

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
**MAIL: P. O. Box 868**  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)  
856.235.1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
Pastor/Head of Staff  
[sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

**Rev. Wes Allen**  
Associate Pastor  
[wallen@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:wallen@fpcmoorestown.org)

**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](http://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](mailto: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**

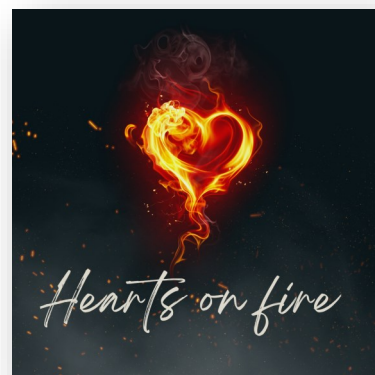
**November 19-25, 2023**

## **Way of the Week 4:** **Always Encourage** **and Celebrate**

(November 19-25, 2023)

**4. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE.** Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere. Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice. Pass on good reports that you hear about others.

**Ideas for Action:** Write a text or a note to someone close to you who just did something wonderful or important. With many details, tell them why you're grateful or delighted by them.



## **2023 Advent Devotional Available Today:** **"Preparing for the Christ Child"**

Give yourself the gift of God's presence in your life this Advent as together we prepare for the coming of Christ. A special Advent devotional resource will be used this season and can be picked up at church from the Narthex or Miller Commons, or downloaded from our website and event page.

Prepared by the Prayer and Discipleship Committee, this devotional begins on **December 1** and ends **December 25<sup>th</sup>**. The daily devotional is written by members and staff of the congregation. The devotional offers daily scripture readings combined with short reflections, Biblical stories and guided prayers. The theme is based on the four Advent Candles and their meanings as we light them in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

## Martin Bass To Retire

It is with both gratitude and sadness that we share the upcoming retirement of our beloved Contemporary Worship Leader, **Martin Bass**. Martin will conclude his six-year tenure with us on **Sunday, November 26th**. Martin's journey has been marked by dedication, passion and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Please join us on Martin's final Sunday, Nov. 26th, to express your appreciation and well wishes. As is customary, 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 the Praise Band. A love gift will be collected for Martin, and we encourage any checks or financial gifts be made directly to him.

[See our event page](#) for the full letter from Pastor Wes Allen.



**Missing someone from church? Give them a call.**

## Looking for Advent Candle Lighters

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. traditional and 11:00 a.m. contemporary services for the four weeks of Advent **December 3, 10, 17 and 24**, as well as four Christmas Eve services. Contact Paul Booker at [pbooker31@gmail.com](mailto:pbooker31@gmail.com) or (856) 816-5121.



FREE  
THANKSGIVING CONCERT  
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

## Choir Next Door






ROY DEMARCO CHARLIE IBSEN MICHAEL MARTIN SAM SCHEIBE

Presenting a variety of ensemble singing — from renaissance to barbershop — featuring the music of Holst, Poulenc, Handel, Tallis, Hogan, Sibelius, and Sam Scheibe, among others.

**NOV 25 @ 7:00PM**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
101 BRIDGEBORO ROAD  
MOORESTOWN, NJ  
[WWW.CHOIRNEXTDOOR.COM](http://WWW.CHOIRNEXTDOOR.COM)

## Year-End Giving

Thank you for remembering the church in your year-end giving. Each and every gift makes a difference. Gifts over and above one's pledge may include stocks, *Christmas Green* offering, and General Budget Help. Online donations must be received by midnight Dec. 31, 2023 and checks postmarked by Dec. 31, 2023. Checks may be received in the offering plate up to Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023 with a date of Dec. 31 on the check.

## Adult Spiritual Formation

**10:15-11:15 am, Fellowship Hall**

The current series on the Sermon on the Mount concludes **Nov. 19**.

On **Sunday, Nov. 26** all are invited to a [Grow The Kingdom Town Hall Meeting](#) summarizing recent *Grow The Kingdom* strategy meetings. Read a letter from Pastor Stuart on the event page/ebblast.

**Dec. 3, 10 & 17th** Lissa Herman leads an Advent study ["A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus."](#) See more details and sign up on the Church Center event page or website. Meets 10:15-11:15 am in Fellowship Hall.

## 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 event will be held on **Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.** and includes elements from a Service of Remembrance, including communion. Please share this event with those you know who might need a quiet place in the rush of December, an authentic respite from busy holiday activities, or who may have experienced a loss. *If you know someone you would like us to invite to this service, please provide their name and address to Alison Mackey in the office so we may send them an invitation letter. Contact Alison at 856.235.1688, x113 or [amackey@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org).*

### **Poinsettia Sales** **Orders due Nov. 19**

Order forms are in worship guides and also available online. Poinsettias are \$15.00. Poinsettias will be displayed in both worship spaces on **Sunday, Dec. 17** and available to take home that day. *Can you help deliver poinsettias to our less mobile members? Please [sign up online](#) on the poinsettia event page to help the deacons with deliveries.*



### **Sunday Check Ins**

Please check in and register your attendance each time you attend in person and/or watch on your device. This simple check-in replaces the Friendship sign-in pads and records important data for the staff and Membership Team. [Download the Church Center app](#) to check in. If you need help, please see the volunteer.

**November Session packet information due Wednesday, Nov. 22 due to Thanksgiving**

### **Kitchen Committee**

We are forming a Kitchen Committee to ensure that the church's kitchen is kept neat and organized and foods left in the kitchen are either used or disposed of properly. We will meet once a month for an hour or two and give the kitchen and supplies a quick overhaul. Would you like to help? Contact Linda Jagiela at [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:missions@fpcmoorestown.org).

**High Schoolers:  
Sign up for the Dec. 1-3 High School Winter Retreat to Lake Champion (NY)**

### **Thanksgiving Postcards**

Included in worship bulletins on **Sunday, Nov. 19** will be our traditional Thanksgiving postcards. Fill in the name and address of someone you are grateful for and wish to tell, and mail from your home, or place addressed postcards in the offering plate for the church to mail. **Postcards given to the church office will be mailed Monday, Nov. 20 so they arrive in time for Thanksgiving.**

**Thank you for remembering the church in your year-end giving**

### **Building Security Enhanced**

New entrance keypads and intercoms have been installed on the doors in the Commons Lobby. This will alleviate the need for keys to the Church thereby increasing security and convenience (if you have a key, it will still work). Members of the congregation were emailed a four-digit entry code. Each group using the facility has also been issued a separate four-digit PIN. Periodically codes will be changed and everyone will be notified. Any questions or if you did not receive the email, please reach out to the church office. Doors will be open for worship, church activities and choir rehearsals.

### **DBS Refresher**

A refresher class is planned **Nov. 18** for all who have done the Discovery Bible Study (DBS) leadership training in the past few years as well as anyone who is interested in learning more about this program to make disciples and help others learn more about God. Sign up online. Light breakfast. Contact Pam Engle or Joyce Peacock.

**Office closed  
Nov. 23 & 24  
for Thanksgiving**



### **Advent Guide**

Copies of the 2023 *Advent Activity Guide* will soon be available at church and online, detailing programming information for the season's events and special dates.

### **Remember the Church on Giving Tuesday**

On **Tuesday, November 28**, we are joining thousands of individuals and organizations on #Giving Tuesday, the Global Day of Giving. Please consider the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown on this day to help close the 2023 budget deficit and **do even more** with your donation so that we may start 2024 fresh. You can take part by visiting [www.fpcmoorestown/giving](http://www.fpcmoorestown/giving).



### **Alternative Gift Fair**

It's coming! Our [Alternative Gift Fair](#) will be available in person after services on Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17 and Dec. 24, as well as virtually through the church's website [fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org). Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient.

**First Sunday in Advent  
Sunday, December 3rd**





# FAMILY MINISTRY

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## Learning and growing together as a church family

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### Thanksgiving Schedule

Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Middle School Youth Group and Family Dinner will NOT MEET **Wednesday, Nov. 22** for the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no High School Youth Group on **Sunday, Nov. 26th**.

### Looking for Acolytes; Candle Lighters

The Worship Committee is resuming this ministry. [Please sign your child up online](#) to serve as an acolyte. We are also looking for folks to light the Advent wreaths **Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24** and for 4 Christmas Eve services. Contact Paul Booker.

### Youth News

FPC Moorestown is looking for support as we reinvigorate our youth ministry. Visit our [event page in Church Center](#) and see our brief form to sign up.

⇒ **HEY HIGH SCHOOLERS! IT'S RETREAT TIME!**

A meaningful and FUN winter weekend awaits ...

**December 1-3, 2023**

[High School Retreat with Young Life](#)

Lake Champion Young Life Camp (NY)

REGISTER NOW on our [event page on Church Center](#)

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## Sermon Series Memory Verse

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?"

(Luke 24:32)

For Families and Children:

**Holly Asciutto**

856-235-1688, x116 (W)

[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

Middle School and High School:

**Dave Fauvell**

609-980-7885 call/text

[dfauvell52@gmail.com](mailto:dfauvell52@gmail.com)

**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:** Grades 9-12,

Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm

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### NEW: Advent Experience Box

**Sunday, December 3rd** is the First Sunday in Advent. As we prepare ourselves for Christmas, families are encouraged to pick up the new *Advent Experience Box*. Pick a time to sit down together and follow the box's devotional guide and family activities. Everything you need is included for you to make memories and prepare your hearts for Baby Jesus. Boxes will be available for pick up in the Commons Lobby beginning **Wednesday, Nov. 29** (*ONE box per family please*). Try to remember the devotion throughout the week and focus on the lesson it teaches. For questions contact Holly Asciutto or the church office at 856.235.1688.

### Sunday School for All Ages

**Children's Sunday School** (K-6th) is from 10:15-11:15 am. [SIGN UP ONLINE](#) for Sunday School. **Middle School** class (grades 7-8) meets on the 3rd Floor. **High School** class (grades 9-12) meets with the Adult Spiritual Formation class. Nursery care is provided during the Education Hour.

### "The Miracle of Jesus: A Christmas Event for Families"

**Saturday, Dec. 2 from 2:00-3:30 pm**

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 in Bethlehem, 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.

### Family Dinner

Don't feel like cooking? Family Dinner is held Wednesdays from 6-7 pm in Miller Commons and everyone is invited. Cost is \$7.00 per person, please pay at the door or use the QR code. Families can also pre-pay for \$150 per family online or mail a check. We also need several volunteers to help set up and clean up each week. Contact Cheryl Gaskill at [mybaseballboys@yahoo.com](mailto:mybaseballboys@yahoo.com). Menus are posted to Facebook weekly. Last Family Dinner of 2023 is Dec. 13.