



February 22, 2026 ~ First Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion

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 & The Beatitudes

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #22: Rest and Reflect

- 22. REST AND REFLECT.** Make time in your week to step back from work, school, and stressful demands. Since Christ has freed us, we no longer have to be obsessively driven. Take a walk, play, nap, meet up with friends, share a meal, or just take some time in solitude.

Ways Reflection

From Rev. Kathy Eagles

I found out the hard way that in our fast-paced world it's hard to just stop. For weeks, maybe months, my "to do" lists were long and my time was short! I worked hard, but I simply couldn't do it all. One Sunday morning I was too exhausted—physically, mentally, or spiritually—to get out of bed. That morning, I said to God, "I give up." I was forced to hand over my responsibilities to others. I surrendered everything—my worries, my concerns, my "to do" lists—to God! It took time to recover but, I discovered God is God and I'm not—What a relief! God was more than able to carry me through. Whether you are involved in church activities or juggling everyday responsibilities, you need to stop and rest. Don't wait until you burn out. Take time to fix your eyes on Jesus. Receive his strength and peace by faith. Discover his joy is your strength.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days

Weber

Introit

Sawyer McNab, Piano

God is Very Near

H. Watlington

Help Our Lips To Praise Thee

John Harrell

We Are The Church (Soloist: Avery Gordon)

Avery/Marsh

Go Out and Tell the News

B. Crockett

Primary Choir; Carol Manion, Director

* Call to Worship

Elder Gayle Payne

O God, have mercy on us, we pray.

In your mercy, make us clean from our sins.

Wipe away every failing, every wrong, and make us new in your sight.

Restore us, deliver us, and re-create us, O Lord.

The mercy of the Lord is fresh every morning and as certain as every sunrise. Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 200

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Elder Payne

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Kyrie

Adult Choir; Linda Lockart, Director

Merbecke

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Elder Payne

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Let God's people agree and together say: **May it be so. Amen.**

* Gloria Patri

* The Apostles' Creed (inside cover of the hymnal)

Anthem

Adoremus Te

Adult Choir; Linda Lockart, Director

Palestrina

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

Rev. Wes Allen

Offertory

Offertory Music

O Taste and See

Adult Choir; Linda Lockart, Director

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

R. Vaughn Williams

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

“Come Die With Me”

Scripture: Mark 8: 31-38 (Pew Bible NT p. 44)

Sermon Series: The J-Curve: Dying and Living With Jesus

* Hymn No. 783 (verses 1-3)

Here, O My Lord I See You

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Spencer

The Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, we praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. He was tempted in every way we are, yet without sin. Having overcome temptation, Jesus is able to help us in our times of trial, and to give us strength to take up the cross and follow him. And so in joy we join our voices to those of the saints who sing these words forever:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

GROW THE KINGDOM! As we commit to growing God’s Kingdom, every member and friend of FPC Moorestown is invited into a covenant with four commitments: I will pray. I will invite. I will serve. I will give. Every member and friend is asked to commit to doing all four. For additional information including commitment forms: <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>.

* Hymn No. 783 (verses 4-5)

Here, O My Lord I See You

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

O Innocent Lamb O God

Marcel Dupré

* Benediction

Rev. Spencer

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Worship flowers have been given by Jane Murphy in loving memory of her mother Ruth Fisher.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Gayle Payne; **Communion Elders:** Evan Dempster, Kevin Fauvell, Jean Kunkel, Melody Ransom, Gayle Payne; Steve Shaffer; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Steve Shaffer, Gail Sorin, Bill Pettit; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Mike Ramage; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Jane Murphy; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Mike Welch and Dave Barr; **Bagel Pickup:** Kathy McIlroy or Carol Wiggans; **Coffee Hospitality:** Kathy McIlroy and Carol Wiggans; **Nursery:** Ava Gandy-Callahan.

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

Lent Small Group Study: See [Church Center event page](#) and Wes Allen for information about our [church-wide Lenten Study](#) on the J-Curve by Paul Miller. The apostle Paul traces a pattern of dying and rising with Jesus which, like the letter "J", goes down into death and then up into resurrection. The J-Curve is so encouraging, so liberating, that once you see it, you can't unsee it! Questions, contact Wes Allen.

NEW! Prayer Bead kits for Repentance and the Seven Deadly Sins are available in the Commons Lobby. See our Lent Page on our website fpcmoorestown.org and our [Church Center Event Page](#).

NEW! Lent kits will be available for families to use as a devotional during the Lenten season. Pick up in Commons Lobby beginning Feb. 22.

FOR LENT! Centering Prayer Group, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Pastor Spencer's Study. Come and join a group of friends who are learning the contemplative practice of Centering Prayer. For more information, see the Event page: <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2242553>

Youth Mission Day at UrbanPromise, Camden - March 7, 2026, 8:30 am - 1 pm -- Join a group of youth (7th grade +) and adults from FPC Moorestown for a hands-on Mission Day. Meet in the church parking lot at 7:45 am to carpool. This half-day experience gives youth the opportunity to practice their faith by serving alongside friends, other youth groups, and caring adults. Sign up on our Church Center Event Page. The \$15 per youth sacrificial offering covers lunch and supports UrbanPromise's youth-serving programs. (Bring offering with you that day.)

Adult Spiritual Formation: Sunday, February 15-April 12 will feature "The Texts Behind The Messiah, Handel's Masterpiece" led by our teaching team. Meets 10:15-11:00 AM Sundays, Fellowship Hall

[Per Capita Contribution](#) -- The month of February is the season for Per Capita. Your Stewardship Committee reminds you to cover your share of \$40.00 for every member on the rolls. Check your email for a letter from your stewardship team about [2026 per capita payments](#) or instructions to "opt out," both due by **February 28**.

Friday, February 27 joint leadership meeting ~ 6:00 p.m. for Elders, Deacons, Trustees and Program Staff; see your January 13th email for covered dish to bring (Session: Main Dish; Deacons: Salad or Side Vegetable Dish; Trustees: Dessert); please [RSVP online](#) or with Jan Martin by Feb. 20. Speaker: John Kyle, Fellows Institute

NEW! Sweet Treats for a Good Cause -- Support the Youth Mission trip to Logan, West Virginia by purchasing Hope Chocolates. Place your order from March 1-19 on a Sunday at the table in the Commons Lobby. Pickup for all Hope Chocolate orders is **Sunday, March 29**.

[Mini Retreat](#): Save the Date for a J-Curve Mini Retreat **March 13-14** at church: Friday, March 13 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Miller Commons, snacks and bottled water provided. Saturday, March 14 (with breakfast) - 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., guest Keith Grant from The J-Curve. This event replaces the March Prayer Breakfast.

Copies of 2025 year-end statements have been [e-mailed](#) to members in February for tax purposes. View your 2025 giving record, pledge and statement 24/7 in the Church Center app (see "Give" tab). If needed, statements are also available by contacting the church office at 856-235.1688.

[One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks](#) – As is tradition, the fish-shaped coin banks for One Great Hour of Sharing will be distributed in children's Sunday School during Lent and collected on Palm **Sunday March 29**. See *Connections* for information or Holly Ascitutto.