

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
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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

Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2024

Way of the Week 14: Grow Faith

(Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2024)

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.

Ideas for Action: If you're not currently in a small group, contact the church office and ask for assistance in finding one. Ask for some time with someone whose faith you respect and pick their brains on their practices of faith formation.



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.*

Warm Up 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.



Annual Report, Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held **Sunday, February 4, 2024** in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will begin about 12:30 pm and also 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 below). 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.

Please bring to share:

- ⇒ **Last Name A-J:** Main Dish, Casserole, Entrée, Sandwiches
- ⇒ **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



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. *Please note not responding is NOT the same as opting out.*

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 to Begin Week of February 11

Sign up to attend or host a Lenten group in the Commons Lobby or on our [event page](#).

This year our small group study will be "Meeting Jesus at the Table." The study begins Ash Wednesday week Feb. 11th, and explores numerous instances where Jesus shares a meal with his disciples, friends, tax collectors, and even Pharisees. Eight insightful chapters provide a deep dive into biblical narratives, and offer thought-provoking queries and personal and group reflection. As we consider what it means to "Grow the Kingdom," this study will help us reflect on Christ's personal invitation to each one of us through the Sacrament of Communion, our response to this invitation and Christ's challenge to be discipleship minded Christians who, in turn, go out and make disciples.

Notice someone missing from church? Give them a call!

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/>

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

New: Inquirers Class

Are you interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown and possibly joining the congregation? The Inquirers Class is for those interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown, and the Presbyterian Church as a whole. Read more and sign up on our event page and website. The three-part spring series will be held **Wednesday, Feb. 28** (7:30 pm, please join us for Family Dinner 6-7 pm, 7:30 pm meeting), **Saturday, March 2** (8:30 am-noon), and **Sunday, March 3** to meet with Session. New members will be welcomed in March.

First Sunday of Lent Feb. 18 Sacrament of Communion



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

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 and become involved. [Sign up online](#) or contact any member of the committee.

*"As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord."*

Year-End Statements

Financial statements for 2023 will be emailed 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.

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.](#)**

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.



**The Journey of Lent Begins
February 14 ~ 7:00 pm**

Office Volunteers

We're looking for office volunteers for Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning and would love to add you to our office team. Contact Jan Martin at 856-235-1688, x133.

**See "Daniel" Production
Thursday, April 11th at Sight and
Sound Theatre; \$150 per person;
[online registration now OPEN](#)**



FAMILY MINISTRY

Fellowship Groups Return Week of February 7th

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)

We're Back!

Middle School and High School Youth Groups return from Winter Break next week. We can't wait to see you.

⇒ [Middle School Youth Group](#) (grades 7-8)
Returns **Wednesday, February 7** (6:30-8:00 pm)
Meet at the church — 3rd Floor Youth Room

⇒ [High School Youth Group dinners](#) (grades 9-12)
Return **Sunday, February 11th** (6:30-8:30 pm)
Dinners offsite at member homes

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

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.

Family Activity: Lent in a Box

Lent-in-a-Box is a take-home activity we are offering to each FPC family. Each box contains everything you need, and will also contain the fish banks for our One Great Hour of Sharing offering for Palm Sunday. Pick one day each week, and after dinner or before bedtime, gather as a family for prayer, Scripture, and discussion using one object and its devotional from the box. Take turns, reaching in and pulling out the self-contained devotion for the week. There is no specific order. This Lent-in-a-Box is themed "The Light that Shines in the Darkness." Jesus is the Light of the World and through our lives, we reflect His light. Pick up your box in the Commons Lobby on Ash Wednesday, or on Sunday mornings beginning **Feb. 18**. *One box per family please.*

Fish Banks

As is our tradition, in Sunday School or at the Ash Wednesday service, children may pick up a Lenten **Fish Box** or coin bank for "One Great Hour of Sharing" as a means of charitable giving during Lent. Completed fish boxes will be collected during both Palm Sunday services on **March 23rd**. There is NO Sunday School on Easter.

Would you like to be an acolyte?

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

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.

[Please register](#) for our fellowship groups so we have your correct information