



## December 7, 2025 ~ Second Sunday in Advent

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. Wes Allen

### Way of the Week #11: Make Others at Home Here

**11. MAKE OTHERS AT HOME HERE.** Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors. Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know after worship, during Coffee Hour, in Youth Group or Sunday school. Show a genuine interest in others.

### Ways Reflection

From Jan Martin

*I appreciate this way because it encourages us to look for someone we don't know very well. What a fantastic challenge. It is human nature to drift to those whom we know, but reaching out to a new face or visiting choir family can be pivotal to Grow The Kingdom. We were all visitors to FPC Moorestown at one time. How did you become involved? Who reached out to you? What brought you back? I am pleased to see so many members wearing their church nametags. This invites conversation. I watch both live streams almost every Sunday and love the greeting time in the contemporary service when members joyfully greet one another and really **connect** with visitors. It's often hard for the pastors to take the room back! So if you see a new face at a church event, please greet them and introduce yourself. Make others at home here.*

### Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

**Variations on "Picardy"**

Helman

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 2: Peace (purple)

**Lighters:** Greg and Erica Harr, Stella and Scarlett

### \* Call to Worship

## \* Hymn No. 136

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### ***On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry***

## Prayer of Confession (responsive)

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Elder Weber

We need you to speak to us, O God, because we have, each in our own way, forgotten your Law, forgotten your love for us. We are in need of your deliverance, because we have, too often, given ourselves to powers and practices that would destroy us. We are lost, in need of rescue.

*Silent Prayer, concluded with:*

**Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

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Elder Weber

The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new. Hear these words of assurance from Psalm 103:

**“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.”**

## \* Gloria Patri

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## \* The Apostles' Creed

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Hymnal Inside Front Cover

## Sharing with our Young Disciples

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Rev. Allen

## Anthem

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### ***Magnificat***

Adult Choir; Linda Lockart, Director

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

David Lockart

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

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Rev. Stuart Spencer

## Choral Prayer Response

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### ***All My Heart this Night Rejoices***

Adult Choir; Linda Lockart, Director

Ebeling

## Offertory

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***Throughout December, Christmas Offering envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church. 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

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

### *The People that Walked in Darkness (from "Messiah")*

Handel

Frank Mitchell, Bass

## \* Doxology No. 809

## Sermon

Rev. Leon Dorleans

### *"We Are Peace"*

**Scripture:** Luke 1: 67-80 (Pew Bible NT p. 58)

**Sermon Series:** *Becoming Advent*

## \* Hymn No. 277

### *The King Shall Come*

## Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

### *Savior of the Nations Come*

J.S. Bach

## \* Benediction

Rev. Spencer

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**Worship flowers** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the Season of Advent.

**We welcome Pastor Leon Dorleans to our pulpit** -- In 1989, Haiti Outreach Ministries Founding Director Leon Dorleans began preaching in Cite Soleil, one of the poorest slums in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on a narrow street under tarps with raw sewage running in a ditch directly alongside. Despite the destitute conditions, Pastor Leon's congregation grew as people responded to his preaching of the Word and his steadfast belief that God was with them in the face of extreme hardship. Pastor Leon's vision was to address the spiritual, educational, and healthcare needs of the residents of Cite Soleil.

## 9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

**Beadle:** Elder Ginny Weber; **Advent Candle Lighters:** The Harr Family; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Jack Terry, Kira Fauvell, Lorenzo Eagles; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Peg Pierce; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Laurie LaMonica and Josh Leonard; **Bagel Pickup:** Debbie Rebuck or Nancy Chumney; **Coffee Hospitality:** Debbie Rebuck and Nancy Chumney; **Nursery:** Chelsea Margerum and Ava Callahan

### REMINDER: [Manger Sunday is December 14](#)

In one of our church's special holiday traditions, members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts to worship on **Sunday, December 14** for our Manger Sunday presentation. The Deacons coordinate this ministry. In both services, members will place the unwrapped gifts in the manger while singing carols and hymns of the season. The Pastors will bless the gifts as an act of worship. Later that day, the Christmas gifts will be received by the team at [Oaks Integrated Care](#) for the Oaks clients to use as gifts for their own families.

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

**TODAY:** [The Longest Night service](#) provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety, or depression this holiday season who may not feel the joy or celebration seen in others. This event will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 7 at 4:00 p.m.** and includes communion, special music, and prayers. Wes Allen leads. All ages and faiths welcome.



**Family Advent Celebration: Gingerbread Bash** -- Family, friends, grandparents and children of all ages are invited to a hands-on holiday event to build something sweet and festive! We'll provide all the supplies—just bring your creativity. Children, bring your grown-ups! This is not a drop-off event. **Friday, Dec. 12 (6-8 PM, Fellowship Hall).** [REGISTER online](#) so we have enough supplies for everyone.

**Advent Family Activity Kit "Draw Close to the Light"** -- To help us prepare for Christmas families are invited to pick up our four-week family interactive devotional. Join your family once a week for 4 weeks to reflect on specific members of the Holy Family and what they can teach us during Advent. Pick up yours in the Commons Lobby.

**NEW:** [The Alternative Gift Market](#) will be available in person between services on **Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21.** Visit the table in Miller Commons Lobby and our [online event page](#). You may donate to the mission partner(s) of your choice through **Dec. 24.** For questions contact Mark Budka at [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:missions@fpcmoorestown.org).

**Calling Young Artists: Artwork for Christmas Eve Bulletins** -- Once again, we will showcase the artistic talents of our youth at FPC Moorestown on our four Christmas Eve worship guides. This year, we are asking for artwork that pictures Mary riding a donkey and Joseph. If your child would like to create a picture in this theme for our Christmas Eve bulletin covers, we would love to share it with our church family. Some basic guidelines: Make the colors bold, and when pictures are colored in, please make sure no white paper is showing through. Be creative! We cannot wait to see the talents of our youth. **Digital submissions are due to Holly Asciutto at [hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org) by Monday, December 15.**

**NEW!** The Emerson Christmas Toy drive is collecting **unwrapped** gifts for Camden children again this year. Look for the table in the Commons Lobby.

**Advent Candle Lighters** -- The Worship Team is looking for individuals for both 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services to light the Advent wreath **Dec. 14 and 21**, as well as four Christmas Eve services on **Wednesday, Dec. 24** at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Contact Worship Chair Kevin Fauvell at [kevindfauvell@gmail.com](mailto:kevindfauvell@gmail.com) or (609) 220-0177 to take part in this Advent worship experience.

**Steve & Chelsea Margerum Baby Shower** --- help Steve & Chelsea prepare to welcome their new son in January! See Church Center event page; they are registered at Amazon.com. Drop gifts off to the church office by **Dec. 14.**

**NEW: Fall Adult Education:** Five-week Sunday Advent series "On the Way to Bethlehem" runs **Nov. 30-Dec. 28** (meets AFTER worship on 12/28). Wednesday evening Advent series "Heaven and Earth" **Dec. 3, 10, 17 (6:30 PM).**

**Second Saturday Prayer Breakfast** on **Dec. 13 at 9:00-10:30 AM** -- Come and enjoy a Swedish breakfast (featuring waffles, pastries, fruit, eggs and all the trimmings). A surprise guest speaker from another century joining us! RSVP online so we can accurately plan. Children are welcome.

*Note: The Church is grateful to partner with the Police Department of the Township of Moorestown with its initiative to provide people of faith throughout the community the ability to worship without fear or intimidation. Officers will be visiting houses of worship of all faiths this holiday season and through Easter/Passover. We welcome our officers and appreciate their support to make God's house a sanctuary.*