



## September 8, 2024 ~ Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Welcome Back Sunday

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. Wes Allen

### Way of the Week #21: You're Sent, Now Go

**21. YOU'RE SENT, NOW GO.** We're blessed to be a blessing. God intends to use you to bless, heal, restore, and liberate a dark and hurting world. We're here for others: in our families and our community and in the world. Go to the need. Live missionally.

**Ideas for Action:** Check out the Missions tab on our website. Look at our local mission partners' websites for information and ideas for service. Contact Linda Jagiela, Director of Outreach, for additional suggestions. Make plans to go and serve ASAP.

### Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

#### **Melody**

Coleridge-Taylor

### \*Call to Worship

Elder Jim Cole

Come, all who are weary, all who are searching for rest, all who long for the touch of God.

**We come, bringing our hearts, our hopes, and our needs before the One who sows seeds of life and love.**

The Sower calls us to prepare the soil of our souls, to open our hearts to the Word that brings life.

**We come, ready to receive, ready to grow, and ready to be transformed by God's grace.**

The Kingdom of God is at hand, growing among us in ways we can see and ways we cannot yet imagine.

**We come with faith and expectation, trusting in the mystery of God's unfolding Kingdom.**

Let us worship the Sower of all good things, who scatters seeds of hope and peace in our lives.

**We worship with open hearts, ready to be the soil where God's Kingdom flourishes. Let us worship our Lord!**

## \*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Cole

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## \*Hymn No. 320

### ***Come, Let Us Praise the Lord***

\*\*\*Seating interlude

## Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Cole

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Merciful God, we confess that we have not always nurtured the seeds of your Kingdom in our lives. We have allowed our hearts to be hardened by fear, choked by anxiety, and distracted by the busyness of our days. We have not always been receptive to your Word, and we have failed to bear the fruits of love, justice, and peace. Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected the call to be good soil. Renew our spirits, soften our hearts, and help us to cultivate lives that are fertile ground for your grace. May your Word take root in us, grow in us, and bear fruit through us, so that your Kingdom may flourish in our world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*(Time of Silent Prayer and Confession)*

## Assurance of Pardon

Elder Cole

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Beloved in Christ, hear the good news as stated in the Heidelberg Confession of Faith: "By true faith in Jesus Christ, I am righteous before God, an heir to life everlasting." This righteousness is not earned by our own works but is a gift of grace received through faith.

### **Praise the Lord, for His gift of grace!**

Even when we stumble and fall, God's grace is greater than our sin. "It is as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner," for the righteousness of Christ has been given to us.

### **Praise the Lord, for His gift of righteousness!**

Therefore, let us live in the assurance of this great truth: In Christ, we are forgiven, and we are called to live as new creations.

**Thanks be to God for His forgiveness! We are redeemed, we are renewed, and we are free. Amen.**

## \*Gloria Patri

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## Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Spencer

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## Offertory

Rev. Spencer

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*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

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

### ***Migratory V***

Guettel

Janet Wilkie, Soprano

We sail above the weather, We search the ocean floor  
We rival our creation still yearning for more

*continued*

But can we fly together a migratory V  
How wonderful if that's what God could see  
A single voice in whispered prayer can only pray to travel there  
but all as one we sound the everlasting sound, and sing our salvation.  
Aloft and in formation a migratory V  
How wonderful if that's what God could see.

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### \*Doxology No. 809

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### Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Stuart Spencer

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### Sermon

Rev. Wes Allen

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#### ***"Fertile Fields and Kingdom Roots"***

**Scripture:** Matthew 13: 1-9 (Pew Bible page 13 NT)

**Sermon Series:** Stories From the Field

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### \*Hymn No. 574

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#### ***Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak***

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### Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

#### ***Sortie***

Boellmann

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### \*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Wes Allen

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**Worship flowers** are given by Michael and Joan Welch to the glory of God and in loving memory of Evan Michael Welch from his family, friends and all who loved him.

The flowers on the Welcome Desk are a gift from the Armstrong family from the Celebration of Life of Dr. James Armstrong held here in our sanctuary yesterday, Saturday, September 7.

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### 9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

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**Beadle:** Elder Jim Cole; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Michael Welch, Paul Grossmann, Sherrell Fitts; **Flower Arrangers:** Karin Miller and Stacy Schaffer; **Trustee Greeter:** Pete Honeyford; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Sue Hill; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Andrew Ehala and Karen Hynoski; **Donut Pick-Up:** Jon Sandeen; **Coffee Hospitality:** Paul Grossmann and Jim Cole; **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. Special happenings are coming **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”** – This summer series concludes today as we 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. **NEXT WEEK: Be sure to join us September 15 in Fellowship Hall as we launch the year’s adult class schedule including a fall class on Philippians that begins on Sept. 22.**

**TODAY: CREDO Parent Information Meeting:** 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 **Sunday, Sept. 15th** from 1-3 pm. Wear clothes you don’t care about and remember 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 this church’s legacy fund.

**Online sign ups are NOW OPEN for [K-12 fellowship groups for 2024-25](#):** Kingdom Kids (K-3<sup>rd</sup>), 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. 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**.

[Prayer on the Porch](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:30 pm – Remaining: **Sept. 12, Sept. 26** (ice cream too!)

[Bible Sunday](#) -- On **Sunday, Sept. 15th**, children entering third grade will receive their Bibles during worship as a special gift from their church. 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](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org) or Jean Marie Hanna at [childrensministries@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:childrensministries@fpcmoorestown.org).

[Dine and Donate](#) – Join us **Monday, Sept. 23rd** at the Maple Shade Iron Hill Brewery (124 E. Kings Highway) to benefit mission events. Dine in, order online or takeout. Store hours 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. [Show the digital flyer](#) to your server and FPC Moorestown Missions will receive 20% of your food bill. Easy!

[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 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 to [register](#). Deadline to register: **Sunday, Sept. 29**.

[Howard Gospel Choir is coming!](#) The renowned Howard University Gospel Choir will be in concert on **Friday, October 4th** at 7:00 pm at FPC Moorestown and the community is invited! The first collegiate choir of its kind in the world, HGC has pioneered an international legacy in gospel music ministry. Tickets are not required; a free will offering will be taken. In addition, a nonperishable food collection will be taken that evening to support the Moorestown Ministerium food pantry.