

First Presbyterian Church
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856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
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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

Dec. 24-Jan. 6, 2024

Way of the Week 9: Pray First and Pray Again (December 24-30, 2023)

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.

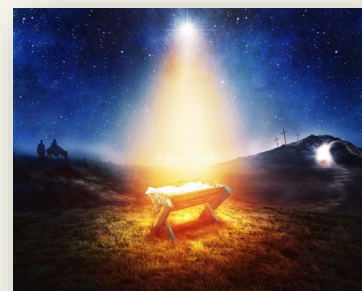
Way of the Week 10: Join Hands (Dec. 31-Jan. 6, 2024)

10. JOIN HANDS. Work as a team. Collaborate with each other, our professional staff, our lay leaders, and our congregants to find the best solutions. Collaboration lightens the load, generates better ideas than individuals working alone, and unleashes the gifts God has given us all.

Ideas for Action: Is there some task you're doing at church that you could invite someone to share with you? Think of someone from our church who can help you sort out a challenge or problem you're facing.

Christmas Worship Schedule

- ◆ **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
(Chapel Choir concert 10:40 pm)
- ◆ **Dec. 25: Christmas Day Worship (9:30 am)**
- ◆ **Dec. 31: Fifth Sunday Worship (9:30 am)**



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

Alternative Gift Fair

There is one shopping day left! The [Alternative Gift Fair](#) table will be open in the Narthex and Commons Lobby the morning of Dec. 24 for the 11:00 am service —perfect for last minute gift giving. 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).



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.

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 a full history

Men's and Women's Prayer

Events Kick off New Year

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Women's Half Day of Prayer
8:00 am

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Men's Half Day of Prayer
8:30 am

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



Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, January 26

Miller Commons

1:00-6:00 pm

Annual Report, Meeting

Ministry area leaders are asked to please provide a report summarizing their area's highlights, events and activities of 2023 for the Annual Report. Please email reports to Jan Martin at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org by Friday, January 12. Per our By-laws, copies of the 2023 *Annual Report* will be available Sunday, January 28, 2024 online and in limited hard copies at the church. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, February 4, 2024 in Fellowship Hall.

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.



January 7, 2024:

Moravian Love Feast Concert

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 the Epiphany. The concert features the Choristers (grades 5-8), Chapel Choir (grades 9-12), and Adult Choirs.



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

- There will be no Adult Spiritual Formation, Children's Sunday School or Nursery Care on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31 (5th Sunday, 9:30 am Combined Worship. Classes will resume on Jan. 7, 2024.
- Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, and Family Dinner are on Winter Break and return Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024.



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. After worship there will be a Mission Experience offering service and mission opportunities.

Happy New Year

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. Please register your attendance on the Church Center event page or app.



Warm Up This January with Blanket Sunday

January 28, 2024 is Blanket Sunday, an offering sponsored by our Deacons. Your contributions to Church World Service enable CWS to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement, while helping to rebuild viable, sustainable lives and communities. Just \$50 can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless.



Look for Blanket Sunday envelopes in the pews and at both services. Give securely online at www.fpcmoorestown.org/giving just choose the Blanket Sunday option in the drop down list. Visit www.cwsglobal.org.

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

Offering Radical Hospitality

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. Additionally, 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. 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 please reach out to [Wes Allen](#), [Ann McBride](#) or the church office.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Fellowship Groups, Winter Break

Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Middle School Youth Group and Family Dinner are on Winter Break and will return **Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024 (High School Sun. Feb. 11).**

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) groups ended the year on December 6 with their Christmas parties. Family Dinner ended on December 13. Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8) concluded December 20, and High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) concluded December 17 with their Christmas celebrations.



Sermon Series Memory Verse

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

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

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 so proud to showcase your talents. This year, our children created

artwork that was 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** (10:15 -11:15 am).



◆ 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

with Chapel Choir concert 10:40 pm

◆ Dec. 25: Christmas Day Worship (9:30 am)

◆ Dec. 31: Fifth Sunday Worship (9:30 am)