

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 glad-
ness; come into his presence
with singing - Psalm 100:2*

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

**10:15-11:00 am
Education Hour**

Worship streams live from
each worship space. Log
on from any device to
www.fpcmoorestown.org
or [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com).

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 announce-
ments, Connections, and
upcoming events? If not,
contact the [church office](#).**



Connections FPC Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

December 1-7, 2024

Way of the Week 8: Jump In

(December 1-7, 2024)

Ways Speaker: 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.

Ideas for Action: Practice one of the actions listed in this week's description: Write a note, call or visit someone who lives alone, and/or share a meal.



Alternative Gift Fair

Our Alternative Gift Fair will be open **Nov. 24-Dec. 24**. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broad range is available to assist our ministries. Your gifts help those in need around the globe. Honor loved ones, family members, friends and business associates at Christmas while providing assistance to these ministries.

Stop by the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby to purchase your alternative gifts. For questions contact project coordinator Donna Leatherman at donna.leatherman@comcast.net or (856) 304-8001.

NOTE: Volunteers are needed to staff the tables during worship between and after services; let Donna know if you can help!

NEW: Advent Devotional

The Prayer and Discipleship Committee has assembled an Advent Devotional that is now available to pick up at church. As we approach Advent, take time to reflect on the scriptures foretelling and describing the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This year, the Prayer Committee decided to focus on our children and youth, with 14 days of the 25 days of Advent reflections being written by our students. Please take a copy and use it daily during Advent which begins Dec. 1 (Sunday following Thanksgiving). If you don't have an advent wreath you might want to make your own or purchase one, including candles (3 purple, 1 white).



Advent Activity Guide

Copies of the *2024 Advent Activity Guide* are available at church and online on our website and Church Center event page. The Advent Guide details important programming information and special dates for this busy season's many special events. The First Sunday in Advent is **December 1**.

Office closed for Thanksgiving November 28th & 29th

Drivers for Poinsettia Deliveries to Members

Poinsettias will be displayed in both worship spaces on Manger Sunday December 15 and available to take home that day if you placed an order (orders concluded Nov. 17). Deacons Gail Sorin and Bobbi Voglesong are coordinating deliveries of donated poinsettias to our less mobile members. Help is needed. Please contact Gail or Bobbi if you can assist.

Advent Lighters

YES, we are looking for families for Advent wreath lighters each Sunday in Advent (**Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22**) at both services. Spots are also available to participate in Christmas Eve services **Dec. 24** (4:00, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 pm). Sign up with Kevin Fauvell at kevindfauvell@gmail.com or (609) 220-0177.

Membership Mentors

The Membership Committee is looking for members to become a mentor with one of our new members. Basically, to *be a friend*. Be that friendly face they feel comfortable with asking questions, even just to show them where the bathrooms are, or how to plug in to a small group. Tell anyone on the Membership Committee or call Joyce Wenzke at 609-410-4118.

Children's (Dec. 11) and Youth (Dec. 15) Christmas Parties scheduled

NEW: Men's Winter Weekend January 24-26, 2025

Start 2025 with a Band of Brothers in Christ for a weekend away in a gorgeous mountain lake setting. Dr. Stephen Henziel-Nelson, Senior Pastor of the Allentown Presbyterian Church in Allentown, NJ, is our guest speaker. We'll hear from Stephen and have time to share our lives. Saturday afternoon is open for free time. The younger men in your life are most welcome. Bring your sons, grandsons, sons-in-law (high school age or older). One of the two cabins will be a youth cabin. Led by Stuart Spencer.

Online registration is now available! Registration deadline: **December 1**

Year-End Giving

Thank you for remembering the church in your Giving Tuesday (December 3) and year-end giving. Each and every gift makes a difference.

Gifts over and above one's pledge may include stocks, *Christmas Green* offering, *Christmas Joy* offering (December 8 for PCUSA financial assistance/support), and General Budget Help. Online donations must be received by midnight December 31, 2024 and checks postmarked by December 31, 2024.

Checks may be received in the offering plate up to Sunday, December 31, 2024 with a date of December 31 on the check.

Giving Tuesday, Giving Thanks

On **Tuesday, December 3**, we are joining thousands of individuals and organizations on #Giving Tuesday, the Global Day of Giving. Please consider the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown on this day to help close the 2024 budget deficit and do even more with your donation so we may start 2025 fresh. You can take part by visiting www.fpcmoorestown/giving.

Manger Sunday

In one of our special traditions, members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts on Sunday, Dec. 15 for Manger Sunday. The Deacons coordinate this ministry. In both services, members will place the unwrapped gifts in the manger and pastors will bless the gifts. For those NOT attending services, gifts may be dropped off before or after services outside on the steps off the Commons Lobby, Blessing Box side) **by 12 noon**. For questions, contact Deacon Susan Shaffer at sasshaffer@comcast.net and Deacon Mike McNeil at mcneil08060@yahoo.com. [See our event page](#) for a Wish List.

Emerson Toy Collection in Commons Lobby for Camden children (gifts unwrapped)

“Ride Train”

The Deacons are coordinating a “Ride Train” to assist Betty Schurmann with rides to church and various errands. If you would like to participate, log on to <https://mealtrain.com/ld1lv4> to see dates needed or contact Deacon Bobbi Voglesong at 856.206.7190.



Family Advent Event & Marketplace

Friday, Dec. 6 (6:00-7:30 pm)

Have you ever wondered what it was like when Jesus was born? Visit the Miracle of Jesus and be transported back in time to the town of Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The citizens of Bethlehem can't stop talking about Jesus and his incredible life on earth. Families can stroll through the exciting shoppes and sites in Bethlehem in any order, meeting friends of Jesus along the way who share amazing details about his birth and life. All ages will be amazed at the authentic, multisensory experiences. The event is free but please [REGISTER online to attend](#). (see event page)

Do You Know?

A Collection of Random Presbyterian Tidbits from the Worship Team

Do you know that the paraments (cloth hanging from our pulpits) are of different symbolic colors. Purple represents preparation and is displayed during Advent and Lent. White symbolizes holiness and is displayed during Christmas and Easter. Red is associated with the Holy Spirit and is shown on Pentecost Sunday. Green depicts the presence of God and is most widely hung throughout the church year.

Christmas Schedule

(See complete details in the Advent Activity Guide and on our event page)

Monday, December 23rd

Christmas Eve Worship

3:00 pm & 7:00 pm (outdoor)

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Worship

- 4:00 pm Family Service (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm Lessons and Carols Service (Miller Commons)
- 8:30 pm Communion Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:45 pm Chapel Choir Concert
11:00 pm Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day Worship (9:30 am)

Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Jonathan Miller, Communion (no live stream)

Sunday, December 29th

5th Sunday (9:30 am)

Combined service. No children's Sunday School or nursery care. Adult class will meet AFTER the 9:30 am worship.

‘I Will Serve’ Opportunity

Is Administration your gift? Are you looking for ways to support your church? Clerk of Session Ann McBride will be concluding her service in June 2025, and we are looking for an individual to work with Ann to learn the position and step in to the vacancy with her help. If you're interested, contact Ann at (609) 304-3415 or Pastor Stuart at (856) 235-1688.





Families: Sign up to light the Advent wreath on Sundays, Christmas Eve

Advent Kit for Families

Sunday, December 1st is the First Sunday in Advent. As we prepare ourselves for Christmas, families are encouraged to pick up an Advent Kit. Pick a time to sit down together and follow the box's devotional guide and activities. Everything you need is included for your family to prepare your hearts for Baby Jesus.

Available for pick up in the Commons Lobby **Sunday, Dec. 1** (ONE box per family please).

Youth Group Holiday Schedules

- ◆ There is NO Youth Group **Sunday, Dec. 1.**
- ◆ The final meeting for Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8) is **Wednesday, Dec. 11th.**
- ◆ Middle School and High School Youth Groups will meet for their combined Christmas celebration on **Sunday, Dec. 15** from 6:30-8:30 pm at the church (grades 7-12).
- ◆ Final High School Youth Group (grades 9-12) is **Sunday, Dec. 15.**

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: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1: 23)

For Families and Children:
Holly Ascitutto
856-235-1688, x116
hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

Middle School and High School:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 call/text
dfauvell52@gmail.com

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

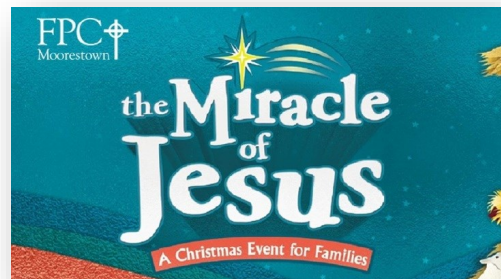
Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Middle School Youth Group and Family Dinner will NOT MEET **Wednesday, Nov. 27** for the Thanksgiving holiday.

SIGN UP: Advent Candle Lighters

YES, we are looking for families for Advent wreath lighters each Sunday in Advent (**Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22**) at both services. Spots are also available to participate in Christmas Eve services **Dec. 24** (4:00, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 pm). **Sign up with Worship Chair Kevin Fauvell at kevindfauvell@gmail.com or (609) 220-0177.**

Would you like to be an acolyte?

Our acolyte ministry is looking for boys and girls to share in this special experience at the 9:00 am traditional service. We need you. Contact Holly Ascitutto or Jean Marie Hanna in the church office at 856.235.1688, x124.



Advent Family Event & Marketplace

FPC Moorestown families are invited to take part in a special evening Family Advent Event "Miracle of Jesus" on **Friday, Dec. 6**. See page 3 and our event page for more info. Event is FREE but please register online.

Winter Break Schedule, Christmas Parties

The final regular meeting for the year for Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) groups will be on **Wednesday, December 11th** with their Christmas parties. Family Dinner ends on **December 11**. Groups will return **Wednesday, February 5, 2025.**