First Presbyterian Church

101 Bridgeboro Road MAIL: P. O. Box 868 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

June 15-28, 2025

The 66th annual Strawberry Festival was an abundance of blessings yet again! Perfect weather, a wonderful variety of cakes and faithful volunteers, thank the Lord! We love that we can continue this event as a free will offering, and our members and visitors were generous in their giving! We estimate 3,000-4,000 attendees graced our grounds. We are thankful for a repeat donation from Lewis Funeral Home for \$300, donations of iced tea from Chick Fil-A Mount Laurel, as well as multiple donations from congregants. Adding the Visa Gift Card giveaway this year was a huge help for obtaining critical donations for the Blessing Box and Grace Boutique, two of our local benevolence initiatives. Thank you to everyone who visited the Missions Food Tent, which was a BIG success and sold out of all of its hot food by the end of the night! Food Tent proceeds will support our Hurricane Relief Mission Trip to North Carolina this August. The goal of the Strawberry Festival always has been and will continue to be community outreach to bring people together and show them the love of God through our congregants at FPC Moorestown. Early numbers indicate we definitely covered our costs and any profit will be utilized towards local benevolence efforts.

This event is a highlight of the year for many in this community. Due to generous donations beforehand and at the door, we were able to Make Others at Home Here as our guests, including many teenagers who chose to make our church their place to hang out on a Friday night!

While strawberry outfits on both young and old were still in fashion, it was great to see our church's very own Strawberry Festival shirts on display and helped bring a sense of unity among our congregants volunteering together. Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for designing and selling the shirts with the proceeds going towards the General Fund. Wear it all year long and leading up to the Strawberry Festival next year to get people talking and use as an invitation for others to join in the night!

We thank our MANY volunteers who are the backbone of our Strawberry Festival. Whether you donated cakes, washed or hulled berries, served cakes, scooped berries, grilled food or washed dishes, we thank you! Special thanks to our property team who worked so hard leading up to and during the event to set everything up, keep things clean and break it back down. Another special thanks to Dave Barr and Kelly Eagles (and their spouses) for stepping up to price, purchase food and run the Mission Tent this year while we are in transition looking for a new Director of Outreach.

We strive to start the evening ensuring each shift is fully covered. It was nice to see new names and faces volunteering this year but we still needed to ask some volunteers to stay on for two shifts in a few key areas. We pray that ALL have the ability to enjoy the night and want to ensure that some do not have to work the entire event. From young to young at heart, there are jobs for everyone's abilities! This beloved annual event can only happen with the support of the entire congregation in all ways, big and small. Please help us continue to Grow the Kingdom, and mark the date of the 2026 Strawberry Festival on your calendar now!

Save the Date: Friday, June 5th, 2026!

Jen Allen, Laurie LaMonica and

Kristen Perkowski, Coordinators

Congregational Meeting

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, NJ, has called a special meeting of the congregation to be held Sunday, June 15, 2025 following the 9:00 AM worship service in the sanctuary (approx. start time: 10:00 AM). The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees to a term of office beginning immediately. The meeting will be available to view via live stream, however, votes can only be cast inperson. No other business may be brought before the congregation.

2025-2026 Rooms & Dates

Staff is meeting **July 16** to review the church calendar for the first six months of the year. Please submit any dates for concerts, committee meetings, events, and all building room requests to the church office by **July 10**.

Festival T-Shirts Available

If you didn't get to order your 2025 Strawberry Festival T-shirt, you're in luck. We have a limited supply of shirts available for purchase (\$20) in several sizes. Contact Ginny Weber at steward-ship@fpcmoorestown.org or Jan Martin in the church office at 856.235.1688, x133. Purchase easily via Venmo (@fpcmoorestown) or checks payable to the Church. Please note SF Shirts in the memofield. Pick up shirts in Room 2. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser!

Couldn't attend this year? Financial donations most gratefully accepted



Looking for audio and visual operators; we will train

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 Good Counsel with their children, share their stories. Good Counsel houses homeless pregnant women and toddlers and provides life skills, budgeting, interviewing and critical support services.
- It's a baby shower! Drop off items in the box in the Commons Lobby (diapers ALL sizes, wipes, toys, onesies, bath items, first aid, creams, lovies, blankets, bibs, toddler utensils).

VBS teachers and volunteers will be commissioned on Sunday, June 22

<u>**Joel Krott Retirement Celebration**</u>

Sunday, July 27, 2025 9:30 a.m. Combined Worship (Sanctuary) Reception to follow in Miller Commons

Joel Krott, our director of music, will be retiring on Sunday, July 27 after 53 years in music ministry. That day, we will gather for Combined Worship to celebrate Joel and his years teaching and leading our choirs and serving as organist. Worship will be at **9:30 a.m.** in the sanctuary, followed by a reception in Miller Commons.

Please read a letter from Pastor Stuart regarding Joel's July retirement. You may bring cards or notes for Joel that day and also write one in the Commons Lobby as well.

Summer Prayer Opportunities

- ⇒ The Thursday Evening Prayer service (live stream) is on summer hiatus returning in September.
- ⇒ This summer, join the Prayer Committee for a time of fellowship and prayer for Thursday Evening Prayer on the Porch. Come pray on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7:00 pm. on the Van Camp Porch. In case of inclement or hot weather, we will meet comfortably in the Lounge. Contact Pam Engle.
 - ♦ June 12 & June 26
 - July 10 & July 24
 - August 14 & August 28

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. Deadline for orders: **June 25**.

Church office closed Monday, June 16 for Juneteenth Observance

Family Mission Trip

The Missions Committee is coordinating a multi-generational Mission Trip to help those who continue to recover from powerful hurricanes that ravaged North Carolina in September 2024. 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.

Summer Schedules

- Connections prints every two weeks in the summer months.
- There is no Session meeting in July. New officers will attend the August 26th Session meeting.
- Worship hours remain 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM in the summer. Children's Sunday School and the Thursday Prayer Service are on hiatus until September.
- Worship is combined on July 27 (Retirement Celebration) and Aug. 31 (Labor Day).

Couples Retreat Rescheduled for Fall

Attention couples! Come to an engaging retreat in Cape May, NJ October 17-19. Cost of \$450 per couple includes breakfast, two nights at the Dormer House B&B, group sessions with Dr. Paul Booker, and dinner Saturday. Take advantage of our Early-Bird Special of \$400/couple by June 30. See event page.

Grace Boutique

Mission Committee volunteers are needed to help staff the public hours of 2nd Tues: 11:30 am-2:00 pm and 3rd Wed: Noon-2:30 pm. Please contact Debby G. at missions@fpcmoorestown.org. Monetary donations encouraged so we can buy in bulk and restock shelves each week. Demand is HIGH. The store provides items unavailable through assistance such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, toiletries, tissue boxes and more. Please give via Venmo or check and note "Grace Boutique" in the memo field.

Drop any donations for the Blessing Box on the table in the Commons Lobby. The box is being used by visitors in need every week.

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.

Adult Sunday Series

Drop In and Discuss
Sundays 10:10-11:00 am-ish
Lounge (summer location)

News from the Garden

The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden is starting its 2025 growing season and we have an opportunity for you to help with the garden! We welcome harvesters! Just show up in the evening (Sundays, Wednesdays and/or Fridays) from 7-8 pmish to pick the produce and store it in the church kitchen. We will start on **Sunday**, **June 15th** and go through the end of August. If you can continue into September, that would be great, but we understand you may need to change your commitment by then. The produce grows through October. Thank you—we really appreciate your help! See our event page.



Baby Bottle Campaign May 11 -June 22. Take a baby bottle, fill with change, check or bills and return to support Options for Her (Mother's Day to Father's Day). Checks payable to FPC; note in memo field.



Church office is closed on Friday, July 4



Summer activities at FPC Moorestown



Summer Youth Group Hangouts

- ⇒ Rising middle schoolers (grade 7-8) through high school (grades 9-12) are invited to Summer Hangouts again this year. Come chill at the church Wednesdays from July 9-August 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meet up with your friends and make new acquaintances. We can't wait to see you.
- ⇒ Questions contact youth committee chair Cheryl Gaskill at call/text 856-904-3056.



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

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. - Acts 2:2-4

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto

856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

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

Vacation Bible School

- June 23-27, 2025 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.*

Adult volunteers are particularly needed including VBS Guides and Recreation Leader. Sign up online at fpcmoorestown.org/vbs or on our event page. For questions contact the church office at 856-235-1688 or Holly Asciutto (Ext. 116; hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org).

Family Water Fun Night

Come on out **Wednesday**, **July 16**, from 6-8 PM for an exciting evening filled with water activities. Stay and play for the duration or just cool off and leave -- it's up to you! Feel free to bring your parents, siblings, and friends along to this family friendly event. Remember to pack your swimsuit, water shoes, towel, and a change of clothes. We look forward to seeing you!

This is a free event but we would like to know who is coming to plan, so please register on the <u>Church Center</u> event page.

Warning: Kid-sized chaos may be present. Parents required for damage control.

Schedule Note

Bike Rally Night (Parking Lot) Moved to **Friday, September 26**, 6:30-8:00 p.m.