



Sunday, December 17, 2023 ~ Third Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (*Miller Commons*)

Welcome

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week Video – Kari Rotter

Rev. Allen

- 8. JUMP IN.** Life is full of unexpected problems and needs, large and small. Pay attention to moments when God calls you to action, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary the situation may be. See “disruptions” as invitations to share Christ’s love. Write a note. Visit the sick or the grieving. Share a meal.

Ideas for Action: Practice one of the actions listed in this week’s description: write a note, call or visit someone who lives alone, and/or share a meal.

Songs of Praise

Worship Team

Hope Has Come (Behold Him)
Come, Lord Jesus (Even So Come)

Wow Moments

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Jeff, Jenny, Will & Cole Legath

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Legath Family

Come, let us be about preparations for a new advent of God’s love among us.

The wastelands of life around us cannot shut out the promise of life-giving water.

Hatred and warfare, injustice and suffering are not the last word, for they are not of God.

We hear again the promise of peace, coming in the One Who exemplified peace among all people.

We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness.

We are feeling again the joy that comes through partnership in the gospel.

May our worship recall us to what is centered in life, to the One Who give us breath and purpose.

We come to embrace the new advent, to be renewed in faith, hope and love by the Spirit of the Living God – our Redeemer, Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

Song of Praise

Worship Team

Rest on Us

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Rev. Spencer

Almighty God, You have surprised us with Your presence in unexpected ways. In the expectation of our routine, we have missed the treasure that You place before us. We come to worship You in community, often expecting nothing more than the usual. We begin our days, our weeks, assuming all will run as it always has. We do not look for the unexpected, for Your active Presence in our daily lives; and for that, we confess our sorrow. Forgive us for not allowing our eyes to catch the unexpected, to get a glimpse of Your glory in the ordinary. In this season of Advent, may we see the presence of Your Son by the power of Your Spirit in new and transformative ways. Amen.

Silence for personal confession

Assurance of Forgiveness *(responsive)*

Rev. Spencer

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters of the Most High God. God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who call out ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave but God’s child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir.”
In Christ, we are forgiven, adopted into God’s family, heirs to the Kingdom. Hallelujah, Amen!

*Greeting

Rev. Spencer

Sharing with Young Disciples

Rev. Allen

Offering Ourselves to God

Rev. Spencer



Thank you for your faithfulness in remembering FPC Moorestown with your giving. Take advantage of secure [automatic withdrawal](#), or donate easily 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. **Throughout December, Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church.**

Song of Praise

Worship Team

Waymaker

Sermon

Rev. Allen

Whom Do You Serve?

Scripture Text: [Psalm 96:1-13](#)

Sermon Series: *Moving into the Neighborhood: When the Word Became Flesh*

Closing Song

Worship Team

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

11:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Worship Team:	Wes Allen-Guitar; Andy Cross-Electric Guitar; Don Stevens-Bass; Barry Overton-Drums; Piano-Rebecca Neindorff; Cheryl Stevens, Michelle Davis, Winnie Jiang-Vocals
Audio Technician:	Taylor Adair
Live Stream Technician:	Matthew Miller
Visuals:	Alice Conley
Usher:	Dave Barr or JoAnn Reynik
Trustee Greeter:	Rich Corbin
Check-in:	Karen Hynoski
Hostess:	Chelsea Margerum
Nursery Caregiver:	Amy Coombe

Today's worship flowers: Poinsettia memorials (*See insert*)

Nursery care is provided for children ages 0-5 years old in Room 12.

Check-ins: Check-in is self-check in only on your smart phone. A volunteer is available to assist.

WJCMS Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.: Joyous selections from composers new and old, including Mark Shepperd's *A Carol Fantasy*, sung by the West Jersey Chamber Chorale and highlighted by the Timberdale Brass. Tickets are \$28 (\$20 for Seniors or Students over 18). Children 18 and under are Free. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <https://wjcms.org/concerts/>.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Schedule: **December 23** - 3:00 & 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship; **December 24** - Worship at 11:00 a.m. (Lessons & Carols), 4:00 p.m. Family Service, 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Service (Commons), 8:30 p.m. Communion Service, and 11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols preceded by 10:40 pm Chapel Choir concert. On Christmas Day, there will be a 9:30 a.m. Worship Service led by Dr. Jonathan Miller.

Holiday Schedule: The church campus will be CLOSED Dec. 25 -26, and open with a limited staff Dec. 27-29. The office will also be closed January 1, 2024. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your church staff!*

Sunday, December 31: Combined Fifth Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** There will be no Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation, or Nursery Care on December 24 (11 AM) nor December 31.

Moravian Love Feast: Please join us on **Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** for a Moravian Love Feast featuring the Choristers, Chapel and Adult Choirs. Choirs will perform carols, songs, and anthems of the season in context of historical Moravian tradition: corporate sharing of singing, Christmas cookies, and fellowship to celebrate Epiphany.

FPC MOORESTOWN WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES (See Prayer page on website for links)

- **Mondays 9-10 AM** – Jim Cole leading - Prayer Chapel. Anyone needing or wanting to pray for others is welcome to join Jim.
- **Tuesdays 9-10 AM** – Jim Cole leading (Zoom)
- **Thursdays 7:00 PM** – Live stream Prayer Service (*praying for our church and discipleship*)
- **Thursdays 7:00 PM** – Prayer on the Porch – Join our Prayer Team for a time of prayer on the Van Camp Porch (*1st & 3rd Thursdays June-Sept.*)
- **Sundays 10:00 AM** – After Traditional Worship, Beadles available to pray with or for you (David Room). Jim Cole also available in the Prayer Chapel in Commons Lobby for prayer.
- Submit confidential **online prayer requests** – visit <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/prayer>
- **Fall & Spring Prayer Retreats** to unplug and savor time away in meditation.
- **Prayer Vigils** - sponsored by the Prayer Committee for stewardship, National/World Day of Prayer, etc.