



Sunday, December 1, 2024 ~ First Sunday of Advent, The Lord's Supper
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (*Miller Commons*)

Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Songs of Praise

Worship Team

Come, Lord Jesus

Passion

Strength, Power & Love

Soul Stirrers

Wow Moments

Rev. Allen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 1: Hope (purple)

Lighters: Rev. Wes Allen and Vivian Allen

***Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

We come from a world of darkness

Into Christ's world of light.

We come from a world of weariness

Into God's strength and hope.

We come from a slumbering world.

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

Sisters and brothers in Christ let us worship God!

***Song of Praise**

Worship Team

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Lincoln Brewster

Prayer of Confession *(responsive)*

Rev. Stuart Spencer

We are captive and lost, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from you. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for yours. We are in the dark, in need of your light. Listen to the cries of our hearts, Lord. Hear our pain, our sadness, our fears, our rage, our exhaustion, our lack of trust in your goodness and love. Have mercy on us.

A period of silence is kept.

Amen! Come, Lord, Jesus, come. Let God's people say:

**Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.
Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.
Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.
Come, Lord Jesus.**

Assurance of Forgiveness *(responsive)*

God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.

God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit.

Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.

God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives.

And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! May it be so! Amen.

*Greeting

Way of the Week

Steve Shaffer

8. **JUMP IN.** Life is full of unexpected problems and needs, large and small. Pay attention to moments when God calls you to action, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary the situation may be. See "disruptions" as invitations to share Christ's love. Write a note. Visit the sick or the grieving. Share a meal.

Offering Ourselves to God & Work of God's People

Rev. Allen



Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving, especially in this important stewardship season. 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! To mail offerings, send to P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

Song of Praise

Worship Team

Hope Has Come (Behold Him)

Red Rocks Worship

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Come, Lord!

Scripture Lessons: [Malachi 4:1-2](#), [Luke 1: 78-79](#)

Sermon Series: *O Come, Emmanuel!*

Communion Song

Worship Team

Crowded Table

Highwomen

Communion and Home Communion

Rev. Spencer

Invitation to the Table

As we approach the Lord and his Table, let us express our gratitude to God for what is important to us at this time, whether that be ordinary or special. In this prayer, the Pastor will say two phrases, each ending with, "Thank you, God," to which we all respond, "Thank you, God." After that, anyone else may give thanks using the same pattern.

Words of Institution

The Bread and the Cup (*Please prepare a communion serving for yourself and any who are worshipping with you.*)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

GROW THE KINGDOM! *As we commit to growing God's Kingdom, every member and friend of FPC Moorestown is invited into a covenant with four commitments: **I will pray. I will invite. I will serve. I will give.** Every member and friend is asked to commit to doing all four. For additional information including commitment forms: <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>.*

Benediction

Rev. Spencer

11:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Worship Team:	Wes Allen-Guitar; Kalane Williams-Bass; Drums-Carl Wilson; Michelle Davis, Steve Drzaszcz, Vivian Allen-Vocals
Audio Technician:	Joshua Leonard
Sound Technician:	Taylor Adair
Live Stream Technician:	Dalton Ryan
Visuals:	Jennifer Allen
Communion Elders:	Frank Manion, Gayle Payne, Paul Grossmann, Melody Ransom
Flower Arrangers:	Fran Green and Kristin Zorn
Usher:	Matt La Grou or Jeff Legath
Trustee Greeter:	Jeff Legath
Welcome Desk:	Deacons Keith Wright and Rachel Long
Hospitality Table:	Carol Wiggans and Susan Shaffer
Nursery Caregiver:	Chelsea Margerum

Today's worship flowers are given to the glory of God as we begin the Season of Advent.

Nursery care is provided for children ages 0-5 years old in Room 12.

- **[Longest Night Service](#) - Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary:** This unique service provides peace to those who may be dealing with grief, illness, anxiety, or depression this holiday season.

TODAY: [Family Advent Kit](#) (I Will Pray) – Beginning **Dec. 1**, families are encouraged to pick up an *Advent Kit* in the Commons Lobby, as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. Everything you need is included. See *Connections*.

[NEW: Young Artists: Artwork for Christmas Eve Bulletins](#) -- Once again, we would like to showcase the artistic talents of our youth on our four Christmas Eve worship guides. *This year, we are asking for artwork that pictures Mary riding a donkey and Joseph.* **Digital submissions are due by Dec. 15 to Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.**

[“Miracle of Jesus” Family Advent Event](#) - Friday, **December 6 (6:00-7:30 p.m.)**: Be transported back in time to Bethlehem and celebrate the birth of Jesus! Families can stroll through the shops and sites. All ages will be amazed at the multisensory experiences they’ll find. The event is free, but please [REGISTER online to attend](#).

[Hurricane Relief Mission Trip](#): Please register on our events page if you’re interested in being a part of our Mission Team to help in the areas that were affected by the recent hurricanes. This multi-generational trip is being planned for the **week of July 7, 2025**.

Pick up a copy of the **2024-25 Program Guide** to see the many opportunities we have to *Serve, Invite, Pray*, and *Give* throughout the coming year. They can be found in the narthex, Commons, and on the Welcome Desk.

[Alternative Gift Fair](#) (I Will Give) is now available **Nov. 24-Dec. 24**. See tables at church to purchase your gifts. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broad range of gifts is available to assist our ministries. Cash or checks. Fulfillment volunteers are needed to staff the Alternative Gift Fair on Sundays in December. Please contact Donna Leatherman at <mailto:donna.leatherman@comcast.net> or (856) 304-8001 if you can help.

[Men’s Winter Retreat](#) - *January 24-26, 2025*: Men, start 2025 with Brothers in Christ for a weekend in the mountains. Online registration available. \$150/person; **registration deadline is Dec. 1**. Younger men (high school age and older) are welcome.

[Advent Candle Lighters](#) (I Will Serve)-- During Sundays in Advent, members of our church family will serve as candle lighters for the Advent wreath. The Worship Team is looking for individuals for both services as well as four Christmas Eve services on **Dec. 24**. Please contact Worship Chair Kevin Fauvell at (609) 220-0177 or kevindfauvell@gmail.com.

See our event page or the Advent Activity Guide for a complete list of Christmas worship times

[Manger Sunday Dec. 15](#) (I Will Give) - Members are invited to bring unwrapped gifts on **Dec. 15** for Manger Sunday to both services to place in the manger. Gifts will be given to Oaks Integrated Care clients to use as gifts for their own families. For those NOT attending, gifts may be dropped off before or after services outside on the steps by the Sanctuary Courtyard (off the Lobby, Blessing Box side) by **12 noon**. Contact Deacons Susan Shaffer and Mike McNeil. [See our event page](#) for a list of Wish List gift items.

FPC MOORESTOWN WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES *(See Prayer page on website for links)*

- **Mondays 9-10 AM** – Jim Cole leading - Prayer Chapel. Anyone needing or wanting to pray for others is welcome to join Jim.
- **Tuesdays 9-10 AM** – Jim Cole leading (Zoom)
- **Thursdays 7:00 PM** – Live stream Prayer Service *(praying for our church and discipleship)*
- **Thursdays 7:00 PM** – Prayer on the Porch – Join our Prayer Team for a time of prayer on the Van Camp Porch (June-Sept.)
- **Sundays 10:00 AM** – After Traditional Worship, Beadles available to pray with or for you (David Room). Jim Cole also available in the Prayer Chapel in Commons Lobby for prayer.
- Submit confidential **online prayer requests** – visit <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/prayer>
- **Fall & Spring Prayer Retreats** to unplug and savor time away in meditation.
- **Prayer Vigils** - sponsored by the Prayer Committee for stewardship, National/World Day of Prayer, etc.