



Sunday, November 26, 2023 ~ Christ the King Sunday, Welcome New Members
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you **checked in** for worship today?

*please stand as you are able

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #5: Assume Positive Intent

- 5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT.** Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge – it doesn't help. Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.

Ideas for Action: Take a "criticism inventory." Just how critical are you, really? Ask someone you love and trust to tell you how you're doing in this area. Try a 24-hour fast from all forms of criticism. No complaining or criticism for an entire day.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Powell

*Call to Worship

Elder Dave Rebuck

Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with singing.

God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet, appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns as the supreme head of the church, his body.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, come into his courts with praise.

Give thanks and praise his loving name!

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is King! Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Rebuck

*Hymn No. 115

Fairest Lord Jesus

****Seating interlude*

Call to Confession

Elder Rebuck

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Elder Rebuck

Holy Lord, we confess that at times we are more concerned with ourselves than with those you place in our lives. We turn a blind eye to those in need, and we hold tightly to those things with which you have blessed us, never considering that you have called us to give that blessing to others. Lord, soften our hearts so that we can learn to see those you have put in our path and to love them with the love that you have shown to us. Forgive us for thinking of ourselves first. Hear us now as we offer up those things that our lips tremble to name.

Silent prayer for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Rebuck

May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen. As Jesus healed the afflicted and restored those who have died, he also forgives our sins and gives us new life.

*Gloria Patri No. 805

Anthem

Go Not Far From Me, O God

Zingarelli

Adult Choir; Karen Molloy, Director

Go not far from Me, O God; cast me not away in the time of age:
forsake me not when my strength faileth me.

O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise: that I may sing Thy glory and honor all the day long.

- Psalm 71: 10.8,7

Reception of New Members (SEE INSERT)

Pastors, Elder Gayle Payne

Welcome to the newest members of our church family: **Alene Dover, Brian Dover, Jeff Erbig, Karen Erbig, Bill Pettit, Carolyn Pettit, and Jeffrey Sapp**. On October 22, 2023 these members of the Fall Inquirers class presented their individual statements of faith to Session and were officially received into membership.

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

Rev. Allen

Offertory

Rev. Spencer



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

My Heart Ever Faithful

J.S. Bach

Jennifer Wait, Soprano

My Heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful,
My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, sing praises, be joyful,
Thy Jesus is near,
Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining, My Jesus is here.
My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, Thy Jesus is here.

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Your Second Act"

Scripture: Acts 9: 1-19a (Pew Bible page 128 NT)

Sermon Series: *"Hearts On Fire"*

*Hymn No. 86

We Come, O Christ, to You

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Praise to the Lord

Leupold

Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Mike Baker)

Rev. Spencer

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9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Acolyte: Sofia de la Cruz; **Beadle:** Elder Dave Rebeck; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Ushers:** Steve Shaffer, Gail Sorin, Bill Pettit; **Trustee Greeter:** Wendy Dougherty; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Jim Cole; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Jason Rose; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (*volunteers needed for this ministry*)

Worship flowers are given with great thanksgiving for the members and families of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown.

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

TODAY: [Martin Bass Retirement](#) -- It is with both gratitude and sadness that we herald the retirement of our contemporary Worship Leader, Martin Bass. Martin is concluding his six-year tenure as the Worship Leader today, **November 26th**. You are invited to join us as we express our appreciation and well wishes. We encourage congregants to bring in cards and notes of appreciation for Martin and his wife, Christine Bass, who too has been an integral part of our Praise Band. A love gift will be collected and we encourage any checks or financial gifts be made directly to Martin. [See our event page for a letter from Pastor Wes Allen.](#)

TODAY: Adult Spiritual Formation (10:15-11:15 am) – On **Nov. 26** all are invited to a [Grow The Kingdom Town Hall Meeting](#) summarizing this summer's *Grow The Kingdom* strategy meetings. Read a letter from Pastor Stuart on the event page/eblast. On **Dec. 3, 10 and 17**, Lissa Herman leads a new Advent study, "A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus." [See Church Center event page to SIGN UP online.](#)

NEW: [Advent Guide](#) -- Beginning Nov. 26, pick up a copy of the **2023 Advent Activity Guide** detailing event and activities of the Advent and Christmas season. [Download a copy of the Guide](#) from our website and events page.

[A special Advent Devotional](#) "Preparing for the Christ Child" has been assembled by the Prayer and Discipleship Committee and features writings from our church members and staff. The devotional starts on **Dec. 1**. Pick up your copy in the Narthex or Miller Commons, or download from our website. Follow on our Facebook page too.

[Advent Experience Boxes](#) -- See our event page for information on this family activity, available beginning **Wednesday, Nov. 29**. The Advent Experience Box includes everything families need to make the countdown to Christmas meaningful and enjoyable — Scripture readings, activities, discussion questions, prayers, crafts and more all in one box! *One box per family please.*

Would your family like to light one of the Advent wreaths during Advent? The Worship Committee is looking for individuals for both 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services for Advent **December 3, 10, 17 and 24**, as well as four Christmas Eve services. Contact Paul Booker at pbooker31@gmail.com or (856) 816-5121.

NEW: "[The Miracle of Jesus: A Christmas Event for Families](#)" -- Have you ever wondered what it was like when Jesus was born? Be transported back in time to the town of Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Stroll through exciting shoppes and sites, meeting friends of Jesus who share amazing details about his birth and life. Families of all ages will be amazed at the authentic, multisensory experiences they'll find in this village. The event is free but please REGISTER on our event page to attend. **Saturday, Dec. 2 from 2:00-3:30 pm**

COMING: Manger Sunday will be Sunday, December 10. At both worship services, we will collect **unwrapped** gifts for the Oaks Integrated Care community. Gifts will be presented in our manger as we sing carols of the season. See our event page for a suggested list of items for these boys and girls. Thank you for your generosity.

[Longest Night Service](#) -- This unique service provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression this holiday season who may not feel the joy or celebration seen in others. This service will be held on **Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.** and include communion. *If you know someone you would like us to invite to this service, please provide their name and address to Alison Mackey in the church office so we may send them an invitation letter.* Contact Alison at amackey@fpcmoorestown.org or (856) 235-1688, Ext. 113.

Poinsettias Displayed Dec. 17 -- Poinsettias that have been ordered will be available after worship on Sunday, Dec. 17. Our deacons are looking for a few more drivers to help deliver poinsettias to our homebound members to brighten their Christmas. Can you help? Please [sign up online on the poinsettia event page.](#)