First Presbyterian Church
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**Rev. Stuart Spencer**Pastor/Head of Staff
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Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
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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 <a href="https://www.fpcmoorestown.org">www.fpcmoorestown.org</a> or <a href="YouTube">YouTube</a> or <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a>.

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

March24-30, 2024

#### Way of the Week 22: Rest and Reflect

(March 24-30, 2024)

22. REST AND REFLECT. Make time in your week to step back from work, school, and stressful demands. Since Christ has freed us, we no longer have to be obsessively driven. Take a walk, play, nap, meet up with friends, share a meal, or just take some time in solitude.

Ideas for Action: Can you make your Sunday more of a Sabbath day of rest for you and your family? Connect with God using worship music. Unplug from the devices for part or all of the day. Seek the joy of the Lord in Creation. Eat a meal together. Be silent with God and pray. Prioritize wholeness and rejuvenation in Christ. Make plans to go and serve ASAP.





#### **Lent and Holy Week Schedule**

- Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday; One Great Hour of Sharing offering; WJCMS Festival Music Concert 7:30 pm (see page 2)
- ◆ Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday Drama <u>"At The Table" & Communion</u>, 7:00 pm, Miller Commons, director Alex Wilkie. (see page 2)
- Friday, March 29: Good Friday Tenebrae Worship; 7:30 pm, Sanctuary (page 3)
- ◆ Sunday, March 31: Easter and Love Feast: 6:30 am Sunrise (Cemetery Cross); 9:00 am Traditional (Sanctuary), 11:00 am Contemporary Worship (Commons). There is no children's Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation or nursery care on Easter so that families may worship together.

#### 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 Sharing. This offering supports 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. Children may bring their fish banks that day (page 4).



#### **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, 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 is a collaborative event with WJCMS and is a ticketed event: \$28 Regular, \$20 Seniors. All students 18 and under are admitted FREE. Tickets available at the door or online For inforat www.wjcms.org. mation please contact Joann Nawrocki at (609) 417-2873 or info@wjcms.org.



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

#### 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 directs.

#### I Will Give ... Needed Food Donations March 31, 2024

Since Easter Sunday is a "Fifth Sunday," the Deacons are asking for members to bring in a non-perishable food donation. The donations will go to our Blessings Box and/or St. Matthew Food Pantry for the Moorestown Ministerium. Please leave on the table in Miller Commons Lobby.

#### **Easter Sunday Worship**

- ♦ 6:30 am Sunrise Service (Cemetery Cross)
- 9:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am Contemporary Worship (Miller Commons)



#### **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** also had the post-cards 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 has moved to 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; storybooksue@comcast.net) or Lissa Herman (856-745-7357, dicknlissa@comcast.net) 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. What are your special gifts? Nominate yourself or someone you know and help Grow God's Kingdom. Sign up online or contact chair Gil Warren.

#### **Good Friday Tenebrae**

March 29th at 7:30 pm we will present our Good Friday Tenebrae Service which moves us from light into dark on the day of the crucifixion. Tenebrae comes from the Latin meaning "darkness" and uses diminishing light by extinguishing candles to symbolize the events from Palm Sunday to Jesus' burial. The service concludes in darkness and silence. Rev. Spencer leads.



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 Church Center event pages 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 ironhillbrewery.com.

#### 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. Download the Church Center app 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 at 1:00 pm on Good Friday, and 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.



Adult Spiritual Formation 10:15-11:15 am Sundays



#### No Children's Sunday School or Nursery Care on Easter

#### One Great Hour of Sharing 'Fish Banks'

As is our tradition, in Sunday School children have been learning about charitable giving during Lent and collecting an offering for "One Great Hour of Sharing". 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.



## 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

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, ×116 (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 Zone, Family Dinner, or Primary Choir; Yes Middle School Youth Group, Yes Choristers
- Sunday, March 31 (Easter): No High School Youth Grp.
- ◆ Tuesday, April 2: No Chapel Choir or Junior Choir
- 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

#### **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 (Sign Ups):



KINGDOM KIDS (K-3rd)
Ends Wednesday, April 24

CROSSING ZONE (4th-6th grades)

Ends Wednesday, May 1

(Last Family Dinner is May 1)



Save The Date June 24-28, 2024

Entering kindergarten through entering 6th grade