

First Presbyterian Church
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fpcmoorestown.org
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 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

March 3-9, 2024

Way of the Week 19: Accept and Don't Cast

Stones

(March 3-9, 2024)

19. ACCEPT AND DON'T CAST STONES.

God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are. It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally, and as Christ has received you, receive others.

Ideas for Action: Approach someone you normally avoid at church for whatever reason. Make a point to speak to them this week.



Lent and Holy Week Schedule

- ◆ **Centering Prayer** — Wednesdays during Lent 6:30-7:00 pm (Feb. 21-March 20); Pastor's Study (new location) 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! (see page 2)
- ◆ **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 due Feb. 29

Your Stewardship Committee reminds you that contributions/responses for annual Per Capita were due **Feb. 29**, and asks members to either (1) contribute their Per Capita payment of \$38.75/member (above one's pledge), or (2) [use the online form](#) to request the church "opt out" of paying their share. The church must pay this assessment for all non-responding members (we paid \$20,973 last year). **See your mail for information.** *Please note not responding is NOT the same as opting out.*

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.

March 31: Easter Worship Schedule (not 5th Sunday)

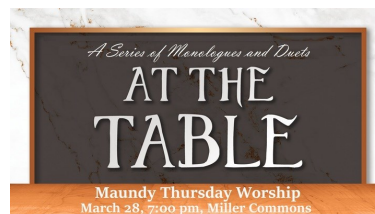
Capital Sunday February 25

THANK YOU for your generous kickoff to our Capital Fund with Capital Sunday – we've received nearly \$45,000 for capital projects. We're well on our way. The Trustees have developed a list of projects that require attention in the upcoming years totaling \$170,000, of which \$82,000 are High Priority. Because of budgetary restraints no capital funds were budgeted for 2024. Instead, leadership offers the congregation the chance to give to specific projects during a Capital Campaign.

Contributions can be made conveniently online or by utilizing Capital Fund envelopes. See our [Church Center event page](#), website and your U.S. mail for different ways to give and more information.

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 at wallen@fpcmoorestown.org or Alison Mackey at amackey@fpcmoorestown.org.



Easter Flower Orders Due Sunday, March 10

Orders for assorted spring Easter flowers to decorate our two worship spaces, are in worship guides and [available online](#) and on our website. *Drivers are needed to help the Deacons deliver too — would you be able to briefly visit someone who can't get to church?*

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.

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.



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 **Pastor's Study** 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



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

**See Page 4 for activity
schedule for Easter Break**

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.

The Engagement Project

NEW this April: "The Engagement Project" adult video series will be offered both on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (**April 10-June 12**) led by Jim Cole and Gayle Payne, and Sundays 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.



Couples Retreat

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

Sunday Morning Check Ins

Please check in and 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.

**Clocks Change Saturday,
March 9 (Spring Forward).**

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

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 Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning. Contact Jan at 856-235-1688, x133.

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

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. Drop donations of candy and toys off at the church office in the provided container by **Wednesday, March 6**. Thank you!

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

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 box per family.**

Easter Break Schedule (enjoy your holiday!)



- ♦ **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

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.

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 "[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** for this special PCUSA offering. See Page 2 for more on One Great Hour of Sharing.