

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
MAIL: P. O. Box 868  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[fpcmoorestown.org](http://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**

**11:00 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](http://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](mailto:jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org)  
856-235-1688, Ext. 133*

Are you receiving our Friday  
e-blast with announcements, Con-  
nections, and upcoming events? If  
not, contact the [church office](#).



# Connections **FPC** Moorestown

**First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown**

**Dec. 21-Jan. 3, 2026**

## Way of the Week 13:

### Open Doors for Others to Lead

(Dec. 21-27, 2025)



## Way of the Week 14:

### Grow Faith

(Dec. 28-Jan. 3, 2026)

### **13. OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS TO**

**LEAD.** Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring. Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not solely the future of our church but are vitally important for our *present*.

**Ideas for Action:** As you consider whatever it is that you do regularly here, keep a look out for a younger person or a new member to invite to join you in the task. If the job requires training or coaching, offer it. Look to let go and hand off.

**Ways Reflection:** Betty Schurmann

**14. GROW FAITH.** Take advantage of every chance you have to form your faith – through small groups, classes, and personal study. Be a disciple and look to learn from those who know more of the Bible and Christian life than you do, then look for opportunities to share what you've gained with someone else.

**Ideas for Action:** If you're not currently in a small group, contact the church office and ask for assistance in finding one. Ask for some time with someone whose faith you respect and pick their brains on their practices of faith formation.

**Ways Reflection:** Cole Legath

## **The Season of Advent Fourth Sunday in Advent: December 21**

- ♦ **Yes, you still have time!** [The Alternative Gift Market](#) will still be available in person between services on **December 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 **December 24**. For questions contact Missions Director Mark Budka at [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:missions@fpcmoorestown.org) or (856) 235-1688, x104.
- ♦ **Thank You!** Thank you to all those church members who lovingly donated gifts for Manger Sunday benefitting Oaks Integrated Care, and the Emerson Toy Drive supporting Your Food Shelf in Camden. Your generosity will make the holidays just a little brighter for area families in need.

### Christmas Schedule

#### **Tuesday, December 23**

Christmas Eve Eve Worship  
3:00 PM, 7:00 PM, outside

#### **Wednesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Worship (Sanc.)  
3:00 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 9:00 PM  
Candlelight Worship

#### **Thursday, December 25**

Christmas Day Worship 9:30 AM  
Dr. Jonathan Miller preaching

#### **Sunday, December 28**

Combined Worship 9:30 AM  
Dr. Mouris Yousef preaching

### Holiday Schedules

Please see *Connections* and the church calendar for holiday schedules for kids groups, youth groups, Family Dinner and choirs.

- ♦ Family Dinner, Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone ended Dec. 10, and are off for Winter Break, returning **January 28, 2026**.
- ♦ Sunday School ended Dec. 14 (snowed out) and returns January 4, 2026. There is no Sunday School or Nursery Care on Sunday, **Dec. 21** or **Dec. 28th**.
- ♦ There will be no Thursday Prayer Service on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.
- ♦ Middle School Youth Group returns **Wed. Jan. 7**. High School group returns **Sun. Jan. 11**.
- ♦ Please contact **choir leaders** for choir holiday schedules.

### 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.

### Delivering Poinsettias

Thank you to Deacons **Gail Sorin and Bobbi Voglesong** for coordinating the deacon drivers to deliver poinsettias to our less mobile parishioners. Thank you to **Fran Green** and **Stacy Schaffer** for arranging the poinsettias in the sanctuary and Miller Commons (just in time for the snow!) and to **Jean Marie Hanna** for managing the poinsettia dedications in the church office.

### Winter Adult Education

- ♦ "On the Way to Bethlehem" concludes **Dec. 28** (meets AFTER worship 12/28).
- ♦ Coming: Six-week series on the Book of Psalms; meets from **January 4-February 8** and led by a rotating team of teachers
- ♦ Sunday morning Lenten Study will begin **Feb. 15**, the week of Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18)

### 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. Each vase is \$50. Contact Jan Martin or [Rumi Sinunu](#) to order.

### 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.



### Mitten Tree

Have you stopped by the Mitten Tree in the Commons Lobby? It is decorated with handmade mittens, hats, scarves and other crafts from the talented members of our Knitting Network. Looking for a last-minute gift or stocking stuffer? We've got you covered. Donations received will be added to the funds received from the Nov. 15 Holiday Bazaar and will support Good Counsel Home and Dawn's Place, two Presbyterian Women missions. The tree will come down **Dec. 27**.

### Annual Reports are coming Watch for information

### Grace Boutique

For the month of December, the Grace Boutique is collecting select items to restock its shelves. If you can, please donate any of these items (place in baskets by Grace Boutique door): Dove Soap bars - original; Deodorant (men or women); Facial Tissue boxes; Feminine Hygiene (light or heavy pads only); Paper Towel rolls

### Property Team Note

Steve Margerum will be on paternity leave January 1-February 1, 2026. For property team issues during this time, please contact administrator Earl Gage at (856) 235-1688, x106.

### MLK Afternoon of Service

**Monday, January 19, 2026**

1:00-3:00 PM

FPC Moorestown

Five multigenerational activity stations to support Christian

Caring Center

[\(Register online\)](#)

### Year-End Giving Deadlines

THANK YOU for remembering the church in your year-end giving. Each and every gift makes a difference and allows our ministries to continue. Gifts over and above one's pledge may include stocks, Christmas Offering for the church, and General Budget Help donations.

Checks may be received in the *offering plate* up to **Sunday, December 28, 2025**. Checks must be postmarked by December 31 and [online donations](#) must be received by midnight December 31. Checks dated **December 31** can also be hand delivered to the church office until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31. For questions contact Norman Vandergrift (x112).

### Emerson Toy Drive

The Emerson Christmas Toy drive is collecting unwrapped gifts for Camden children again this year. Leave your gifts on the table in the Commons Lobby.

### **Remember to complete your 2025 Financial Pledge by December 31**

### **2025 Giving Statements**

Need to access your 2025 giving record to see where you are with your 2025 pledge? Giving history, pledge and statements may be viewed 24/7 from "Give" on the Church Center app. Statements are also available by contacting the church office at 856-235.1688. Copies of 2025 year-end statements will be mailed to members in January for tax purposes.

### **Be Alert:**

#### **Gift Card Reminder**

The end of the year is a popular time for scammers to come out in force soliciting individuals to purchase gift cards. A reminder that Pastor Stuart, Pastor Wes or any staff member will NEVER ask you to purchase gift cards for them. Beware of scammers (tip: check the email address, it's often fraudulent).

### **December 28th Worship**

December 28th will be a combined **9:30 am** worship service led by Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef, a longtime friend of FPC Moorestown. Adult education will meet AFTER worship. There is no children's Sunday School or nursery that week.

### **There will be no December Session Meeting**

### Join the Tech Team

DID YOU KNOW ... we live stream both worship services into homes every week? We have a critical need for audio and live stream operators and encourage high school students and adults to join our live stream tech team. We provide full training and support for this paid position. Contact Steve Draszcz at [steve@gotsteve.com](mailto:steve@gotsteve.com) or the church office at 856-235-1688. We want to continue providing this ministry.

### **Stocking the Blessing Box**

Drop any donations for the [Blessing Box](#) on the shelves in the Commons Lobby. The box is being used by visitors in need every week by those facing food insecurity.



*alternative gift market*

A COVENANT TRADITION  
IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PARTNERS

### **2026 Offering Envelopes**

Boxed offering envelopes for 2026 are now available in the Commons Lobby. Please pick up yours to save postage costs. Envelopes not picked up will be mailed in January. Questions? Contact Norman Vandergrift in the office (x112).

### **Holiday Office Hours**

*Church offices will be closed at 1:00 pm on Dec. 24 Christmas Eve and closed Dec. 25 and Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday. There will be limited office staff available the week of Dec. 29-Jan. 2; the office is closed January 1, 2026. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your FPC Moorestown staff.*

### **Preschool Registration**

Registration opens in January for Step by Step Preschool, a ministry of FPC Moorestown. We currently have space in all classes for the 2026-27 school year. Early registration for church members and current enrollees is January 5-15, 2026. Open registration for all others begins on January 20, 2026. Open House will be **Wed. January 21, 2026** from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Epiphany January 6, 2026





# FAMILY MINISTRY

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, friends!**



## Advent Family Activity Kit: "Draw Close to the Light"

To help us prepare for Christmas families are invited to pick up our interactive family 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.



**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

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5: 14, NLT)

For Families and Children:  
**Holly Asciutto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)  
  
Middle School and High School:  
**Evan Dempster**  
215-264-3448 call/text  
[mybaseballboys@yahoo.com](mailto:mybaseballboys@yahoo.com)

## Kingdom Kids & Crossing Zone Break

Last meetings of the year were Wednesday, December 10 for Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (grades 4-6). Groups are off for Winter Break and will return on **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**.

## Middle School and High School Youth Groups

Last meeting of the year for Middle School (grades 7-8) was December 17, and for High School Sunday, December 14 (grades 9-12). Middle School returns **Wed. January 7** (pizza served for dinner 1/7, 1/14, 1/21 until Family Dinner resumes Jan. 28.) High School Youth Group will return on **Sunday, January 11, 2026**.

## Congratulations Young Artists

This year's Christmas Eve worship guides feature beautiful artwork from **Liev Celhar** (age 9) and **Stella Harr** (age 11). Congratulations to these two talented artists.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to our incredible K-12 students*

## Holiday Schedule: Sunday School

Children's Sunday School ended Sunday, **Dec. 14** (snowed out). Classes will not meet Dec. 21 or Dec. 28; children may worship with their families. We will see you back on **January 4, 2026!**



**Register Online:**  
**MLK Afternoon of Service**  
**Monday, January 19, 2026**

**1:00-3:00 PM at FPC Moorestown**

Five multigenerational activity stations to support Christian Caring Center. Contact Mark Budka or [register online](#).