



September 22, 2024 ~ Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #23: Worship With Your Whole Heart

23. WORSHIP WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART. Your life is meant to be an act of worship. Every breath, action, and thought flows from God and can bring him glory. Praise God everywhere and embrace the opportunities to regularly worship with your church family.

Ideas for Action: Every morning this week, recite the Jesus Creed: *"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."* The second is this, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Mark 12: 29-31)

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

Look Upon Us, Blessed Lord

J.S. Bach BWV 730 & 731

Introit

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Look Upon Us, Blessed Lord

Ahle

Adult Choir

Look upon us, blessed Lord, take our wondering thoughts and guide us;
We have come to hear Thy word, with Thy teaching now provides us.
That, from earth's distractions turning, we thy message may be learning.

*Call to Worship (based on John 15: 1 – 8)

Elder Pam Engle

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Jesus Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, and productive.

If we abide in Jesus, then his words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May we grow fully as God tends us lovingly. Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Engle

*Hymn No. 92

Crown Him With Many Crowns

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Engle

Loving God, whatever you see in us as self-righteous, censure, as twisted, straighten, as heartless, soften, as fruitless, prune, as infected, cleanse. Flood your relentless Spirit through our whole being, sweeping away guilt and its lethargy, and by the saving grace of Christ Jesus, heal the hidden springs of our personality. Thank you, Holy Friend, for answering our prayers before we get round to asking them, and for doing much more than we ask or think. Through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen

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

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Engle

In Christ Jesus we are a radically renewed community. **Thanks be to God!**

Old things are done away with, all things become new. **Thanks be to God!**

We are agents of grace and reconciliation. **Thanks be to God!**

With every step or stumble, Christ will be with us. **Thanks be to God!**

*Gloria Patri

Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Allen

Anthem

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

O Jesus, I Have Promised (Hymn #648 text)

Larter

Adult Choir

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

Rev. Stuart Spencer

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

Joel Krott, Piano

When I Think Upon Thy Goodness

Haydn

Amanda Schkeeper, Alto

When I think upon Thy goodness, and recall Thy tender care.
Then O God my heart rejoiceth how great Thy wonders are.
For Thy mercy ever floweth, like Thy love it has no bound
And Thy truth is ever near us For in Thee is comfort found.
God is love and God is Spirit. He alone hath life and power.
Now O God we sing and praise Thee; How great, how great Thy wonders are.
God is love and faileth never, On his power shall we rely.
Now O God we sing and praise Thee; How great thy wonders are!

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

“Do I Have Your Attention?”

Scripture: Matthew 13: 18-23 (Pew Bible page 14 NT)

Grow The Kingdom Commitment 1: I Will Pray

Sermon Series: Stories from the Fields

*Hymn No. 648

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Music in Preparation for Service

Joel Krott, Organ

Look Upon Us, Blessed Lord

J.S. Bach BWV 706

*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Spencer

~ ~ ~

Worship flowers are given by Michael and Joan Welch in loving memory of Siobhan Michelle (1 vase); and by Elizabeth Litten and Brett Couvillion in loving memory of Brett’s mother Helen Couvillion (1 vase).

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Pam Engle; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Jack Terry, Joe Scheideler, Owen Dietz; **Flower Arrangers:** Fran Green and Kristin Zorn; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Liz Drzaszcz; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Bobbi Voglesong and Mike McNeil; **Bagel Pick-Up:** Ginny and Tim Powell; **Coffee Hospitality:** Ginny and Tim Powell; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

[Howard Gospel Choir is coming!](#)

The award-winning Howard University Gospel Choir will be in concert on **Friday, October 4th** at 7:00 pm at FPC Moorestown and the community is invited! The first collegiate choir of its kind in the world, HGC has pioneered an international legacy in gospel music ministry. Tickets are not required; a free will offering will be taken. In addition, a nonperishable food collection will be taken that evening to support the Moorestown Ministerium food pantry. See our event page for details.

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

TOMORROW: [Dine and Donate](#) – Join us **Monday, Sept. 23rd** at the Maple Shade Iron Hill Brewery (124 E. Kings Highway) to benefit mission events. Dine in, order online or takeout. Store hours 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. [Show the digital flyer](#) to your server and FPC Moorestown Missions will receive 20% of your food bill. Easy!

Happy Birthday, Church! -- On September 12, 2024 we celebrated the 136th Birthday of FPC Moorestown, which was founded on September 12, 1888. Members were recently mailed a letter from Pastor Stuart sharing about this church's legacy fund. Special envelopes are available in pews and boxed envelope sets.



NEW: Wednesday Series "God's Good News About Politics" – Wes Allen will be offering a time of prayer and study on Wednesday evenings in October (2, 9, 16, 23 and 30) from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. following Family Dinner in the Commons. Meet in the Lounge. Sign up online or through the app.



See [Connections](#), [Church Center events](#), [website](#) and the church calendar for full details on Children's Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation, and other ministries. Parents: Don't forget to sign up online for your child's Sunday School class. 😊 **Adult Spiritual Formation** – Join us Sunday mornings for the adult study on the Book of Philippians (Sept. 22-Nov. 19 in Fellowship Hall, **10:15 am.**)

NEW: Online sign ups are OPEN for [K-12 fellowship groups for 2024-25](#): Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), 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.

- Middle School Youth Group began **Wed. Sept. 18** (grades 7-8)
- High School Youth Group begins **Sunday, Sept. 22** (grades 9-12)
- Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossing Zone (Grades 4-6) and Family Dinner begin **Wed. October 2**

[Prayer on the Porch](#) – Remaining session for the fall: **Sept. 26** (ice cream too!)

[Acolyte Ministry](#) -- We are looking for boys and girls to serve as acolytes in the traditional service and would love to tell you more. SIGN UP online or with [Jean Marie Hanna](#) in the church office: 856-235-1688, x124.

[Fall Prayer Retreat October 22-25](#) – Register **by Sunday, Sept. 29** for this 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.

Consecration Sunday is October 13 – one **9:30 am** combined worship; watch your mail for information. The theme for Consecration Sunday is *Grow the Kingdom - I Will Pray, I Will Invite, I Will Serve, I Will Give*. We will gather as a church family to dedicate our 2025 Estimate of Giving cards (please bring yours with you to church) and enjoy a Covered Dish Brunch following the service.

[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 Sue Piper. [Sign up online](#) or right through the Church Center app.

NEW: High School Retreat Nov. 15-17 at Lake Champion Young Life Camp, Glen Spey, NY; gr. 9-12. Don't miss it!

YES, there's still time to register your high school student for our upcoming **[CREDO Confirmation Class](#)**. **Sunday, Oct. 6** will be the last day to register. CREDO is open to all high school students (grades 9-12).