

First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Stuart Spencer
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Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
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**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

June 18-July 1, 2023

The 64th Annual Strawberry Festival was a BERRY Big Hit!

WE WERE FORTUNATE that the Lord blessed us again with a beautiful night, albeit, on the hot side with a thunderstorm that sent people scurrying home a little early! If you weren't there, **we missed you**, and hope you can come next year. We heard from many attendees who said they look forward to this event every year, AND we had lots of new visitors too! The Community Band did a fabulous job as always on the front lawn, while the Trophy Husbands band kept the crowd rocking in the back! We had volunteers all night at our Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden to greet and educate our visitors on its purpose. The Missions Food Tent raised the most money it ever has for Haiti Outreach Ministries! We had faith that the plan to keep this as an outreach to the community and suggest a free will offering would cover the cost of the event and it more than did. Proceeds will be set aside to be utilized as needed for additional FPC Moorestown outreach needs such as VBS, scholarships, or the Cooperative Garden, just to name a few possibilities.

So many of our Ways of the Week came to mind when planning this event particularly *Jump In* and *Join Hands*. We are so grateful for the number of volunteers we had in every capacity from donating cakes to washing and hulling strawberries, to working the night of the event. People stepped in to help in countless ways during the event, and offered to stay either before or after their shift too. This was a huge help for little unexpected needs. Our middle school youth group volunteered at the inflatables and kids activities, and Urban Promise fellows came to help out at the Missions Food Tent.

"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Our visitors saw the light of Jesus through all of your actions that night, from a kind word, a smile, a holding of the door, or the fact that they could just come and enjoy the event without a cost involved.

We appreciate the amazing cakes that were donated this year. The full leftover cakes and goodies were sold to people on their way out and some were utilized for the Missions Baby Shower brunch for Options for Women. The already-cut cakes were put into containers as assortments and donated to Feeding 5000. Their organizer, Jim, was so excited to receive these cakes because they were having a special BBQ for the homeless in Philly that very weekend and in his own words, "They never get desserts!"

Again this beloved annual event cannot happen without the support of the **entire** congregation in all ways, big and small.

Save the Date for 2024:
Friday, June 7, 2024!

We thank you again for a successful night of fellowship and outreach to our community — with a side of dessert!

**Kristen Perkowski, Laurie LaMonica,
and Jen Allen; Strawberry
Festival Organizers**



Prayer on the Porch

It's back! Join the Prayer Committee for a time of fellowship and prayer on cool summer evenings for *Thursday Evening Prayer on the Porch*. The group will meet on the Van Camp Porch on the first and third Thursdays from 7:00-7:30 pm. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Lounge. **Save the dates and come pray: June 15, July 6, July 20, Aug. 3, Aug. 17.**

"...and they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day." Gen. 3

For information contact Prayer Committee chair Pam Engle at pam@pamengle.com.



Church campus
CLOSED
Monday,
June 19

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honor refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20th and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.

Look for special pew envelopes on **Sunday, June 25** for donations to the ministry of our missionary Nadia Ayoub who is working with Ukrainian refugees in Greece. For information visit <https://www.unhcr.org/world-refugee-day>. Or give online as well.



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

VBS Mission Time

During VBS, we will be making holdover bags for the [Christian Caring Center](#). Each student will make a bag and write a note of encouragement. Bags will be distributed by CCC to the homeless. Please consider donating any of these items:

- small boxes of raisins
- tuna snack packs
- napkins
- small bags of candy (no nuts)
- granola bars (no nuts)
- small hand sanitizers
- small packs of tissues
- individual packs of bug spray
- small packages of detergent
- small suntan lotions
- Lifesavers or Tic Tac mints
- cheese sandwich crackers
- cookie snack packs
- lunch bags

Drop them outside the Mission-ware store. Thank you!

Wheels Up! 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>.

Summer Sermon Series

This summer, Pastors Spencer and Allen preach through the book of Hosea with a sermon 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. Hosea teaches us what God feels about us.

'Drop-In and Discuss' Adult Spiritual Formation

Come each Sunday morning this summer to discuss the day's Hosea sermon text. We will 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 forty. [See additional resources on the event page too!](#)

Camp Johnsonburg

Sign ups are OPEN for Camp Johnsonburg Summer Camp **July 16-21**, grades 2nd-12th. Check out this incredible "Sacred Place, Open Space." See our [event page](#) and pick up literature at church.



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.

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 have 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!

5th Sunday Ice Cream Social & Member Celebration

Our 9:30 am Fifth Sunday worship will be on **July 30** and afterwards, we're planning something special: a church-wide ice cream social and welcome reception for recent members, coordinated by the Membership Committee and Deacons. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 10:45 am for an ice cream sundae bar and highlight the past four years of member classes from 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. These members joined when our church activities were dramatically altered due to the pandemic and subsequent gathering concerns, so they are still learning about our church. And we're looking forward to getting to know them better!

***Did you check in
on Sunday?***

NEW: Youth Book Study

Calling all middle school and high school students! Join Dave Fauvell & Cheryl Gaskill Wednesday evenings this summer (beginning with an introduction on June 21st), for a book discussion and hang-out time! No cost. We'll be discussing "*More Than A Carpenter*" by Josh McDowell, a skeptic turned believer, and his son, Sean McDowell. This book examines the hard evidence about Jesus and helps readers come to an informed and intelligent decision about who Jesus is. We'll meet from 6:30-8:00 pm at our Fire Pit (weather permitting). Won't be around for the whole summer? No worries - come when you are able! Register on the event page. Contact Dave (609-980-7885) or Cheryl (856-904-3056) with questions.

Welcome Officers

WELCOME to our officers: **Elders:** Pam Engle, Gayle Payne, Melody Ransom, Dave Rebeck & Ginny Weber. **Deacons:** Dave Barr, Karen Hynoski, Mike McNeil, Susan Shaffer, Bobbi Vogelsong & Jessica Zorn. **Trustees:** Pete Honeyford, Joe Molloy & Bill Mueller.

THANK YOU to our dedicated outgoing officers for their many years of service: **Elders:** Gary Bender, Nancy Chumney, Kevin Fauvell, Joyce Peacock. **Deacons:** Sarah Harper, Mike Hock, Caroline Joyce, Jeff Mason, Jonathan Schramm & Vicki Terry. **Trustees:** Jeff Legath, Patrick McIlroy & Mike Ramage.

***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.

Discipleship Zoom Prayer

On **Thursdays from 12:30-1:00 p.m.**, take part in a time of prayer as we ask God to make us a church of disciples who make disciples.

Meeting ID: 863 2847 9075
Passcode: 960168

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



Blast off to Vacation Bible School. It's an out-of-this-world adventure!



Middle School Youth Group
(grades 7-8)

High School Youth Group
(grades 9-12)

WATCH YOUR EMAIL this summer for a schedule of fun get-togethers and pool outings for Middle School Youth Group and High School Youth Group, including rising 7th graders and rising 9th graders. We're eager to meet you. **SEE INFO** about a youth book study on page 3.

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

Vacation Bible School 2023

June 26-June 30 (9:00 am-Noon)

- **YES, WE STILL HAVE ROOM FOR YOU!**
- **June 26-June 30, 2023**
- 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade (FALL 2023).
- Please enter your child's **CURRENT** grade for 2022-23.
- Cost: Just \$25 per child (\$20 for additional child)

At *Stellar* VBS we will launch a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light into the world. Kids will take off on an out-of-this-world adventure that is light years of faith-building fun. Daily Bible Points and activities!

Adults: we need you!

[Sign up on our event page](#) or on the Church Center app.



VBS Missions

During VBS mission time, we will be making holdover bags for the [Christian Caring Center](#). Each student will make a bag and write a note of encouragement. The bags will be distributed to the homeless during the Christian Caring Center's street outreach. **See page 2 for items to donate.** Please leave outside Missionwares. During VBS we will also be collecting change for GTi Hope in India to provide children's Bibles. Learn more about the ministry of [GTi Hope](#) (Glad Tidings India) at www.gtihope.org.

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!](#) So fun.

