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

September 6, 2026 ~ Holy Communion; Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
9:30 a.m. Combined 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 — Johann Sebastian Bach

Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier (Blessed Jesus, We are Here) — Sean Baker, Organ

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

* Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 55) — Rev. Spencer

Let us prepare to worship God. Hear this, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters and you who have no money, come, gain and eat!

Wonderful God, you are our God, early will we seek you. Our spirits thirst for you, our minds long for you because your love is better than life itself, our lips will sing your praise!

Come, Church, and let us worship God!

* Prayer of Adoration — Rev. Spencer

* Hymn No. 383 — *For Beauty of Meadows*

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (unison) — Elder Melody Ransom

O Lord, save us from hardness of heart, because your word cannot take root. O Lord, save us from shallowness of mind, where your word withers away. O Lord, save us from the deceitfulness of riches, where your word is choked by everyday cares. O Lord, grant that our hearts may be fertile soil, where your word flourishes and yields a harvest, bringing salvation to ourselves and those about us. Amen.

Silence for our personal prayers of confession

Assurance of Pardon — Elder Ransom

Hear the good news! To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's Word of grace:

We are loved, we are forgiven, and we are accepted by God. This gift we have from God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Gloria Patri No. 805

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

Ordination and Installation of Trustee Kevin Friel — Rev. Spencer, Elder Ransom

1. Do we, the members of the church, accept this Trustee chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

2. Do we agree to encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

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

Way of the Week #25: Rejoice Always — Rev. Mark Budka, Director of Outreach

25. REJOICE ALWAYS. The Kingdom of God is a party! Let healthy laughter fill our meetings, our meals, and even our worship. Let the joy of our faith be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces.

The Way of the Week With Help from Gemini

Suggested Action Step: The "Joy Minute" or Celebration Sharing: At the close of worship this morning, or in the next few days, take 2-3 minutes to share with a neighbor or friend one specific thing that brought you pure joy from the past week.

Offertory — Rev. Budka

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 — ***Priére, Op. 158*** — Camille Saint-Saëns

Shelby Camp, Cello — Sean Baker, Piano

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon — Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Not Interested"

Scripture: Mark 4: 3-9, 15 (Pew Bible NT page 38)
Sermon Series: Soil Test

* Hymn No. 609 (vv. 1, 2) *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

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.**

Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful…these you deserve, Lord God. For when we were nothing, you made us something. When we had no name, no faith, and no future, you called us your children. When we lost our way or turn away, you did not abandon us. When we came back to you, your arms opened wide in welcome. And look, you prepare a table for offering not just bread, not just wine, but your very self so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed and made new again. You are worth all our pain and all our praise. So now, in gratitude we join our voices to those of the Church on earth and in heaven, saying:

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. 609 (v. 3) *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Time of Reflection and Prayer (seated) — Johann Sebastian Bach

Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier (Blessed Jesus, We are Here) — Sean Baker, Organ

You are invited to come forward to receive prayer as you are led

* Benediction and Going Forth — Rev. Spencer

If you must leave, please do so with reverence and respect as congregants pray and prepare their hearts to serve.

Music in Preparation for Service — Johann Sebastian Bach

Fugue in G Minor (BWV 578) — Sean Baker, Organ

Worship flowers are given to the glory of God.

9:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Melody Harper Ransom; **Communion Elders:** Cal Knowlton, Jim Cole, Melody Harper Ransom, Steve Shaffer; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician**: Jonathan Nawrock; **Ushers:** Jack Terry, Kira Fauvell, Steve Shaffer; **Flower Arrangers:** Karin Miller and Carol Morgan; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Liz Drzaszcz; **Welcome Center Greeter:** Deacon Jenny Revucky; **Bagel Pick Up:** Kathy McIlroy or Bob Plant; **Coffee Hospitality**: Kathy McIlroy and Bob Plant; **Nursery Care:** Ava Gandy-Callahan and Freh Budka

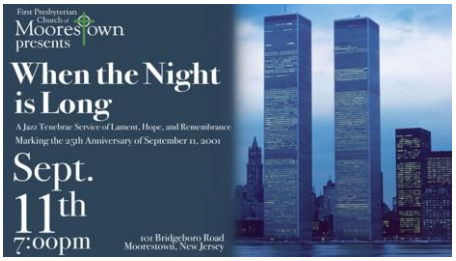
Work of God's People (See *Connections*, eblast, website and Church Center app for details)

NEXT WEEK: 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. Sign up for your dish when you register on the Church Center event page. Can't wait to see you!

Parents: Sign your child(ren) up for weekly 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 Program 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.

We Remember … September 11 Remembrance Service honoring the 25th Anniversary of one of the most tragic days in U.S. history, will be held on **Friday, Sept. 11** at 7:00 PM (Sanctuary). Share in this Jazz Tenebrae Service which includes Communion. The music for this service is led by famed trumpeter Christopher Michael Stevens and our Director of Music, Spencer Domer. Stevens is a Grammy-nominated songwriter, performer, and arranger, who has regularly performed on some of the largest stages in music. Between touring with John Legend, recording with Diana Ross, and many more, Stevens is a wonderful talent to include in our worship at FPC Moorestown.



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.

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. That afternoon it's "slime time" for middle school and high school youth groups with Crud Wars from 1-3 PM (grades 7-12). That night returning and interested choir members gather for the Choir Social and Potluck at 6:00 PM. What would you like to try this year?

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, 2026, members are invited to donate to the future of our church 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.

CONCERT: Keys x 3 Concert featuring Sean Baker (Organ and Piano), Layla Joshi (Organ) and Vikram Joshi (Harpsichord). Don't miss this! **Friday, Sept. 25** at 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary). See our event page.