



Sunday, December 3, 2023 ~ Communion, First Sunday in Advent

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. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #6: Forgive ... Again

6. FORGIVE ... AGAIN. Just as God forgives us, heal relationships by extending forgiveness with grace and generosity. Forgive everyone everything. Start by praying for those you resent or hate. Ask for every blessing you would want for the one you're struggling to forgive.

Ideas for Action: Work on "dropping" the anger you have. Don't let it come between you and someone else. Stop bringing up the hurt in public or with friends. Stop nursing the memory of how you've been wronged.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

Grand Plein Jeux (Magnificat on the First Tone)

Clerambault

Introit

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

J.S. Bach

Adult Choir; Tyler Kim, Director

O Morning Star, how fair and bright Thou beamest forth on truth and light!
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
The Root of Jesse, David's Son, my Lord and Master, Thou hast won
My heart to serve Thee solely!
Thou are holy, fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing,
Rule and might o'er all possessing.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 1: Hope (purple)

Lighters: Rick and Wendy Dougherty

*Call to Worship

Rick & Wendy Dougherty

We come from a world of darkness

Into Christ's world of light.

We come from a world of weariness

Into God's strength and hope.

We come from a slumbering world.

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

Sisters and brothers in Christ let us worship God!

*Hymn No. 167

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

****Seating interlude*

Call to Confession

Elder Weber

Prayer of Confession

Elder Weber

We are captive and lost, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from you. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for yours. We are in the dark, in need of your light. *Silent Prayer, concluded with:*

Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.

Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Weber

God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.

God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit.

Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.

God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives.

And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!

*Gloria Patri No. 805

Commissioning for Operation Christmas Child

Rev. Wes Allen

The following individuals will be traveling to Baltimore, MD Dec. 5-8 to assist with deliveries for Operation Christmas Child: Carol Clarke, Debby Gerhardt, Luwani Ghambi, Susan Kenuk and Linda Jagiela.

Solo

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

The People That Walked in Darkness (Messiah)

Handel

Ivan Denissov (MHS Grade 10), Bass

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

Rev. Spencer

Offertory



Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving. Your offerings allow us to sustain our church programs. Take advantage of secure [automatic withdrawal](#) or donate easily from your phone via the Church Center app. If you're watching via live stream, you can give online right now as well! To mail offerings, send to P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057. **Throughout December, Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church. December 10 we will collect the denomination's Christmas Joy offering to provide assistance to current and retired church workers, develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools, and equip communities of color.**

Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

And the Glory of the Lord (Messiah)

Handel

Adult Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Isaiah 40:5

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Christmas in 23 Words"

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3: 14-16 (Pew Bible page 207 NT)

Sermon Series: *"Moving Into the Neighborhood: When the Word Became Flesh"*

The Lord's Supper and Home Communion

Rev. Spencer, Elders

The Invitation to the Table
The Words of Institution
The Prayer of Consecration
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn No. 841

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior (Tune 293)

Music in Preparation for Service

Joel Krott, Organ

Magnificat on the First Tone

Dandrieu

Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Stuart Spencer)

Rev. Spencer

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9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Ginny Weber; **Communion Elders:** Ginny Weber, Leonard Fitts, Peg Madorno, Kristen Perkowski, Sarah Rotter, Gil Warren; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** JoAnn Reynik and Karen Arsenault; **Ushers:** John Miller, Patrick McIlroy, Steve Emerson; **Trustee Greeter:** Mike Welch; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Doris Kahley; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Andrew Ehala; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (*volunteers needed for this ministry*)

Worship flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Evan Michael Welch from all who loved him.

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

TODAY: Adult Spiritual Formation (10:15-11:15 am) –On **December 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.](#)

TODAY: Visit the [Mitten Tree](#) in the Commons Lobby presented by the Knitting Network and decorated with handmade mittens, hats and scarves. You are welcome to add your handmade objects to the tree, or purchase others for your own use. All items will be donated to Urban Promise and local charities.

NEW: Pick up a copy of the comprehensive 2023 Advent Activity Guide detailing events and activities of the Advent and Christmas season. [Download a copy of the Guide](#) from our website (Resources tab) and events page.

A special Advent Devotional has been prepared 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](#) (see Resources tab).

[Advent Experience Boxes](#) -- See our Church Center event page or Holly Ascitto for details on this family activity, now available. 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.*

NEXT WEEK: [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 Church Center event page for a suggested list of items for boys and girls.

[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.*

Holiday Schedules -- Check *Connections* and the church calendar for revised schedules. Last day for Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone for 2023 will be **Wednesday, Dec. 6** for their Christmas parties. Last Family Dinner is **Dec. 13th**. There will be no Adult Spiritual Formation or Children's Sunday School on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31. We will see you on January 7, 2024.

Poinsettias Displayed Dec. 17 -- Poinsettias 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.](#)

[Emerson Toy Drive](#) -- Steve and Mary Emerson continue a tradition started 30 years ago by Skip and Annette Emerson, which is the annual Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children. Look for the red box in the Commons Lobby for your **unwrapped** toys.

[Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Schedule:](#) Come worship the Lord this Christmas Season. Our holiday worship includes: **December 23:** Christmas Eve *Eve* 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm Outdoor Worship; **December 24:** Christmas Eve Worship at 11:00 am (Lessons & Carols), 4:00 pm Family Service, 6:00 pm Contemporary Service (Miller Commons), 8:30 pm Communion Service and 11:00 pm Lessons and Carols preceded by 10:40 pm Chapel Choir concert. On Christmas Day there will be a 9:30 am blended worship service led by Dr. Jonathan Miller.