

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



Connections FPC Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

December 8-14, 2024

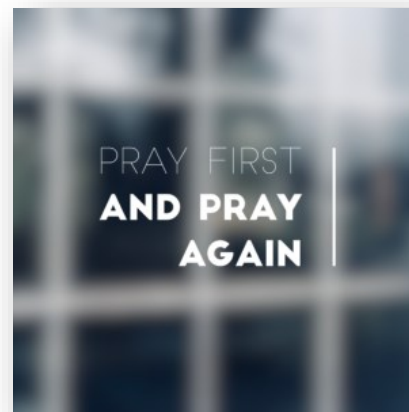
Way of the Week 9: Pray First and Pray Again

(December 8-14, 2024)

Ways Speaker: Jim Cole

9. PRAY FIRST AND PRAY AGAIN. Ask *first* for God's guidance and blessing in everything you do. Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God's will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God's love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

Ideas for Action: On your next walk, run, or in your quiet time, intentionally pray for neighbors, other churches, schools, EMTs, police and fire personnel, and local officials. If you're stalled in your prayer life, reach out to one of the pastors or a member of the Prayer Team for a suggestion.



Alternative Gift Fair

Honor loved ones, family members, friends and business associates at Christmas while providing assistance to our ministries. The 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 mission partners. Your gifts help those in need around the globe.

Stop by the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby to purchase your alternative gifts and have fun shopping. 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!

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

The Prayer and Discipleship Committee has assembled an Advent Devotional that is now available to pick up at church. During Advent, take time to reflect on the scriptures foretelling and describing the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The devotional 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.

A Note from Jean Kunkel

A word of Thanksgiving to all who participated in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Those who prepared their own shoeboxes of gifts, those who received them, prayed over them, packed them, or transported them to the larger center, I give each of you my grateful thanks. I had a lot of fun getting to know each of you better. FPCM as a Collection Center received 1,167 shoeboxes and our area collected a total of 12,859 shoeboxes! —Jean

Advent Lighters

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

Stop by the Chrismon tree in the Commons Lobby to view these historic symbols

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 church office and are much appreciated!



Year-End Giving

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 (**Sundays in December**), *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 post-marked 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.

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 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 meets AFTER the 9:30 am worship.

Do You Know?

A Collection of Random Presbyterian Tidbits from the Worship Team

Our paraments are adorned with Christian Symbols and are seasonally displayed. A descending dove represents the Holy Spirit. IHS is an ancient monogram that goes back to the first century and is an abbreviation from the first three words of the Greek word Jesus (Iota = I; Eta = H; Sigma = S). PX or Chi Rho is from the first two Greek letters of Christ and is the oldest known monogram and goes back to the Roman Emperor Constantine. Our lit candles represent light as Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



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**. 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)

I Will Serve: Clerk of Session

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.



Poinsettia Pickup: If you ordered a poinsettia you may take it home after worship **Sunday, Dec. 15**.



Announcement Start Time

In an effort to be mindful of worship service content and the impact on education classes, announcements at the 9:00 am Traditional service begin approx. **8:55 a.m.** The live stream also starts at this time.

Holiday Schedules

Please see *Connections*, the website, church calendar and page 4 for all holiday schedules. Wednesday groups end **December 11** and are off for Winter Break through January, returning February 5, 2025.

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

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. Financial statements for 2024 will be mailed in January for tax purposes.

Hunger Knows No Season

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 items for the Blessing Box. You may leave food items in the Commons Lobby.

Offering Envelopes

Boxed offering envelopes for 2025 will be mailed in December.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday School classes end December 15th with a Christmas Celebration

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

- ◆ 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.**

For information contact Youth Director Dave Fauvell.

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

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

Advent Kit for Families

Available for pick up in the Commons Lobby **Sunday, Dec. 1**
(*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. Advent began December 1.

Wednesday Groups End 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) are **Wed. December 11.**

Groups are off for Winter Break through January and will return **Wednesday, February 5, 2025.**

*They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far*

Holiday Schedule Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will not meet Dec. 22nd or Dec. 29th (combined worship). Sunday School classes return on **January 5, 2025.**

Please see *Connections* and the church calendar for holiday schedules.



Christmas Parties

- **Kingdom Kids:** Wed. Dec. 11 (4:45-5:45 pm, FH)
- **Crossing Zone:** Wed. Dec. 11 (6:30-7:30 pm, FH)
- **Middle School and High School:** Sun. Dec. 15 (6:30-8:30 pm, FH/3rd Floor)