

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
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fpcmoorestown.org
856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
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Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
wallen@fpcmoorestown.org

Worship. Connect.
Serve. Devote.

JOIN US on Sunday morning at church or via live stream as we worship the Lord with gladness:

9:00 am Traditional
10:30 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

July 1-15, 2023

Way of the Week 9: Pray First and Pray Again (July 2-8, 2023)

9. PRAY FIRST AND PRAY AGAIN. Ask *first* for God's guidance and blessing in everything you do. Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God's will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God's love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

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 of the Week 10: Join Hands (July 9-15, 2023)

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

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.

Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden Dedication

The Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting of the Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden has been rescheduled for **Monday, July 24th at 6:00 pm**. Join us at our official opening by the garden. The dedication was postponed from June 12th due to storms.

We will welcome Moorestown Mayor Nicole Gillespie, members of the town council and the Ritter family who has graciously funded the initial construction of the garden. Please join us as Pastor Spencer dedicates the garden, Mayor Gillespie offers her support and the Ritter family cuts the ribbon to commemorate the start of this new ministry to the Moorestown community. Our crops are coming in!

Donations to defray expenses and support this ongoing ministry are gratefully accepted. You may give cash, checks or [online](#) (see drop down for the Garden) at any time.



Prayer on the Porch/ Thursday Prayer Service

For July and August, our Thursday Prayer Service is on hiatus. This summer all are encouraged to come and participate in Prayer on the Porch, a time of fellowship and on the first and third Thursdays from 7:00-7:30 pm on the Van Camp Porch:

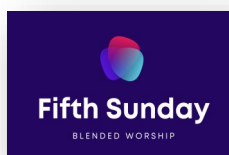
- Thursday, July 6
- Thursday, July 20
- Thursday, August 3
- Thursday, August 17
- September to be announced

In case of inclement weather, we will pray in the Lounge. For information contact Prayer Committee chair Pam Engle at 609.332.7513 cell or pam@pamengle.com.

THANK YOU!
World Refugee Day donations
on Sunday, June 25
totaled \$893.

5th Sunday Ice Cream Social & Member Celebration

After our 9:30 am Fifth Sunday worship on **July 30** we have something very special planned -- a church-wide ice cream social and Recent Member Reception, coordinated by the Membership Committee and Deacons 5th Sunday Committee. JOIN US in Fellowship Hall for our Meet and Greet and a cool treat as we celebrate everyone who joined our church family



since 2020. Four years of Inquirers' classes will be welcomed at this special event. These members joined when church activities were dramatically altered due to the pandemic, so we are inviting the congregation to meet and get to know these folks. Come and say hello; introduce yourself and extend an invitation to a group or church activity that you enjoy. [Please RSVP so we can determine a headcount.](#)

A Note from Your Stewardship Team

Church operations continue year-round, and your Stewardship Committee reminds you that the traditional drop in giving during the summer months greatly affects the health of our church as well as those who rely on our support. Thank you for your faithful generosity. Please consider taking advantage of [online giving](#) — a safe, secure automatic withdrawal. It's simple to sign up. No more writing checks or searching for offering envelopes! Log onto fpcmoorestown.org/giving to get started and set up your preferences.



PLEASE RSVP for the July 30 Ice Cream Social online, in 'Signups' on the Church Center app or by calling the church office 856-235-1688

Rolling, Rolling ... Trek Malawi July 7-18

For ten days in July, Pastor Spencer and FPC Moorestown member Jim Dugan, will join cyclists from across New Jersey on a 300-mile bicycle trek through the African country of Malawi. The event will raise \$50,000 to fund summer camps for 3,000 children in Malawi, and support [UrbanPromise International](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and young adults in New Jersey and around the world. You can pray along with Stuart, Jim and the group daily as they bicycle through Malawi and visit Urban Promise ministry partners. Watch for a *Prayer Guide* on our website. Visit the team's page at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MW/Lilongwe/TrekMalawi2023>.

Listen to our Podcasts

Stay up to date with FPC Moorestown's sermon series by subscribing to our weekly sermon podcast now available on Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts, Spotify and Anchor. Full worship services continue to be available with video on YouTube and Facebook or by visiting our website www.fpcmoorestown.org.

Camp Johnsonburg

Yes, spaces still remain for Camp Johnsonburg Summer Camp **July 16-21**, for grades 2-12. Check out this incredible "Sacred Place, Open Space." See our [event page](#) and pick up literature at church.



Summer Sermon Series

Pastors Spencer and Allen preach through the book of Hosea with a summer series called, "*Hosea: God's Huge Heart*." In the message of the prophet Hosea, we encounter the passionate heart of God. We discover the jealous heart of God, the broken heart of God, the joyful heart of God.

'Drop-In and Discuss' Adult Spiritual Formation

Come each Sunday morning this summer to discuss the day's Hosea sermon text. Gather in the Lounge from **10:00-10:45 am. June 4-Sept. 3**. Get your coffee and drop in for ten minutes or for 30. [See additional resources on the event page too!](#)

Sunday Check Ins

Please take a few seconds to check in and register your attendance each time you attend in person and/or watch on your device. This simple automated check-in replaces the Friendship sign-in pads and records important data used by the Membership Team, staff and pastors, and is quickly done from your phone. [Download the Church Center app](#) to check in. If you need help, please see the volunteer.



Church campus closed July 3rd and July 4th

Grow The Kingdom

This spring and summer, church elders, deacons and trustees are meeting in six workgroups to develop strategic planning and church goals. Groups are addressing: (1) Normal Life of FPC Moorestown; (2) Outreach; (3) Visitors; (4) Wider Community; (5) Revenue Sources, and (6) 5-Year View.

2023-24 Events

Please submit 2023-24 event dates, room requests, planning dates, activities and meeting schedules to the church office by **August 1**.

Discipleship Zoom Prayer

Thursdays from 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 863 2847 9075

Passcode: 960168

Stephen Ministries

[Way 18](#) reminds us to *Ask For Help*. Sometimes this is very hard. Often, though, we need help. Sometimes the only way to receive this is to ask for it. Part of being a Christian means relying on God for help. We can pray directly to God, we can ask the church to pray for us, we can talk to the minister. God's answers come in many ways. One way God can answer your prayer is by putting a Stephen Minister in your life. In our church, many lay people have answered the call to become a Stephen Minister, completing a 50-hour training program. We currently have 14 active Stephen Ministers including five active Stephen Leaders who have received extra training to help administer the program. A Stephen Minister will meet with you for about one hour each week, listen to your problems and help you get through the tough times with God's guidance.

Stephen Ministry provides a safe place to ask for help. This confidential program only works when caregivers are paired with care receivers. The difficult part of this ministry is getting those who need help to ask for it. Sometimes a friend or family member will suggest you ask for a Stephen Minister. *Remember none of us can go it alone. Ask for help.*

And if you find that you believe you are able to help others, our next Stephen Ministry class begins in October. Call [Doris Kahley](#) at (609) 261-8474 or [Wes Allen](#) at the church office (856) 235-1688 to ask for a Stephen Minister or to ask about our new class.

Kindly provide 48-72 hours notice to process a check request from the church office



Vacation Bible School was an out-of-this-world adventure!



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: contact John
Roberts, interim director

Sermon Series Memory Verse

"Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go?"

- Hosea 11: 8

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto

856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School:

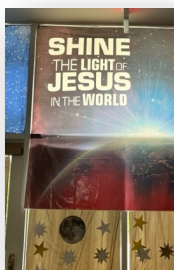
John Roberts-interim director

724-967-1646 cell

jroberts@fpcmoorestown.org

VBS 2023: It's a wrap!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped, attended, led children, supported staff, registered families, provided snacks, donated for GTI HOPE or Christian Caring Center, sang songs, prayed, or earned service hours for our Stellar VBS. **What an incredible week of VBS!**



NEW: Family Ministries Paintball

CALLING ALL FAMILIES ... Join us on **Thursday, July 13th** for an action-packed day of paintballing at New Jersey's premiere paintball facility, On Target Action Park, featuring 13 action oriented fields located on 65 acres in the Pine Barrens. Participants must be at least 10 years old. COST: \$70 per person includes a rental paintball gun, safety goggles, air tank with unlimited air, paintballs and paintball ammo belts. Individuals with their own equipment: \$50. [See our event page to register and pay online.](#) SO FUN.



NEW: White Water Rafting Trip!

JOIN FPC MOORESTOWN FAMILIES for an exhilarating adventure down the Pocono Mountains' Lehigh River on **Saturday, August 5th**. Feel the adrenaline rush as we navigate thrilling rapids and explore the beautiful river scenery on this dam release weekend! This is the perfect opportunity to bond with loved ones and create core family memories. No prior experience is necessary; we'll be led by experienced guides who will ensure a safe and enjoyable trip for everyone. Minimum age to participate is 8 years old. Bring the whole family and invite your friends and their families for an unforgettable experience. [Sign up and pay online](#) on our events page.



To learn more visit the Whitewater Challengers FAQ page: <https://whitewaterchallengers.com/lehigh-faq/>