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.





First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

Aug. 24-Sept. 6, 2025

Way of the Week 21: You're Sent, Now Go

(August 24-30, 2025)

21. YOU'RE SENT, NOW GO. We're blessed to be a blessing. God intends to use you to bless, heal, restore, and liberate a dark and hurting world. We're here for others: in our families and our community and in the world. Go to the need. Live missionally.

Ideas for Action: Check out the Missions tab on our website. Look at our local mission partners' websites for information and ideas for service. Contact Rev. Mark Budka, Director of Outreach, for additional suggestions. Make plans to go and serve ASAP.

Way of the Week 22: Rest and Reflect

(August 31-Sept. 6, 2025)

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.

Ideas for Action: Can you make your Sunday more of a Sabbath day of rest for you and your family? Connect with God using worship music. Unplug from the devices for part or all of the day. Seek the joy of the Lord in Creation. Eat a meal together. Be silent with God and pray. Prioritize wholeness and rejuvenation in Christ.

Come Make Music to Glorify God

We're back! And we'd love to meet you! Children's choirs, bell choir and adult choir rehearsals start the week of **Sept. 8-12** and opportunities abound. Contact interim music director Kathy Gunsallus at kathy519@comcast.net or the church office for information regarding choirs. Choir directors are:

Primary Choir (K-1st Grade): Kathy Gunsallus

• Junior Choir (2nd-4th): Nicole Snodgrass

• Choristers (5th-8th): Linda Lockart

• Chapel Choir (9th-12th): Nicole Snodgrass

Adult Choir: Linda LockartBell Choir: Kathy Gunsallus

• Contemporary Praise Band: Wes Allen

Meet our talented interim choir directors. We're so pleased to have them on our music team. Learn more and sign up on our music page on our website or our <u>Church Center event page</u>. Or call Alison in the church office at (856) 235-1688.

Sabbatical Presentation Sunday, August 31

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.

Sunday, August 3 I Combined 9:30 AM Worship (Labor Day weekend)

Thank You from PW

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our Undies Sunday project. Thanks to each and all who are blessing so many children with brand new undies, socks and PJs to start the school year. You may never hear the kids' responses, but we can promise that their caregivers are deeply grateful for your gifts.

- Presbyterian Women

Check out two special Fall retreat opportunities

See our website or Church Center event pages to register

- Fall Prayer Retreat (Oct. 14 -17; Holy Cross Monastery (NY).
 Registration Due: Sept. 21
- Couples Retreat (Oct. 17-19; Cape May, New Jersey.
 Registration due: October 6

Drop In and Discuss Series(Adult Spiritual Formation)

Sundays 10:10-11:00 am-ish Lounge (summer location)

New: 2 to 1 Couples Class Begins September 14

The 2 to1 Couples Class is designed for young couples trying to navigate the challenges of marriage and parenthood through the lens of our Christian faith. Stop on in for fellowship and study as we learn to grow closer to God, our spouses, our children, and each other! Class will meet Sunday mornings during the Sunday School session (10:00-11:15 a.m.) and begins Sunday, Sept. 14. This fall, the class will be led by Lorenzo and Kelly Eagles. Hope to see you there.

Stuart' Sept. 13

Jump into Fall! The Prayer and Discipleship Committee invites everyone to 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 be speaking about the importance of prayer in his life and his ministry. These monthly breakfasts on the second Saturday of the month will include guest speakers and teachers. PLEASE mark your calendars and plan to attend. Breakfasts will be in Room 3-4; watch for signup sheets. Free will offering is gratefully accepted. Contact: Pam Engle at 609.332.7513 call/text.

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.

Help our Harvesting Team

Our growing season is in full swing and we welcome harvesters! Just show up Sundays, Wednesdays and/or Friday evenings to pick the produce and store it in the church kitchen. We particularly need volunteers on Sundays and Fridays. We harvest our greatest volume of produce in August. No need to sign up—just show up at 7 p.m. at the garden and we'll show you the ropes. Have extra produce from your own garden? Great. Leave it in the coolers under the Blessing Box whenever you like. People are stopping by every day to take the produce! See our event page.



Sign up for Children's Sunday School 2025-26

Join our Audio-Visual Team

Are you passionate about audiovisual technology? We are looking for high school students and adults to join our live stream team! We are seeking paid tech operators to assist with Sunday morning live stream and special events. We provide full training. Live stream operators also support weddings, funerals, and concerts, helping those unable to attend experience these meaningful events remotely. You'll gain hands-on experience with vMix software, multi-camera operation, and audio management. Tech operators serve in a rotation, typically every few weeks. If you're interested in this exciting opportunity, contact the church office or Steve **Drzaszcz** at steve@gotsteve.com.

Sunday, September 7 Kickoff Sunday

Our 2025-2026 programming year officially gets underway on **Sunday, Sept. 7** as we welcome everyone back to church after busy and eventful summers. Special happenings are planned as we begin another active year learning and growing together.

Reconnect with friends and enjoy two distinct styles of worship. Enjoy this gift of gathering together on Sundays for worship, study, music, prayer and fellowship.

- 9:00 am Traditional Worship
- 10:15-11:00 am <u>Kickoff Sunday</u>
 <u>Presentation</u> (Fellowship Hall)
 Take a glimpse into what will be offered this year for Children's
 Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation.
- Children grades PreK-6th Grade will meet their teachers and see their classrooms (10:15 AM)
- 11:00 am Contemp. Worship
- Commissioning of Teachers and Small Group Leaders (both services). We are always looking for Sunday education volunteers and would love to have you on the team. Please let Holly Asciutto know if you'd like to help out with children's Sunday School or Wes Allen or Paul Gordon if you're interested for adult education.
- Pew envelopes will be available
 Sept. 7 for celebrating the
 137th Birthday of the Church
 September 12 (see event page).
 Sept. 12 envelopes are also in offering boxes and on the online giving drop down.

New adult classes begin September 14

Adult Spiritual Formation will begin the year with a six-week study of the book of *Jonah, God's Reluctant Prophet,* beginning Sept. 14 and continuing through Sunday, Oct. 26 (with a break for Consecration Sunday October 12). This study will be led by Lissa Herman and Steve Shaffer.

- ⇒ On Kickoff Sunday September 7, learn more about what will be offered for the coming year.
- ⇒ The Jonah study will begin **Sunday, Sept. 14** from 10:10-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ The 2 to1 Couples Class is designed for young couples trying to navigate the challenges of marriage and parenthood through the lens of our Christian faith. Stop on in for fellowship and study (see page 2).

Register for all classes online.



Stocking the Blessing Box

Drop any donations for the <u>Blessing</u> <u>Box</u> on the table in the Commons Lobby. The box is being used by visitors in need <u>every</u> week by those facing food insecurity.

Happy 137th Birthday
First Presbyterian Church of
Moorestown
September 12, 2025

"I was hungry and you gave me food"

If you are interested in joining a team from FPC Moorestown to serve dinner at the Cathedral Kitchen for our friends who are food insecure, we'd love to have you! As a church we would commit to bringing five people to serve dinner from 2:30-5:30 pm one weekday evening a month. Given the complexities of people's schedules, a roster of 15-20 volunteers would insure we would be able to send a team of five each month. Please contact Karin Miller at (856) 298-3522 or karinbmiller49@gmail.com. learn more, check out Cathedral Kitchen at cathedralkitchen.org.



PW Fall Gathering Monday, September 15th

All women of the Church are encouraged to come to kick off the new year for Presbyterian Women. Enjoy delicious desserts and hear about what's planned for the upcoming year and a sneak preview of this year's PW study "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Event is free. Meets in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

- All women of the church and members of PW
- <u>Register today online</u> or through the Church Center app



Kickoff Sunday September 7: Kids, come meet your Sunday School teachers



REGISTRATION IS OPEN for 2025-2026 K-12 Fellowship Groups!

- Kingdom Kids (K-3rd)
- Crossing Zone (4th-6th)
- Middle School Youth Group (7th-8th)
- High School Youth Group (9th-12th)

Groups begin Wednesday, Sept. 17
Family Dinner begins Wednesday, Sept. 17
Sign up online and through the Church Center app

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

In that wonderful day when the Lord gives his people rest from sorrow and fear, from slavery and chains.

- Isaiah 14:3, NLT

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



So you ready to get slimed? 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. Wear clothes you don't care about. Questions? Contact Youth Committee chair Evan Dempster at evan.dempster@gmail.com or 215.264.3448. **Sign up online on our Church Center event page**.

Sunday School Leaders 2025-2026

We are always looking for Sunday education volunteers and would love to have you on the team for children's or adult programs. Classes begin **Sunday**, **Sept. 14**. Teachers and aides will be commissioned on Kickoff **Sunday Sept. 7**.

Bible Sunday is September 21st (please register by September 11th)

On Sunday, Sept. 21st, children entering third grade will be receiving their Bibles during worship as a gift from their church. Bible Sunday is a special day in the life of our young people. Bibles will be presented at both services. If you would like your third grader to receive a Bible, please sign up online or right through the Church Center app (Signups), or email Holly at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or Jean Marie at imhanna@fpcmoorestown.org. Please indicate:

- Child's name as you would like it to appear
- Which worship service the child/children will attend