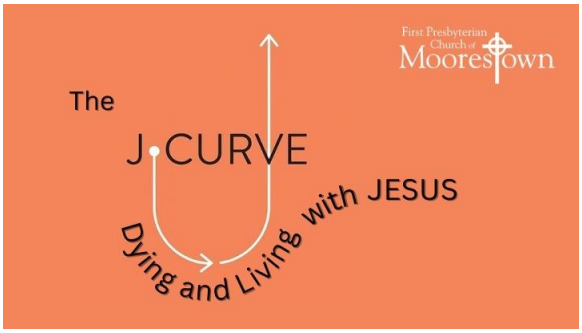
First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

101 Bridgeboro Road ● P.O. Box 868 ● Moorestown, NJ 08057
856.235.1688 ● fpcmoorestown.org
Rev. Stuart Spencer, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Wes Allen, Associate Pastor



March 1, 2026 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

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. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #23: Worship With Your Whole Heart

23. WORSHIP WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART. Your life is meant to be an act of worship. Every breath, action, and thought flows from God and can bring him glory. Praise God everywhere and embrace the opportunities to regularly worship with your church family.

Ways Reflection — From Melody Harper Ransom

This scripture is a lovely reminder to me to praise God everywhere and to embrace the opportunities to regularly worship and express it with our family, neighbors, friends, church family, Sunday School, and also with friends we haven't met yet. In our Sunday School classes this year the theme is "Wonder" to take time to wonder at all that God has given us. We call them "God Sightings" Remember and recall how to believe like a child with wonder each day. Live in gratitude. Praise reminds us of the endless things that God has done for us and continues to do for use each and every day. We can praise God in so many ways-through volunteering, being thankful for answered prayers, praising Him during our commutes, while running errands, or waiting in lines. It refreshes, renews and re-centers us. We can pray, sing, journal, write, read or ponder scripture, confess or just give thanks... Praise God in the storm not just in the sunshine. Dear friends Luke 8:39 tells us "Now go back to your family and tell them everything God has done for you"... Let's do just that!

Music in Preparation for Worship — Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

My Faith Looks Up to Thee — Osterland

* Call to Worship (Responsive) — Elder Kristen Perkowski

When thrones tremble and empires fall,
Christ remains unshaken.
When our loves are disordered and our hearts divided,

continued

Christ calls us back to life.
Come, let us follow the Lamb who walk through suffering into resurrection.
We worship the One whose kingdom cannot be destroyed.

* Prayer of Adoration — Elder Perkowski

* Hymn No. 349

I Love you Lord, My Strength, My Rock

Prayer of Confession (responsive) — Elder Perkowski

Merciful God, we confess that we have loved lesser things than You. We have sought security in power, identity in success, and comfort in control. We have curved inward upon ourselves, protecting our pride and ignoring the suffering of others. We have been quick to condemn and slow to examine our own hearts. Forgive us for the idols we defend and truths we resist. Break what must be broken in us, so that we may live. Reorder our loves, that Christ alone may be our life. Amen.

Kyrie

Choristers; Linda Lockart, Director — Merbecke

Assurance of Pardon — Elder Perkowski

* Gloria Patri

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

Anthem

Forty Days and Forty Nights — Bedford

Junior Choir; Barbara Fletcher and Peg Pierce, Tone Chimes; Carol Manion, Piano; Kathy Gunsallus, Director

Sharing with Our Young Disciples — Holly Asciutto

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts') — Rev. Allen

Offertory

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, Piano

Prayer for the Children — Althouse

Choristers; Linda Lockart, Director

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon — Rev. Wes Allen

"The Ashes of Empire"

Scripture: Philippians 1: 12-26 (Pew Bible NT p. 196)

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

* Hymn No. 594

Like a River Glorious

Music in Preparation for Service — Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

In God My Faithful God — Hanff

* Benediction — Rev. Allen

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Worship flowers have been given by Orsula and Cal Knowlton to the glory of God and in loving memory of Orsula's dad John Voltis.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Kristen Perkowski; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Michael Boone **Ushers:** John Milller, Patrick McIlroy, Steve Emerson; **Flower Arrangers:** Karin Miller and Rumi Sinunu; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Barbara Lewis; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Audrey Drummonds and Sharon Budka; **Bagel Pickup:** Kelly Eagles or Freh Budka; **Coffee Hospitality:** Kelly Eagles and Freh Budka; **Nursery:** Ava Gandy-Callahan.

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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 are available for families to use as a devotional during the Lenten season. Pick up yours today in Commons Lobby. One per family please.

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. Sign up on our Church Center Event Page. The $15 per youth sacrificial offering covers lunch for the day and supports UrbanPromise's youth-serving programs. (Bring with you that day.)

Adult Spiritual Formation: Sunday, February 15-April 12 we 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 **Feb. 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, $20 per person, please bring a breakfast item. 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* or Holly Asciutto for information.