



August 17, 2025 ~ 10th 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. **NOTE: Worship announcements begin at 8:55 a.m.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #20: Find Strength in Belonging

20. FIND STRENGTH IN BELONGING. At FPC Moorestown, you're loved and valued. Claim us as your family. Rather than withdrawing, allow struggles and disappointments to deepen your sense of belonging. Pray for chances to bring healing to relationships. Please be patient! God isn't yet finished with us or with you.

Collect Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, You knit us together in love, making us a people bound not by perfection, but by grace and the shared longing to become more whole. In our struggles and disappointments, help us resist the urge to withdraw—and instead draw us deeper into this community of care and hope. Remind us that in belonging, we find strength: not because we are the same, but because we are committed to each other. Heal what is wounded in us and between us and teach us patience as You shape us into who we are becoming. Help us to know that we belong. In the name of Christ, who gathers and holds us. Amen.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Canzona

Froberger

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Gayle Payne

Come, all who seek the way of Christ – not with loud voices or empty show, but with quiet trust and open hearts.

We come to worship the God who sees in secret, who meets us in silence and speaks through love.

Let us seek not what moth and rust destroy, but the treasure of God's reign in our midst.

We build not on sand, but on the solid rock of Christ's teaching – to love, to forgive, and to trust.

Let us worship the One who knows what we need before we ask.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who welcomes us with grace that cannot be shaken.

*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Payne

*Hymn No. 16

Give to Our God Immortal Praise

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Payne

God of mercy, You invite us to live without worry, to forgive without keeping score, to pray without show, and to love without condition. But we confess that we have trusted more in our own striving than in Your grace. We have judged others for faults we excuse in ourselves. We have spoken words that do not bear the fruit of Your Spirit. We have tried to serve two masters and found our hearts divided. Forgive us, O God, not only for what we have done but for what we have left undone. Restore us with Your mercy, so that we may walk again in Your ways – doing justice, loving kindness, and living humbly. Amen.

(A Moment for Silent Prayer and Confession)

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Elder Payne

Hear this Good News: Your Creator sees you not with condemnation but with compassion. Your Savior says, “Ask, and it will be given; search, and you will find.” In Christ, we are forgiven, and we are freed – to forgive others, to release what we cannot control, and to live fully in the grace we have received.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Sharing with Our Young Disciples

Rev. Allen

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord’s Prayer (‘debts’)

Dr. Richard Herman

Offertory

Dr. Herman



Thank you for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving as we Grow God’s Kingdom. Your offerings 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, Organ

Children of the Heavenly Father

Amanda Schkeeper, Alto

Swedish Folk Song

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Allen

“Kingdom Against the Machine”

Scripture: [Matthew 7:24-29](#) (Pew Bible NT p. 7)

Sermon Series: *The Sermon on the Mount*

***Hymn No. 547**

O For a Closer Walk with God

Music in Preparation for Service

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Leupold

***Benediction**

Rev. Allen

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Worship flowers are given to the glory of God.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Gayle Payne; **Audio Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Live Stream Technician:** Michael Boone; **Ushers:** John Miller, Gail Sorin, Bill Pettit; **Flower Arrangers:** Stacy Schaffer and Kristin Zorn; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Jane Murphy; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Laurie LaMonica and Sharon Budka; **Bagel Pick-up:** Paul Grossmann or Jim Cole; **Coffee Hospitality:** Paul Grossmann and Jim Cole; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum



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

TODAY: Undie Sunday -- Presbyterian Women invite you to participate in Undie Sunday on **August 17!** We're collecting new socks, underwear, and pajamas for Camden children ages 6–16 — specifically those with an incarcerated parent. As you shop for back-to-school supplies, please consider picking up an extra package to help a child in need. Look for the donation box in the Commons Lobby. Let's make a difference — one pair at a time.

Calling all Youth! Rising middle schoolers (grade 7-8) through high school (grades 9-12) are invited to meet up with friends and make new acquaintances at our summer Youth Group. UPCOMING: Wed., August 20: Movie Night @ Church. Contact: Cheryl Gaskill or Evan Dempster

[The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden](#) welcomes harvesters! Just show up in the evening (Sundays, Wednesdays and/or Fridays) from 7:00–8:00 pm-ish to pick the produce and store it in the church kitchen. The produce grows through Sept./Oct., so come on out. Contact: Leslie Spencer

[Women's Morning Prayer Event](#) - **Saturday, Aug. 23** (8:00 am-noon): 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. Join other women on their prayer journey. Women of high school age or older and friends are welcome. Registration online is appreciated; but ALL LADIES AND FRIENDS are welcome even if not registered. Arlita Winston will lead.

[Summer Adult Spiritual Formation](#) - “Drop In and Discuss” (Lounge): Stop in Sunday mornings this summer to discuss the day's sermon text. We will gather in the Lounge from 10:15-11:00-ish am. Get your coffee and drop in.

Holiday Schedule: Worship on **Sunday, Aug. 31** is a COMBINED **9:30 a.m.** Service for the holiday. The office will be CLOSED **Monday, September 1** in observance of Labor Day.

Sabbatical Presentation: On **Sunday, August 31**, Stuart Spencer will present a review of his 16-week sabbatical to the congregation. That week is a combined worship Sunday due to the Labor Day weekend, so the presentation will *follow* the **9:30 a.m.** Worship. Stuart returns to the office on **Thursday, Aug. 21.**

Kick-off Sunday: Our 2025-2026 programming year officially gets underway on **Sunday, Sept. 7** as we welcome everyone back to church after busy summers and begin another event-filled year in ministry. Special presentation 10:15-11:00 AM (Fellowship Hall) about all that's planned this year!

Would you like to donate altar flowers this year in honor or memory of loved ones? We have several openings. Contact Jan in the church office at (856) 235-1688.

- [Choirs begin in September](#) --- Regardless of age, skill level or spiritual affiliation, there's a spot for everyone in the graded choral system, Handbell Choir or Praise Band. Under the seasoned guidance of **Kathy Gunsallus, Nicole Snodgrass, Linda Lockart** and **Wes Allen**, singers will delve deep into the Scriptural content and apply it in real life. Weekly rehearsals begin the week of September 9-12; and you do not have to be a member of the church to join. The weekly Music program is free for both children and adults. Let your voice be heard! We can't wait to meet you. Visit our [Church Center event page](#) or the church office for details.

NEW: Fall Prayer Retreat October 14-17 ([see Events page or website to register](#) by **Sept. 21:** Stuart Spencer leads. Study Book: *World Turned Upside Down: The Psalms and the Spirituality of Pain – Finding a Way Through*; Holy Cross Monastery (West Park, NY).