

First Presbyterian Church
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856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
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Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
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**Worship. Connect.
Serve. Devote.**

*Worship the Lord with glad-
ness; come into his presence
with singing - Psalm 100:2*

9:00 am Traditional
11:00 am Contemporary
9:30 am 5th Sunday
Blended Worship

10:15-11:15 am
Education Hour

Worship streams live from
each worship space. Log
on from any device to
www.fpcmoorestown.org
or [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

Services are 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 announce-
ments, Connections, and
upcoming events? If not,
contact the [church office](#).**



Connections

FPC
Moorestown

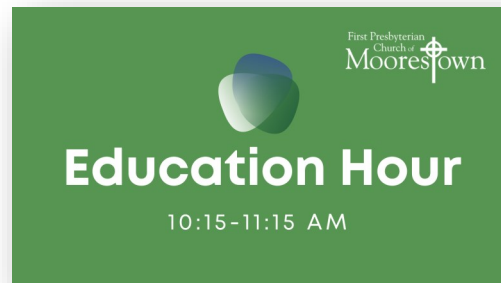
First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

September 17-23, 2023

Way of the Week 20: Find Strength in Belonging (Sept. 17-23, 2023)

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.



Sunday, September 17, 2023 Kickoff

Our 2023-2024 programming year officially gets underway this Sunday as we welcome back everyone to church after busy and eventful summers enjoying God's creation. Your church staff has been active too. Special happenings to kick off our year:

- ♦ **NEW Worship Times:** 9:00 am Traditional and 11:00 am Contemporary
- ♦ **Bible Sunday** for our third graders (see page 4)
- ♦ **Education classes** begin (Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation) - NEW TIME 10:15-11:15 am (see page 2)
- ♦ **Commissioning** of our 2023-24 teachers and small group leaders
- ♦ **Crud Wars youth group kickoff**, 1-3 pm, grades 7-12; [sign up online](#) (page 4)

Already Underway

- ♦ **Pew envelopes** for September 12 Fund are available
- ♦ **Senior High Dinners** began Sept. 10; grades 9-12 (6:30-8:30 pm)
- ♦ **Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8)** started Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 6:30-8:00 pm at the church. [SIGN UP ONLINE](#)
- ♦ **Children's choirs, bell choir and adult choir rehearsals** started Sept. 11-16

Adult Spiritual Formation Begins with Sermon on the Mount Study

For many, the Sermon on the Mount is the centerpiece of Jesus' teachings. In his sermon, as recorded by Matthew in chapters 5-7 of his Gospel, Jesus reveals the principles of what true discipleship looks like. If you desire to enhance your knowledge of scripture and grow closer to the Lord, you are invited to join Lissa Herman and Lorenzo Eagles as they lead this Fall study each Sunday morning in Fellowship Hall. [Please register to attend via Church Center](#) or on the church website. There are no books required and you are guaranteed to learn a lot, even if you can only attend a few sessions.

Class will begin **Sunday, Sept. 17** and conclude **Nov. 19**. There is no class on Oct. 15 for Consecration Sunday or Oct. 29 for Church Has Left the Building (combined 9:30 am worship services).

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

PW invites women of the church to its Fall Gathering on **Monday, Sept. 18 at 7:00 pm** in Miller Commons. There will be a brief business meeting and update of by-laws, and Arlita Winston will introduce the new study: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*.

Presbyterian Women at FPC Moorestown have options for **serving** and **learning**. In addition to Bible study, PW decorates the Chrismon Tree at Christmas, and participates in service projects to support organizations that meet the needs of women and children in crisis. Come for some **dessert** and visiting prior to the program. You don't need to be a member of a circle to come, but if the study interests you, you will meet the Circle leaders and hear about the options for meeting times and places.

September 12th Fund

Happy 135th Birthday First Presbyterian Church! Wow, that's a lot of candles. In honor of our church's founding on September 12th, members can donate to the future of our church by giving to the September 12 endowment fund. The fund is invested to earn income which helps to support the needs of our church. First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown was founded on September 12, 1888. Look for special pew envelopes and a letter from Pastor Stuart; place gifts in the offering or [give securely online](#).



***The Chosen ~ An 8-Week Small
Group Study ([see events](#))
Sept. 17-Nov. 5 from 4-6 pm***

Stephen Ministry Training Class Begins Monday, October 2

Your Stephen Ministry team is excited about the new class that is starting in October. If you have ever considered becoming a Stephen Minister, call Doris Kahley at 609-261-8474 or reach out to Pastor Wes Allen and let us know you are interested. 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.

Please sign up online at <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1873498>.

Fall Inquirers Class: Learn More About FPC Moorestown

Are you interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown and possibly joining the congregation? The Membership Committee extends an invitation to you to attend its Fall Inquirers Class in October. The Inquirers Class is for those interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown, and the Presbyterian Church as a whole. [Read more and sign up on our event page and website.](#)

The three-part series will be held Wednesday, Oct. 18, Saturday, Oct. 21, and Sunday, Oct. 22, and new members will be welcomed Sunday, Nov. 5 or 12.

Fellowship Groups Return

PARENTS: Sign ups are OPEN for Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossing Zone (Gr. 4-6), Middle School Youth Group and High School Youth Group for 2023-24. Please sign your children up so we can update our rosters with accurate information. We're planning an incredible year. [See the event page in Church Center.](#) (see pg 4)

Choir Rehearsals Begin

Opportunities are available for all ages and abilities in our music ministry. Come try it this year. Rehearsals begin the week of Sept. 11 for **Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Primary Choir** (Grades K-1), **Junior Choir** (Grades 2-4), **Choristers** (Grades 5-8) and **Chapel Choir** (Grades 9-12). Choirs are open to members of the local community. Contact Joel Krott at jkrott@fpcmoorestown.org.

Communion Workshop Sunday, Sept. 24 ~ 10:15 am (3rd grade and older)

ALPHA

ALPHA is a series exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation, particularly with those newer to church. ALPHA is run across the globe, and everyone is welcome, particularly newcomers. ALPHA will be held **Sept. 6-Nov. 15**. [Sign up online](#) or through the Church Center app. Wednesday meals with Family Dinner begin Oct. 4th.

[See ways to help support our youth ministry](#)

Consecration Sunday

Our stewardship series begins **Sunday, Sept. 24** with Stewardship Moments, and leads us into a special combined worship event on **Sunday October 15 at 9:30 a.m.** Make plans to attend wor-



ship and dedicate your financial gift for 2024. This year's theme is "Our House, God's House" and celebrates the 100th anniversary of our church's home in the Collins mansion (1923). Church leaders are planning, budgeting and preparing for our coming year in ministry and your 2024 Estimates of Giving are critical to this planning process. [Watch your mail](#) for more information. We're excited to share it with you. - Stewardship Team

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.

Prayer on the Porch

Join the Prayer Committee for the final Prayer on the Porch **Sept. 21 at 7:00 pm** to pray for our church family. Van Camp Porch.

Prayer Vigil

The Prayer Committee will be sponsoring a 12-hour prayer vigil (30-minute time slots) on **Saturday, October 14th**, to pray for our Consecration Sunday emphasis and for Church Has Left the Building. [See our event page](#) and watch for sign ups soon. The vigil will begin at 5:00 am and end at 5:00 pm. There will also be two opportunities on Saturday and Sunday to pray for the Church Has Left The Building events Oct. 28-29.

Pastor and Program Staff Appreciation Sunday Sunday, October 8th

Church Has Left The Building

The dates for Church Has Left The Building are Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29. **Please mark your calendars and plan to be involved in some capacity.** This year we will be tending to a few items at "our house" at FPC Moorestown and Carol's House. On Sunday, we will begin with a combined worship at **9:30 a.m.** (5th Sunday) and then split up for the various Sunday projects. We welcome Luke Maxted back as our guest preacher. [SIGN UP ONLINE](#) in our event page, through the Church Center app, or contact Wes Allen



at wallen@fpcmoorestown.org or 856-235-1688, Ext. 101. We're looking forward to another great weekend of ministry. If you aren't available to help that day, contributions are needed and welcomed.

FAMILY MINISTRY

K-12 groups begin ... Sunday School ... Communion Workshop ... Acolytes

Register for Fellowship Groups

Registration is OPEN for 2023-24 Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossing Zone (4th-6th), Middle School Youth Group (7th-8th) and High School Youth Group (9th-12th). [Sign up online](#), and watch for news from group leaders as well as the Friday eblast. (See start dates below)

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School returns on **Sunday, Sept. 17** from **10:15-11:15 am** (note new time). Come meet your teachers. We will commission our teachers and small group leaders on Sept. 17 too. [NEW: SIGN UP ONLINE](#) for Sunday School

Youth Groups Slime Time!

HEY YOUTH! Join us for Crud Wars **Sunday, September 17th** from 1-3 p.m. for an incredibly cruddy and messy set of games! Students grades 7th-12th are welcome. TIP: Wear clothes you don't care about! Contact Youth Director [Dave Fauvell](#) for info and be SURE to [sign up online](#).



Sermon Series Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! (Hebrews 13: 2)

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 Dave Fauvell, youth director

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto

856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School:

Dave Fauvell

724-967-1646 cell

jroberts@fpcmoorestown.org

Bible Sunday September 17th

On **Sunday, September 17th**, children entering third grade will receive their Bibles during worship as a gift from their church. Bible Sunday is a special day in the life of our young people. Bibles will be presented at both worship services.

NEW: Communion Workshop Sept. 24

On **Sunday, September 24th**, children interested in learning about communion and the Lord's Supper may attend a Communion Workshop at 10:15 am during the Education Hour. Room 6, ages third grade and older. Room 6

NEW: Acolyte Training

On **Sunday, October 1** at 10:15 am in Room 7 we will have an Acolyte Training for those interested in serving as an acolyte. We are resuming our acolyte ministry in early October. Sign up online [on our event page](#) or contact Holly Asciutto if you're interested.



⇒ Kids and Youth Groups Return

A new year of Youth Groups and Kids Groups is underway! We look forward to another year of activities and growing as God's people. Here are the age group start dates:

- ⇒ Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8) on **Wednesday, Sept. 13th** (6:30-8:00 pm)
- ⇒ [Crud Wars](#) (gr. 7-12) on **Sunday, Sept. 17th** (1-3 pm)
- ⇒ High School Youth Group dinners (grades 9-12) on **Sunday, Sept. 17th** (6:30-8:30 pm); see [Dave Fauvell](#)
- ⇒ Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) on **Wednesday, October 4th** (4:45-5:45 pm)
- ⇒ Family Dinner (all) on **Wednesday, October 4th** (6:00-7:00 pm), Miller Commons, \$7.00 per person
- ⇒ Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) on **Wednesday, October 4th** (6:30-7:30 pm)