

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

February 18-24, 2024

Way of the Week 17: **Show Who You Really Are**

(February 18-24, 2024)

17. SHOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

Our church is for "real" people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths, and your weaknesses. God loves you as you are. Don't hide your struggles, failures or problems.

Ideas for Action: This week, sit down with or talk to another member by phone and share one area of struggle, failure or a fear you have.



Lent and Holy Week Schedule

- ◆ **Sunday, February 18:** First Sunday in Lent. Communion will be offered. We will not partake in communion on Sunday, March 3.
- ◆ **[Centering Prayer](#)** — Wednesdays during Lent 6:30-7:00 pm (Feb. 21-March 20); Hayes Room and Zoom; led by Stuart Spencer
- ◆ **Thursday, March 28:** Maundy Thursday Drama ["At The Table" & Communion](#), 7:00 pm, Miller Commons, looking for actors and participants. Give it a try.
- ◆ **Friday, March 29:** [Good Friday Tenebrae Worship](#); 7:30 pm, Sanctuary
- ◆ **Sunday, March 31: Easter:** 6:30 am Sunrise (Cemetery Cross); 9:00 am Traditional (Sanctuary), 11:00 am Contemporary Worship (Miller Commons)

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, our church paid \$20,973 from its operating funds for non-responding members.** Please note not responding is NOT the same as opting out. **Due February 29th.**



Pick up an Easter Postcard

Invite a friend to worship. New Holy Week/Easter postcards will be available throughout the church on **Sunday, March 10** so people can pick one up and invite someone to Holy Week or Easter events. There are address lines for people to mail as well. Both worship guides for **Sunday, March 17** will have the postcards inserted.

Lenten Study Begins

“Meeting Jesus at the Table”

[Sign up online](#) on the event page, in Signups on the Church Center app, on our [website](#) or contact Alison Mackey at 856.235.1688 x113. Our Lenten small group study began the week of Feb. 11th, and explores numerous instances where Jesus shares a meal with his disciples, friends, tax collectors, and even Pharisees. YES, you can still sign up! **Study books** are available in the Commons Lobby and church office for \$13. Contact [Alison Mackey](#) in the church office.

Lent and Easter Activity Guide

NEW: Copies of the [2024 Lent & Easter Activity Guide](#) are available at church and online detailing many activities and experiences available for Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

February Food Drive

Throughout February, we are hosting a food drive for the Ministerium pantry at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. The Food Pantry is in dire need of food for distribution to hungry families in our area, and supports 40-50 families in the Moorestown, Mt. Laurel, Maple Shade, Delran, Medford areas. 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 in our community. See our [Church Center event page](#) and website for a list of suggested items.

New: Winter Inquirers Class

ARE YOU INTERESTED in possibly joining the congregation? The Inquirers Class is for those who want to learn more about First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown and the Presbyterian church as a whole. [Read more and sign up on our Church Center event page and website.](#)

The three-part series will be held **Wednesday, Feb. 28** (7:30 pm, please join us as our guest for Family Dinner 6-7 pm beforehand), **Saturday, March 2** (8:30 am-noon), and **Sunday, March 3** to meet with Session. We are excited to meet you.



Capital Sunday February 25

In the Annual Report, Trustees prioritized [capital improvements](#) that will be needed in upcoming years. The anticipated cost for these projects is \$170,000 with \$82,000 designated high priority.

Because of budget restraints, no capital money was budgeted for 2024. Instead, leadership is offering the congregation the chance to give specifically to these projects during a Capital Campaign, which will launch **February 25th** with Capital Sunday. [See our event page](#) and your U.S. mail for information.



Help Serve Family Dinner

We need a few volunteers to help with set up and clean up each week for Family Dinner. If you enjoy this ministry, please help us support it so it can continue. Volunteer to help for a week or two. To sign up, contact Cheryl Gaskill at (856) 904-3056.

See a new face at church? Please introduce yourself.



SCAN ME to link to our giving page, offering or pay your Per Capita (\$38.75)

Join Us in Honduras in July; Honey Fundraiser

On **Wednesday, Feb. 21**, there will be an informational meeting to learn about our July 9-14 trip to Copan Ruinas Honduras working in Summer Camps with Urban Promise Honduras. We will meet in the Lounge at 6:30 pm. Please email missions@fpcmoorestown.org if you have any questions. **Stop by the table at church to order honey! It's been VERY popular!**

Have you remembered the church in your will?

Note from Nominations

Your Nominating Committee is hard at work finding nominees for Elders, Deacons and Trustees to serve our church. Are you looking for new ways to become involved? We can help. Please pray about where you or someone you know may best fit and help Grow God's Kingdom. [Sign up online](#) or contact any member of the Nominations Committee.

Centering Prayer Series: Wednesdays in Lent (February 21-March 20)

Join Pastor Stuart for an introduction to a form of contemplative prayer known as *centering prayer*. Stuart shares the biblical foundation for this prayer of surrender with direction on how to begin the practice. Classes include a short period for centering prayer, are just 30 minutes, and follow Family Dinner. Meets in the Hayes Room with a Zoom option; See the [Lent and Easter Activity Guide](#) and [Church Center event page](#) for Zoom link.

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 to see who is seated near you. SIGN IN and date the page. New to our live stream? You're encouraged to sign in on the **Get Connected** form on the live stream page on the site.

Focus: Discipleship

Feel more comfortable engaging with your neighbors. "The Engagement Project" series begins in April



First Sunday of Lent Feb. 18 Sacrament of Communion (no communion March 3)

Seed Starting Workshop

Toni Farmer leads this workshop Wed. **March 20th** to help you start your summer vegetables from seed. We'll meet in Miller Commons at 7:00 pm after Family Dinner (6-7 pm). Please bring a seed-starting tray (homemade or store-bought). We will provide the seeds and soil. Note that you will **KEEP** all of your seedlings for your own garden; we won't be using them in the Mustard Seed garden this year. We are asking for a \$5 donation at the door to contribute to the garden. [Sign up online.](#)

MSCG Garden Work Day

Saturday, March 23 from 9-5 pm, we will be working with our garden builders to remove sod, till soil, lay down weed-prevention fabric, and spread compost and woodchips. Would you be willing to come out for an hour or more to help with this work? Your help is definitely welcomed and friends of all ages are encouraged (YOUTH: earn service hours). [Sign up online.](#) Not a gardener? Donations of food and beverages are also appreciated.

What will you give up or take on for Lent?

Grow The Kingdom

Did you submit your Grow The Kingdom Commitment form? Find it [online](#), on our website, at church or in the church office.

Office Volunteers

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



FAMILY MINISTRY

Learning about the Season of Lent

Egg-cellent Candy Donations

Parents: We are looking for donations of candy and small toys for the upcoming Children's Easter Celebration. Donate fun size, nut-free candies that are individually wrapped, small toys, stickers or tattoos that will fit in a standard size plastic egg. Please do NOT prefill eggs as the items are sorted by age.

Drop donations of candy and toys at the church office in the contained marked "Easter Candy" by **Tuesday, Feb. 27**. Thank you so much!

Come hang out with Youth Group (Find us on Instagram)

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

⇒ [High School Youth Group](#) (grades 9-12)
Sundays from 6:30-8:30 pm
Meet at the church — 3rd Floor Youth Room
(NOTE NEW LOCATION)

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

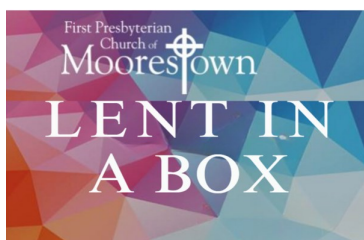
**Memory Verse: "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."
(Revelation 3: 20)**

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

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. 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 February 18. One box per family please.**



One Great Hour of Sharing '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](#)" offering as a means of charitable giving during Lent. Completed fish boxes will be collected during both Palm Sunday services on **Sunday, March 24th**. (No Sunday School on Easter March 31st.)

Children's Easter Celebration

This event will be **Saturday, March 23rd** from 10:30-11:30 a.m., and held OUTSIDE weather permitting. Celebrate the joy of Easter with an Egg hunt for children ages 2-10! There is no charge; nonperishable food for the food pantry as an entrance will be welcomed. If it rains, we will move inside. *Don't forget your basket!*

Teens (age 11+): we're looking for some helpers that day. Earn service hours too. Contact Holly Asciutto or Frances Chiavarra in the church office at 856-235-1688.

Save The Date

Vacation Bible School June 24-28, 2024