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.

Step up to the plate



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 2025

Way of the Week 5: Assume Positive Intent

(October 26-November 1, 2025)

5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT. Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge — it doesn't help. Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.

Ideas for Action: Take a "criticism inventory." Just how critical are you, really? Ask someone you love and trust to tell you how you're doing in this area. Try a 24-hour fast from all forms of criticism. No complaining or criticism for an entire day.

Ways Reflection: Lissa Herman





Step Up to the Plate with Consecration Sunday Giving

If you haven't yet submitted your 2026 financial estimates, please complete your 2026 cards online, mail to the office or drop in the offering. Please note we must receive your Estimates of Giving before our 2026 Budget is finalized in the next week to allow us to include what you plan to give in the funding available to allocate to our programs for 2026 (including our Missions, Deacons, Youth and Music programs).

You may return the pledge cards in a number of ways:

- 1. drop in the offering plate
- 2. mail to the church office (P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057)
- 3. drop it by the church office during the week
- 4. submit your gifts online (see below)
- 5. call the church office with your verbal pledge(s)



Submit your giving estimates online at https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/consecration -sunday-2025/.

Pastor and Program Staff Appreciation October 26

Help celebrate the work of Rev. Stuart Spencer, Rev. Wes Allen, and our program staff, by sending them a note of appreciation sharing your gratitude for their ministry. Share kind words of support and recognition.

Music Focus Groups

Shape the future of our music ministry by participating in a Music Focus Group. Share your voice, insights, and experiences in a small group setting. The Discernment Team have hosted these gatherings to hear from you as we listen for the Spirit's direction. No sign up needed, just stop by. Final focus groups: Sunday, Oct. 26 at 10:15 a.m. and at 12:15 p.m. in Room 2.

⇒ See our Church Center event page to complete a brief <u>Con-gregational Survey</u> and suggestions for the future. We need your input!

Membership Directory

If you didn't have an opportunity to attend the three days of photo shoots for the church directory, you can submit a digital photo to webmaster Barbara Duffy bduffy@fpcmoorestown.org schedule a makeup to be taken by the staff, if needed. Contact 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.

Staying Connected

Have you noticed someone who has not been at church or its activities recently? The Membership Committee encourages you to reach out with a call or text and let them know they've been missed.

2026 Pulpit Flowers

Reservations are being taken now for 2026 Sunday flower donations. Two pedestal vases are available each Sunday. What better way to commemorate loved ones or special dates in your life. Contact Jan Martin in the church office.

Family Service Project Nov. 12 during Family Dinner (see page 4)

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. Sign up online. Enjoy Family Dinner first at 5:45 p.m. Series ends **Nov. 12**, Jim Cole leads.

Grace Boutique November Collections

For the month of November, The Grace Boutique is collecting select items to restock its shelves. If you can, please donate any of these items (place them in baskets by Grace Boutique door):

- feminine hygiene (light or heavy pads only)
- laundry detergent liquid (30 oz.)
- paper towel rolls
- socks for men or women

New Sermon Series

"Tell Me of Your Strength"
October 19-November 23, 2025

Pastors Spencer, Allen, and Kathy Eagles preach a six-part sermon series on the Apostles' Creed, "Tell Me of Your Strength." Using the text of this ancient creed, preachers explore the biblical underpinnings of this statement of faith.

Benefit Concert for Opioid Crisis Action Network

On **Sunday, Nov. 2** at 1:00 p.m. in Miller Commons, OCAN-RF will hold a fundraising concert, featuring recording artist George Kilby Jr. Proceeds support the Opioid Crisis Action Network Recovery Fund. There will be no tickets sold for the concert — a free will offering will be requested. Donations can also be made on the website: https://www.opioidcrisisactionnetwork.co m/donate. That morning, George Kilby will share his musical gifts in both worship services.

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.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, November 24

11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Miller Commons

NEW: "Hot Topics" Wednesday Series

6:30-8:00 p.m. | Room 8

You are invited to 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.



Change Clocks Sunday, Nov. 2

Join the Tech Team

Join our live stream tech team—paid positions available. We are looking for high school students and adults to join our live stream tech team. No experience? No problem. We provide full training. Contact Steve Drzaszcz at steve@gotsteve.com or the church office at 856-235-1688.

Remember to complete your 2025 Financial Pledge by year end. Thank you!



Operation Christmas Child

Boxes Available Oct. 26

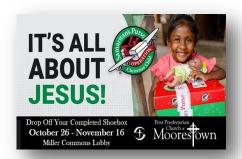
Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes.

Starting **Sunday, October 26**, shoe boxes will be available in the Commons Lobby. You are invited to:

- Take a box
- Choose a child (age & Male or Female)
- Fill the shoe box with school supplies, personal care items or toys.
- Pray for the child who will receive your box that they may be uplifted by the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

Be sure to read the instructions included in each box! Return your box by **Sunday, November 16** Kindly include a check for \$10 for shipping (you may also pay for shipping online, see instructions). Let's make a lasting impact, one box at a time.

For questions or information, please contact Mark Budka at missions@fpcmoorestown.org.



Women's Morning Prayer Event Saturday, November 22

Check Preparation Dates

Effective Oct. 15, the financial office will prepare church checks on Wednesdays (previously Thursday) unless previous arrangements have been made.

PW Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 15th

Donate your gently loved holiday décor, household goods, jewelry, accessories, kitchen items, gift items, sports gear and more for this Presbyterian Women fundraiser. Clean out those cupboards and drawers. Proceeds will support local ministries serving women and children in acute need. Drop off items in red boxes in Commons Lobby.

Tuesday, November 4 Election Day (Miller Commons)

High School Dress Swap

It's back! Dress Swap for Dance Assembly: **Wed. Nov. 12** (5-8 pm) in Commons Lobby and **Saturday, Nov. 15** from 10 am – 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Donate gently used dresses for high school students to swap and share. Contact <u>Jen Allen</u> at (609) 922-1277.

Prayer Breakfast Saturday, November 8th

Our speaker for November will be Dr. Curtis Miyamoto. He will speak on the role of prayer in medicine and evidence-based techniques for prayer. Sign up to attend on our Church Center event page. Prayer Breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM in Room 3-4. Contact: Pam Engle at 609.332.7513.



Sign up to be an acolyte for Sunday morning traditional worship

Youth Snacks Needed — Can You Help?

The Youth Ministry leadership team is seeking donations of individually packaged NUT FREE snacks. Cookies, chips, rice crispy treats, Tastykake type items, etc. as well as drinks (juice boxes, flavored sparking water (cans), 8-ounce water bottles). No "small piece snacks" (popcorn, goldfish, fruit snacks) or soda please.

Donations may be left outside the door to the Youth Office (across from the Lounge).

Save The Date: Advent Family Fun



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

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. (Romans 3: 22, NLT)

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto

856-235-1688, ×116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School:

Evan Dempster
215-264-3448 call/text
mybaseballboys@yahoo.com



⇒ **Date:** Wednesday, November 12

⇒ **Time:** 5:45 to 7:00 pm (during Family Dinner)

⇒ **Location:** Fellowship Hall

Please register by Monday, November 10th so we know we can count on you and determine amount of supplies needed for this project.

NEW: Family Service Project 'Tis the Season of Helping Others

JOIN US as we spend time together to practice kindness and giving by assembling sandwiches (nut-free) for donation to Cathedral Kitchen. Working together on this project brings families closer together and reminds us how even the smallest acts of kindness can deeply touch the lives of others during this heartfelt time of year.

For information on Cathedral Kitchen visit: https://cathedralkitchen.org/

Donations accepted to help cover cost of supplies

For questions contact Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or Jean Marie Hanna at jmhanna@fpcmoorestown.org.