

We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth ...

September 19, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of FPC Moorestown:

Every time I walk into our buildings through the door by the staff parking lot, I see the year 1923 carved into the side of a chimney of the house around which our church buildings were constructed. The house and the property first belonged to the Collins Family. They sold it to us in 1950. This is the third location of our congregation in the course of 135 years. The Collins house is a century old now. For nearly 74 years, 101 Bridgeboro Road has been our home address.

I love that our buildings surround a home. Perhaps our favorite way to describe our relationship to our church is to call it our spiritual family. Families, you know, live in homes. Your home, like ours, has a few rules for house members to observe. For example, if you make a mess, you clean it up. Or, try everything on your plate; and, no hitting, kicking or biting. Rules keep order in the home. Rules help the family function and hopefully, to thrive.

The theme for our coming stewardship season is ***Our House, God's House***. I invite you to join your Church Family on **Sunday, October 15 for a single worship service at 9:30 a.m.** with a celebration, a covered-dish brunch afterwards. Come out and play kickball for Team Stuart or Team Wes, or challenge each other in corn hole. Kids will have a fun craft to do. Please bring the following dish to share:

- Last Name A-G: Dessert
- Last Name H-L: Bread, Rolls, Coffee Cake, Bagels
- Last Name M-R: Side Dish or Salad
- Last Name S-Z: Casserole, Main Dish or Egg Dish

As we think about our house, God's house in preparing for Consecration Sunday, I have a couple of rules for us to follow.

One, enjoy your church family. We're getting into the routine of sharing church meals again. It's so clear that we're loving seeing friends and enjoying delicious food together. The practice of stewardship in the giving of time, talents and treasure is always strongest when it springs from a place of joy.

Two, do your part. If you want to create resentment and bitterness in your home, just let one or two people do everything while the rest of the family sits back and watches. Other than the very young and the very old, everyone should play a part in the care of the family and the home. It's my goal that every member and regular attender make some commitment to giving financially in 2024. What you give matters much less than that you give.

Among the materials included, you'll find a 2024 Estimate of Giving Card. I urge you to pray now about what God is calling you to give. You can return the Estimate of Giving card in a number of ways:


- prayerfully dedicate in person during the 9:30 a.m. worship on October 15th
- drop in the offering plate before Consecration Sunday if you'll be away
- mail to the church office or drop it by during the week
- [submit your gift online](#).

Three, when the family needs help, help. Troubles of every kind come to every family—sickness, job loss, depression, divorce and death. Families face trouble together. That's how they make it. We're facing financial trials now. Some of strongest givers have either concluded their life's race or have experienced a challenge that's changed what they can do financially. That's the reason why it's crucial for each of us to give what we can.

Thank you for your strong, consistent support to the mission and ministry of this incredible congregation. We have so many reasons to be thankful, joyful and hopeful. I close with a thoughtful reflection on family life by author named Doris Leckey.

*"Family meals and festive parties, the practice of hospitality, the presence of books and the reading of the Scriptures, meal conversations, and prayer, moments of guidance and correction, worship—all these and more shape the contours of tradition. To be conscious ourselves in that great stream, and to help our children is perhaps the primary aspect of our parental vocation. It underscores the truth that **we have nothing which was not given to us.**"*

God bless each of you, members all of my Church Family,



Stuart Spencer
Pastor

