

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)  
856.235.1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
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[sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

**Rev. Wes Allen**  
Associate Pastor  
[wallen@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 3-9, 2023**

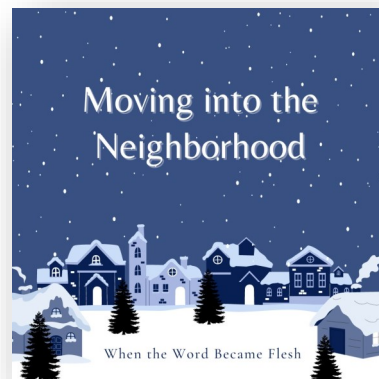
## Way of the Week 6:

### Forgive ... Again

(December 3-9, 2023)

**6. FORGIVE ... AGAIN.** Just as God for-  
gives 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.



## Alternative Gift Fair

Our [Alternative Gift Fair](#) is open! 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. Visit the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby on **Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17 and Dec. 24th** to purchase your alternative gifts. 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 [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:misions@fpcmoorestown.org).

Fulfillment volunteers are also needed to staff the Alternative Gift Fair on Sundays in December. Please contact Linda Jagiela to help.

### 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 event will be held on **Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.** and includes elements from a Service of Remembrance, including communion. Please share this event with those you know who might need a quiet place in the rush of December, an authentic respite from busy holiday activities, or who may have experienced a loss.

*If you know someone you would like us to invite to this service, please provide their name and address to Alison Mackey in the office so we may send them an invitation letter. Contact Alison at 856.235.1688, x113 or [amackey@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org).*



### Looking for Advent Candle Lighters

Would your family like to light one of the Advent wreaths on Christmas Eve? The Worship Committee is looking for individuals to light the Advent wreath for the five Christmas Eve services on **Sunday, December 24**. Worship is at 11:00 am, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:30 pm and 11:00 pm. Contact Worship chair Paul Booker at [pbooker31@gmail.com](mailto:pbooker31@gmail.com); (856) 816-5121.

***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***



**Poinsettia Pickup:** If you ordered a poinsettia you may take it home after worship **Sunday, Dec. 17**

### 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, *Christmas Joy* offering for the denomination (Dec. 10) 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.

### Adult Series

**10:15-11:15 am  
Fellowship Hall**

**Dec. 3, 10 & 17th** Lissa Herman leads an Advent study "A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus." See more details and sign up on the Church Center event page or website. Meets 10:15-11:15 am in Fellowship Hall (**NOTE: Will be in Room 8 on Dec. 17**)

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

No Sunday School or Adult Spiritual Formation on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31

### 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 today's insert 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 infor-



## Advent Guide

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 events and special dates.

## Manger Sunday is December 10 for Oaks

In one of our congregation's special traditions, members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts to services on **Sunday, December 10th** for our Manger Sunday blessing. The Deacons coordinate this ministry.

In both services, members will place unwrapped gifts in the manger as they sing carols of the season. Pastors will bless the gifts during worship. For those NOT attending services, gifts may be dropped off before or after services outside on the steps by the Sanctuary Courtyard (off the Commons Lobby, **by 12 noon**). That day, the gifts will be given to Oaks Integrated Care for their clients to use as gifts for their own families.



## Poinsettia Deliverers

Can you help the deacons deliver poinsettias to some of our less mobile members? Please [sign up online](#) on the poinsettia event page or contact Jan Martin in the office at 856.235.1688, x133.

## Advent Devotional

GIVE YOURSELF the gift of God's presence in your life this Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ. A special Advent devotional resource can be picked up at church from the Narthex or Miller Commons, or downloaded from our [website](#) and [event page](#). Prepared by the Prayer and Discipleship Committee, this devotional begins on **Dec. 1** and ends **Dec. 25** and is written by members and staff of the congregation. The devotional offers daily scripture readings combined with short reflections, Biblical stories and prayers. The theme is based on the four Advent Candles and their meanings as we light them in this holy Season of Advent.



## Check Holiday Schedules

Check **Connections** and the church calendar for revised schedules (see **website, Calendar/Events tab**). Last day for Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone for 2023 will be Wednesday, Dec. 6 for their Christmas parties (see page 4). Children's Sunday School will meet together on Dec. 17 for a Sunday School Christmas Party. 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 Sunday, Dec. 24 or Sunday, Dec. 31. Classes will resume on January 7, 2024.

*PRAY FOR our high school youth group, leaders, and chaperones as they head to Lake Champion in NY December 1-3 for a High School Winter Retreat with Young Life. Prayers for a meaningful, safe and joyful weekend.*

## Christmas 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. **December 10** will be the *Christmas Joy* offering for PCUSA to provide assistance to current and retired church workers, develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools, and equip communities of color.



*Scan me to link  
to our giving page*

**Emerson Christmas Toy Drive  
box is available in the  
Commons Lobby**

## Kitchen Committee

We are forming a Kitchen Committee to ensure that the church's kitchen is kept neat and organized and foods left in the kitchen are either used or disposed of properly. We will meet once a month for an hour or two and give the kitchen and supplies a quick overhaul. Would you like to help? Contact Linda Jagiela at [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:missions@fpcmoorestown.org).

**There will be no Session  
meeting in December.**

# FAMILY MINISTRY

## December 17: Sunday School Christmas Party (combined classes)

### Holiday Schedule and Winter Break

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) groups end the year on **Wednesday, December 6** with their Christmas parties. Family Dinner ends on **December 13**. Family dinner menus are posted to Facebook weekly and the Church Center groups sign-up registration page.

Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8) concludes **Wed. Dec. 20**, and High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) concludes **Sun. Dec. 17**. Kids, youth groups and Family Dinner will be on winter break, and will return **Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024**. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



### CHRISTMAS PARTIES

- **Kingdom Kids:** Wed. Dec. 6 (4:45-5:45 pm, FH)
- **Crossing Zone:** Wed. Dec. 6 (6:30-7:30 pm, FH)
- **Middle School:** Wed. Dec. 20 (6:30-8 pm, FH/3rd Flr.)
- **High School:** Sun. Dec. 17 (6:30-8:30 pm, off-site)

## 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](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

Middle School and High School:

**Dave Fauvell**

609-980-7885 call/text

[dfauvell52@gmail.com](mailto:dfauvell52@gmail.com)

### NEW: Advent Experience Box

**Sunday, December 3rd** is the First Sunday in Advent. As we prepare ourselves for Christmas, families are encouraged to pick up the new *Advent Experience Box*. Pick a time to sit down together and follow the box's devotional guide and family activities. Everything you need is included for you to make memories and prepare your hearts for Baby Jesus.



Boxes will be

available for pick up in the Commons Lobby beginning **Wednesday, Nov. 29** (*ONE box per family please*). Try to remember the devotion throughout the week and focus on the lesson it teaches.

For questions contact [Holly Asciutto](mailto:Holly_Asciutto), [Frances Chavarria](mailto:Frances_Chavarria) or the church office at 856.235.1688.

### Calling Young Artists

Once again, we would like to showcase the artistic talents of our youth at FPC Moorestown. This year, we are asking for 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. If your child would like to create a picture in this theme for our Christmas Eve bulletin covers, we would love to share it with our church family! Some basic guidelines: please have students use full coverage with color. Make the colors bold, and when pictures are colored in, please make sure no white paper is showing through. Let them be creative. We cannot wait to see what they produce! **Digital submissions are due to [Holly Asciutto](mailto:Holly_Asciutto) by December 15.**

### Holiday Schedules

Please see *Connections* and the church calendar for new holiday schedules. There will be no Sunday School Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve morning) or Dec. 31st (5th Sunday). Classes return on January 7, 2024 (see page 3).