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

August 30, 2026 ~ Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
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.*

Music in Preparation for Worship — Frank Bridge

Adagio in E Major, H.63 — Sean Baker, Organ

Frank Bridge's Adagio in E begins with one singular idea that gradually blooms into a full creation. As we prepare to reflect and sing about how we—as the created—glorify our Creator and all He's done, allow the rich harmonies and sonorities to remind us of how beautiful God's creation is.

Welcome & Work of God's People — Rev. Stuart Spencer

* Call to Worship — Lauren Fittipaldi, Director of Youth and Worship Arts

The powerful voice of God gathers us this day;
The warmth of God brings us together as one people.
So we come, with joy and sorrow in our hearts,
With acts mighty and faltering,
With kindness and with selfishness,
With doubt and with faith:
So may we bring the fullness of our lives to God.
Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Let us worship God!

* Prayer of Adoration

* Hymn No. 379 — *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (unison) — Elder Jenny Legath

Loving God, when we have wandered, and when we are lost, we humbly ask that you would find us and help us find our way home. When we cannot quench our thirst, when we want that which is harmful to ourselves or others, satisfy us this morning with your love and grace. When we need forgiveness, shower us with your unending mercy. Receive this prayer, and the silent prayers of our hearts, as we pray together, and in agreement, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Silence for our personal prayers of confession

Assurance of Pardon — Elder Legath

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

We will trust and not doubt this good news. Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

* Gloria Patri No. 805

* Apostles' Creed (inside cover of blue hymnal) — Elder Legath

Sharing with our Young Disciples — Holly Ascuitto, Director of Family & Children's Ministries

Anthem — ***Every Valley*** — John Ness Beck

Lilly Rykaczewski, Soprano — Sean Baker, Piano

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

Way of the Week #24: Tell Your Story

24. **TELL YOUR STORY.** God has done and is doing something unique in your life. Has God answered a prayer, provided help, or blessed you? Share it. Ask God for opportunities to share your faith in Christ by words and deeds.

The Way of the Week With Help from Gemini

Suggested Action Step: This week, post a picture of FPC Moorestown or yourself, or you in front of the church and share a specific way God has blessed you or carried you through a tough season. Use #tellyourstory, #fpcmoorestown, #fpc, #FPChallenge and tag the church's Facebook page.

Offertory — Rev. Allen

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! Mail offerings to P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

Offertory Music — ***Intermezzo in B-flat minor, Op. 117 No. 2*** — Johannes Brahms

Sean Baker, Piano

Nearing the end of his life, Johannes Brahms composed a set of three Intermezzi during a peaceful summer stay in Austria. He described these works as "lullabies of my grief", with this particular work inviting its listeners to cherish life amidst grief and sorrow.

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon — Rev. Stuart Spencer

"One in Four"

Scripture: Mark 4 : 1-12 (Pew Bible NT page 38)
Sermon Series: Soil Test

* Hymn No. 384 — *This Is My Father's World*

* Benediction and Going Forth — Rev. Spencer

Music in Preparation for Service — Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Now Thank We All Our God, Op.65 No. 59 — Sean Baker, Organ

Sigfrid Karg-Elert's rendition of the German hymn "Nun danket alle Gott" is an improvised chorale, triumphantly declaring our gratitude to God as the hymn states "with heart, hand, and voices,". As we prepare to serve, allow the music to charge you with joy, confidence and gratitude to our Lord for His Creation and the life we have in Him.

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Portions of this morning's liturgy by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

Worship flowers are given to the glory of God.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Jenny Legath; **Audio Technicians:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician**: Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Joe Molloy, Barry Leatherman, Leonard Fitts; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Doris Kahley; **Welcome Center Greeter:** Deacon Steve Emerson; **Bagel Pick Up:** Jim and Carol Wiggans; **Coffee Hospitality**: Jim and Carol Wiggans; **Nursery Care:** Ava Gandy-Callahan and Freh Budka

DID YOU KNOW … Volunteer chaplain aides are needed throughout the Virtua Health System in Burlington and Camden Counties. There are openings for trained lay visitors every day of the week. Following a training and orientation process, an Aide may donate two to four hours each week to visit patients, offering them compassion and spiritual comfort. To find out if volunteering is for you, please call or email for information from one of our chaplains at the hospital location where you are interested in volunteering. An information packet with details of the training will be given to you at an in-person meeting with a chaplain. For more information about volunteering at Virtua Mt. Holly and Willingboro contact Chaplain Vernon Nyanglu at 609-914-6365 or vnyanglu@virtua.org and for Virtua Voorhees and Virtua Marlton, please contact Chaplain Janet Doyle or email jdoyle3@virtua.org. Our own Nancy Burkley was a Virtua chaplain aide for many years and "loved it." If anyone has questions or wants to learn more, she's glad to talk with you.

Kickoff Sunday: Sunday, September 13 -- We begin another active program year with a busy, joyful Kickoff Sunday featuring two distinct worship services, Meet Your Teachers, Education Preview 2026-27, Teacher Commissioning at both services, and celebrating the 138th Birthday of the Church (September 12). That afternoon it's "slime time" for the middle school and high school youth groups with Crud Wars from 1-3 PM (grades 7-12). That night returning and newly interested choir members gather for the Choir Social and Potluck at 6:00 PM. Be here as we kick off another great year!

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

TODAY: Happy 5th Anniversary to Pastor Wes Allen! August 30th marks his fifth year serving as our Associate Pastor.

NEXT WEEK: We will have a Blended Worship on **Sunday, Sept. 6** (Labor Day weekend, 9:30 a.m.).

Choir Social Sept. 13 (6:00 PM, Miller Commons) -- Returning choir members AND anyone interested in joining one of our 6 choirs, are invited to our **Choir Social!** We're kicking off our first week of rehearsals (Sept. 13-17), with a festive Potluck Dinner. Spencer Domer will share about the concerts/special events planned for the 2026-27 season. Please sign up for your dish when you register on the Church Center event page. Can't wait to see you!

"When The Night is Long" -- September 11 Remembrance Service, will be held on **Friday, Sept. 11** at 7:00 PM (Sanctuary). Commemorate the 25th anniversary of one of the most tragic days in United States history. Music will be led by famed trumpeter Christopher Michael Stevens and Spencer Domer. Stevens is a Grammy-nominated songwriter, performer, and arranger, who has regularly performed on some of the largest stages in music including John Legend, Diana Ross, and many more. We hope you will join us for this special Jazz Tenebrae service of remembrance.

Second Saturday Prayer Breakfast returns Sept. 12 – speaker Rev. John Doll (9:00 am, Room 3-4. RSVP please.

CREDO Confirmation Class -- Our Confirmation Class is designed to encourage our young people to explore their faith and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and also an active participant in the work of the Church. Confirmation is open to high school students in grades 9-12. Sign up on our Church Center event page. Led by youth director Lauren Fittipaldi.

Parents: Sign your child(ren) up for K-12 youth groups! We're eagerly looking forward to our time together. The first events begin **Wednesday, Sept. 16**). See below.

- **Town Hall September 16** – All are invited to a Town Hall Meeting **Wednesday, Sept. 16** at 6:30 PM to learn about the FPC Fellows Initiative and ways members can help. Family Dinner 5:45-6:30 pm ($8.00 per person). Children's event at 6:30 pm. Middle School Youth Group (Grades 7-8) begins at 6:30 pm.

Ways Round 17 Begins Sept. 13 -- For our next round of the Ways of the Week, we will be referencing the wisdom of great Christian thinkers and writers. Using these fitting quotes from *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* (see Hebrews 12: 1, 2), we hope you are encouraged to put the Way of the Week into practice. The Ways are clearly rooted in Scripture, and Christian writers seem to underscore what these culture statements urge us to do.

Happy Birthday, Church -- In honor of the church's 138th birthday on September 12, members are invited to donate to our future by giving thoughtfully to the September 12 endowment fund. The fund is invested to earn income which helps to support the needs of our church. We will celebrate our Church's birthday on Kickoff Sunday September 13. Watch your mail for a letter from Pastor Spencer and the Stewardship team.

NEW: Blessing of the Animals – Saturday, Oct. 3 (3:00 PM) -- Members, friends, and the community are invited to a *Blessing of the Animals.* Bring your furry, feathered or four-legged friends to an outdoor service celebrating God's creation including scripture, prayer, a brief message and individual blessings for the animals. Dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, rabbits and other companion animals are welcome. Afterwards stay for refreshments and fellowship. This is a collaboration between the Prayer and Discipleship Committee and Membership Committee. Donations of cat or dog food will be collected for the Animal Welfare Association, South Jersey's oldest and largest no-kill shelter. **Please register online.** Everyone is welcome — even if you don't have a pet!