



December 29, 2024 ~ First Sunday of Christmas; Fifth Sunday Blended Worship

9:30 a.m. Blended 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. **NOTE: Worship announcements begin approx. 9:25 am.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Peterson

***Call to Worship**

Elder Paul Gordon

In deep gratitude, we come to worship God today.

We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer. Let's worship the Lord our God.

***Hymn No. 157**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession

Elder Gordon

Friends, our God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

With confidence, then, let us together make our confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Elder Gordon

As followers of Jesus, we are all on a journey, O God, and on this pilgrimage, there is no time when we can afford to stop growing, in hope, in love, in strength, and in the knowledge of ourselves and of God. As we pray today, we confess the times when we have been stagnant, unwilling to open our hearts and minds to

opportunities to grow in grace. Forgive the days in which we have failed to live gratefully or refused to give generously. We confess those places in our lives where we need to grow, those important relationships that call forth more from us than we are often willing to give. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Gordon

Friends, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Brothers and sisters in Christ, I declare to you, in the name of Christ Jesus, we are forgiven!

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri

Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Wes Allen

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

Rev. Spencer

Way of the Week #12: Own Our Church

Speaker: Bill Mueller

12. OWN OUR CHURCH. The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Claim ownership of FPC Moorestown's mission, programs, and property. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church – because you are!

Offertory

Rev. Spencer



Throughout December, Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church. 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

Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles

Alivia Nawrocki, Soprano

Refrain:

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die,
For poor ornery people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or, all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.

Refrain

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

“Be Transformed!”

Scripture: Jeremiah 18: 1-4 (Pew Bible page 720 OT) and Romans 12: 1-2 (Pew Bible page 161 NT)

*Hymn No. 174

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Spiritual/Manz

*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Yousef

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Worship flowers are given by Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams in loving memory of her sisters Eva Rudisel and Harriet Balain

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Paul Gordon; **Ways Speaker:** Bill Mueller; **Audio Technicians:** Harris Ransom and Taylor Adair; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Paul Lewis, Barry Leatherman, Leonard Fitts; **Flower Arrangers:** Debbie Heller and Karen Mason; **Trustee Greeter:** Bill Mueller; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Peg Pierce; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Susan Shaffer and Helen Dominy; **Bagel Pickup:** Paul Grossmann or Jim Cole; **Coffee Hospitality:** Paul Grossmann and Jim Cole; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.



We welcome Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef to the pulpit this morning. Mouris is the Senior Pastor and Head of Staff of La Crescenta Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, CA. Whether in NJ or CA, the Yousefs consider FPC Moorestown their home church since 2002 and they are friends with so many of our church family. Mouris was part of the staff here at FPC Moorestown for many years, Margaret attended worship here, and their children, Moshier and Miral, who still live in Moorestown, grew up at FPC Moorestown and are still active. We are so glad to have Mouris and his family join us in worship today.

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

TODAY: Sunday, December 29th: 5th Sunday (9:30 am combined, no Sunday School or nursery care, adult class meets AFTER worship.)

Year-End Giving (I Will Give) -- THANK YOU for remembering the church in your year-end giving. Each and every gift makes a difference and allows ministries to continue. Gifts over and above one's pledge may include stocks, *Christmas Green* offering for the church, and General Budget Help donations. Checks may be received in the OFFERING PLATE up to **Sunday, December 29, 2024**. Checks must be postmarked by December 31 and online donations must be received by midnight December 31. Checks dated **December 31** can also be hand delivered to the church office until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31. For questions reach out to Norman Vandergrift in the church office (Ext. 112).

Deacons Food and Coat Drive (I Will Give) -- Our Blessing Box supply is once again depleted and food needs are critical in these winter months. Next time you're grocery shopping consider picking up some **nonperishable food** items so we can restock the Blessing Box. Please leave food in the Commons Lobby. ALSO: We are also asking congregants to bring in **gently used and new coats** for local Haitian and Ukrainian refugees. Coats may be dropped off in the bin outside the Grace Boutique and are greatly appreciated as the weather is turning colder.

Epiphany Concert and Celebration (I Will Invite) -- Enjoy this holiday performance of carols, songs and anthems as we celebrate Epiphany. The concert will be held during the 9:00 am Sunday traditional worship on **Sunday, January 5, 2025** and feature Choristers (gr. 5-8), Chapel Choir (gr. 9-12) and Adult Choir. Communion celebrated.

January Registration for 2025-2026 Step by Step Christian Preschool! -- Registration for existing families and church members will be **January 6-17, 2025**. Registration for others will begin January 21, 2025. Our Preschool Open House will be **January 21, 2025** from 6-7 p.m. Applications are available by emailing director Amy Delgado at adelgado@fpcmoorestown.org or calling the school at 856.235.1688, x132.

Annual Report (I Will Serve) -- Work has begun on the Annual Report for 2024, summarizing our ministry year. The Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 2, 2025** in Fellowship Hall. Reports are due to Jan Martin in the church office by **Friday, January 10**. The Annual Report will be available Sunday, Jan. 26.

Choir Next Door Concert -- Start clearing your calendars -- Choir Next Door's upcoming FREE concert is coming **Saturday, Jan. 11** at 7:30 p.m. Led by FPC Moorestown grad Sam Scheibe, the talented tenor/bass vocal quartet is going back to where it all began, at FPC Moorestown. Keep a lookout for live stream information.

PW Winter Gathering -- All women of the Church are encouraged to come to the Presbyterian Women Winter Gathering on **Monday, Jan. 13 at 10:00 a.m.** Enjoy delicious pastries and hot beverages as we begin a new year. Speaker will be Linda Jagiela, who will share about her new job with Baker Industries, a nonprofit workforce development program serving hard-to-employ adults in our community since 1980.

Centering Prayer Group, Wednesdays from 6:30- 7:30 p.m. (I Will Pray) -- On Wednesday, **January 8 and 15**, those who are new to this form of prayer are invited to come for two evenings of introduction to Centering Prayer. On January 15, Dr. Brian Russell, author of *Centering Prayer: Sitting Quietly in the Presence of God Can Change Your Life* joins the group via Zoom for an introduction to Centering Prayer. The group meets in Pastor Spencer's Study. On January 15, the group meets in Fellowship Hall.

Register by Jan. 31, 2025 to take advantage of the Early Bird Special of \$400 per couple for the April 11-13, 2025 Couples Retreat. Secure your spot with a \$100 deposit. Must be paid in full by April 4, 2025.