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 27, 2026 ~ Eighteenth 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 — Johannes Brahms

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, Op. 122 No. 5 — Sean Baker, organ

During a period of grief and self-reflection, Brahms' final opus was a set of chorale preludes for organ. Deeply inspired by Bach's work on the genre, Brahms sets the text of this chorale which translates as a call to worship to adorn or prepare your spirit with joy.

Welcome & Work of God's People — Rev. Wes Allen

* Call to Worship — Ms. Lauren Fittipaldi

God gathers us in love and speaks a word of life.
Open our hearts, O God, to hear your word.
Christ invites us to receive his grace and follow his way.
Give us deep roots and courage to grow.
The Holy Spirit works among us, bringing forth a harvest of love.
May our lives bear fruit in generosity, mercy, and faithful service. Let us worship God!

* Prayer of Adoration — Ms. Fittipaldi

* Hymn No. 45 — *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing*

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (unison) — Elder Kevin Fauvell

Gracious God, you sow your word among us with love. We confess that we often resist its growth. We hear your call to love our neighbors, yet turn away when their needs interrupt our plans. We welcome your promises, yet hesitate when following Jesus becomes costly. Our worries, possessions, and desire to be right crowd out room for your truth. Forgive us, Lord. Soften what has become hardened. Deepen what

has remained shallow. Free us from the desires that keep us from loving you and one another. By your Spirit, help us receive your word and bear fruit in lives of compassion, generosity, and faithful service. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Silence for our personal prayers of confession

Assurance of Pardon — Elder Fauvell

Hear the Good News: Jesus Christ gave himself for us and rose to bring us new life. God's mercy meets us in our failure, and God's grace opens the way for us to grow. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! By the Holy Spirit, may our lives bear the fruit of Christ's love. Amen.

* Gloria Patri No. 805

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

Sharing with our Young Disciples — Ms. Holly Asciutto

Anthem — Martin Shaw

With a Voice of Singing — Sean Baker, organ
Adult Choir; Spencer Domer, Director

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

Way of the Week #3: Listen Generously — Rev. Spencer

LISTEN GENEROUSLY. Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention. Minimize the distractions and let go of the need to agree or disagree. Suspend your judgment and be curious to know more rather than jumping to conclusions. Above all, listen to understand.

The Way of the Week With Help from The Great Cloud of Witnesses (TGCW):

Encouragement from TGCW: *"Listening can be a greater service than speaking. Many people are looking for an ear that will listen. They do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking when they should be listening." - Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)*

Offertory — Rev. Spencer

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. ***Special envelopes for the September 12 Fund celebrating our church's 138th Birthday are available in both worship spaces. Online giving is also available (see Sept. 12 Fund drop down).***

Offertory Music — Traditional Spiritual

Over My Head
Frank Mitchell, Bass and Spencer Domer, Piano

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon — Rev. Wes Allen

"Room To Grow"

Scripture: Mark 4: 3-9, 20 (Pew Bible NT page 38)

Sermon Series: Soil Test

* Hymn No. 2 — *Holy, Holy, Holy*

* Benediction and Going Forth — Rev. Allen

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 — John Rutter

Toccata in Seven — Sean Baker, organ

This jubilant voluntary for organ is a unique, contemporary spin on the form of the toccata. Composed in 7/8, Rutter combines modal shifts and the irregular meter to create a fresh, joyful, and exciting piece that sends us out with a joy to serve others.

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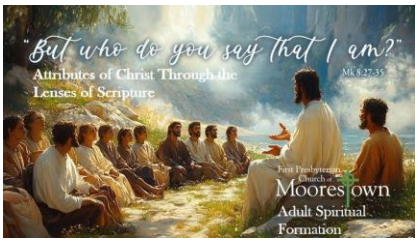
Worship flowers are given by Bob Plant to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rita Plant.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Kevin Fauvell; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician**: Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** John Miller, Patrick McIroy, Steve Emerson; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall, Sally Bishop and Audrey Shinn; **Trustee Greeter:** John Miller; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Philip Jagiela; **Welcome Center Greeter:** Deacon Laurie LaMonica; **Bagel Pick Up:** Donna Leatherman or Carol Wiggans; **Coffee Hospitality**: Donna Leatherman and Carol Wiggans; **Nursery Care:** Freh Budka, Ava Gandy-Callahan, and Chelsea Margerum

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

TODAY: Communion Workshop **(3rd Grade and up) -- Sunday, September 27** (10:15-11:00 a.m.), Room 6. First Communion will be held on October 4, World Communion Sunday.



NEW: Gather on Sunday mornings this fall for our new Adult Spiritual Formation Class: **Who Do You Say That I Am?** Participants will study the attributes of Christ that impact His followers, and view these characteristics through the lenses of Scripture and "The Chosen" series. Meets 10:15-11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. Led by a rotating team of teachers.

NEW: Starting Sept. 23: This interesting six-week Wednesday evening class **"Faith, Freedom and Conscience"** explores these elements through the ideas taught by John Witherspoon, the Presbyterian minister, educator and president of the College of New Jersey - now Princeton University. Witherspoon influenced generations of pastors, educators, judges, and public leaders during America's founding era. Please sign up online.

Parents: Sign your child(ren) up for weekly K-12 youth groups! We're eagerly looking forward to our year together. Middle School youth group began Sept. 16 and High School Youth Group began Sept. 20. Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone begin Wednesday, Sept 23.

NEW: Please pick up a copy of the September 2026 Music Newsletter in the narthex, Miller Commons or Commons Lobby and electronically on the Friday eblast and church Facebook page.

Come for Family Dinner -- Gather with new and old friends Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45 p.m. in Miller Commons for a delicious catered buffet and time of fellowship. All ages welcome. Donation: $8 per person or $25 per family. Place your donation in the donation box or simply scan the QR code found on the table to easily pay via Venmo. We hope to see you Wednesdays! ***See sign up link on our Church Center event page to help setup/cleanup and support this ministry.***

Inquirers Class -- Are you interested in learning more about our church and possibly joining the congregation? Great! Please sign up for our two-part Inquirers Class which begins **Saturday, Oct. 17** (8:30 AM-Noon). SIGN UP online or call Pastor Wes Allen in the church office (856) 235-1688, x101.

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

NEW: Blessing of the Animals – Saturday, Oct. 3 (3:00 PM) -- Members, friends, and the community are invited to bring their 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. This is a joint event with the Prayer and Discipleship and Membership Committees. Donations of cat or dog food or monetary gifts will be collected for the Animal Welfare Association, **Please register online.** Everyone is welcome — even if you don't have a pet!

Ways Round 17 -- For our current round of the Ways of the Week, we are 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.

"Measuring What Matters" – Consecration Sunday is coming **October 18** (9:30 am combined worship); watch for your 2027 Estimate of Giving card, return online or mail. Prayer Vigil **Saturday, Oct. 17** – see sign up link online.