



August 25, 2024 ~ 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.*

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #19: Accept and Don't Cast Stones

19. ACCEPT AND DON'T CAST STONES. God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are. It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally, and as Christ has received you, receive others.

Ideas for Action: Approach someone you normally avoid at church for whatever reason. Make a point to speak to them this week.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Vikram Joshi, Harpsichord

Septième Prélude (from L'art de toucher le clavecin)

François Couperin

*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 95)

Elder Matt Livingston

Come, people of God and let's raise a joyful song, a shout of triumph to God, the Rock of our salvation. Let's come into God's loving presence with thanksgiving.

For you are great, Lord God, and a great King over all gods.

The depths of the Earth and the high mountains belong to you. The sea is yours, for you made it; and the dry land your hands fashioned.

For you are God, and we are the flock that you shepherd. We forever belong to you.

We will know your power and presence this day, if we will but listen for your voice. Speak, Lord, for we are listening. Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Livingston

*Hymn No. 346

Sing Praise to the Lord

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Livingston

Gracious God, we thank you for sending the Savior, Jesus, to call us from death to life. We confess that we were dead in sin before we heard His call, but when we heard Him, like Lazarus, we arose. Yet, Lord, the grave clothes bind us still: the old habits that we cannot throw off and the old customs that are so much a part of our lives. Give us strength to break the bonds; grant us courage to live a new life in you; give us faith to believe that with your help we cannot fail. Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession and surrender.)

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Livingston

Our Lord Jesus Christ – truly God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous – is the mediator who was given to set us free and to make us right with God.

This is God’s Gospel promise: to forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone because of Christ’s one sacrifice, finished on the cross – once and for all. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Spencer

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord’s Prayer (‘debts’)

Rev. Spencer

Offertory



Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving, especially in these critical summer months. Your offerings and donations allow us to sustain our church programs year-round. Take advantage of secure or donate easily from your phone 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

Layla Joshi, Organ

Prelude, Op. 18

Franck

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

“Faces From The Pews”

Scripture: Colossians 4: 7-18 (Pew Bible page 202 NT)

Sermon Series: Jesus at the Center

*Hymn No. 659

A Charge to Keep I Have

Music in Preparation for Service

Jesu, Meine Freude

Layla Joshi, Organ

J.S. Bach BWV 610

*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Stuart Spencer

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Worship flowers are given to the glory of God.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Matt Livingston; **Audio Technician:** Dan Carson-DFX; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Steve Shaffer, Gail Sorin, Dave Rebuck; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Jane Murphy; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Laurie LaMonica and Susan Shaffer; **Bagel Pick-Up:** Jane Murphy or Debbie Rebuck; **Coffee Hospitality:** Jane Murphy and Debbie Rebuck; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

Welcome Back Sunday

Our 2024-2025 programming year officially gets underway on **Sunday, Sept. 8** as we Welcome Back everyone to church after busy and eventful summers in God's creation. Special happenings are coming up **Sept. 8** and **Sept. 15** as we begin another busy year in ministry. See *Connections*, Church Center events, website and the church calendar for full details.

BONUS: "I Will Serve" Showcase (between services) -- Explore areas for service for the coming year in ministry and see where you or someone from your family might be able to help out. There are several neat ways to serve.



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



"Drop In and Discuss" -- Join us each Sunday morning this summer to discuss the day's sermon text. We will gather in the Lounge from **10:15-11:15 am**. Get your coffee and drop in for ten minutes or for forty. No need to sign up, just stop on by.

Thank you for supporting [Avery LaMonica's Eagle Scout project](#). Donations will be gratefully accepted to defray expenses. Checks should be payable to **Troop 61** with a notation of *Avery LaMonica Eagle Project* in the memo line. Cash donations and Venmo payments also welcome. VENMO donations to @Laurie-LaMonica, MAIL checks to Avery LaMonica, 23 Sutton Place N, Moorestown, NJ 08057, or DROP OFF with Jan Martin in the Church office.

The main parking lot will be CLOSED August 25-29 for resurfacing and restriping. Auxiliary lots will be open.

CREDO Parents' Information Meeting: Sunday, Sept. 8 from 10:15-10:45 am, Hayes Room – The CREDO confirmation class is open to all high school students (grades 9-12). [Sign students up online](#).

September 11 Service of Remembrance, Prayer & Resurrection – 6:30 pm Cemetery Cross, all are welcome

Crud Wars, the gloppy youth group kickoff for grades 7-12, is coming **Sunday, Sept. 15th** from 1-3 pm. Dress in clothes you don't care about and remember to bring towels for the ride home! The event is free but please [sign up online](#) so we have accurate information. Youth groups begin that week. Welcome back!

Happy Birthday, Church -- On September 12, 2024 we will celebrate the 136th Birthday of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, which was founded on September 12, 1888. Watch your mail for a letter from Pastor Stuart sharing about the church's legacy fund.

Online sign ups are NOW OPEN for K-12 fellowship groups for 2024-25: Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossing Zone (gr. 4-6), Middle School Youth Group (gr. 7-8) and High School Youth Group (gr. 9-12). [Please sign up online](#) so we can be sure to have correct information for our leaders. **START DATES**: Middle School Youth Group begins **Wed. Sept. 18**, High School Youth Group begins **Sunday, Sept. 22**. Younger groups and Family Dinner begin **Wed. October 2**.

Bible Sunday -- On **Sunday, September 15th**, children entering third grade will receive their Bibles as a gift from their church. Bible Sunday is a special day in the life of our young people. Bibles will be presented at both worship services. If you would like your third grader to receive a Bible, please sign up online, through the Church Center app (Signups), or contact Holly Ascitutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or Jean Marie Hanna at childrensministries@fpcmoorestown.org.

Acolyte Ministry -- Parents: Are you looking for a way to involve your child(ren) in church life? We are looking for boys and girls to serve as acolytes in the 9:00 am service and would love to tell you more. The acolyte ministry will resume in September. SIGN UP online or with Jean Marie Hanna in the church office: 856-235-1688.

The Fall Engagement Project is a 10-week small group teaching program Wednesday evenings **Sept. 11-Nov. 13** in Room 3-4 led by Jim Cole and Gayle Payne. [Sign up online](#) or right through the Church Center app. Invite friends from other churches to this enlightening video discussion series -- all are welcome! Videos are led by Dr. Del Tackett, and there is no book required and no homework. Beginning October 2, join us for Family Dinner too.

Fall Prayer Retreat October 22-25 -- Registration is OPEN for this 3-night, 4-day retreat at Holy Cross Monastery (NY) led by Pastor Spencer; Study Book: *"One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are"* by Ann Voskamp. See event page and website for details and to [register](#). Cost: \$355 study book included; \$340 study book NOT included. Deadline to register: **Sunday, Sept. 29**.