



January 28, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday After Epiphany; Blanket Sunday

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- *Have you **checked in** for worship today?*

*please stand as you are able

Welcome & Work of God's People; Blanket Sunday

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #14: Grow Faith

14. GROW FAITH. Take advantage of every chance you have to form your faith – through small groups, classes, and personal study. Be a disciple and look to learn from those who know more of the Bible and Christian life than you do, then look for opportunities to share what you've gained with someone else.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

From Mass of the Convents: "Chromhorne sur la Taille"

F. Couperin

Introit

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord

Mendelssohn

Adult Choir

Cast thy burden upon the Lord; and He shall sustain thee: He never will suffer the righteous to fall; he is at thy right hand. Thy mercy, Lord, is great, and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee. - Psalm 55:22

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 42)

Elder Lorenzo Eagles

Come, all you whose souls thirst for the living God.

We come in search of help and hope.

Come, you who are acquainted with grief or oppression.

We come bearing our doubts, our wounds, and our fears.

Come, you who are in need of good news.

We come in search of joy, truth, and light.

Come and find refuge in God your rock.

Let us again praise the One who is our help and our hope.

*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Eagles

*Hymn No. 310

O Word of God Incarnate

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Eagles

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

Time of silent and personal prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Elder Eagles

Dear Child of God, in our world it is often hard to remember that God loves you just as you are. God loves you not because you are good. God loves you, period. God loves us not because we are loveable. No, we are loveable precisely because God loves us.

We will not doubt or question this good news. Through the grace, mercy and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Anthem

Rebecca Neindorff, Piano

Who Built the Ark?

Reeves

Junior Choir; Sawyer McNab, Flute

Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Wes Allen

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

Rev. Allen

Offertory



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 for your offering and for your [Per Capita contribution](#) (due by **February 29**). 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 (from Psalm 122)

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

He Watching Over Israel

Mendelssohn

Adult Choir

He watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou walking in grief languish, he will quicken thee.

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"I Will Invite"

Scripture: John 1: 35-51 (Pew Bible page 92 NT)

Sermon Series: *Grow The Kingdom*

I will invite people into the life of FPC Moorestown, ultimately to know, follow, and serve Jesus.

- Step 1: Inviting others each week to worship and/or church activities like small groups or retreats.
- Step 2: Inviting others into a relationship with Jesus using Discovery Bible Study or other means of evangelism, with the goal of making disciples of children, youth, young adults and adults of every age
 - Visit our Grow The Kingdom webpage: <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>

*Hymn No. 670

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

Music in Preparation for Service

Joel Krott, Organ

March in C Major

Haydn

Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Bruce Main)

Rev. Spencer

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9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Acolytes: Sam and Alex Long; **Beadle:** Elder Lorenzo Eagles; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Steve Shaffer, Gail Sorin, Bill Pettit; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Matt Moxhay; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Peg Pierce; **Deacon Greeter:** Deacon Andrew Ehala; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Coffee Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum

Worship flowers today are given by Jane Murphy in loving memory of her father, Alfred Fisher

Volunteers are needed to support the coffee hospitality. Please contact Chelsea Margerum or Jan Martin if you can periodically assist with this Sunday ministry.

LOOKING FOR HOSTS

This year's [Lenten Small Group Study](#) explores "*Meeting Jesus at the Table.*" This 8-week study, beginning the week of February 11, is a meaningful and enriching journey exploring profound connections between Jesus and the act of sharing meals. We **are looking for a few more hosts**. Please visit the Signups tab in the Church Center app and complete our [Lenten Host Form](#) by **Wednesday, January 24** if you are able to host a Group. Or contact Wes Allen or Alison Mackey. *Sign-ups for specific Groups and book sales will be available shortly.*

NEW: Training and Equipping for "I Will Invite": [Training/Equipping:](#) Love Your Neighbors Crash Course: A course taught by Corinne and Stephen Herman. Meets Sunday evenings at 7:01 pm for exactly 59 minutes at 207 Eastbourne Terrace in Moorestown beginning February 4. Contact Corinne at (609) 923-8203 or email Corinneherman@gmail.com. Continues through April 28.

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

TODAY: is [Blanket Sunday](#), sponsored by the Deacons. Your contributions to Church World Service support families around the world recovering from disasters and displacement. Look for special envelopes or give easily online at www.fpcmoorestown.org/giving for *Blanket Sunday*. **See the insert in today's worship guide.**

Adult Spiritual Formation: 1 Corinthians study (10:15 am, Fellowship Hall) led by Lissa Herman, Lorenzo Eagles and Paul Gordon. Indicate interest online and stop by on Sunday mornings. Runs through May.

Painting Party Fundraiser -- The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden hosts a fundraiser **Sunday, January 28th** from 2:00-4:30 pm. Artist Alex Wilkie will lead up to 10 people in painting a still life or scene from our church grounds. Cost is \$50 per person, all supplies provided. Sign up with Leslie Spencer at spencer@rowan.edu or call/text (215) 584-7659 by **January 25th** to reserve your spot. *Reservations required.*

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held **Sunday, Feb. 4** following the 11:00 am Contemporary Worship Service. Copies of the 2023 Annual Report will be available Sunday, Jan. 28 online and at church. There will be a Covered Dish Lunch sponsored by the Deacons Hospitality Committee, Tamara Trzeciak coordinator. Get yourself something to eat and get settled, the meeting begins about 12:30 p.m. You may drop off your items in the main kitchen upon arrival that morning:

- **Last Name A-J:** Main Dish, Casserole, Sandwiches or Egg Dish
- **Last Name K-O:** Side Dish or Salad
- **Last Name P-S:** Breads, Bagels, Mini Muffins or Rolls
- **Last Name U-Z:** Dessert, Cookies, Bars or Baked Goods

Your Stewardship Committee reminds you that [February is Per Capita time](#), and asks members to (1) contribute their Per Capita payment of \$38.75 per member above their pledge, or (2) [use the online form](#) to request the church "opt out" of paying your share. The church must pay this assessment for all non-responding members (we paid \$20,973 last year). Watch your mail for information about supporting this Presbyterian initiative.

February 11th is Deacon Sunday. The Deacons ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to the Deacons Fund for 2024. The Board of Deacons is empowered by Session and PC(USA) governance to serve the community with compassion as witnesses to "the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress" (G.2.0201).

Ash Wednesday Worship on February 14th will begin the Season of Lent. Worship and the imposition of ashes will be offered at 7:00 pm. The First Sunday of Lent is February 18 (Communion). On Ash Wednesday and at Sunday School, families may also pick up a Lent-in-a-Box activity kit and One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks.

2024 Couples Retreat -- [Early Bird Registration of \\$400 through Jan. 31, 2024](#) for the April 26-28 Couples Retreat. Invest in your marriage with FPC's Couples' Retreat. We will stay at The Dormer House B&B in Cape May, NJ. Cost: \$450/couple, includes breakfast, 2 nights, group sessions with Dr. Paul Booker, and dinner Saturday.

Please support FPC Moorestown's February Food Drive collecting food for the Ministerium Food Pantry. Items may be left in the Commons Lobby Feb. 1-29. See event page for a suggested list of items. No expired food please. Accept the challenge to bring 3 items each time you come to church for worship, rehearsals, meetings or activities.

COMING: Copies of the 2024 *FPC Moorestown Lent & Easter Activity Guide* will be available soon to highlight the many worship, education, activities, offerings, devotions and more for these holy seasons.