



September 15, 2024 ~ Fall Kickoff; Bible Sunday; Teacher/Leader Commissioning

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 #22: Rest and Reflect

22. REST AND REFLECT. Make time in your week to step back from work, school, and stressful demands. Since Christ has freed us, we no longer have to be obsessively driven. Take a walk, play, nap, meet up with friends, share a meal, or just take some time in solitude.

Ideas for Action: Can you make your Sunday more of a Sabbath day of rest for you and your family? Connect with God using worship music. Unplug from the devices for part or all of the day. Seek the joy of the Lord in Creation. Eat a meal together. Be silent with God and pray. Prioritize wholeness and rejuvenation in Christ.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

Chorale

Joseph Jongen Op. 39 No. 4

Introit

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Christ of the Upward Way

Walter Mathmas

Adult Choir

Christ of the Upward way, my guide divine, Where Thou hast set Thy feet may I set mine;
And move and march wherever Thou hast trod, Keeping face forward up the hill of God.

*Call to Worship

Elder Lorenzo Eagles

Praise the Lord! Let everything within me praise God's holy name.

The Lord's name be praised now and always.

Our God is so very great. Without a doubt, God has been generous to us and marvelously kind.

May our small hearts be filled with such wonder, love and gratitude that we may speak and sing our praises today.

Let our praises for God leap from our mouths, that we may be alive with faith and joy. May Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—make us new again.

*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Eagles

*Hymn No. 99

When Morning Gilds the Skies

****Seating interlude*

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Eagles

Lord Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten. Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements and those when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself. Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Eagles

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. God does not punish us for all our sins; God does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

*Gloria Patri

Bible Presentation & Teacher Commissioning

Holly Ascitutto, Wes Allen

Anthem

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Young

Adult Choir

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

Rev. Allen

Offertory

Rev. Allen



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

Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing (See Hymn #45)

Jennifer Wait, Soprano

American Folk Tune

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Blessed Eyes, Blessed Ears"

Scripture: Matthew 13: 10-17 (Pew Bible page 14 NT)

Sermon Series: Stories from the Fields

*Hymn No. 731

O Christians, Haste

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Fugue in Eb

Powell

*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Spencer

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Worship flowers are given by Rumi Sinunu to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband Jack.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Lorenzo Eagles; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Dalton Ryan; **Ushers:** Paul Lewis, Barry Leatherman, Leonard Fitts; **Flower Arrangers:** Karen Mason and Debbie Heller; **Deacons 3rd Sunday Flower Arranger:** Gail Sorin; **Deacons 3rd Sunday Flower Deliverers:** Gail Sorin and Helen Dominy; **Trustee Greeter:** John Miller; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Peg Pierce; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacon Susan Shaffer and Laurie LaMonica; **Bagel Pick-Up:** Carol Wiggans or Peg Madorno; **Coffee Hospitality:** Carol Wiggans and Peg Madorno; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

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



TODAY: Be sure to join us at 10:15 am in Fellowship Hall for our **Meet and Greet** as we launch the year's education classes! Adult Spiritual Formation introduces a fall class on the Book of Philippians that begins on Sept. 22. Children's Sunday School also begins in Fellowship Hall then departs to individual classrooms. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!

TODAY: [Bible Sunday](#) -- On **Sunday, Sept. 15th**, children entering third grade will receive their Bibles during worship as a special gift from their church. We will also be commissioning our teachers and leaders.

TODAY: [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-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. 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](#) – 2nd and 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm – Remaining: **Sept. 12, Sept. 26** (ice cream too!)

[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.

COMING: Consecration Sunday is October 13 – one 9:30 am worship; watch your mail for your *2025 Estimate of Giving* card