



We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth ...

June 30, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of FPC Moorestown,

Those who mourn are sometimes surprised to discover that they are comforted and therefore, they are blessed. My family and I have found this blessing in the days since my father and father-in-law died. Dozens of cards of condolences — most sent from you, our Church Family — have filled our mailbox. Daily strength comes from the knowledge that you're praying for us often. Thank you for the depth of your kindness.

As we move into the heart of summer, I have many important updates to share with you. I start with some wonderful news.

WE HAVE A YOUTH DIRECTOR!

At its June meeting, Session voted to hire Dave Fauvell as our Youth Director. This is a part-time, 20-hour a week position, but it is permanent. Dave has served and loved our young people for more than ten years as a youth leader. After Dan Wonneberger concluded his ministry in the winter of 2020, Dave capably filled in and did a marvelous job keeping our youth ministry going during the pandemic.

Dave will continue teaching at Moorestown High School. This is, to repeat, a part-time position. Dave cannot and will not be able to work full-time for the church. Dave will give us a lot in the hours he has. I stress the part-time nature of this new Youth Director position. Dave will need the help of all of us to love our youth and the youth of our community. This requires a new way of thinking about youth ministry at FPC Moorestown. We're shifting the paradigm from a Youth Director who does it all, to a congregation who joins the call to care for our children, youth and their families. In the coming months, you'll hear more about this new approach from Dave, our staff and Session's Discipling Children and Youth Committee, chaired by Cheryl Gaskill. We celebrate God's faithfulness -- after three long years, we have a wonderfully gifted Youth Director! Be sure to welcome Dave and his wife Sami when you see them next.

[Watch this short video](#) that Dave made to share his excitement.

NEW WORSHIP TIMES

Also at its June meeting, Session approved a change in worship times for the start of the program year. Beginning Sunday, September 10, the Traditional service begins at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation classes meet from 10:15 to 11:15 am. The Contemporary service starting

time remains at 11:00 a.m. with 15 minutes of gathering music, prayer and the sharing of Wow moments.

The Worship Committee has spent the better part of a year weighing concerns that 8:30 a.m. is too early for many people. We hope that these new hours will help us to enjoy the gift of gathering together on Sundays for worship, study, prayer and fellowship.

GROW THE KINGDOM

Three summers ago, when the world shut down from the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced the numerous challenges of running the church without being able to meet together by forming more than a dozen workgroups. Those groups included members of our staff and leaders from our three boards, Session, Deacons and Trustees. The collaborative nature of those groups delivered creative and exciting solutions that carried us through that unusual season.

As we worked together then to reopen the church, we're using the same approach to re-engage the congregation. Like nearly every church, we're facing declines in attendance, participation and giving. Paul Grossmann, chair of Session's Long-Range Planning Committee, has organized six workgroups. This important initiative is called *Grow the Kingdom*. The teams are addressing specific areas where we can increase support for our church via participation and revenue growth.

- Team 1 – Current (normal) church activities
- Team 2 – Outreach Programs
- Team 3 – “Visitors” (who have found us)
- Team 4 – The “Wider Community” (who have not found us yet)
- Team 5 – Increasing Financial Support of the Church
- Team 6 – Strategies for FPC Moorestown over a 3-4-year horizon

These teams are meeting now and will conclude their work by early August. Session will receive reports and recommendations from each, with the intent to discuss and create a plan of action. A congregational gathering will be scheduled in the early fall to share our learned insights and our plans for the future.

BECCA NEINDORFF, MODERATOR TO BE!

At the June meeting of the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey, Becca Neindorff was installed as Moderator Elect. This means that Becca will become the Moderator of our presbytery next June. Until then, she'll serve our new moderator, Rev. Eliza Jaremko. Please keep Becca and Eliza in your prayers. All three members of the Presbytery staff will be retiring by the end of 2023. There are important changes coming and Becca will be in the center of it all. We're so grateful that God has called Becca to this leadership role at this moment. Let's pray for her often and encourage her whenever we can.

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FIFTH SUNDAY, JULY 30TH – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.

Join us for our Fifth Sunday worship on July 30. We'll gather in our Sanctuary and glorify the Lord with a blend of our two worship styles. Afterwards, we'll meet in Fellowship Hall for a cool treat and to celebrate and get to know the past four years of Inquirers classes who joined First Presbyterian Church in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. These members joined when our church activities were dramatically altered due to the pandemic so they are still learning about our church. Come, have a bowl of ice cream and get to know these dear friends better. [Please RSVP on our event page.](#)

The Lord is good and His steadfast love endures forever. I know this eternal truth of God's Word and I see this powerful truth unfolding among us right now.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Stuart

Stuart Spencer
Pastor

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, July 30 after 9:30 am Worship
PURPOSE: To elect two (2) Deacons and one (1) Trustee