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

II: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

Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2025

Way of the Week 1: Be Third

(Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2025)

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.

Ideas for Action: Ask God, "Whom can I serve today?" Look for an opportunity to be last ... in line, the last to speak, or last to be served.

Ways Reflection: Cheryl Gaskill







Church Membership Directory Being Compiled

An updated Picture Directory is coming! We are making plans to produce a new church pictorial directory, published 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 Victoria Duffy, a professional photographer. Victoria will be here on the following days in order to capture the largest number of church families possible:

- ♦ 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 <u>Sign Up Genius link</u> OR in the Commons Lobby (laptop) OR with the church office at (856) 235-1688. Individuals may receive the raw digital file of their photo which they may download to their personal device in order to place their own orders for any prints desired. NO PHOTOS WILL BE PRINTED BY THE CHURCH.

We need YOU. Schedule a portrait session October 12, 14 or 15

Grace Boutique October

Throughout October, the Mission Committee is collecting select items to restock the shelves of the Grace Boutique. Please donate one or more if you can. Leave in the baskets outside the Grace Boutique. Traffic is increasing for this ministry which is changing lives. Items needed for October:

- baby diapers size 4 or 5
- Baby wipes (packs)
- Feminine hygiene (light or heavy pads)
- Men's deodorant
- Paper towel rolls
- Men's athletic socks

Fall Adult Study

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. <u>Sign up online</u>. Enjoy Family Dinner first at 5:45 p.m. too (\$8.00 per person). Jim Cole leads.

Sunday Morning Check Ins

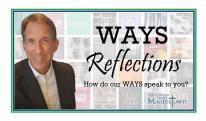
Each time you attend in person or watch on your device, **please check in** to register your attendance using the Church Center app or pew pads.

Happy Birthday, Church

In honor of the church's 137th birthday on **September 12**, members are invited to donate "a birthday gift" to the September 12 endowment fund. The September 12th Fund serves as a long-term endowment for our church and honors our founding date. Our gifts will provide stability for future generations.

Written Reflections: Which Way Speaks to You?

For the current round of our Ways culture statements, the pastors invite anyone from the congregation to submit why they are thankful for a particular Way. How has the Way impacted your life? Which Way are you most grateful for? Just write a few sentences to be shared by pastors in worship and printed in the worship guides. That's it. Kids and youth are absolutely encouraged to take part. Please sign up online for the personal reflection you wish to provide or contact Jan Martin at imartin@fpcmoorestown.org 856.235.1688, x133.



Saturday Breakfasts

The Prayer and Discipleship Committee invites you to a special event on the second Saturday of the month for a delicious breakfast with interesting guest speakers and teachers. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Breakfasts will be in Room 3-4 at 9:00 AM. Free will offering gratefully accepted to support this ministry. Contact: Pam Engle at 609.332.7513. Next Breakfast: Sat. October 11th; Rev. Mark Budka, guest speaker.

Stocking the Blessing Box

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

Couples Retreat Oct. 17-19

Join a Choir

Rehearsals are underway for K-12th grade choirs, bell choir, adult choir and praise band. Contact the church office for information on Primary Choir (K-1st Grade); Junior Choir (2nd-4th); Choristers (5th-8th); Chapel Choir (9th-12th); Adult Choir: Linda Lockart; Bell Choir: Kathy Gunsallus; Contemporary Praise Band: Wes Allen.



\$8.00 per person Venmo available too!

PW Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 15th

Watch for information for donating gently loved holiday décor, household items and more for this fundraiser for Presbyterian Women.

Pastor & Staff Appreciation Sunday, October 26th Bring cards to worship or write ones out at church

Parking Lot Improvements

This fall, areas of our parking lot will be resurfaced including paths connecting the cemetery, garage, kitchen area out to the staff parking lot. The project will include installing permanent speed bumps as well. Once the start date is determined, we will provide ample notice. Some operations may be affected including funerals, playground activities, trash pick up, etc. We hope to finish the project in a 3-4 day window.



Step up to the Plate: Consecration Sunday 2025

Please plan now to join with your church family October 12th for a combined **9:30 a.m.** service in the sanctuary.

- ♦ Sunday, October 12, 2025
- ♦ Combined Worship (sanctuary)
- SEE YOUR MAIL for a 2026 Estimate of Giving card AND 2026 Capital Fund pledge card. Bring to worship with you to dedicate to the Lord.
- We need everyone in the game, step up to the plate ...
- 12-Hour Prayer Vigil Sat. October 11 to pray us into Consecration Sunday — see online sign up on our event page/website
- Wear your favorite baseball team attire!
- Submit your Estimates ahead of time if you won't be with us

We will enjoy a Celebration Luncheon after the service as we connect and laugh with one another. Come out and play kickball for Team Stuart or Team Wes, or help youngsters with a fun craft. And the best part? THE FOOD! Please 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 or Rolls
- Last Name U-Z: Dessert

NEW: "Hot Topics" Series Starts October 15th

6:30–8:00 p.m. | Location: Room 8

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. Our aim is not to force agreement but to practice civil dialogue, faithful biblical engagement, and Reformed theological reflection. Short readings will be distributed ahead of time each week to prepare us for thoughtful conversation. Meets Oct. 15-Dec. 17 (off Thanksgiving week). Register online.

Jonah Sunday Class

Adult Spiritual Formation begins 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. **Register** for all classes online.

New: 2 to 1 Couples Class

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 (10:00-11:15 a.m.) and be led by Lorenzo and Kelly Eagles.

Howard University Gospel Choir Concert

Friday, October 3 (7:00 p.m.)

Non-perishable food being collected for the Moorestown Ministerium Food Pantry

Back by popular demand, the Howard University Gospel Choir returns for a choral performance on October 3. The entire community is invited to attend. Founded as the first collegiate gospel choir in the world, the Howard Gospel Choir (HGC) has earned a distinguished international reputation and is over 70 voices strong. Helpers needed to provide dinner for the choir following the concert; contact Jan Martin (856) 235-1688. Free Will Offering will be received (no tickets required). Our talented Contemporary Praise Band will open the evening.

Fall Inquirers' Class

Are you interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown and possibly joining the congregation? The Membership Committee invites you to attend its four-part Inquirers' Class, starting Oct. 8. This class is for those interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown and the Presbyterian Church as a whole., and is designed with busy schedules in mind. See event page and website for details. To REGISTER contact Wes Allen at wallen@fpcmoorestown.org, the Membership Committee or the church office at 856-235-1688.





Openings for acolytes to bring the Light of Christ into worship



Register for 2025-26 Fellowship Groups Kindergarten - 12th Grade

- Kingdom Kids (K-3rd, Wednesday 4:45-5:45 PM)
- Crossing Zone (4th-6th, Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM)
- Middle School Youth Group (7-8th, Wed. 6:30-8 PM)
- High School Youth Grp. (9-12th, Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM
- Family Dinner (Wednesdays 5:45-6:45 PM)

Sign up on the Church Center event page, website, and right 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

"Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth."

- 1 Timothy 6:6

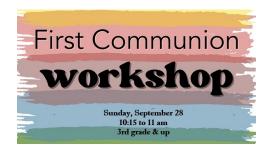
For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto

856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

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



Communion Workshop

Sunday, September 28 10:15-11:00 a.m. ~ Room 6

World/First Communion Sunday, October 5

(please register by Sept. 26)



Bible Presented to Third Graders

On **Sunday, Sept. 21st**, children entering third grade received their Bibles during worship as a gift from their church. Bible Sunday is a special day in the life of our young people. Recipients included Liev Celhar, Helena Drzaszcz, Miles Dugan, Theo Greenhow, Esme Hancox, Zain Krishnan, Steele Nutter, and Lincoln Wood. Congratulations!



Sign up for Children's Sunday School

Be a part of the K-12 Sunday School community. New class for middle school and high schoolers too!

Bike Rally Rescheduled

The Community Bike Rally scheduled for Friday, September 26 has been rescheduled until the spring.