

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
MAIL: P. O. Box 868  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)  
856.235.1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
Pastor/Head of Staff  
[sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

**Rev. Wes Allen**  
Associate Pastor  
[wallen@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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**

**Dec. 22-Jan. 4, 2025**

## Way of the Week 11: Make Others at Home Here

(December 22-28, 2024)

Ways Speaker: Cheryl Gaskill

### **11. MAKE OTHERS AT HOME HERE.**

Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors. Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know after worship, during Coffee Hour, in Youth Group or Sunday school. Show a genuine interest in others.

**Ideas for Action:** Look for someone you don't know very well. Invite that person for coffee, a walk or a meal and get to know them. Keep your eyes peeled for the guest or visitor at our church and offer your name with a smile of welcome. Stay open to adding a new friend.

## Way of the Week 12: Own Our Church

(December 29-Jan. 4, 2025)

Ways 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!

**Ideas for Action:** Spend a few minutes on our website to learn about some aspect of our ministry or mission that's new or unknown to you. Fuel your curiosity and consider getting involved in an area of ministry that brings you joy!

## Alternative Gift Fair

Just a few shopping days remain! Our Alternative Gift Fair will be open until **11:00 a.m. 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](mailto:donna.leatherman@comcast.net) or (856) 304-8001. **Orders close at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 24.**

### Year-End 2024 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. Year-end statements will be e-mailed in January. For questions contact Norman Vandergrift.

### 2025 Offering Envelopes

Boxed offering envelopes for 2025 will be mailed in December.

### 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!



### Christmas Schedule

#### Monday, December 23rd

**Christmas Eve 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 Blended)

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



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

### Early Bird Registration for 2025 Couples Retreat

Join us **April 11-13, 2025** for our Couples' Retreat in Cape May, NJ. We will be staying once again at The Dormer House bed and breakfast. Cost of \$450 per couple includes breakfast, 2 nights, group sessions with Dr. Paul Booker, and dinner Saturday. See Church Center event page to register and for details. **Register by Jan. 31, 2025 to take advantage of Early Bird Special of \$400 per couple! Secure your spot with a \$100 deposit. Must be paid in full by April 4, 2025.**

### Year-End Giving 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 post-marked 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!

### Mitten Tree Blooming

Visit the Mitten Tree in the Commons Lobby presented by the Knitting Network. It is 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.

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

### 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 from your FPC staff.

### “Ride Train”

The Deacons are coordinating a “Ride Train” to assist Betty Schurmann with rides to church and various errands. To offer to participate, log on to <https://mealtrain.com/id1lv4> to see dates needed or contact Deacon Bobbi Voglesong at 856.206.7190.

**Collecting nonperishable food**  
**to stock Blessing Box**

### New Audio Upgrades Installed in Sanctuary

In December, the audio system in the main Sanctuary received a significant upgrade in the form of a Behringer X32 audio mixer which is a twin of the mixer used in Miller Commons for the Contemporary Service. Expected benefits include (in time) better and more consistent sound both in the sanctuary and on the live stream. Additionally, using similar equipment for both services will make it much easier for volunteer sound operators to help with either service as needed. *Many thanks* to Taylor Adair, Steve Drzaszcz, Jonathan Nawrocki, Joshua Leonard and Harris Ransom for hours spent learning and installing.

### ‘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.

### PW Winter Gathering

All women of the Church are encouraged to come to the Presbyterian Women’s Winter Gathering **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 since 1980. Please register online.

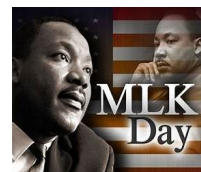
### Free Choir Next Door Concert January 11th

Save the date! Choir Next Door’s upcoming FREE concert is **Saturday, Jan. 11** at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This concert, led by FPC Moorestown grad Sam Scheibe, will include a wide range of Choir Next Door’s eclectic repertoire, from Barbershop to Byrd to Bobby McFerrin, and even a bit of audience participation. If you enjoy listening, learning about, or even singing vocal music, come out and enjoy this free concert in your neighborhood! For details about the concert, live stream, or Choir Next Door, visit [www.choirnextdoor.com](http://www.choirnextdoor.com).

### Do You Know?

A Random Collection of Presbyterian Tidbits

The Christmas Trees decorating our church and homes originated as a pagan tradition in the 15th century. However, Martin Luther, the 16th century Christian reformer, is known to be the first to decorate the tree with lights and to bring the tree indoors. The German tradition of candlelit trees made its way to America in the 1800s. Our trees are decorated with Chrismons (Christian Monograms). Francis Kipps Spencer, a Lutheran Pastor from Danville, VA, in 1957 created Chrismons on the trees in his church that symbolized Christianity. He was concerned that the trees in the church were decorated with secular symbols. We at FPC Moorestown uniquely display our trees adorned with symbols depicting the love and joy of Jesus Christ.



**Monday, Jan. 20**  
**(offices closed)**

# FAMILY MINISTRY

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



Families from our church and the community learned about Jesus and his extraordinary life at the fun, interactive Miracle of Jesus Bethlehem Village on Friday, Dec. 6. Thank you to all who participated or helped and Holly Asciutto for coordinating.

## Youth Group Holiday Schedules

- ◆ Middle School and High School Youth Groups met for their combined Christmas celebration on **Sunday, Dec. 15** from 6:30-8:30 pm at the church (grades 7-12). It was a great time!
- ◆ Groups return in early February. See you then!

For information contact Youth Director Dave Fauvell.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**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 Asciutto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

Middle School and High School:  
**Dave Fauvell**  
609-980-7885 call/text  
[dfauvell52@gmail.com](mailto: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 Winter Break

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**.

*We Three Kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder Star.*

## Youth Groups Winter Break

Last meeting of the year for our youth groups (grades 7-12) was 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)