



**Sunday, September 17, 2023 ~ Bible Sunday, Commissioning Teachers/Leaders**  
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you **checked in** for worship today?

\*please stand as you are able

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### Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

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### Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

***I Want Jesus to Walk with Me***

Arr. Reinhart

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### Introit

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

***Give Me Jesus***

Spiritual

Adult Choir; Frank Mitchell, Bass

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### \*Responsive Call to Worship

Elder Jim Wiggans

Here we are Lord, your creatures, your people standing before you.

**Gathered together to praise you and worship you.**

This is your day Father and we thank you for giving this day and this time of worship to all of us.

**Help us to always remember that each day is a blessing and a gift from you. We know that we are not owed anything from you.**

Be with us in our midst, Lord, and let us feel your breath upon our faces. Let us worship God!

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### \*Prayer of Adoration

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### \*Hymn No. 34

***Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart***

\*\*\*Seating interlude

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### Call to Confession

Elder Wiggans

## Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Elder Wiggans

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O Lord, you are our shepherd, and yet we want. We lie down when we could act, we stir the pot when we could offer peace, and we wander tempting paths instead of following you. We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them. We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.

*Silent prayer for personal confession*

## Assurance of Pardon

Elder Wiggans

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Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. I declare to you the truth of the Gospel.

**Therefore, let God's people believe and say: Alleluia! Amen.**

## \*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

Blue Hymnal, Inside Cover

## \*Gloria Patri No. 805

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## Presentation of Bibles to 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

Holly Asciutto, Rev. Spencer

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*Alexandra Mae Long, Avery Gordon, Sofia Ines de la Cruz*

## Commissioning 2023-2024 Teachers & Small Group Leaders

Holly Asciutto, Rev. Spencer

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**K-1 Teachers:** Jenny Legath & Karen Alecxih; **Grades 2-3:** Holly Asciutto & Lori Bell; **Grades 4-5:** Leslie Spencer & Philip Jagiela; **Small Group Leaders:** Wes Allen, Lorenzo Eagles, Lissa Herman

## Anthem

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### ***Come and Go With Me***

Spiritual, Arr. Burkhardt

Adult Choir; Amanda Schkeeper, Alto

Come, come, come and go with me, hallelu, amen.

If you are a Christian, come and go with me:

Come and go with me, hallelu, amen.

If you are a Christian, come and follow me,

Hallelujah, amen.

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

Rev. Wes Allen

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## Way of the Week #20: Find Strength in Belonging

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**20. FIND STRENGTH IN BELONGING.** At FPC Moorestown, you're loved and valued. Claim us as your family. Rather than withdrawing, allow struggles and disappointments to deepen your sense of belonging. Pray for chances to bring healing to relationships. Please be patient! God isn't yet finished with us or with you.

**Ideas for Action:** Is there a disappointment you've been carrying about the church? In prayer, offer it to the Lord and ask for His help in releasing it. If you've been sitting on the sidelines at home, get back in the game by returning to worship and joining a small group, a class or a committee. We need you, and you need us.

## 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

### ***Be Thou My Vision***

Amanda Schkeeper, Alto

Arr. Walters

## \*Doxology No. 809

## Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

### ***"An Evening with your Enemies"***

**Scripture:** Acts 16: 16-34 (Pew Bible page 136 NT)

**Sermon Series:** *Biblical Hospitality: Inviting Outsiders to be Family*

## \*Hymn No. 710

### ***We Are Called to Be God's People***

## Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

### ***Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer***

Carlson

## Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Paul Booker)

Rev. Spencer

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## 9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

**Beadle:** Elder Jim Wiggans; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** Stacy Schaffer and Carol Morgan; **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Deacon Flower Arrangers:** Sue Winner; **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Deacon Flower Deliverers:** Karen Hynoski and Gail Sorin; **Ushers:** Michael Welch, Wendy Dougherty, Paul Grossmann; **Trustee Greeter:** John Miller; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Bobbi Voglesong; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (*volunteers needed for this ministry*)

**Worship flowers** are given to the glory of God as we begin our 2023-2024 program year in ministry to our Lord.

### ***Education Hour Begins Today; Bible Sunday***

**TODAY: Children's Sunday School begins at our new time of 10:15-11:15 am.** Kids: Come meet your new Sunday School teachers! We will Commission our teachers and small group leaders today, and third graders will receive their Bibles.

## [Work of God's People \(See Connections, eblast, website and our app for details\)](#)

**TODAY: Adult Spiritual Formation begins with [Sermon on the Mount Study](#) (Sept. 17-Nov. 19)** -- For many, the Sermon on the Mount is the centerpiece of Jesus' teachings. In his sermon, as recorded by Matthew, Jesus reveals the principles of what true discipleship looks like. Lissa Herman and Lorenzo Eagles lead this Fall study Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall (**10:15-11:15 am**). [Please register to attend via Church Center](#) or visit the [church website](#). No books are required and you are guaranteed to learn a lot, even if you can only attend a few sessions. *No class on Oct. 15 (Consecration Sunday) or Oct. 29 (Church Has Left the Building).*

**TODAY: [Crud Wars Sept. 17](#)**, the goopy kick off for Middle School Youth Group (grades 7, 8) and High School Youth Group (grades 9-12). Join us for an incredibly cruddy and messy set of games! We will meet in the field next to the main parking lot. Wear clothes you don't care about. [Sign up online](#). Friends welcome.

**TONIGHT: [The Chosen](#)** ~ An 8-Week Small Group Study of the Life of Christ *and* Those Who Follow Him. This video series about the life of Jesus depicts His life through the eyes of those who knew Him and takes us deeper into the gospel stories. Meets weekly **beginning Sunday, Sept. 17**, 4-6 pm at the home of Dick & Lissa Herman. The Bible study guide, *What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?* is recommended. Purchase through [Amazon](#) or [Christianbook.com](#). [Register online](#) for the Group. *Note: The group size is limited.*

**TOMORROW: PW Fall Gathering ~ Monday, Sept. 18 at 7:00 pm;** [see event page to sign up](#). ALL women are invited - and encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor. Coffee, tea and desserts will be shared. Arlita Winston will introduce the new Horizon Bible Study "*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts.*" Event will be live streamed from Miller Commons.

**NEW: ADULTS: If you are interested in pitching in with youth ministry**, please [sign up online](#) or contact youth director Dave Fauvell at [dfauvell52@gmail.com](mailto:dfauvell52@gmail.com) or 609-980-7885 call/text. Middle School Youth Group began Sept. 13; High School dinners began Sept. 10. Come be a part of it.

**[Happy Birthday!](#)** On September 12<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the 135th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, founded in 1888. Thank you for your contributions to the [September 12 Fund](#).

**NEW: Children's Communion Workshop:** Sunday, Sept. 24 at 10:15 am in Room 6. Ages third grade and older.

**NEW: Interested in Acolyting?** We will be resuming our Acolyte Ministry in early October. [Please sign your child up online](#) if you're interested! A *training session* will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 1** at 10:15 am. Contact [Holly Ascitutto](#).

**Are you interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown** and possibly joining the congregation? The Membership Committee invites you to attend its [Fall Inquirers Class](#) beginning **October 18**. The series, designed to work with today's busy schedules, is comprised of three sessions and the traditional meeting with Session to be received into membership. Learn more and [sign up online](#) on our Events page or [website](#).

**NEW: [Stephen Minister Training Class](#)** – Your Stephen Ministry team is excited about the new class starting on **Monday, October 2**. We will meet in Room 2 at the church for 10 weeks. [REGISTER online](#) please or contact leader Doris Kahley at 609-261-8474 or [d.kahley@verizon.net](mailto:d.kahley@verizon.net). If you are not sure, we are happy to talk with you and answer your questions. This is an important way to minister to others in our congregation.