

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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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**

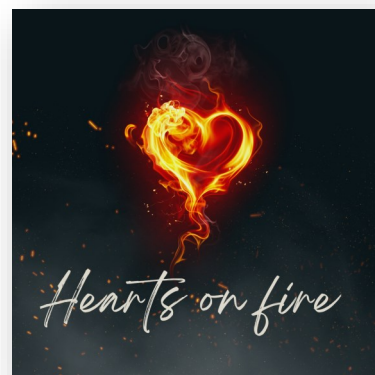
**Nov. 26-Dec. 2, 2023**

## Way of the Week 5: Assume Positive Intent

(Nov. 26-Dec. 2, 2023)

**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.



## 2023 Advent Devotional Available:

### "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.



### **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); (856) 816-5121.

### **Christmas Eve Eve Worship** **Saturday, December 23** **3:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

### **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.

### **Thank You Deacons**

Did you know ... this year deacon funds will be used to purchase 56 turkeys from Wegmans, who will also be donating 20 turkeys to our effort. Deacon Diane Samuel is coordinating the program this year, which donates the turkeys to Your Food Shelf in Camden, where they are given to families in need. Everyone should have a turkey for Thanksgiving!

### **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).*

### **Adult Spiritual Formation** **10:15-11:15 am, Fellowship Hall**

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/eblast.

**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.

## Manger Sunday is

### December 10 for Oaks

In one of our congregation's special traditions, members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts to services on **Sunday, December 10th** for our Manger Sunday presentation. The Deacons coordinate this ministry to those in need.

In both the Sanctuary and Miller Commons, members are asked to place the unwrapped gifts in the manger where they will be blessed by the pastors during worship. Bring your gifts forward to be blessed, as we sing carols of the season. Gifts may be placed in the manger; offering envelopes may be placed in the offering alongside. Later that day, the Christmas gifts will be taken to Oaks Integrated Care for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families, a beautiful gesture.

For those NOT attending services, gifts may be dropped off before or after services outside on the steps by the Sanctuary Courtyard (off the Commons Lobby, Blessing Box side) by **12 noon**.



### Poinsettia Deliverers

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.

## Advent Guide

Copies of the [2023 Advent Activity Guide](#) are available at church and online on our website and Church Center event page, detailing programming information for the season's events and special dates.

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

### Do Good, Feel Good, 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) and use the Giving Tuesday drop down.

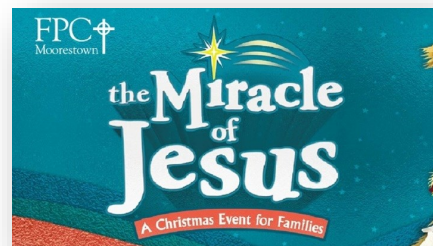
**Office closed  
Nov. 23 & 24  
for Thanksgiving**



### 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.

**Have you remembered the church in your will?**



**Sunday, December 2nd  
2:00-3:30 pm (see pg. 4)**

### Alternative Gift Fair

Starting Nov. 26, our [Alternative Gift Fair](#) is open. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broad range of gifts is available to assist our ministries. Visit the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby on **Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17 and Dec. 24th** to purchase your alternative gifts. Online orders, cash or checks please (checks made payable to FPC Moorestown). Or pick up your gifts at a special pickup time. You can order in advance anytime, order before service and we will have it waiting when you get out or just wait and we will fulfill it as quickly as possible. To order online contact Linda Jagiela at call/text 267.275.7582 or [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:misions@fpcmoorestown.org). Fulfillment volunteers are also needed to staff the Alternative Gift Fair on Sundays in December. Please contact Linda to help.

**Emerson Christmas Toy Drive  
box is available in the  
Commons Lobby**





# FAMILY MINISTRY

**Come be an acolyte for the 9:00 am traditional worship service**



## 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](#)

**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

## 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)

## 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. **There will be no Sunday School Dec. 24th or 31st.**

## "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.**