First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
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Moorestown, NJ 08057
fpcmoorestown.org
856.235.1688

Grow The Kingdom: I Will Pray, Invite, Serve, Give.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing - Psalm 100:2

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

I I:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship

10:15-11:00 a.m. Education Classes

Worship streams live from each worship space. Log on from any device to www.fpcmoorestown.org or YouTube or Facebook. Services are also posted 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 announcements, Connections, and upcoming events? If not, contact the church office.



Connections FPC Moorestown

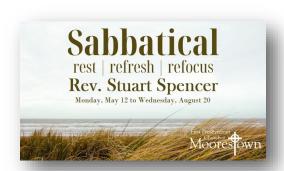
First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

May 11-17, 2025

Way of the Week 6: Forgive ... Again (May 11-17, 2025)

6. FORGIVE ... **AGAIN.** Just as God forgives us, heal relationships by extending forgiveness with grace and generosity. Forgive everyone everything. Start by praying for those you resent or hate. Ask for every blessing you would want for the one you're struggling to forgive.

Ideas for Action: Work on "dropping" the anger you have. Don't let it come between you and someone else. Stop bringing up the hurt in public or with friends. Stop nursing the memory of how you've been wronged.







Prayers for a Restful, Spiritual Renewal

Pastor Spencer will be on Sabbatical Leave May 12-August 20 (16 weeks).

Stuart says, "I'm excited for a season for rest, renewal and recharge. Mark John Comer, a pastor and author says that the spiritual journey begins with rest. "When I offer spiritual direction to people, I often begin by prescribing sleep, margin, time off work—rest. Because chronically exhausted, sleep-deprived, over-busy people are not loving, peaceful and full of joy." While I'm not exhausted, depleted, or burned out, I welcome and desire a period of rest. I'm certain that the chief benefit of this Sabbatical is that I'll return to my ministry here and my family and friends, rested and renewed."

It's an Ice Cream "Sunday" Sunday, May 25

Save The Date: Membership Ice Cream Social Sunday, May 25; after 9:30 am worship; honoring recent Inquirers Classes, CREDO Confirmands and 50+ Year Members. All attending are asked to RSVP online so we can estimate our dessert needs. Worship will be ONE combined 9:30 a.m. service for the holiday weekend.

2025 Strawberry Festival Friday, June 6 (6-9 PM) Sign up sheets are OPEN

Come Pray With Your Sisters in Christ

Saturday, May 31 (8:00 AM)
Women's Morning Prayer Event
Experience the joy and wonder of
spending special time alone with
God as we gratefully seek His intent for our lives. Please come for
a special time of prayer. Bring your
Bible, journal and a snack if you'd
like. Coffee, hot tea, and water
will be provided.



Strawberry Festival Cards

The Prayer & Discipleship Committee has developed a Strawberry Festival 'Save The Date' postcard for members to share with neighbors and friends as a "soft discipling tool" and reminder of this event. Please take several and distribute. NOTE: These are informational cards only, they are not a ticket. For Festival details, visit fpcmoorestown.org/strawberry.

Please <u>sign up</u> for volunteer spots online and at church!

Adult Spiritual Formation

Series ends **May 18**Sundays 10:10-11:00 am-ish
"Parables: The Stories of Jesus"
Fellowship Hall



Strawberry Festival T-Shirts Available!

NEW: Celebrate the **66th Strawberry Festival** in style with a comfy, vintage-inspired Strawberry Festival T-shirt! Show your support for the church and back the berries with a commemorative shirt, available for purchase online. Sizes Youth-5XL, presented by the Stewardship Team. Proceeds benefit the church's General Operating Fund. See event page/webstore. Sale ends Sunday, May 18.

Sunday, May 18
Last Day of Sunday School,
Teacher Appreciation
Orders due for Strawberry
Festival T-shirts

Legacy Giving/Wills Emphasis Sunday Legacy Giving Roundtable at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, June 1

Legacy Giving/Wills Emphasis Sunday, observed in the PC(USA), is an invitation to consider how you can share the blessings God has given to you beyond your lifetime. Over the years, special gifts and bequests, large and small, have allowed our church to "live forward" and provide for our future as we do the work of the Lord. Many opportunities were only realized in recent years because church members made a plan to "give forward" from their estates and keep our church caring and working here after their lifetime. Attend a roundtable event June 1 to learn several ways to include the church.

PW "Baby Shower" Spring Gathering

Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church to a Spring Gathering on Monday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Miller Commons. Sample sweet treats from a coffee and dessert bar and connect with fellow sisters in Christ.

- Speakers: Women from <u>Good Counsel</u> with their children, share their stories. Good Counsel houses homeless pregnant women and toddlers and provides life skills, budgeting, interviewing and key support services.
- It's a baby shower! Drop off items in the box provided in the Commons Lobby (diapers of ALL sizes, wipes, toys, onesies, bath equipment, first aid items, creams, lovies, blankets, bibs, toddler feeding utensils, bath towels).

May Food Drive

The Moorestown Ministerium Food Pantry is in dire need of food for distribution to hungry families in our area this month. The Ministerium supports 40-50 identified families in need in the Moorestown, Mt. Laurel, Maple Shade, Delran, Medford areas. Throughout May, we are hosting a food drive for the Moorestown Ministerium. Please bring nonperishable foods that include proteins. Please see our event page for details and suggested items.



Multigenerational Family Mission Trip

In September 2024, powerful hurricanes completely ravaged areas of North Carolina. The Missions Committee is coordinating a multigenerational Mission Trip to help those who continue to recover from this natural disaster. A team will be traveling to New Bern, NC Aug. 10-17. Estimated cost per person: \$850, min. age 14. Contact: Steve Engle or see our event page. We have room for 30 volunteers. Can we save you a seat?



Trenton Thunder Faith & Family Night Baseball

Grab your people and head out to the Trenton Thunder ballpark for a summer church outing on **Saturday**, **July 19** to cheer on our own MLB Draft League team. Tickets just \$10 each; pay online (see event page) or by check/cash. Game Time: 6:00 p.m. Questions, contact Alison or Wes in the church office.

Church closed Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day

Grace Boutique

The Mission Committee and volunteers are staffing this ministry and more hands are needed. Public hours are: 2nd Tues: 11:30 am-2:00 pm and 3rd Wed: Noon-2:30 pm. Can you help? Contact Debby Gerhardt missions@fpcmoorestown.org. Monetary donations encouraged so we can buy in bulk and continue to stock our shelves. Demand is HIGH. Please give via Venmo (@fpcmoorestown) or check and note it is for "Grace Boutique." The store provides items unavailable through assistance programs such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, toiletries, tissue boxes and more.



West Jersey Chamber Concert with Adult Choir May 18, 2025 (7:30 pm) Ticketed Event; Visit wjcms.org

Sunday Morning Check Ins

Each time you attend in person or watch on your device, **please check** in to register your attendance using the Church Center app or pew pads.

New Officer Training Thursday, May 22 6:00-8:00 pm

Do You Know? A Collection of Presbyterian Tidbits

It's springtime and Presbyterians admire tulips. Did you know that John Calvin's reformed theology a staple of Presbyterianism is represented in the acronym TULIP. Emphasized in the acronym is God's sovereignty and his desire for our salvation. The tenets are: Total Depravity (we are incapable of saving ourselves. Jesus in his death and resurrection completely atoned for our sins), Unconditional Election (we are predestined for eternal joy by the grace of God), Limited Atonement (God choses who will be saved), Irresistible Grace (God's loving grace can't be resisted), and Perseverance of the Saints (once God saves us we can't lose our salvation).

Pictorial Directory

The Membership Committee is exploring publication of an updated Pictorial Membership Directory, but is in need of a volunteer coordinator(s). If interested please contact Joyce Wenzke at joycewenzke@gmail.com.

Help at Cathedral Kitchen

"I was hungry and you gave me food." If you are interested in joining the FPC Moorestown team in serving dinner at Cathedral Kitchen to our friends who are food insecure, please contact Karin Miller at karinbmiller49@gmail.com or (856) 298-3522 for further information.



May 18: Last day of Children's Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation





See below for last regular meeting dates

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

"Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." — Hebrews 4:12 (NRSV)

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto

856-235-1688, ×116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School: Cheryl Gaskill 856-904-3056 call/text mybaseballboys@yahoo.com

It's been an amazing year with our youth!

- ⇒ <u>Last High School Youth Group:</u> **Sunday, May 18** (no youth group on Mother's Day May 11)
- ⇒ Last Middle School Youth Group: Wednesday, May 21
- ⇒ Youth Groups Picnic (Grades 7-12): Sunday, June 1 (6:00 p.m., church grounds). Please SIGN UP so we can plan accordingly. For questions, contact Cheryl Gaskill at call/text 856-904-3056.

Congratulations to the CREDO Class; Our newest members of the Church

Vivian Allen (mentor Mindy Holman); Freh Budka (Kristen Perkowski); Matthew Connor (Paul Grossmann); Naomi Gandy (Jess Zorn); Jamie Grant (Kevin Fauvell); Megan Hock (Tamara Trzeciak); Addison LaMonica (Kelly Eagles); Avery LaMonica (Dave Fauvell); Brayden LaMonica (Brian Perkowski); Rebecca Mann (Adrienne Barr); Ian Nicklas (Stuart Spencer); Ryan Omlor (Lorenzo Eagles); Kyle Perkowski (Philip Jagiela); Karina Rotter (Ann McBride); Evan Schad (Carol Clark).

Vacation Bible School

- June 23-27 from 9:00 am 12:00 noon
- Children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade (FALL 2025).
- When registering, please enter child's CURRENT grade for 2024-25.
- Cost: \$25 per child ~ \$20 each additional child
- Deadline to Register: Friday, June 20, 2025

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, where the northern lights shimmer over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. We will point kids to Jesus, our faithful friend whom we can always trust — He's our *True North!*

Volunteers 7th grade and older are needed for every aspect of the journey. We need you! <u>Sign up online</u>. For questions contact the church office at 856-235-1688 or Holly Asciutto (Ext. 116; hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org).