

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
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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 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

Feb. 25-March 2, 2024

Way of the Week 18:

Ask For Help

(February 25-March 2, 2024)

18. ASK FOR HELP. Part of being a real and authentic member of the church is to acknowledge your weaknesses and be willing to ask for God's help and the support of others. None of us can go it alone. Vulnerability is a sign of strength and a gift to others.

Ideas for Action: First think about what you need help with right now. Then, share that need with someone else from our congregation this week.



Lent and Holy Week Schedule

- ◆ **Centering Prayer** — Wednesdays during Lent 6:30-7:00 pm (Feb. 21-March 20); Hayes Room and Zoom; led by Stuart Spencer
- ◆ **Sunday, March 24:** Palm Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing offering
- ◆ **Thursday, March 28:** Maundy Thursday Drama ["At The Table" & Communion](#), 7:00 pm, Miller Commons, we're looking for actors and participants. Give it a try. Contact Wes Allen or director Alex Wilkie. We will teach!
- ◆ **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 at 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 you to mail as well. Both worship guides for **Sunday, March 17** will have the postcards inserted. Share the joy.

Lenten Study

"Meeting Jesus at the Table"

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

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 has been budgeted for 2024. Instead, leadership is offering the congregation the chance to give specifically to these projects during a Capital Campaign, which launches **February 25th** with Capital Sunday. [See our event page](#) and your U.S. mail for information.



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 [event page](#) for Zoom link.

See a new face at church? **Please introduce yourself.**

Missions Honey Fundraiser

Stop by the table at church to order honey to raise funds for mission trips. Amazing flavors, makes a great hostess gift.

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.

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. Look for the Grow The Kingdom icon for events that touch this ministry.



Couples Retreat April 26-28

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 wood-chips. 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.

Focus: Discipleship

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



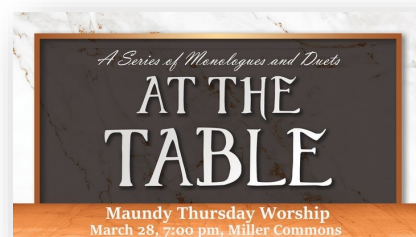
Office Volunteers

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.

What will you give up or take on for Lent?

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 quickly. Share Friendship Pads in the pews and Miller Commons to greet those who are seated near you. Remember to **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 website.



Spring Prayer Retreat **May 21-24**

Join friends from several churches for time away from the rush and crushing pace of life. This three-night, four-day retreat at Holy Cross Monastery affords the time to step away from the demands of life and enjoy a place of rest and welcome. Pastor Stuart leads a study of prayer and meditative practices using our study book, *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools: An Invitation to the Wonder and Mystery of Prayer*. [Sign up online](#) (registration is OPEN) or pick up a brochure in the church office. **Deadline: April 14**



FAMILY MINISTRY

We're 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, and 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 provided container 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:

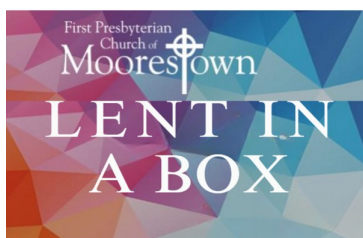
Dave Fauvell

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. Remember 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