



Sunday, August 20, 2023 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship (*Miller Commons*)

Welcome

Rev. Wes Allen

Song of Praise

Worship Team

Glorious Day

Wow Moments

Rev. Allen

Song of Praise

Worship Team

Rest on Us

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lord, we confess that at times, like Ephraim, we have surrounded ourselves with lies and deceit. We have pursued the empty winds of worldly success, allowing falsehood to multiply within us. We acknowledge that we have too often relied on our own strength and understanding, neglecting to trust in Your wisdom.

Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have loved material gain more than You. We recognize that our hearts have been with false balances, seeking our own interest instead of pursuing justice and righteousness. Lord, create in us clean hearts that are steadfast in love and justice. May our lives be places of worship, pure and sincere, reflecting Your grace and mercy to the world around us. Hear us now, Lord, as we come before You in this time of silence and reflecting on the ways in which we have strayed from Your will....

Silence for personal confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Scripture reminds us time and time again that Christ did not come into the world to condemn the world. Christ came that the world may be saved. Hear the good news! Believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah, amen!

Greeting

Offering Ourselves to God

Solo

Cheryl Stevens

For Every Mountain

Sermon

Rev. Allen

The Path You Follow

Scripture Text: [Hosea 11:12-12:14](#)

Sermon Series: God's Huge Heart

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

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. We are confident that the light, which shines in the present darkness, will fill the earth when Christ appears. Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to You.

Closing Song

Worship Team

Revelation Song

Way of the Week [Video](#) – Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams

Rev. Allen

16. GIVE CHEERFULLY. Rejoice, you get to give! 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?"*

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?

Work of God's People and Benediction

Rev. Allen

10:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Worship Team:	Wes Allen-Electric Guitar; Don Stevens-Bass; Curtis Blain-Drums; Rebecca Neindorff-Piano; Cheryl Stevens, Michelle Davis, Vivian Allen-Vocals
Live stream Technician:	Matthew Miller
Flower Arrangers:	Stacy Schaffer and Lisa Heisler

Deacons Delivery Arranger: Vicki Terry
Usher: Matt La Grou
Trustee Greeter: Pete Honeyford
Check-in: Mike McNeil
Hospitality: Chelsea Margerum
Nursery Caregiver: Amy Coombe

Today's pulpit flowers are given to the glory of God.

Nursery care is provided for children ages 0-5 years old in Room 12.

Our World Belongs to God: In our summer sermon series on the book of Hosea, each Sunday we'll read a portion of a Statement of Faith called, "Our World Belongs to God," from the Christian Reformed Church. While not having confessional status, it is meant to give a hymn-like expression of our faith within the heritage of the Reformed confessions, especially addressing issues that confront the Church today: <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/contemporary-testimony/our-world-belongs-god>.

Sermon Series: Use this link to our website to access [additional resources](#) for our new Sermon Series on the Book of Hosea.

Check-ins: Check-in is self-check in only on your smart phone. A volunteer is available to assist. *Please remember to check in from home when watching the live stream.*

Adult Spiritual Formation: Drop in & Discuss - Join us each Sunday morning this summer, beginning June 4, to discuss the day's sermon text. We will gather from 10:00-10:45 a.m. Get your coffee and drop in for 10 minutes or for 40. – *Lounge*

Pastor Spencer is away on vacation until Aug. 22. In his absence, Pastor Allen is available for pastoral care.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Fires continue to ravage Maui. To donate, visit <https://pda.pcusa.org>.

Youth Summer Book Study - Wednesday evenings, led by Cheryl Gaskill and Dave Fauvell. SIGN UP on our [Event page](#)! We're looking at "More Than A Carpenter" by Josh McDowell, a skeptic turned believer, and his son, Sean.

Malawi Trekkers Mission Presentation: Pastor Stuart Spencer and Jim Dugan recently returned from a mission trip to Malawi, Africa. Join Jim and Stuart to hear more about their trip and see their pictures and videos. The presentation is Wednesday, **August 30 at 6:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall (*also via Zoom*).

ALPHA is an 11-week course that creates a space where people are excited for a conversation about faith, life and God. Each week's talk looks at a different question around faith. A new series of Wednesday evening sessions begins **Sept. 6**. [Sign up online](#) or through the Church Center app (Sign Ups).

Join the Prayer Committee for [Prayer on the Porch](#) at **7:00 p.m.** (Sept. 7, 21) for a time of prayer & fellowship on the Van Camp Porch. (*In the case of inclement weather, it will be held in the Lounge.*)

Welcome Back Sunday – **Sept. 10:** We will kick off our new fall schedule with one Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. There will also be a Potluck Brunch afterwards in Fellowship Hall. If your last name begins with, please bring *A-F: casserole or egg dish; G-N: side dish; O-S: salad; T-Z: dessert.*

Fall Prayer Retreat - **October 17-20:** Pastor Spencer leads a study of prayer and meditative practices at Holy Cross Monastery (West Park, NY) using the study book "Centering Prayer: Sitting Quietly in God's Presence Can Change Your Life" by Brian D. Russell. [Online registration](#) is available now! Retreat cost is \$305 with the study book and \$290 if purchasing the book on your own. *Limited spaces are available, and firm registration deadline is September 10.*

New Worship Times: Beginning September 17, our Sunday morning schedule will change. As recommended by the Worship Committee and approved by Session, the Traditional Service will begin at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School will be held from 10:15-11:00 a.m. The Contemporary Service will still be held at 11:00 a.m.

PW: A copy of the changed By-laws will be posted on the PW bulletin board in the hall by the kitchen. We will vote on the changes at our Fall Gathering, **September 18 at 7:00 PM.**

FPC MOORESTOWN WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES (*See Prayer page on website for links*)

- **Mondays 9-10 AM** – Jim Cole leading - Prayer Chapel. Anyone needing or wanting to pray for others is welcome to join Jim.
- **Tuesdays 9-10 AM** – Jim Cole leading (Zoom)
- **Thursdays 7:30-8:30 AM** (Zoom) – Pray for our church, nation, and the world. For link, please contact Sue Piper (storybooksue@comcast.net).
- **Thursdays 12:30-1:00 PM** (Zoom) – Pray for discipleship and disciple-making at FPCM.
- **Thursdays 7:00 PM** – Prayer on the Porch – Join our Prayer Team for a time of prayer on the Van Camp Porch (*1st & 3rd Thursdays June-Sept.*)
- **Sundays 10:00 AM** – After Traditional Worship, Beadles available to pray with or for you (David Room). Jim Cole also available in the Prayer Chapel in Commons Lobby for prayer.
- Submit confidential **online prayer requests** – visit <https://www.fpcmooresstown.org/prayer>
- **Fall & Spring Prayer Retreats** to unplug and savor time away in meditation.
- **Prayer Vigils** - sponsored by the Prayer Committee for stewardship, National/World Day of Prayer, etc.