

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
MAIL: P. O. Box 868
Moorestown, NJ 08057
fpcmoorestown.org
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 gladness; 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](#) or [Facebook](#).

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 announcements, Connections, and upcoming events? If not, contact the [church office](#).



Connections **FPC** Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

December 15-21, 2024

Way of the Week 10: Join Hands

(December 15-21, 2024)

Ways Speaker: Rev. Kathy Dain

10. JOIN HANDS. Work as a team. Collaborate with each other, our professional staff, our lay leaders, and our congregants to find the best solutions. Collaboration lightens the load, generates better ideas than individuals working alone, and unleashes the gifts God has given us all.

Ideas for Action: Is there some task you're doing at church that you could invite someone to share with you? Think of someone from our church who can help you sort out a challenge or problem you're facing.

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



Alternative Gift Fair

Just a few shopping days remain! Our Alternative Gift Fair will be open until **Dec. 24** and is perfect for those hard-to-buy-for friends or relatives. 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 locally and around the globe. Honor loved ones, family members, friends and business associates at Christmas while supporting these organizations.

It's easy! 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. **Orders close at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 24.**

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

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. 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 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**.

NEW: Advent Devotional

During Advent, take time to reflect on the scriptures foretelling and describing the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The devotional this year spotlighted our children and youth, with 14 days of the 25 Advent reflections being written by students. Please take a copy and use it daily during Advent.

New Members

Four (4) new members were received by Session on December 1, 2024 from the Fall Inquirers class. All were received by letter of transfer. Please welcome these members to our congregation:

- Jack and Sherry Evans (Moorestown)
- Justin and Rebecca Greenhow (Moorestown)

Blood Drive Friday, Jan. 24
10:00 am-5:00 pm
Miller Commons

Advent Lighters

YES, we are still looking for families to light the Advent wreath each Sunday in December at both worship services. Spots are also available to participate in worship for the four Christmas Eve services **Dec. 24** (schedule on page 3). Please contact Worship Chair Kevin Fauvell at kevindfauvell@gmail.com or (609) 220-0177.

Deacon Coat Drive

The Deacons are 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 much appreciated.



Year-End Giving Deadlines

THANK YOU for remembering the church in your year-end giving. Each and every gift makes a difference and allows our 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).

NEW: Adult Education Series: Jesse Tree

10:15-11:00 am ~ Fellowship Hall

Sunday mornings, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
(December 29 will meet AFTER 9:30 a.m. worship)
Facilitators: Lorenzo Eagles, Lissa Herman, and Paul Gordon

During Advent, we will explore the individuals depicted in a magnificent stained glass Jesse Tree window in a Welsh priory. Each week members of the class will lead brief character studies of two or three people. Discussions of what we learn will enrich our understanding of Jesus as our Savior. Join us as we prepare for the Advent of our Lord and King!

Christmas Schedule

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

Monday, December 23rd

Christmas Eve Eve Worship

3:00 pm & 7:00 pm (outdoor, weather depending)

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 Blended)

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

Do You Know?

A Collection of Random Presbyterian Tidbits from the Worship Team

Do you know that the white ornaments displayed on the Christmas trees in the church are called *Chrismons*. These ornaments are Christian symbols and are white, reflective of the liturgical color for Christmas. The term Chrismon is a combination of the words Christ and monogram. This year new ornaments have been handmade by our children and displayed on a new tree outside of Miller Commons in addition to the tree in the sanctuary. Come look up close.

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.](#)

Year-End Statements

Need a year-end update on your 2024 giving? It's available 24/7 in the Church Center app. Touch "Give" and "My Giving" for a full history and statements. Statements will be e-mailed in January.

Offering Envelopes

Boxed offering envelopes for 2025 will be mailed in December.

'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.

**Epiphany Concert
Sunday, January 5, 2025
during 9:00 am Trad. Worship**

Mitten Tree Blooms Dec. 8

On **Sunday, December 8th**, visit the Mitten Tree in the Commons Lobby presented by the Knitting Network. It will be decorated with handmade mittens, hats and scarves. You are welcome to add your handmade objects to the tree. All items will be donated to Urban Promise and local charities. If you knit or crochet, join the Knitting Network on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. Contact: Fran Green.



Holiday Schedules

Please see *Connections* and the church calendar for special holiday schedules. Wednesday groups ended **Dec. 11** and are off for Winter Break, returning February 5, 2025.

**No Thursday Prayer
Service on Dec. 26, Jan. 2**

Holiday Office Hours

Church offices will be closed Dec. 25-26; limited staff Fri. Dec. 27, Mon. Dec. 30 and Tues. Dec. 31, and closed January 1, 2025. Happy New Year!

"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.



Thanks to all who came to the Miracle of Jesus Bethlehem Village on Dec. 6

Young Artists: Artwork for Christmas Eve Bulletins

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.* Make the colors bold, and when pictures are colored in, please make sure no white paper shows through. Be creative!

Digital submissions are due by Dec. 15 to Holly Ascitutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.

Youth Group Holiday Schedules

- ◆ 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**. Groups return in early February.

For information contact Youth Director Dave Fauvell.

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

Advent Kit for Families

Available for pick up in the Commons Lobby
(ONE box per family please).

Families are encouraged to pick up an Advent Kit for this special season. 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.

Wednesday Groups Ended December 11th

Final regular meetings for this year for Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossing Zone (grades 4-6), Family Dinner and Middle School Youth Group (grades 7-8) were **Wed. Dec. 11** with year-end Christmas parties. Groups are off for Winter Break through January and will return **Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025**.

*Joy to the World! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King*

Youth Group Winter Break

Last meeting of the year for our youth groups (grades 7-12) is their December 15 Christmas Party. Groups will return on **Sunday, Feb. 2** (High School) and **Wednesday, Feb. 5** (Middle School). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our amazing teens!

Holiday Schedule: Sunday School

Children's Sunday School ends **Dec. 15**. Classes will not meet Dec. 22nd or Dec. 29th, children may worship with their families. We will see you back on **January 5, 2025!**

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Monday, December 23rd ~ Christmas Eve Worship
3:00 pm & 7:00 pm (outdoor, weather depending)

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)