishness, evil, and death. We also believe that we belong to one another. Though we're all frail and broken people, we're striving to create here "an atmosphere thick with love" by encouraging and reminding each other to lean into a community committed to knowing God and making God known. The following "ways" are based on the Bible, God's Word, and are meant to aid us in becoming people who reflect God's image. They're not rules or laws to be obeyed but rather reminders, encouragers and prompts pointing us to the ways we should live with one another to reflect that image.

At this important moment in our congregation's history, we're giving intentional and focused attention to how we can better "be the church". This means we're thinking about the atmosphere or culture of our congregation. We've identified 25 culture statements or "ways" that we'll consider week by week. You'll hear about our Way of the Week in worship and at almost any meeting or study that happens. The idea is that we're all trying to learn or be reminded of how we can be the strongest and healthiest people we can be for God's purpose and glory.

As a people who've experienced the merciful welcome of Jesus Christ, we belong to Him and to one another. In our desire to grow deeper in our faith, stronger in

People Are Talking

What They're Saying About The Ways.

I am so thankful that we have embraced The Ways. Our culture at FPC Moorestown revolves around feeding our beliefs and honing our actions, our behaviors. The Ways provide us with spiritual guardrails regarding how we behave – how we effectuate our beliefs with the next person we encounter – that is, our neighbor. We need to be reminded both of what we believe and how we act towards others. Being beacons of God's love and truth can fade away without continual nourishment. Just as the Great Commission ends the Gospel of Matthew, likewise #25 *Rejoice Always – Let the joy of our faith be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces* – appropriately is the exhortation of our last Way. Thanks be to God for our Ways.

Dr. Cal Knowlton, Member and Elder

The opening scripture passage in the Bible Study booklet is powerful: "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24) May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, direct and inform you as you share and live into the 25 Ways.

Rev. Dr. Deborah Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter
Presbytery For Southern New Jersey

The Ways are powerful tools to embrace because they offer everyone a place to start when it comes to learning more about Jesus' transformative love, which is a gift for all to freely receive and freely give. They're so helpful to the life of the Church because they answer the practical question of How. If you've ever wondered, *How do I do that?*—How do I forgive? How do I overcome anger? How can I offer someone hope? -- The Ways is your go-to guide. Every person you encounter, including yourself, is a child of God. Treat them as such and watch the Kingdom of God come alive right where you are! This is the power of The Ways: to connect and re-connect us to God and one another as our values, words and actions mirror those of Jesus.

Kelly Sponseller, former Director of Congregational Ministries



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