

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 gladness; 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 announcements, Connections, and upcoming events? If not, contact the [church office](#).



Connections

FPC 
Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

January 21-27, 2024

Way of the Week 13: **Open Doors for Others to**

Lead

(January 21-27, 2024)

13. OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS TO LEAD.

Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring. Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not solely the future of our church but are vitally important for our *present*.

Ideas for Action: As you consider whatever it is that you do regularly here, keep a look out for a younger person or a new member to invite to join you in the task. If the job requires training or coaching, offer it. Look to let go and hand off.



Painting Party Fundraiser Open

- ♦ **NEW:** The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden hosts a [Painting Party Fundraiser Sunday, January 28th](#) from 2:00-4:30 pm. All supplies provided. Artist Alex Wilkie will lead up to 10 people in painting a still life or scene from our church grounds. Cost: \$50 per person; sign up with Leslie Spencer at (215) 584-7659 or email spencer@rowan.edu by **Jan. 25**. *Reservations required, space is limited.* If sign ups warrant, Alex has agreed to add a second class.
- ♦ If you can't participate but wish to donate to this community ministry, you may send a check to the church (MSCG in the memo line) or give online at fpcmoorestown.org/giving any time throughout the year. Use the Community Garden drop down for online gifts.

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, and 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 - choose the Blanket Sunday option in the drop down list. Visit www.cwsglobal.org.



Friday, January 26
11:00 am—4:00 pm
Miller Commons

Let your gift giving continue in the New Year and give this precious Gift of Life. Our country is facing a critical blood shortage and you can help. Sign up with Debbie Heller at dheller374@comcast.net or 856-273-6838 or visit online redcrossblood.org/give to select a convenient appointment time.

Adult Spiritual Formation:
I Corinthians Study
Sundays 10:15-11:15 AM

**Led by Lissa Herman,
Lorenzo Eagles, Paul Gordon**

Annual Report, Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held **Sunday, February 4, 2024** in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will also be available via Zoom. Enjoy fellowship with a delicious Covered Dish Lunch before the meeting. Please bring a dish to share based on the first letter of your last name (see Church Center event page).

Work is underway in the church office for the *2023 Annual Report* summarizing ministry areas and committee work this past year. Copies of the annual report will be available **Sunday, January 28, 2024** online and in limited hard copies at church.



Coming: February Food Drive

The Moorestown Ministerium Food Pantry is in dire need of food for distribution to hungry families in our area this month. The Ministerium supports 40-50 families in need in the Moorestown, Mt. Laurel, Maple Shade, Delran, Medford areas with 1st and 3rd week of the month Monday distribution of one (1) grocery bag of proteins and one (1) grocery bag of pastas/grains per family.

Throughout February, our church is hosting a food drive for the Ministerium pantry at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. The need for food is great in our community. SNAP benefits have been greatly reduced, and the rise in inflation on consumer goods last year has had a devastating effect.

Please take our challenge to bring three food items every time you come to FPC Moorestown for church, meetings, rehearsals or fellowship. Help us address food insecurity here in Moorestown. See our Church Center event page and website for a list of suggested items to bring.



Lenten Study; Looking for Group Hosts

As we prepare for Lent we invite you to participate in a small group study entitled "Meeting Jesus at the Table." This 8-week study begins the week of **February 11th**, and is a meaningful and enriching journey exploring profound connections between Jesus and the act of sharing meals. **Right now we are looking for hosts**; please visit the *Signups* tab in the Church Center app and complete our [Host Form](#) by **Wednesday, Jan. 24** if you are able to host a group. Watch for sign ups for specific Lenten groups soon!

Men's Half Day of Prayer: **Sat. January 27, 2024, 8:30 am-noon.** -- The men of FPC Moorestown gather for morning of prayer, breakfast, worship and sharing. If praying is a new or unfamiliar spiritual practice, join Pastors Allen and Spencer and begin your prayer journey. Sons of high school age or older and friends. [Online registration OPEN.](#)

Spring Prayer Retreat May 21-24, 2024 Holy Cross Monastery

Grow The Kingdom

In this sermon series, Pastors Spencer and Allen challenge us to "Grow the Kingdom." The Kingdom of God was the main topic of Jesus' teaching. FPC Moorestown is called to grow the Kingdom of God. For additional information on how/what this looks like, visit: <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>

Year-End Statements

Financial statements for 2023 will be mailed in January for tax purposes. To view and print an update on your 2023 giving, visit the Church Center app 24/7 and touch "Give" and "My Giving" for a full history.



Scan me to link
to our giving page
or pay your Per
Capita (\$38.75)

Sunday Morning Check Ins

Please check in to register your attendance **each time** you attend in person or watch on your device. This records critical data for the staff & Membership Team. [Download the Church Center app](#) to check in. Friendship Pads are in the pews and in Miller Commons. **Sign in and date the page. New live stream viewers are encouraged to sign in on the *Get Connected* form on the live stream page on the site.**

Join the Hospitality Team

Members of our new Hospitality Team will be strategically placed around our campus to welcome everyone and direct visitors on Sundays. To help with this new initiative, contact Ann McBride at amcbride323@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday Worship February 14 (7:00 pm)

Note from Nominations

The Nominating Committee has begun its work to find nominees for Elders, Deacons and Trustees to serve our church. Please pray about where you or someone you know may best fit. [Sign up online](#) or contact any member of the committee.

Early Bird Registration for 2024 Couples Retreat

Invest in your marriage. Join us **April 26-28, 2024** for FPC Moorestown's Couples' Retreat at the Dormer House B&B in Cape May. Cost: \$450/couple, includes breakfast, 2 nights, group sessions with Dr. Paul Booker, and dinner Saturday. Early Bird Registration of \$400 available through January 31, 2024. [Online registration is OPEN.](#)

Notice someone missing from church? Give them a call!

Per Capita 2024

February is Per Capita time. The Stewardship Committee asks you to please cover your share of \$38.75 per member. Details have been mailed to members regarding this annual gift. As Presbyterians, we are a *connectional church*. This "per member" contribution of \$38.75 above one's pledge supports the General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery and our church is required to pay this. If you do NOT wish the church to pay your Per Capita, you must [submit an opt-out form](#) online. Last year, FPCM paid \$20,973 from church funds for non-responding members. *Not responding is not the same as opting out.*

Sight and Sound trip to see "Daniel" Thursday, April 11 (3 pm)

Thursday Office Volunteer

The church office is looking for a volunteer for Thursday mornings to answer the phones and help with office tasks. Please call [Jan Martin](#) at 856-235-1688, x133 if you're interested. We'd love to have you on our volunteer team.

FAMILY MINISTRY

High School Students: Study for your Mid-Terms at the church :)

Fellowship Groups and Family Dinner Return Wednesday, February 7

Our [children's and youth groups](#) are on Winter Break and will return soon — we're excited. **Please make sure you are [registered](#) so we have current info.**

- ♦ **Wed. Feb. 7:** Middle School YG (gr. 7,8, 6:30-8:00 pm)
- ♦ **Wed. Feb. 7:** Kingdom Kids (K-3rd, 4:45-5:45 pm)
- ♦ **Wed. Feb. 7:** Family Dinner (All, 6-7 pm, \$7.00 each)
- ♦ **Wed. Feb. 7:** Crossing Zone (gr. 4-6, 6:30-7:30 pm)
- ♦ **Sun. Feb. 11:** Senior High YG (gr. 9-12, 6:30-8:30 pm, various sites)

NEW: HS Mid-Term Exam Study Session

On **Sunday, January 21st**, we are hosting our first ever **High School Mid Term Exam Study Session!** From 2-4 pm, we're turning the church into the perfect place for students grades 9-12 to study for their mid-term exams. We will offer quiet study spaces, group study rooms, and areas for brain breaks (food, games, even the NFL game on the big screen!). Some MHS teachers will also stop by to help out. If you are looking for a good place to get some serious studying done, try FPC Moorestown on Sunday, January 21st!

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 Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field."
(Matthew 13: 44)**

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



***Thank you** to FPC Moorestown church members and many other community friends who came to the Moorestown Ministerium's Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship and Day of Service on Sunday, January 14. Volunteers made centerpieces and placemats for Cathedral Kitchen's community lunch tables, prepped soup for Christian Caring Center, assembled peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Christian Caring Center, wrote letters to First Responders, drew and colored pictures for Color A Smile, and made cheery Sonshine Boxes to give to Ministerium pastors to share with individuals who may be struggling. We can't wait for next year!*

Would you like to be an acolyte?

Share in the worship experience. Contact Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or 856.235.1688, x116.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

There will be no Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone or Family Dinner on **Wednesday, Feb. 14** so that families may attend that evening's Ash Wednesday worship service together. Middle School Youth Group will meet and will attend the Ash Wednesday service.

Lent Activity for Families

Coming: Watch for information on a family Lent activity. The first Sunday in Lent is **February 18** (communion).

Lent & Easter Activity Guide

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. Contact Jan Martin in the church office at 856.235.1688, x133.