

First Presbyterian Church
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856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
wallen@fpcmoorestown.org

**I Will Pray, Invite,
Serve, Give.**

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing - Psalm 100:2

**9:00 am Traditional
11:00 am Contemporary
9:30 am 5th Sunday
Blended Worship**

**10:15-11:15 am
Education Hour**

Worship streams live from each worship space. Log on from any device to www.fpcmoorestown.org or [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

Services are also posted later in the week to our website.

"Connections" is published weekly for Sunday worship and every two weeks in the summer. Please submit information by noon Tuesdays to:
Editor Jan Martin
jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org
856-235-1688, Ext. 133

Are you receiving our Friday e-blast with announcements, Connections, and upcoming events? If not, contact the [church office](#).



Connections FPC Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

June 16-29, 2024 (2-wk)



The 65th Annual Strawberry Festival was an abundance of blessings yet again! Perfect weather, a wonderful variety of cakes and plenty of volunteers, thank the Lord! We love that we were able to keep this as a free will offering event and members and visitors gave generously. We estimate well over 3,000 attendees graced our grounds. We are thankful for a \$1,500 donation requested and received from Holman Community Outreach, a generous \$300 donation from Lewis Funeral Home, donated iced tea from Chick Fil-A Mount Laurel, ice cream donations from Wegmans, and multiple donations from congregants.

Thank you to everyone who visited the Missions Food Tent, whose proceeds will support Haiti Outreach Ministries and a donation towards UP Honduras when our mission team visits in July. The goal of this event always has been community outreach to bring people together and show them the love of God. Historically, the goal has never been a "for profit" event, but rather the hope has always been to adequately cover the expenses of the Festival with any proceeds going towards additional FPC Moorestown community outreach. Early numbers indicate 2024 was a huge success!

Over the years, the Strawberry Festival has evolved, mostly since the pandemic, with a strategic intent to decrease the number of volunteers needed while being more efficient and cost effective. Changing to individual portions of ice cream cut our costs by \$1,500, in addition to decreasing strain on volunteers and producing significantly less waste. Unused ice cream is kept in the freezer and utilized for VBS, after Family Dinners or youth events and the kids absolutely love that! Keeping the event outdoors decreases cleaning time and costs for the inside areas as well.

From young to old this event is a highlight of the year for many in the community. As you looked around that night, it was endearing to see so many kids and adults dressed in strawberry themed outfits. There was a couple from California who was back visiting family, and the wife stated she had grown up in Moorestown and came to this event as a child over 40 years ago. She was so excited to share this event with her husband and revel in the nostalgia of it all with her sisters. Not many events these days have staying power like this!

Volunteers are the backbone of our Strawberry Festival. We need your commitment now to make next year a success. Limited commitment by members in the future may require additional changes, such as decreasing the Festival to 2 hours to ensure we can cover all volunteer roles. While we appreciate people asking how they can help the night of, we can better prepare if we know you are committed to coming *before* the event, allowing us to balance specific needs. We strive to start the evening with each shift fully covered. This year, that meant many people had to cover multiple shifts. We pray that ALL have the ability to enjoy the night and want to ensure that some do not have to work the entire event.

This beloved annual event can only happen with the support of the entire congregation in all ways, big and small! Please help us continue to Grow the Kingdom and mark the date of the 2025 Strawberry Festival on your calendar now!

Save the Date: Friday, June 6, 2025!

*Kristen Perkowski, Laurie LaMonica,
and Jen Allen, co-chairs*

Spring Inquirers Class

Are you interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown and possibly joining the congregation? The Membership Committee invites you to attend its Inquirers' Class, starting **June 19**. The Inquirers' Class is for those interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown and the Presbyterian Church as a whole. The three-part series is designed to work with today's busy schedules. We're looking forward to learning more about you! The Class will meet at the following times in Room 8:

- **Wed. June 19** (6:30-7:30 pm)
- **Sat. June 22** (8:30-11:30 am)
- **Sun. June 23** (12:15-1:30 pm with Session, received into membership, lunch provided)

[Sign up online today](#) or reach out to [Pastor Wes Allen](#) at 856-235-1688, x 101.

What does your church family mean to you?

Our Cupboard is Bare

*Help fill the Blessing Box.
We desperately need:*

Cereal, Breakfast bars, Juice/juice boxes, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Soups with meat, Canned Chicken/Tuna

UPCOMING: VBS Mission Class

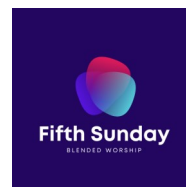
We will be celebrating Christmas in almost July by stuffing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please place donations in box in Miller Commons:

- ◆ Wash cloths
- ◆ Tooth brushes
- ◆ Soccer balls and pumps
- ◆ Matchbox cars
- ◆ Crayons and pencils
- ◆ Colored pencils
- ◆ Erasers
- ◆ Sharpener
- ◆ Markers
- ◆ Small pads of paper
- ◆ Shower puffs
- ◆ Small stuffed animals
- ◆ Barbie Dolls

A Rafting We Will Go!

Join us for a family adventure down the Lehigh River in PA on **Saturday, August 17**. Feel the adrenaline rush as we navigate rapids and explore the beautiful river scenery on this dam-release weekend! No prior whitewater experience is necessary— we will be led by experienced guides. Minimum age to participate is 8 years old. Bring the family and invite your friends for an unforgettable experience. Cost: \$80 per person. **Deadline to sign up for this event is Sunday, July 28. Final payment is due Friday, Aug. 2.**

[Sign up on our Church Center page](#) or see our FAQ page: <https://whitewaterchallengers.com/lehigh-faq/>



**June 30
9:30 am
Miller
Commons**

Spiritual Gifts Survey

On May 26 we began our sermon series "Fan the Flames" which will highlight the work of the Holy Spirit in equipping men and women of faith with spiritual gifts suited for growing God's Kingdom. In preparation, our pastors have asked everyone to take the spiritual gifts survey at <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/?id=902651> (see Friday eblast, website, event page for a letter from Pastor Allen).

USE YOUR spiritual gifts inventory to explore new ways to serve God's Kingdom and **visit the table** in the Commons Lobby between services to learn about critical volunteer opportunities at FPC Moorestown.

Presbytery News

On **Tuesday, June 18** our church will host an evening Presbytery meeting, dinner and installation of incoming Presbytery Moderator Becca Neindorff. All are invited.

Becca will be installed as the Moderator for the Presbytery For Southern New Jersey, for 2024-2025.

The group will also welcome Transitional Executive Presbyter Kathleen Dain. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. The meeting begins at 7:15 pm in Miller Commons. Please join us to share well wishes for Becca, Kathy and their team.

Congregational Meeting Called for June 16

The Session has called a special meeting of the congregation for **Sunday, June 16, 2024** following the 9:00 AM worship service in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees to a term of office beginning immediately. The meeting will be available to view via live stream; however, votes can only be cast in-person.



**Adults and Teens:
Sign up to volunteer with
Vacation Bible School.
Fpcmoorestown.org/vbs
Can't wait to have you
on our team**

Summer Schedules

Summer worship times remain the same as during the year; 9:00 am traditional and 11:00 am contemporary (began Sunday, June 2). There is no summer children's Sunday School. Adult Spiritual Formation meets 10:15-11:15 am in the Lounge. *Connections* prints bi-weekly in the summer.

Prayer on the Porch



This popular prayer time gathering returns for the summer on the second and fourth Thursdays beginning June 13. Next: June 27

5th Sunday Ice Cream Social

On **Sunday, June 30** we will gather for a combined **9:30 am** Fifth Sunday worship service in Miller Commons. SPECIAL EVENT: After worship, we will move into Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Membership Committee. We will honor the past three classes of our Inquirers' Class and recognize our 50+ year members! Enjoy a cool treat this summer and say a special welcome to these honored guests. Thank you to the Deacons 5th Sunday Hospitality Team for their invaluable assistance.



Coffee Hospitality Seeks Helpers for Sundays

Volunteer teams are needed to support our coffee hospitality on Sunday mornings and set up and clean up the coffee service. If you enjoy the bagels and coffee, please contact Carol Wiggans at (267) 496-0450 or jcwiggans@gmail.com to offer to periodically serve this ministry. Coffee hosts are asked to swing by Manhattan Bagel that morning and pick up our order of bagels and cream cheese.

**Do you see a new face?
Be sure to walk up to visitors
and introduce yourself with a
warm welcome and smile!**

Summer Giving

During summer months when you may be attending church less frequently, please remember to stay current with your pledge through electronic giving, plate offerings or by mailing a check to the office. For summer gifts of stock, please call the church office. Thank you for your generous spirit. Need help setting up online giving? Just give us a call.

Honduras Mission Trip

July 9-14, 2024
Donations accepted
(Commissioning July 7)

Sunday Morning Check Ins

Please check in to register your attendance each time you attend in person or watch on your device. This records critical data for the staff & Membership Team. [Download the Church Center app](#) to check in quickly on your cell. Share Friendship Pads in the pews and Miller Commons to greet those who are seated near you. Remember to **date** the page. New to our live stream? Please sign in on the **Get Connected** form on the live stream page on the website.

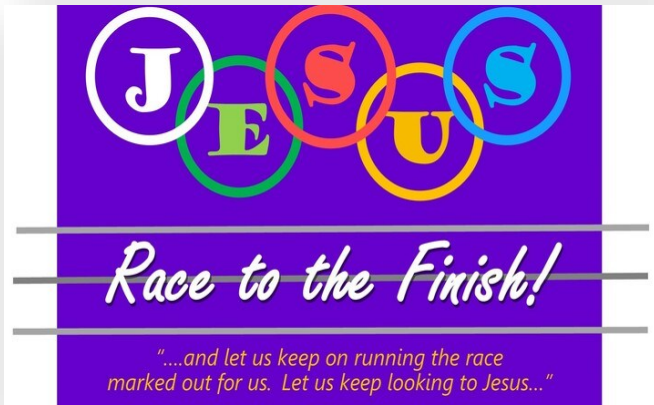
Joshi Baroque Recital
Saturday, June 22 (5:30 pm)
**West Jersey Chamber
Music Society**

Need a Stephen Minister?

FPC Moorestown currently has 18 active Stephen Ministers. A Stephen Minister will listen to your problems and help you get through the tough times with God's guidance. We're here for you. Ask for help. We're ready.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Hey Youth! Summer Hang-outs Begin June 26th (grades 7-12)



[REGISTER TODAY FOR VBS!](#)

Vacation Bible School 2024

June 24-28, 2024

Race to the Finish

Entering kindergarten through entering 6th grade

Find us at www.fpcmoorestown.org/vbs

PLEASE NOTE: Room assignments may shift during VBS week June 24-28 and setup week June 17-21

Kingdom Kids: Grades K-3
Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 pm
Crossing Zone: Grades 4-6
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm
Middle School: Grades 7-8
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm
High School: Grades 9-12,
Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm

Sermon Series Memory Verse

Memory Verse: *"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1: 6-7)*

For Families and Children:
Holly Ascitutto
856-235-1688, x116 (W)
hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 call/text
dauvell52@gmail.com

On your mark, get set ... GO!!! [Race to the Finish](#) and run the Race of Faith at VBS 2024. Each of the five Olympic rings represents a different continent, and each class of VBS has a color for one of those rings/continents. During the five days of VBS, students will "travel" to a different continent and learn about that place's culture, people, and practices and how Jesus has influenced their lives.

- **June 24-28 from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon**
- Children entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade (FALL 2024).
- Please enter your child's CURRENT grade for 2023-24.
- Cost: \$25 per child; \$20 for each additional child
- Bible class, crafts, snacks, missions, and music. During recreation time, classes compete in our own mini Olympics with Olympic-type games and medals.
- **Deadline to Register: June 21, 2024**
- **Adult volunteers needed; Teens 7th grade and older**
- REGISTER for attendees, adult volunteers and student leaders at www.fpcmoorestown.org/vbs

Grades 7-12:

Hang out with Youth Group this Summer



CHECK OUT our summer hang-outs on Wednesday nights this summer beginning **June 26**. Middle school and high school students are invited to "chill at the church" from 7-9 pm.

We'll have food, crazy fun and get to know each other. Friends are always welcome. What's on your mind? For questions contact youth director [Dave Fauvell](#) at 609.980.7885 or find us on Instagram.

So you think you wanna teach?

It's not too early to be thinking about being a Sunday School teacher next year. We can certainly use you! Share the Word of God with our youngest Presbyterians. Let Holly Ascitutto know you're interested. We have classes for grades K-6, plus middle school, high school and adults.