



December 24, 2023 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent; Christmas Eve Morning

11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols (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 #9: Pray First and Pray Again

9. PRAY FIRST AND PRAY AGAIN. Ask *first* for God's guidance and blessing in everything you do. Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God's will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God's love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

Ideas for Action: On your next walk, run, or in your quiet time, intentionally pray for neighbors, other churches, schools, EMTs, police and fire personnel, and local officials. If you're stalled in your prayer life, reach out to one of the pastors or a member of the Prayer Team for a suggestion.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

Noel: Songs, I Pray Thee

Dandrieu

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 4: Love (purple)

Lighters: Stuart and Leslie Spencer

*Call to Worship (adapted from Isaiah 40)

Spencer Family

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Here again the words of the prophet Isaiah. "Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,"

And all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The people who have lived and walked in darkness have seen a great light. Come, let us worship God!

*Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Spencer

Lessons and Carols: Jesus Is ...

LESSON 1: Jesus is the New Adam

Rev. Wes Allen

Scripture: Genesis 2: 4-9, Colossians 1: 15-20

HYMN No. 171: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

****Seating interlude*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (offered in unison)

Almighty God, You Who shaped out of nothing all that is,

Forgive us for returning to You empty-handed and empty-hearted.

You Who called forth light,

Forgive our love of the darkness.

You Who sent Jesus, the Firstborn of all creation,

Forgive us when we ignore Him. Remake us in the image of Christ,

so that the light of Jesus Christ may shine in and through us; for we ask these things through the name of Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior and Lord. Amen.

Time of silence to seek the Lord's mercy

Assurance of Pardon

Through the work of Jesus, God has reconciled us to Himself; and we rejoice with the angels proclaiming:

Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth. God and sinners are reconciled. Jesus was born so that we no longer die and so that we may be born again. Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri No. 805

LESSON 2: Jesus is the New Noah

Peg Madorno

Remembrance of Baptism

Scripture: Genesis 7: 1-5; 1 Peter 3: 18-21

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Response

Fantasy on What Child is This?

English Carol

Bell Choir and Chimes; Kathy Gunsallus, Director

Offertory



Throughout December, Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church. 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.

Offertory Music

A Babe Lies in a Cradle

German Carol

Bell Choir and Chimes; Kathy Gunsallus, Director

*Doxology No. 809

LESSON 3: Jesus is the Son of David

Leslie Spencer

Thanksgiving for God's Covenants

Scripture: II Samuel 7: 10-14, 16, Luke 1: 30-33, 2:4-7

Prayer of Praise

Response: Hymn No. 190 (verse 1)

Congregation

Song of Thankfulness and Praise

LESSON 4: Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Rev. Spencer

Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10:11-17

The Lord is my shepherd. He takes care of all my needs.

The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.

The Lord watches over me. God gives me a home to live in, water to drink, and food to eat. God gives meaning to my life.

The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.

The Lord guides me along the right way. Even when I'm walking by myself in a strange place, I don't feel scared because I know that the Lord is with me to help me and give me courage.

The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.

The Lord has blessed me with so many things. I will never be able to repay God for His faithfulness and kindness to me.

The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.

Response: Hymn No. 157

Congregation

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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

Music in Preparation for Service

Ding Dong Merrily on High

English Carol

Bell Choir and Chimes; Kathy Gunsallus, Director

Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Melissa Corbin)

Rev. Spencer

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11:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Peg Madorno; **Bell Choir and Chimes:** Jim Cole, Barbara Fletcher, Lissa Herman, Melissa McNab, Sawyer McNab, Marion Norcross, Peg Pierce, Vicki Terry; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Jack Terry, Joe Scheideler, Owen Dietz; **Trustee Greeter:** Rich Corbin; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Carol Manion; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Janet D'Angelo; **Coffee Hospitality:** Jim Cole, Jane Murphy.

Worship flowers are given to the glory of God.

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

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.

Year-End Gifts -- Thank you for blessing 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 for the church 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 up to Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023 with a date of **Dec. 31** on the check.



Last Day: Our [Alternative Gift Fair](#) will be available in person after services today, as well as virtually through our website fpcmoorestown.org. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. Download the catalog from our website or Church Center event page. CLOSING DEC. 24.

Holiday Schedules -- There will be no Adult Spiritual Formation, Sunday School or Nursery Care on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31 (Fifth Sunday). Classes return on January 7, 2024.

Next Week: 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.

Christmas Eve Worship: 11:00 am Sunday, Dec. 24, 4:00 pm Family Service, 6:00 pm Lessons and Carols (Miller Commons); 8:30 pm Communion Service; 11:00 pm Lessons & Carols with 10:40 pm Chapel Choir concert

Moravian Love Feast Concert: Please join us on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** at 7:30 p.m. for a Moravian Love Feast concert featuring the Choristers (grades 5-8), Chapel Choir (grades 9- 12) and Adult Choir of First Presbyterian Church. Choirs will perform carols, songs, and anthems of the season in context of historical Moravian tradition; corporate sharing of singing, Christmas cookies and fellowship in the sanctuary as we celebrate Epiphany.

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

MLK Celebration -- The Moorestown Ministerium, an ecumenical leadership of area pastors, warmly invites you to a [Celebration and Worship Service](#) on **Sunday, January 14** at 3:00 p.m. in Miller Commons, honoring the legacy and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King. [See our event page for information.](#)

Winter Gathering -- Save the Date! All women of the church are invited to the PW Winter Gathering on **Tuesday, January 16** at 10:00 AM hosted by Presbyterian Women. There will be a speaker followed by a soup lunch. Warm your soul and your body, and please bring white **cotton socks** to warm the feet of clients at the Christian Caring Center. Please register your attendance on the [Church Center event page](#).

Annual Reports Due January 12 -- Ministry area leaders are asked to provide a report summarizing their area's highlights and activities of 2023 for the Annual Report. Please email reports to Jan Martin at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org by **Friday, January 12**. Copies of the *2023 Annual Report* will be available Sunday, January 28, 2024. The Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 4, 2024** in Fellowship Hall.

Save The Date: [American Red Cross Blood Drive](#) ~ **Friday, Jan. 26** from 1-6 pm (Miller Commons)