



## September 1, 2024 ~ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Communion

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- \*please stand as you are able

*Have you **checked in** for worship today on the Church Center app? Please remember to also **sign** the Friendship pads in the pews and greet those seated near you.*

### Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

### Way of the Week #20: Find Strength in Belonging

**20. FIND STRENGTH IN BELONGING.** At FPC Moorestown, you're loved and valued. Claim us as your family. Rather than withdrawing, allow struggles and disappointments to deepen your sense of belonging. Pray for chances to bring healing to relationships. Please be patient! God isn't yet finished with us or with you.

**Ideas for Action:** Is there a disappointment you've been carrying about the church? In prayer, offer it to the Lord and ask for His help in releasing it. If you've been sitting on the sidelines at home, get back in the game by returning to worship and joining a small group, a class or a committee. We need you, and you need us.

### Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

***Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord***

Schack

### \*Call to Worship

Elder Frank Manion

Lord God, you dwell in a high and lofty place, higher than our highest thoughts.

**Holy is your name; beside you there is no other! You are God, and we are not! You alone are the Lord of heaven and earth.**

Receive us into your Kingdom—the coming Kingdom of your Son—the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ whose name we bear.

**Receive us, for we come to you in his name. We pray in him and with him.**

For yours is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Come, let us worship God!

## \*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Manion

---

## \*Hymn No. 802

### ***Brethren, We Have Met to Worship***

\*\*\*Seating interlude

## Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Rev. Wes Allen

---

Almighty and merciful God, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended you with our words, our thoughts, our actions and our attitudes. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare us, restore us, according to your promises declared to the world in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

*(Silence for our personal prayers of confession and surrender.)*

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear and trust the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen!**

## \*Gloria Patri

---

## Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Allen

---

## Offertory



Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving, especially in these critical summer months. Your offerings and donations allow us to sustain our church programs year-round. Take advantage of secure or donate easily from your phone via the Church Center app for your tithes, offerings and other fund contributions. If you're watching via live stream, you can give online right now as well! To mail offerings, send to P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

## Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

### ***Let Us Break Bread Together***

Spiritual/Hogan

Jennifer Wait, Soprano

## \*Doxology No. 809

---

## Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

---

### ***"The Kingdom: First Things First"***

**Scripture:** Matthew 6: 24-34 (Pew Bible page 6 NT)

**Sermon Series:** Stories From the Field

## \*Hymn No. 702 (verses 1, 2, 3)

### ***I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord***

## The Lord's Supper and Home Communion

Rev. Spencer, Elders

The Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful...these you deserve, Lord God. For when we were nothing, you made us something. When we had no name, no faith, and no future, you called us your children. When we lost our way or turned away, you did not abandon us. When we came back to you, your arms opened wide in welcome. And look, you prepare a table for us that offers not just bread, not just the cup, but your very Self so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed, and made new again. You are worth all our pain and all our praise. So now we join our voices to the angels in Heaven, saying

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

\*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***GROW THE KINGDOM!*** 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. I will invite. I will serve. I will give.*** Every member and friend is asked to commit to doing all four. For additional information including commitment forms: <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>

## \*Hymn No. 702 (verses 4, 5)

***I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord***

## Music in Preparation for Service

***'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus***

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Callahan

## \*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Stuart Spencer

~ ~ ~

**Worship flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Andy Miller, beloved brother of Robin Godonis and Gretchen Birdsall.

## 9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

**Beadle:** Elder Frank Manion; **Communion Elders:** Jim Cole, Kristen Perkowski, Melody Ransom; Frank Manion; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** John Miller, Patrick McIlroy, Steve Emerson; **Flower Arrangers:** Carol Morgan and Kristin Zorn; **Trustee Greeter:** John Miller; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Jim Cole; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Steve Emerson and Helen Dominy; **Bagel Pick-Up:** Donna Leatherman or Leslie Spencer; **Coffee Hospitality:** Donna Leatherman and Leslie Spencer; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

### Welcome Back Sunday

Our 2024-2025 programming year officially gets underway on **Sunday, Sept. 8** as we Welcome Back everyone to church after busy and eventful summers. Special happenings are coming up **Sept. 8** and **Sept. 15** as we begin another busy year in ministry. See *Connections*, Church Center events, website and the church calendar for full details. BONUS: "I Will Serve" Showcase (between services) -- Explore areas for service for the coming year in ministry and see where you or someone from your family might be able to help out. There are several neat ways to serve.

## Work of God's People (See *Connections*, eblast, website and Church Center app for details)



**“Drop In and Discuss”** -- Join us each Sunday morning this summer to discuss the day's sermon text. We will gather in the Lounge from **10:15-11:15 am**. Get your coffee and drop in for ten minutes or for forty. No need to sign up, just stop on by. **NEW: Be sure to join us September 15 as we launch the year's adult class schedule including a fall class on Philippians.**

**CREDO Parents' Information Meeting:** **Sunday, Sept. 8** from 10:15-10:45 am, Hayes Room – The CREDO confirmation class is open to all high school students (grades 9-12). [Sign students up online.](#)

**September 11 Service of Remembrance, Prayer & Resurrection** – 6:30 pm Cemetery Cross, all are welcome

**Crud Wars**, the gloppy youth group kickoff for grades 7-12, is coming **Sunday, Sept. 15th** from 1-3 pm. Wear clothes you don't care about and remember towels for the ride home! The event is FREE but please [sign up online](#) so we have accurate information. Youth groups begin that next week (see *Connections*). Welcome back!

**Happy Birthday, Church** -- On September 12, 2024 we will celebrate the 136th Birthday of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, which was founded on September 12, 1888. Watch your mail for a letter from Pastor Stuart sharing about this church's legacy fund.

**Prayer on the Porch** – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:30 pm – Remaining: **Sept. 12, Sept. 26** (ice cream too!)

**Bible Sunday --** On **Sunday, September 15th**, children entering third grade will receive their Bibles during worship as a special gift from their church. Bibles will be presented at both worship services. If you would like your third grader to receive a Bible, please sign up online through the event page, or contact Holly Ascitutto at [hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org) or Jean Marie Hanna at [childrensministries@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:childrensministries@fpcmoorestown.org).

**Online sign ups are NOW OPEN for K-12 fellowship groups for 2024-25:** Kingdom Kids (K-3<sup>rd</sup>), Crossing Zone (gr. 4-6), Middle School Youth Group (gr. 7-8) and High School Youth Group (gr. 9-12). [Please sign up online](#) so we can be sure to have correct information for our leaders. START DATES: Middle School Youth Group begins **Wed. Sept. 18**, High School Youth Group begins **Sunday, Sept. 22**. Younger groups and Family Dinner begin **Wed. October 2**.

Thank you for supporting [Avery LaMonica's Eagle Scout project](#). Donations will be gratefully accepted to defray expenses. Checks should be payable to **Troop 61** with a notation of *Avery LaMonica Eagle Project* in the memo line. Cash donations and Venmo payments also welcome. VENMO donations to @Laurie-LaMonica, MAIL checks to Avery LaMonica, 23 Sutton Place N, Moorestown, NJ 08057, or DROP OFF with Jan Martin in the Church office.

**Acolyte Ministry --** Parents: Are you looking for a way to involve your child(ren) in church life? We are looking for boys and girls to serve as acolytes in the traditional service and would love to tell you more. The acolyte ministry will resume in September. SIGN UP online or with Jean Marie Hanna in the church office: 856-235-1688.

**The Fall Engagement Project** is a 10-week small group teaching program Wednesday evenings **Sept. 11-Nov. 13** in Room 3-4 led by Jim Cole and Gayle Payne. [Sign up online](#) or right through the Church Center app. Invite friends from other churches to this enlightening video discussion series -- all are welcome! Videos are led by Dr. Del Tackett, and there is no book required and no homework. Beginning October 2, join us for Family Dinner too.

**Fall Prayer Retreat October 22-25** -- Registration is OPEN for this fall retreat at Holy Cross Monastery (NY) led by Pastor Spencer; Study Book: *“One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are”* by Ann Voskamp. See event page and website for details and to [register](#). Cost: \$355 study book included; \$340 study book NOT included. Deadline to register: **Sunday, Sept. 29**.