



August 31, 2025 ~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost; Fifth Sunday

9:30 a.m. Combined 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 9:25 a.m.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #22: Rest and Reflect

- 22. REST AND REFLECT.** Make time in your week to step back from work, school, and stressful demands. Since Christ has freed us, we no longer have to be obsessively driven. Take a walk, play, nap, meet up with friends, share a meal, or just take some time in solitude.

Collect Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, you free us from our drivenness, calling us to rest and reflect in the finished work of Christ, our Savior and Lord. Quiet our anxious hearts that we might find peace in you alone. Help us to receive the Sabbath as a gift, and to rest in the joy of your presence. Amen.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Psalm 47

Powell

* Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Steve Shaffer

Our help is in the name of the Lord our God, Maker of heaven and earth.

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, people of God.

We worship the Lord with gladness and thanksgiving. We will come into God's presence with singing!

Come, my beloved Church Family, and let us worship God!

* Prayer of Adoration

Elder Shaffer

* Hymn No. 17

Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Shaffer

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Elder Shaffer

Anyone who is in Christ Jesus is a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.

We are forgiven today through the grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

* Gloria Patri

* The Apostles' Creed

Inside Front Cover Hymnal

Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Spencer

Wow Moments

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

Rev. Spencer

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

Witness

Frank Mitchell, Bass

Hall Johnson

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Way 26: Make Your Wrongs Right"

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26 (Pew Bible NT p. 4)

Sermon Series: *What I Did on my Sabbatical*

Way #26: MAKE YOUR WRONGS RIGHT. We all sin, make mistakes, and fall short of God’s will for us. Whenever you fail, seek our merciful God’s forgiveness. In time, seek out those you have wronged, admit it, and by God’s grace work to ensure you don’t it again.

Guidelines for a Blessing Conversation

- 1) Share a straightforward expression of your love and appreciation.
- 2) Ask, how can I be a better _____ to you? Fill in your role: spouse, parent, child, or friend.
- 3) Make direct amends

*** Hymn No. 130**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Praise, Praise! You are My Rock

Carlson

*** Benediction**

Rev. Spencer

~ ~ ~

Worship flowers are given to the glory of God.

9:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Steve Shaffer; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Mike Welch, Paul Grossmann, Sherrell Fitts; **Flower Arrangers:** Grechen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Cara Dempster; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Doris Kahley; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Jenny Legath, Susan Shaffer, Josh Leonard; **Bagel Pickup:** Ginny and Tim Powell; **Coffee Hospitality:** Ginny and Tim Powell. There is no nursery care on combined Sundays.

Kickoff Sunday Launches New Program Year

Our 2025-2026 programming year officially gets underway **Sunday, Sept. 7** as we welcome everyone back after busy summers to begin another event-filled year. **Don't miss the special presentation 10:15-11:00 AM (Fellowship Hall) about all that's planned this year.** Learn about two engaging new adult classes *Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet* and *2 to 1 Couples Class*, plus K-12 Fellowship Groups, Family Dinner, Bible Sunday and children’s Sunday School. During both worship services, we will commission our church school teachers and small group leaders. It’s going to be another fantastic year at FPC Moorestown!



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

Worship Sunday, August 31 – 9:30 AM combined for Labor Day holiday. No nursery care on combined worship Sundays. **Sabbatical Presentation** – *Following worship*, Stuart Spencer will present a review of his 16-week sabbatical to the congregation (Fellowship Hall). The office is CLOSED **Monday, Sept. 1** for the Labor Day holiday.

Summer Adult Spiritual Formation - “Drop In and Discuss” (Lounge) – Stop in Sunday mornings this summer to discuss the day's sermon text. Meet in the Lounge 10:15-11:00-ish am. Just drop in. Who is on the Hot Seat? On Kickoff Sunday, learn about two engaging adult classes this fall: [Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet](#) and [2 to 1 Couples Class](#) begin **Sunday, Sept. 14**.

Choirs begin --- Regardless of age, skill level, or spiritual affiliation, there's a spot for everyone in our graded choral system, Bell Choir or Praise Band. Under the seasoned guidance of **Kathy Gunsallus, Nicole Snodgrass, Linda Lockart and Wes Allen**, rehearsals begin the week of Sept. 8-12. You do not have to be a member and the program is free. Let your voice be heard! We can't wait to meet you. Visit our [Church Center event page](#) for details.

We're back! **K-12 weeknight fellowship groups** begin the week of **Wed. Sept. 17**. Learn more about Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Middle School Youth Group, and High School Youth Group and [REGISTER online](#) please.

Throughout September, the **Grace Boutique** is requesting donations of select items to restock its depleted shelves. Please help if you can. September Donations: baby diapers size 4 or 5, full size toothpaste, deodorant, cleaning liquid, feminine hygiene products. Please drop off in baskets outside Grace Boutique.

NEW: Fall Prayer Retreat October 14-17 ([see event 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).

NEW: Saturday Morning Breakfasts begin in September -- Jump into FALL! The Prayer Committee invites everyone to come for a delicious breakfast on **Saturday, Sept. 13th** at 9:00 AM. We will welcome Pastor Stuart as our kickoff speaker following a delicious breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes and more! He will speak about the importance of prayer in his life and his ministry. These monthly breakfasts on the second Saturday will include guest speakers and teachers. PLEASE mark your calendars and plan to attend. Look for signup sheets in the Narthex, Welcome Desk in Commons Lobby and [online](#).

[Harvesting help is welcomed](#) for the **Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden** through mid-October. Thank you!

Crud Wars is coming! This fun event is our traditional kick off for students in middle school (grades 7, 8) and high school youth groups (grades 9-12). Come for an incredibly cruddy and messy set of games on **Sunday, Sept. 14**. We will meet in the field next to the main parking lot. Remember a towel for the ride home! [SIGN UP online](#).

Would you like to donate altar flowers in honor or memory of loved ones? Contact Jan in the church office.

Couples' Retreat in Cape May, NJ October 17-19 -- We will be staying once again at The Dormer House, a quaint Victorian bed and breakfast. Cost of \$450 per couple includes breakfast, two nights, group sessions with Dr. Paul Booker, and dinner on Saturday. See full details on our [event page](#). **Must be paid in full by October 6**.

Save the Date: The [Howard Gospel Choir](#) returns for a gospel concert **Friday, October 3 (7:00 PM)**. Free will offering. Open to the community. Volunteers are needed to help provide a dinner after the concert for the choir.