



May 18, 2025 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter; Teacher & Leader Appreciation

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; Technology Team

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #7: Celebrate our Unity, Savor our Diversity

7. **CELEBRATE OUR UNITY, SAVOR OUR DIVERSITY.** Thank God that, like parts of the human body, we're not all the same. Be open to learn from others, regardless of their age, background, experience, or tenure with our church. We make better decisions and grow as people when we consider multiple perspectives. Listen with curiosity to others and consider how to use their ideas.

Collect

***Prayer:** Jesus, we pray You would help us to embrace and celebrate our differences and not allow them to divide us anymore. Jesus, unite your church to heal a divided nation. Lord, unite your church; display your love; your grace; your goodness; your kindness; your compassion; your glory; your hope to a broken, hurting, lost world. Amen.*

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Tranquility

Parry

* Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Leonard Fitts

Come, people of God, lay down your burdens of fear and control.

We come to worship the One whose love knows no limits.

Come with open hearts and expectant spirits.

We come to encounter the living God, whose Spirit moves beyond all our boxes and boundaries.

Come, let us worship not with restraint, but with joy, wonder, and our whole selves.

We come to offer God our songs, our prayers, our lives.

For God is worthy of all our praise, and in Christ, we are set free to worship in spirit and in truth.

Let us worship God together!

* Prayer of Adoration

Elder Fitts

* Hymn No. 103

Ye Servants of God

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Fitts

Gracious and Boundless Father,

We come before You acknowledging the ways we have reduced Your infinite love to the limits of our own understanding. We confess that we have lived by rigid rules rather than by Your liberating grace. We have sought to contain You within our expectations, our doctrines, and our comfort zones, fearing what might happen if we truly surrendered to the movement of Your Spirit. We confess that in our desire for order and control, we have withheld our worship, offering You only what feels safe or comfortable, rather than lifting our whole hearts in joyful praise and humble surrender. We have silenced the songs of our souls, kept our prayers cautious, and resisted the freedom of Your Spirit within us.

Forgive us for the times we have turned faith into formulas, when we have prioritized control over trust, when we have mistaken legalism for holiness, and when we have made an idol of our own preferences and traditions. Break open the boxes we have built around You, O Lord. Open our hearts to the wideness of Your mercy, the mystery of Your presence, and the power of Your uncontainable love. Free us to follow Christ with courage, to worship You with our whole hearts, to welcome the unexpected, and to live as people of grace, not fear. In Your Son's name we pray, Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Elder Fitts

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Gloria Patri

Moment for Missions

Debbie Biskey, Options for Her

Recognizing our Teachers and Leaders (see insert)

Rev. Allen

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

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

Carol Manion, Piano

This Is The Day

Sleeth

Penelope Beuschel, Soloist (Grade 3)

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Elder Rebecca Neindorff

Undignified

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6: 12-23 (Pew Bible page 280 OT)

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

* Hymn No. 107

Christ Be My Leader

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Postlude in D

Knecht

* Benediction

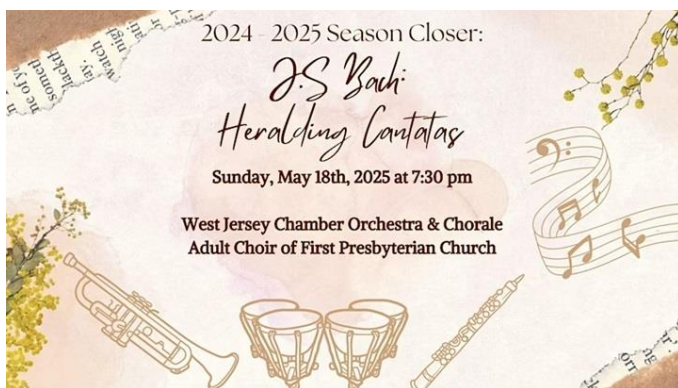
Elder Neindorff

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Worship flowers are given by Jane Murphy in loving memory of her dear husband, Kim Murphy

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Leonard Fitts; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Michael Boone; **Ushers:** Dave Rebuck, Brett Couvillion, Joe Molloy; **Flower Arrangers:** Stacy Schaffer and Karen Mason; **Trustee Greeter:** Pete Honeyford; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Jim Dodimead; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Mike McNeil and Laurie LaMonica; **Bagel Pickup:** Paul Grossmann or Jim Cole; **Coffee Hospitality:** Paul Grossmann and Jim Cole; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum



Tickets: \$30 available at the door, cash or check. Everyone 18 and younger, Free. Visit wjcms.org.

INCOMING OFFICERS

New Officer Orientation: Thursday, May 22 (6:00-8:30 pm)

New Officer Examination with Session: Tuesday, May 27 (7:00-8:00 pm)

Ordination and Installation: Sunday, June 8 during worship

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

TODAY: ORDER your Strawberry Festival T-shirts by 11:59 PM tonight – This Festival T-shirt fundraiser supports the General Operating Fund. See link to our [First Presbyterian Church Web Store](#) on our [event page](#), website and Friday eblast. Online orders only, colors and sizes Youth-5XL.

Dine and Donate May 19 – Enjoy a break 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.

NEW: The Prayer and Discipleship Committee has provided Strawberry Festival Reminder Cards to hand out to neighbors and friends as a "soft discipling tool" and reminder of this event. Please take several and distribute. **This is NOT a ticket.** \$10 suggested donation at the door.



66th Strawberry Festival is Friday, June 6 from 6-9 p.m. Sign up sheets area now available in the narthex and Commons Lobby – please see when you can help! Visit fpcmoorestown.org/strawberry.

Baby Bottle Drive May 11-June 22. Take a baby bottle, fill with spare change, a check or bills and return to the church to support [Options for Her](#). Checks made out to the church with 'Options' in the memo field.

Membership Ice Cream Social Sunday, May 25; combined **9:30 am** worship; we will ho nor this year's Inquirers Classes, CREDO Confirmands and 50+ Year Members; all please [RSVP online](#) 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. 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](#).

DATES TO KNOW (see *Connections* for details):

- ✓ **Wed. May 21:** Last regular meeting Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8).
- ✓ **Sunday, May 25** (Memorial Day weekend) – **Blended Worship 9:30 a.m.** Sanctuary; Ice Cream Social
- ✓ **NEW: Sunday, June 1** (10:10 am): [Legacy Giving Roundtable](#) (replaces adult spiritual formation). Learn several ways to include the church in your estate planning and "give forward." Presented by the Stewardship Team featuring speakers Frank Demmerly, Kevin Schaeffer and Bob Morris; Fellowship Hall
- ✓ **Sunday, June 1:** [Youth Groups End of Year Picnic](#) (Grades 7-12), 6:00 pm, Church Grounds.

PW Spring Gathering & Baby Shower -- Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church to a Spring Gathering **Monday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m.** in Miller Commons. Sample treats from the dessert bar and connect with your fellow sisters. Speakers: Women from [Good Counsel](#) with their children share their stories. **See our website (PW page) or [Church Center event page](#) for items to drop off for a Baby Shower for our guests.** 😊

Next Week -- The church building is **CLOSED Monday, May 26** in observance of Memorial Day. We pause to remember all men and women who have died in service to our country.