

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
MAIL: P. O. Box 868
Moorestown, NJ 08057
fpcmoorestown.org
856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
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
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
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

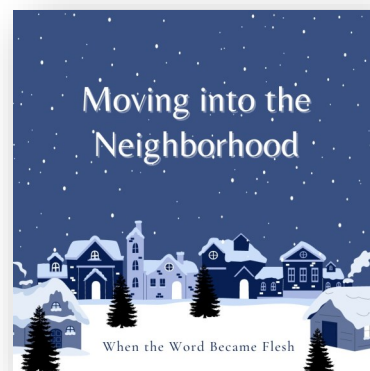
December 17-23, 2023

Way of the Week 8: Jump In

(December 17-23, 2023)

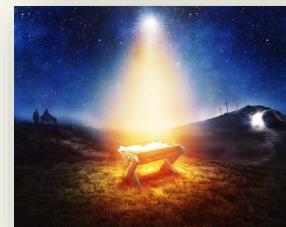
8. JUMP IN. Life is full of unexpected problems and needs, large and small. Pay attention to moments when God calls you to action, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary the situation may be. See "disruptions" as invitations to share Christ's love. Write a note. Visit the sick or the grieving. Share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



Christmas Worship Schedule

- ♦ **Dec. 23: Christmas Eve Eve Worship**
3:00 pm & 7:00 pm — outside, fire pits
- ♦ **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship**
11:00 am Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)
4:00 pm Family Service
6:00 pm Contemporary Service (Commons)
8:30 pm Communion Service
11:00 pm Lessons & Carols (preceded by Chapel Choir concert 10:40 pm)
- ♦ **Dec. 25: Christmas Day Worship** (9:30 am, Sanctuary)
- ♦ **Dec. 31: Fifth Sunday Worship** (9:30 am, Sanctuary)



No Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation or Nursery Care
on December 24 or December 31

Alternative Gift Fair

There are still shopping days left! Our [Alternative Gift Fair](#) is open in the Narthex and Commons Lobby Dec. 17 and Dec. 24—come visit. 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. 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 worship and we will have it waiting when you get out, or just wait and our team will fulfill it as quickly as possible. To order online please contact Linda Jagiela at call/text 267.275.7582 or misions@fpcmoorestown.org. Fulfillment volunteers are also needed to staff the Alternative Gift Fair on Sundays in December. Please contact Linda Jagiela to help.



Poinsettia

Pickup: If you ordered a plant, you may take it home after worship **Dec. 17th**.

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 special events.

Adult Sunday Series

10:15-11:15 am
Fellowship Hall

Dec. 17: Our series "[A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus](#)" ends. There is no adult series Dec. 24 or Dec. 31. We will see you on Sunday, January 7, 2024!

Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, January 26
Miller Commons
1:00-6:00 pm



YEAR END GIVING
YOUR GIFT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE



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 for the church, and General Budget Help to reduce the deficit and start the year strong. **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.

Need a year-end update on your 2023 giving? It's available 24/7 in the Church Center app. Touch "Give" and "My Giving" for your full history

Sunday Morning 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 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.

Please see page 3 regarding new attendance and sign-in procedures and a return to Friendship Pads in pews. *Members should still use online check-in but are encouraged to use the Friendship Pads.* Guests are invited to leave their contact information so a team member may contact them.



TONIGHT: WJCMS Christmas Concert

The West Jersey Chamber Music Society presents "Christmas Celebration: Music for Choir and Brass" **Sunday, Dec. 17** at 7:30 p.m. The holiday season comes alive with joyous selections from composers new and old, including Mark Sheperd's *A Carol Fantasy*, sung by the West Jersey Chamber Chorale and highlighted by the Timberdale Brass. Tickets \$28 at the door, \$20 seniors or students over 18). Children 18 and under are Free. Purchase tickets in advance online at <https://wjcms.org/concerts/>. INFO: contact Joann Nawrocki at (856) 291-6673 or info@wjcms.org. A free live video broadcast will be available at concert time at <https://wjcms.org/live/>.

Advent Devotional

NEW: Jim Cole leads a devotion **Wednesdays from 7-8 pm in Room 3-4 using this year's Advent Devotional.** Devotions are based on the four Advent Candles themes and meanings.

Holiday Offerings

Throughout December, *Christmas Green* envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church. Your gifts allow our ministries to continue.



Scan me to link
to our giving page

Holiday Schedules

Check **Connections** and the church calendar for holiday schedules. Dec. 17 Children's Sunday School will meet in classrooms for Christmas Parties. Last day for Middle School Youth Group is Dec. 20 and for High School Youth Group Dec. 17 (off-site). There will be no Adult Spiritual Formation or Children's Sunday School on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31 (5th Sunday). Classes will resume Jan. 7, 2024. Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, and Family Dinner are on Winter Break and return Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024.

Start the New Year right with Prayer Events

Women's Half Day of Prayer
Saturday, January 20; 8:30 AM

Men's Half Day of Prayer
Saturday, January 27; 8:30 AM

Contact Joyce Peacock, Pam Engle,
Stuart Spencer or Wes Allen

New Welcoming Initiatives to Begin

As part of our Grow The Kingdom focus groups, we are incorporating changes in welcoming people on Sunday mornings. We are reintroducing our Friendship Pads as a way to help learn the names of those sitting near you. **Please continue to check in online using the Church Center app.** We have created "Welcome Centers" in the Narthex and in the Commons Lobby and encourage guests to visit either center on Sundays to learn more about us, take a tour and receive a small welcome gift. Members of our new hospitality team will be strategically placed around campus, including a parking attendant to welcome everyone and direct visitors to reserved parking spaces. While we have designated volunteers who will rotate responsibilities, please keep in mind that hospitality is not merely the work of a few but the work of the entire congregation. We invite you to participate. If you feel the Spirit leading you to join this team, reach out to [Wes Allen](#), [Ann McBride](#) or the church office.

Church office closed Dec. 25-26; limited staff Dec. 27-29; closed January 1, 2024

Fifth 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. Children may worship with their families.



Moravian Love Feast

Concert Will Be January 7th

Save the date for this holiday performance of carols, songs and anthems of the season in the context of historical Moravian tradition. The evening includes corporate sharing of singing, Christmas cookies, and fellowship as we celebrate Epiphany. The concert features the Choristers (grades 5-8), Chapel Choir (grades 9-12), and Adult Choir.

Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 23
Outdoor Courtyard

MLK Worship Event

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 the Sanctuary, honoring the legacy and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King. See event page for details.

PW Winter Gathering

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. You may register your attendance on the Church Center event page <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2057994>.



FAMILY MINISTRY

December 17: Sunday School Christmas Celebrations (classrooms)

Fellowship Groups, Winter Break

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) groups ended the year on **Wednesday, December 6** with their Christmas parties. Family Dinner ended on **December 13**.

Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8) concludes **Wed. Dec. 20**, and High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) concludes **Sun. Dec. 17**.

Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone and Family Dinner are on Winter Break and will return **Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024**.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

- **Middle School:** Wed. Dec. 20 (6:30-8 pm, FH/3rd Flr.)
- **High School:** Sun. Dec. 17 (6:30-8:30 pm, off-site)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. (John 1: 14, MSG)

For Families and Children:
Holly Asciutto
856-235-1688, x116 (W)
hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 call/text
dfauvell52@gmail.com

Young Artists



Thank you to the young artists who submitted artwork for our Christmas Eve worship guides this year. We are always proud to showcase your talents. This year, our children created

artwork that is angel-themed. The Angels played a big part in announcing the birth of Christ. They were full of light and the Glory of the Lord.

Holiday Sunday School Schedule

There will be no Sunday School Sunday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve morning) or Sunday, Dec. 31st (5th Sunday). Children may worship with their families. Children's Sunday School returns on January 7, 2024 (see page 3, *Connections* and the church calendar).



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