First Presbyterian Church 101 Bridgeboro Road MAIL: P. O. Box 868 Moorestown, NJ 08057 <u>fpcmoorestown.org</u> 856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer Pastor/Head of Staff sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Rev. Wes Allen Associate Pastor wallen@fpcmoorestown.org

I Will Pray, Invite, Serve, Give.

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 <u>www.fpcmoorestown.org</u> or <u>YouTube</u> or <u>Facebook</u>.

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 <u>church office</u>.



Connections FPC

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

Way of the Week 21: You're Sent, Now Go (March 17-23, 2024)

21. YOU'RE SENT, NOW GO. We're blessed to be a blessing. God intends to use you to bless, heal, restore, and liberate a dark and hurting world. We're here for others: in our families and our community and in the world. Go to the need. Live missionally.

Ideas for Action: Check out the Missions tab on our website. Look at our local mission partners' websites for information and ideas for service. Contact Linda Jagiela, Director of Outreach, for additional suggestions. Make plans to go and serve ASAP.





at the table

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

- <u>Centering Prayer</u> Wednesdays during Lent 6:30-7:00 pm (remaining: March 13, 20); Pastor's Study and Zoom; led by Stuart Spencer
- Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday; One Great Hour of Sharing offering; <u>WJCMS</u> <u>Festival Music Concert 7:30 pm</u>
- Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday Drama <u>"At The Table" & Communion</u>,
 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! (see page 2)
- Friday, March 29: <u>Good Friday Tenebrae Worship</u>; 7:30 pm, Sanctuary
- Sunday, March 31: Easter and Love Feast: 6:30 am Sunrise (Cemetery Cross); 9:00 am Traditional (Sanctuary), 11:00 am Contemporary Worship (Commons)

March17-23, 2024

Page 2

Maundy Thursday Drama Thursday, March 28 (7:00 pm)

On Maundy Thursday, we will be performing the play, At the Table by Tracy Wells. This collection of monologues and duets depicts the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to The Last Supper through the voices of the disciples and others who encountered Jesus that week. It is told as Jesus and His disciples gather in the Upper Room for the Passover feast and fits nicely with our Lenten theme of "Meeting Jesus at the Table". FPC Moorestown's Alex Wilkie will be directing. We are looking for children and adults who would like to participate as actors. Give it a try! Please contact Wes Allen or Alison Mackey in the church office 856-235-1688.



Egg-cellent Volunteers for Easter Egg Fun

Teens (age 11+) and adults: we're looking for 8 great egg-hiders for our community-wide Children's



Easter Celebration on **Saturday, March 23.** Earn service hours too.

Contact <u>Holly Asciutto</u> or <u>Frances</u> <u>Chavarria</u> in the church office at 856-235-1688. The activity is for ages 2-10 and will be held OUT-SIDE 10:30-11:30 a.m., weather permitting. Celebrate the joy of Easter with our young friends.

Help Deliver Flowers

That personal touch. The Deacons are seeking deliverers to help deliver **Easter flowers** to our less mobile members. Can you provide an hour or so to support this ministry? Great. Please con-

tact <u>Bobbi Voglesong</u> (856-206-7190) or <u>Gail</u> Sorin (609) 760-7471.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

On Palm Sunday March 24th, we will have the opportunity to support PCUSA's Special Offering for One Great Hour of Shar-This offering supports ing. efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. When giving online use the OGHS drop down.



Couples Retreat April 26-28 in Cape May \$450 per couple Speaker: Dr. Paul Booker Registration due April 19

Palm Sunday: WJCMS Concert

On March 24, West Jersey Chamber Music Society ends its concert season with Festival Music for Choir, Brass, Organ and Percussion being performed by members of the West Jersey Chamber Symphony and Chorale and Adult Choir. John Rutter's celebratory *Gloria* anchors a program of polychoral works from A. Gabrieli, Leisring and Schutz.

This event is a collaborative event with WJCMS and is a ticketed event: \$28 Regular, \$20 Seniors. All students 18 and under are admitted FREE. Tickets will be available at the door or online at <u>www.wjcms.org</u>. For information please contact Joann Nawrocki at (609) 417-2873 or <u>in-</u> fo@wjcms.org.

NEW: 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.



Sunday Morning Brew

Volunteers are now needed to support our coffee hospitality on Sunday mornings and set up and clean up the coffee and bagel service. Chelsea Margerum is helping in the nursery. We would like to get several teams so the obligation is just a week or so per month. Please contact Sue Piper (856-722-0581; <u>storybooksue@comcast.net</u>) or Lissa Herman (856-745-7357, <u>dicknlissa@comcast.net</u>) if you can step up to help with this ministry.

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. What are your special gifts? Nominate yourself or someone you know and help Grow God's Kingdom. <u>Sign up online</u> or contact chair Gil Warren.

Have you missed seeing someone at church for a while? Give them a call.

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.

> Youth Choir Retreat April 19-21

The Engagement Project

NEW this April: "The Engagement Project" adult series will be offered both on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (**April 10-June 12**) led by Jim Cole and Gayle Payne, and Sundays mornings 10:15-11:45 am (**April 14-June 16**) led by Paul Grossmann, Jean Kunkel and Sue Piper. Online registration is OPEN; see our <u>Church Center event pages</u> for info.

See Page 4 for Easter Break schedules for kids and youth activities March 26-April 7

April 15 Dine and Donate

Save the date for a Dine and Donate on **Monday, April 15** at Iron Hill Brewery to support mission events. Iron Hill is located at 124 E. Kings Highway in Maple Shade. Dine in, take out or order to go. Visit <u>ironhillbrewery.com</u>.

2024 Graduates

Do you know of a 2024 graduate? Please fill out a <u>brief form</u> to submit names of those high school, college or post-grad graduates to <u>Jan Martin</u> in the church office.

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. <u>Download the Church Center app</u> to check in quickly on your cell. 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? Please 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 a spring retreat at Holy Cross Monastery. Step away from the demands of life and enjoy this 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**

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 2

"Lift Up the Word – Lift Up the World"

Plans are underway for an early morning breakfast or simple lunch, possibly on the porch weather permitting. For information contact Pam Engle or Joyce Peacock from the Discipleship and Prayer Committee. Learn more at www.nationaldayofprayer.org.

Church office is closed on Easter Monday April I

Office Volunteers

Come see your church at work. We would *love* to add you to our fun office team! We are looking for office volunteers for Thursday morning. Contact Jan at 856-235-1688, x133.





Save The Date: Vacation Bible School Coming June 24-28, 2024

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 look-

ing for 8 helpers that day. Earn service hours. Contact Holly or Frances at 856-235-1688.

Come hang out with our 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

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

Easter Break Holiday Schedule (March 26-April 7)

- Tuesday, March 26: No Junior Choir; Yes Chapel Choir
- Wednesday, March 27: No Kingdom Kids, Crossing ٠ Zone, Family Dinner, or Primary Choir; Yes Middle School Youth Group, Yes Choristers
- Sunday, March 31 (Easter): No High School Youth Grp. ٠
- Tuesday, April 2: No Chapel Choir or Junior Choir ٠
- Wednesday, April 3: No Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Family Dinner, Primary Choir, Choristers, or Middle School Youth Group
- Sunday, April 7: Yes High School Youth Group

Family Activity: Lent-in-a-Box

A few Lent-in-a-Box kits remain available in the Commons Lobby. Pick one day each week and gather as a family for prayer, Scripture, and discussion using one object and its devotional. 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing 'Fish Banks'

As is our tradition, in Sunday School children may pick up a Lenten Fish Box or coin bank for <u>"One Great Hour of Shar-</u> ing" offering as a means of charitable giving during Lent. Completed fish boxes will be collected during both Palm Sunday services on Sunday, March 24th for this special PCUSA offering. See Page 2 for more on One Great Hour of Sharing.

End of Year Parties



We will close out the year in style for grades K-6th with our End of the Year parties. Watch for information to register online or right through the Church Center app:

> Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) Ends Wednesday, April 24

Crossing Zone (4th-6th) Ends Wednesday, May 1