



September 28, 2025 ~ 16th 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. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #1: Be Third

1. **BE THIRD.** God is first, others are second, and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, be interested in others. Don't think less of yourself, just think of yourself less and others more.

Ways Reflection

Rev. Spencer

I consider myself a Red Letter Christian, meaning that while I value all of Scripture, I pay special attention to the red-lettered words of Jesus Christ. To me, what He says about humility and service (John 13:14-15) are not mere suggestions but direct commands that shape how I live and serve. In my life, this looks like cheerfully showing up for God and others - even when I'm tired or honestly just don't feel like it - by doing things like literally serving people at Family Dinner, joining a committee, attending a meeting, or checking in on someone who's struggling despite my own busy schedule. When I approach these acts with Way #1 (BE THIRD) in mind, I do them as an act of worship (God FIRST) and as a way of sharing His love (Others SECOND), and I never regret the time spent.

— Cheryl Gaskill

Music in Preparation for Worship

Layla Joshi, Organ

Préambule from 24 Pièces en style libre (Op. 31)

Louis Vierne

* Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Kevin Fauvell

Come, people of God, gather around the table of grace.

We come with hearts ready for awe and wonder.

Come, you who hunger for belonging and simplicity.

We come seeking joy, gladness and generous hearts.

Come and remember the early church – they shared everything, broke bread together, and praised God with sincere joy.

continued

We come to learn again how to live in common purpose and Spirit-filled love.
The table is set. The Spirit is present.
Let us worship the Living God together – with open hands and open hearts.

* Prayer of Adoration

Elder Fauvell

* Hymn No. 40

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Fauvell

Generous God, you set a table and invite us in – but we confess that we are often too distracted, too protective, or too proud to sit down and share. We hoard what we have, fearing there won't be enough. We turn inward, seeking control instead of community. We cling to comfort, even when your Spirit call us into joy-filled sacrifice. Forgive us. Rekindle in us the awe of your presence. Restore in us the simplicity of grateful hearts. Teach us again how to be the Church – to share freely and generously, to worship sincerely, and to love deeply, as you have loved us. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Elder Fauvell

Friends, the good news of the gospel is this: Even when we close our hands and hearts, God opens the door wide. Even when we live by fear, the Spirit breathes peace.

God is still adding to the community. God is still drawing us together in grace.

In Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God – we are forgiven, freed, and made whole!

So step up to the plate – with joy, with awe, and with open hands.

Amen.

* Gloria Patri

Stewardship Moment

Jim Wiggans

Anthem

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

I Can Pray

Toni Sullivan

Junior Choir; Nicole Snodgrass, Director

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

Rev. Spencer

Offertory

Rev. Spencer



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Offertory Music

Shine on Me

Chapel Choir; Nicole Snodgrass, Director

Rachel Ferguson, Piano

Traditional Spiritual

Arr. Rollo Dilworth

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Wes Allen

"Bleeding Generosity"

Scripture: Acts 2: 43-47 (NRSV, Pew Bible NT p. 120)

Sermon Series: *Stepping up to Generosity*

* Hymn No. 556

Jesus Thy Boundless Love to Me

Music in Preparation for Service

Vikram Joshi, Harpsichord

Invention No. 6 (BWV 777) in E Major

J.S. Bach

* Benediction

Rev. Allen

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Worship flowers are given from Brian Alt to the glory of God and in joyful celebration of Carol Alt, in commemoration of their 30th wedding anniversary.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Kevin Fauvell; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Steve Shaffer, Sherrell Fitts, Bill Pettit; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Lori Bell; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Steve Drzaszcz and Josh Leonard; **Bagel Pickup:** Donna Leatherman or Sarah Dietz; **Coffee Hospitality:** Donna Leatherman and Sarah Dietz; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum and Ava Callahan

Ways Personal Reflections

September 28, 2025 – March 21, 2026

For this current Ways round, the fifteenth round of our culture statements, Pastors Spencer and Allen invite congregation members to write down how they are thankful for a particular Way. What Way has most impacted your life? Which Way are you most grateful for? Why? Does one speak to you?

Submissions are to be just a couple sentences and will be shared verbally in worship by the pastors and (if space permits) printed in the worship guides. Kids and youth are absolutely encouraged to take part! Please sign up on the [Church Center event page](#) for the personal reflection you wish to provide or contact Jan Martin at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org or 856.235.1688, x133.

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

TODAY: [Communion Workshop](#) -- Sunday, September 28 from 10:15-11:00 a.m. (Room 6) as we prepare for World/First Communion Sunday, **October 5**.

- [Membership Directory](#) -- We are making plans for a new pictorial church directory, produced in-house for convenience and simplicity. There will be three (3) opportunities for individuals and families to gather at the church for a portrait with a professional photographer: **Sunday, October 12 (Consecration Sunday):** 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; **Tuesday, October 14:** 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.; **Wednesday, October 15:** 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. [Please sign up on the Sign Up Genius link](#), or with the church off ice at (856) 235-1688.



On September 12, we celebrated the 137th anniversary of our church's founding on September 12, 1888. Watch your mail for a letter from Pastor Stuart and the Stewardship Committee. Birthday gifts to the [September 12 endowment](#) are welcomed online, through the Church Center app, in the offering plate or via U.S. mail.

- Are you interested in serving on the search team for our new **Youth Director**? Great! Contact Wes Allen.
- See event page and website for an update from Music Ministry Discernment Team

NEW "Hot Topics" (starts Oct. 15): This fall we invite you to join us for a 9-week Wednesday evening series engaging some of today's most pressing and polarizing issues — abortion, gender & sexuality, immigration, and gun violence. Each topic will receive two weeks of focus, allowing us to explore both varied perspectives. Class is led by Wes Allen. [Sign up online](#) or right through the Church Center app.

For the month of October, The [Grace Boutique](#) needs items to restock its shelves. If you can, please donate any of these items (place them in baskets by Grace Boutique door): baby diapers (size 4 or 5), baby wipes (packs), feminine hygiene (light or heavy pads), deodorant (for men), paper towel (rolls), men's athletic socks.

NEW: Fall Adult Study Starts Sept. 24: On Wednesday nights this fall, we will read, discuss and study 12-15 scriptures of the 16 Chapters that make up the *Didache*. These are scriptures that Jesus spoke and used before the Bible to instruct the apostles. [Sign up online](#). Enjoy Family Dinner first at 5:45 p.m. too (\$8.00 per person)



Concert News: The [Howard Gospel Choir](#) returns for a gospel concert **Friday, October 3 (7:00 PM)**. No tickets, free will offering will be received. Open to the community. *Volunteers are needed to help provide a dinner after the concert for the choir.* Please contact Jan Martin in the church office if you can help.

9:30 a.m. Worship: Sunday, October 12 (Consecration Sunday). Please plan now to attend a combined worship **Sunday, Oct. 12** as church members *Step up to the Plate*. You're encouraged to come in your favorite baseball attire that day! SEE YOUR MAIL for information and your **2026 Estimate of Giving card** as well as **2026 Capital Campaign Pledge Card**. We will gather for a Celebration Brunch to celebrate God's generosity; kindly bring the following dish to share: Last Name A-L: Main Dish; Last Name M-Q: Side Dish or Salad; Last Name R-T: Breads, Muffins, Rolls; Last Name U-Z: Dessert.

Consecration Sunday Prayer Vigil – Sign ups are open for a prayer vigil praying us into Consecration Sunday. Please sign up for your 30-minute slot online (see Church Center event page).

NEW: [Inquirers Class](#) for those interested in learning more about our church and possibly joining. This four-part class begins **Wed. Oct. 8**; reach out to Wes Allen at (856) 235-1688 if you're interested or [sign up online](#).