



Sunday, August 13, 2023 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you **checked in** for worship today?

*please stand as you are able

Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Music in Preparation for Worship

The Lord's My Shepherd

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ
(Crimond) Rowley

*Responsive Call to Worship

Elder Paul Booker

Come, let us gather in awe and reverence, as we open our hearts to hear His voice.

The Lord calls us with love and compassion, drawing us near, embracing our souls.

The Lord is here offering us boundless affection and unyielding devotion.

Through wayward paths, He guided us, with cords of kindness, He led us forth.

From Egypt's chains, He set us free, with tender care, He carried us along.

Yet, we wandered astray, seeking solace elsewhere, but His love remained steadfast, unshaken.

Let us return to the arms of our Creator, for He is faithful, merciful, and just.

In His grace, forgiveness awaits us all, His love, a boundless ocean, never to run dry.

With hearts humbled and spirits uplifted, we come before His throne in gratitude.

We rejoice in the beauty of His mercy with renewed spirits.

*Hymn No. 580

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

***Seating interlude

Prayer of Adoration

Elder Booker

Call to Confession

Elder Booker

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Elder Booker

Gracious Father, hear our humble plea. In the shadow of Hosea's story we confess to You from the bottom of our wayward hearts and distressed souls. In the wilderness, You called us Your own, yet we strayed from Your steadfast love. Instead we sought comfort in earthly desires, ignoring Your voice, stoking worldly fires.

Forgive us, Lord, for wandering far, for failing to heed Your guiding star. In pursuit of selfish gain, we strayed, neglecting Your will and betraying Your Word. Nevertheless, Your love is a river that never runs dry, flowing endlessly through the scorched earth we have created. Today we turn back to You with contrite hearts. Shower us with Your grace and mercy and lead us by Your Spirit. In the name of Jesus, our Savior and King, we offer this prayer. Hear us now as we offer our personal confession to you in silence ...

Silent prayer for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Booker

God's grace knows no bounds. His love endures forever. Believe and receive the precious gift of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

For in Christ's sacrifice we find our hope. In His resurrection we experience a brand new day. Our hearts rejoice and our spirits soar as we embrace life restored. In His love we stand forgiven - redemption secured. Hallelujah, Amen!

*Gloria Patri No. 805

Way of the Week #15: Welcome Change

Rev. Allen

15. WELCOME CHANGE. Be curious about new ideas, perspectives, and approaches. Get excited by the possibilities that change can bring. What worked in the past won't always work in the future, for God is doing new things.

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

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Allen

Offertory

*Thank you for your faithfulness and for remembering FPC Moorestown with your giving. Your offerings allow us to sustain our church programs. Take advantage of simple, secure [automatic withdrawal](#) or donate easily from your phone via the Church Center app. If you're watching via live stream, you can take part and give online right now as well! When mailing your offerings, please send to **P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057.***

Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Brother James' Air – 23rd Psalm

Arr. Dean

Jennifer Wait, Soprano

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Wes Allen

“God Won’t Give Up”

Scripture: Hosea 11:1-11 (Pew Bible page 842 OT)

Sermon Series: God’s Huge Heart

***Affirmation of Faith (from *Our World Belongs to God*)**

Rev. Allen

We obey God first; we respect the authorities that rule, for they are established by God: we pray for our rulers, and we work to influence governments—resisting them only when Christ and conscience demand. We are thankful for the freedoms enjoyed by citizens of many lands; we grieve with those who live under oppression, and we seek for them the liberty to live without fear.

We call on all governments to do public justice and to protect the rights and freedoms of all individuals, groups, and institutions so that each may do their tasks. We urge governments and pledge ourselves to safeguard children and the elderly from abuse and exploitation, to bring justice to the poor and oppressed, and to promote the freedom to speak, work, worship, and associate. That governments are called to justice generally and that how a government treats the poor and the weak is a key indicator of a society’s commitment to justice is taught in all the prophets and throughout the psalms.

***Hymn No. 648**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

He Leadeth Me

Jordan

Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Rev. Jonathan Leath)

Rev. Allen

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9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Paul Booker; **Audio Technician:** Harris E. Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** Fran Green and Carol Benner; **Ushers:** Michael Welch, Paul Grossmann, John Miller; **Trustee Greeter:** Matt Moxhay; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Jenna Cole; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (volunteers needed for this ministry)

Worship flowers are given by Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents Aram and Karzouhy Balain.

Welcome Back Sunday: Program Year Begins September 10th

We will kick off our 2023-24 program year on Sunday, Sept. 10 with Welcome Back Sunday. Traditional worship time will remain at **9:00 am** as in the summer. Children’s Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation will be **10:15-11:15 am**. The contemporary service will begin at **11:00 am** with Praise Music and Wow God! moments, and worship at 11:15 am. Children’s Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation will begin Sunday, September 17th.

Work of God's People (See *Connections*, eblast, website and our app for details)

- **EVENT:** Come help out this week at the [Children's Fresh Air Home on Thursday, August 17](#) from 8 am-5 pm in North Wildwood. The campers are from UrbanPromise and we will be serving them lunch, and helping with their day at the beach. Carpool from the church; contact [Linda Jagiela](#) if you can help: 267-275-7582 cell/text.
- **Pastor Spencer** is away on vacation from Aug. 9-22. Pastor Wes Allen will be available for pastoral care. Stuart will also be preaching at the Wells Presbyterian Church in Avalon. Stop by if you're in the area.
- **Summer Reminders:** Summer Worship is 9:00 a.m. Traditional and 10:30 a.m. Contemporary. Adult Spiritual Formation offers a drop-in series 10:00-10:45 am in the Lounge. Children's Sunday School is on hiatus and returns in September. During summer months *Connections* prints every two weeks.
- **Malawi Trekkers Celebration** -- Come hear Stuart Spencer and Jim Dugan share about the 10-day bike trek through Africa by the Malawi Trekkers. Their group cycled over 200 miles through Malawi visiting UrbanPromise mission sites. **Wed. Aug. 30 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, also available via Zoom.**
- **Thursday Prayer on the Porch** – 7:00 pm, meets Aug. 17, Sept. 7 Sept. 21.
- **Have you tried ALPHA?** Are you newer to church? ALPHA is an 11-week course that creates a space where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God. Each week's talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. A new series of Wednesday evening sessions begins **Wednesday, Sept. 6.** [Sign up online](#) or right through the Church Center app (Sign Ups).
- **RETREAT:** Pastor Spencer leads a **Fall Prayer Retreat** on Centering Prayer October 17-20 at Holy Cross Monastery using our study book, *Centering Prayer: Sitting Quietly in God's Presence Can Change Your Life*. Cost: \$305 with study book; \$290 without the book (purchase on your own). [Online registration now OPEN](#) on our event page or website, or pick up a brochure at church to mail in. Spaces are limited; RSVP due [by Sunday, Sept. 10](#).
- **Happy Birthday!** On September 12th we will celebrate the 135th anniversary of the church. Watch your mail for ways you can participate.
- Children's Sunday School will begin **Sunday, Sept. 17**. Come see your new classroom and teachers. Third graders will receive their Bibles that day for [Bible Sunday](#). NEW: Adult Spiritual Formation kicks off Sept. 17 with a fall series on The Sermon on the Mount that will run Sept. 17-Nov. 19. See website for details.
- **Happy Birthday!** On September 12th we will celebrate the 135th anniversary of the church. Watch your mail for ways you can participate.
- We have been notified that the post office will only deliver mail addressed to our **P.O. Box 868**. They will not deliver mail addressed to 101 Bridgeboro Road.

