

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

February 4-10, 2024

Way of the Week 15: Welcome Change (February 4-10, 2024)

15. WELCOME CHANGE. Be curious about new ideas, perspectives, and approaches. Get excited by the possibilities that change can bring. What worked in the past won't always work in the future, for God is doing new things.

Ideas for Action: This is a simple one to try. Sit in a different pew in the sanctuary or seat in Miller Commons next Sunday. See what happens.



Lenten Small Group Study Begins Week of Feb. 11

This year's Lenten Small Group Study explores "*Meeting Jesus at the Table*." This 8-week study, which begins the week of February 11, is a meaningful and enriching journey exploring profound connections between Jesus and the act of sharing meals.

The study book is \$13 and available in the Commons Lobby or in the church office.

SIGN UP ONLINE at https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/groups/lenten-small-groups-2024?enrollment=open_signup%2Crequest_to_join&filter=enrollment or on the Church Center event page for the study.



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 is also available via Zoom. Enjoy fellowship with a delicious potluck lunch before the meeting. Please bring a dish to share (see below). Copies of the 66-page [2023 Annual Report](#) summarizing ministry areas and committee work this past year are available at church and online.

- ⇒ **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



February 14th
7:00 pm
Ashes,
Communion

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 operating funds for non-responding members. *Please note not responding is NOT the same as opting out.*



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. The need is great in our community. 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 to bring.



New: Winter 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 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. We are excited to meet you.

New members will be welcomed in March.

Lent and Easter Worship Schedule

- ♦ **Wednesday, Feb. 14:** Ash Wednesday, 7:00 pm (see page 4 for Wednesday activities)
- ♦ **Thursday, March 28:** Maundy Thursday Drama & Communion, 7:00 pm, Miller Commons, Wes Allen preaching
- ♦ **Friday, March 29:** Good Friday Tenebrae Worship; 7:30 pm, Sanctuary, Stuart Spencer preaching
- ♦ **Sunday, March 31: Easter:** 6:30 am Sunrise (Cemetery Cross); 9:00 am Traditional (Sanctuary), 11:00 am Contemporary Worship (Miller Commons); Stuart Spencer preaching

Lenten Study to Begin Week of February 11

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. Sign up online: https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/groups/lenen-small-groups-2024?enrollment=open_signup%2Crequest%20to%20join&filter=enrollment

Notice someone missing from church? Give them a call.

Lent/Easter Activity Guide

Copies of the 2024 *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.

See "Daniel" Production

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

Year-End Statements

Financial statements for 2023 were emailed January 30th. 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.

GTK Commitment Sunday

As we commit to growing God's Kingdom, every member and friend of FPC Moorestown is invited into a covenant with four commitments: I Will Pray, Invite, Serve and Give. Be with us for Grow The Kingdom Commitment Sunday **February 11**, where parishioners will dedicate their commitments. Be sure and visit our Grow The Kingdom page: <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>

What will you give up or take on for Lent? Begin this discipline on Ash Wednesday



SCAN ME to link to our giving page, offering 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."

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

Pastor Study Leave

Pastor Spencer will be away on study leave **February 5-10**. For pastoral care concerns, please contact Pastor Wes Allen or the church office at (856) 235-1688.

Join Us in Honduras in July

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.

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.

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.

**Feel more comfortable
engaging with your neighbors.
"The Engagement Project"
series set to begin in April**





FAMILY MINISTRY

February 7: Welcome Back Fellowship Groups and Family Dinner

Fellowship Groups Return from Winter Break

Wednesday, February 7

Our [children's and youth groups](#) are back from Winter Break and return Feb. 7 — we're excited. **Please make sure you are [registered](#) online 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 (February 14)

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. 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.**

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

The Children's Easter Celebration will be **Saturday, March 23rd** from 10:30-11:30 a.m., and 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!** We are looking for donations of candy and small toys for the event. Donate candies that are fun size, nut-free and 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 off candy and toys at the church office by Tuesday, February 27th.**