



## May 4, 2025 ~ CREDO Recognition; Graduate Recognition; 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. **NOTE: Worship announcements begin at 8:55 am.***

### Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

### Way of the Week #5: Assume Positive Intent

**5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT.** Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge—it doesn't help. Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.

### Collect

Rev. Wes Allen

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, we approach you humbly today asking you to deliver us from a critical and judgmental spirit. Lord, we repent for being quick to pass judgement both in speech and thought. For every time our words or actions of judgment and condemnation have hurt someone, Father, we repent. Lord, we pray that we'll not focus on the faults or shortcomings of others. Help us to see others through the eyes of grace. Amen.*

### Music in Preparation for Worship, Introit

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

#### **God is Love; His Mercy Brightens**

Beethoven, Arr. Winston

Sawyer McNab, Flute

### Introit

Sawyer McNab, Piano

#### **Go Out and Tell the News**

Crockett

#### **Our World**

Padgett

Primary Choir

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## \* Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Melody Ransom

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This is the day the Lord has made; a day to face the whole of God's word — even the chapters we usually skip.

**We come, ready to listen, even when the stories unsettle us.**

From ancient deliverance on a battlefield to quiet mercies in our lives, God works in ways beyond our imagination.

**We will praise the God who surprises, challenges, and saves.**

Let every heart prepare to worship.

**We lift our voices in awe and trust.**

**All: Come, Holy Spirit—teach us what we don't yet know, and form us into Christ's people.**

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## \* Prayer of Adoration

Elder Ransom

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## \* Hymn No. 71

*O Bless the Lord, My Soul*

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## Call to Confession (unison)

Elder Ransom

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Merciful God, You know how often we avoid the hard passages— in Scripture and in our own lives. We prefer comfortable verses and convenient truths; we hide our violence, our apathy, and our secret alliances with injustice. Forgive us for shrinking Your Word down to something safe. Disarm the idols we cling to, pierce our hearts with Your doubled-edged sword of Truth, and deliver us, as You delivered Israel, so that we might become instruments of peace and people of compassion in Your kingdom of grace. Hear us now O Lord as we confess the sin of our lives to you ...

*(Silence for our personal prayers of confession)*

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## Assurance of Pardon

Elder Ransom

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Hear the good news: "The Lord raises up deliverers for His people" (Judges 3:15). In Jesus Christ—our crucified and risen Deliverer—sin's tyranny is overthrown and mercy prevails. Friends, believe the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, set free, and called to live the whole story of God. Thanks be to God!**

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## \* Gloria Patri

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## \* Anthem

Carol Manion, Piano

***God Made Me and You***

Gullickson

Junior Choir

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## CREDO Recognition; Graduate Recognition (insert); Dave Fauvell

Rev. Allen

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

Rev. Allen

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## Offertory

*Thank you for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving as we Grow God's Kingdom. Your offerings and donations allow us to sustain our church programs year-round. Donate easily from your device 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

### ***God, You Hold Your Children Dear***

Bruhn

Choristers; Lena Hatcher, Soprano (Sung in Swedish)

## \* Doxology No. 809

## Sermon

Rev. Wes Allen

### ***“Assassins, Outhouses, and the God Who Shows Up Anyway”***

**Scripture:** Judges 3: 12-30 (Pew Bible page 219 OT)

**Sermon Series:** They Don't Teach THIS in Sunday School

## \* Hymn No. 783 (verse 1)

Tune 442

### ***Here, O My Lord, I See You***

## The Lord's Supper and Home Communion

Rev. Allen, 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.**

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose grace we may triumph over temptation, be more fervent in prayer, and be more generous in love. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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. 783 (verses 4 & 5)

Tune 442

### ***Here, O My Lord, I See You***

## Music in Preparation for Service

Joel Krott, Organ

### ***Be Thou My Vision***

Nixon

## \* Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Allen

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**Worship flowers** are given by Sheila Schneider to the glory of God and in memory of Franz Schneider and our parents with love.

## 9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

**Beadle:** Elder Melody Ransom; **Communion Elders:** Dave Rebuck, Steve Shaffer, Ginny Weber, Melody Ransom; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Owen Dietz, Barry Leatherman, Paul Grossmann; **Flower Arrangers:** Karen Arsenault and Fran Green; **Trustee Greeter:** Jeff Mason; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Jane Murphy; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Susan Shaffer and Helen Dominy; **Bagel Pickup:** Donna Leatherman or Sarah Dietz; **Coffee Hospitality:** Donna Leatherman and Sarah Dietz; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum

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

[Please complete the Communications Survey](#) by **Friday, May 2** (see Church Center page; hard copies available).

**End of Year Celebrations** -- Crossing Zone End of Year Party is **Wednesday, May 7** (off-site). Youth Group End of Year Picnic (grades 7-12) is **Sunday, June 1** at 6 pm at the church. See page 4 of *Connections* or contact the leaders.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** **Wednesday, May 7** from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Miller Commons. Sign up online or at the Welcome Desk with Debbie Heller. You can save a life with your donation.

**NEW: Celebrate the 66th Strawberry Festival in style** with a vintage-inspired Strawberry Festival T-shirt! Fundraiser supports the FPC General Operating Fund so back the berries! See link to our [First Presbyterian Church Web Store](#) on our [event page](#), website and Friday eblast. Sale ends May 18. Online orders only.



**NEW: The Prayer and Discipleship Committee** has provided Strawberry Festival "Save The Date" postcards for members to hand out to neighbors and friends as a "soft discipling tool" and reminder of this fun event. Please take several and distribute. Thanks to Barbara Duffy for designing. Strawberry Festival is **Friday, June 6** from 6-9 p.m. Visit [fpcmoorestown.org/strawberry](http://fpcmoorestown.org/strawberry).

**Dine and Donate May 19** – Enjoy a break from cooking this busy May and come to Iron Hill Brewery on **Monday, May 19** to support missions. Dine in, take out or online; hours 11 am - 11 pm. Be sure to mention First Presbyterian Church; we receive 20% of proceeds. Invite friends! [Download flyer](#) from event page.

**Pastor Spencer Sabbatical** -- Pastor Spencer will be away on Sabbatical Leave May 12-August 20. See event page.

**Membership Ice Cream Social** **Sunday, May 25**; combined 9:30 am worship; we will honor this year's Inquirers Classes, CREDO Confirmants and 50+ Year Members; [RSVP online](#) please so we can estimate our dessert needs.

**Women's Morning Prayer Event** -- Save The Date: **Saturday, May 31** (8:00 a.m.-Noon); sign up online. Come pray with your sisters in Christ. Beverages provided, bring your Bible, journal and a snack if you like.

**VBS June 23-27, 2025** – Registration is OPEN! Get ready for an exciting adventure at *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!* Join us as we guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan journey. *True North* is where kids can explore the tundra and discover how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. We will point kids to Jesus, our faithful friend whom we can always trust—He's our *True North!* Adult and teen volunteers needed. [Visit fpcmoorestown.org/vbs](http://fpcmoorestown.org/vbs).

**ALPHA**, an 11-week Wednesday evening discussion series, began April 30. [Sign up online](#) or with Jim Cole.