



January 5, 2025 ~ The Lord's Supper; Epiphany Celebration; Grow The Kingdom

9:00 a.m. Traditional 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 at 8:55 am.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Humble Savior

Beckstead

Choristers; Sawyer McNab, Flute; Nadia Khalifa, Alto

*Call to Worship

Elder Paul Grossmann

Rejoice, people of God: this is our Sabbath day.

Rejoice, friends in Christ: this is our time for worship.

God ordained the Sabbath day for our rest and restoration.

God is worthy of worship, for the Lord is our Creator, Healer, and our Peace.

So then, let us worship God.

*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Grossmann

*Hymn No. 185

We Three Kings

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Grossmann

We are so skilled at being in control, at taking charge, Sabbath-Taking God, that we are not very good at resting. We think we have to be constantly busy, so we have no time for you. We are trained to be extremely productive, and so create our harried, stress-filled lives. Forgive us, Peace Giving God. Help us to let go of our

distractions, so you can act in us; calm our creaturely activity, so you can re-create us; help us to follow Jesus, not only into discipleship, but into our rest with You.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Grossmann

Hear the Good News: God is always awaiting to restore us, so we can proclaim the Good News:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

Epiphany Concert

Noble Magi

Choristers; Sawyer McNab, Flute; Melissa McNab, Finger Cymbals

Gifford

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Do You See a Star?

Chapel Choir

Larry Schackley

Guiding Star Carol

Chapel Choir

Danish

Rachel Ferguson, Piano

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

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #13: Open Doors For Others to Lead

Speaker: Dana Riker Jackson

13. OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS TO LEAD. Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring. Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not solely the future of our church but are vitally important for our *present*.

Offertory

Rev. Spencer



Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving, as a new year growing God's Kingdom begins. 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

We Have Seen His Star

Adult Choir

Titcomb

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Your Rest or Your Life"

Scripture: Isaiah 30: 12-16 (Pew Bible page 658 OT)

NEW Sermon Series: "Stop at the Stop Signs: Entering God's Gift of Rest" ([see online resources page](#))

*Hymn No. 162 (verses 2, 3)

The First Noel

Special Communion Music

A Babe is Born I Wys

Adult Choir

Bainton

The Lord's Supper and Home Communion

Rev. Spencer, Elders

The Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With hearts filled with joy, we bring our praise to you, God of Rest. Created to find our peace with you, our fretful desire to be in control led us into a nomadic existence of rebellion against you.

Prophets spoke and angels sang to invite us home, but our stubborn pride only grew stronger.

When the burden of our sin became too great for your heart, you sent Jesus to carry it for us.

With those who have found their rest in you, with those who long for their burdens to be lifted,

we join in singing your praise: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

GROW THE KINGDOM! As we commit to growing God's Kingdom, every member and friend of FPC Moorestown is invited into a covenant with four commitments: **I will pray. I will invite. I will serve. I will give.** Every member and friend is asked to commit to doing all four. For additional information including commitment forms: <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>.

*Hymn No. 162 (verse 6)

The First Noel

Music in Preparation for Service

Shepherds Left Their Flocks

Choristers, Chapel Choir and Adult Choir; Sawyer McNab, Flute

Rutter

*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Spencer

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Worship flowers are given by Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harry Knowles.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Paul Grossmann; **Communion Elders:** Debbie Heller, Jean Kunkel, Matt Livingston, Paul Grossmann; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Jack Terry, Joe Scheideler, Barry Leatherman; **Flower Arrangers:** Carol Morgan and Stacy Schaffer; **Trustee Greeter:** Wendy Dougherty; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Marsha Booker; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Andrew Ehala and Karen Hynoski; **Bagel Pickup:** Lissa Herman or Susan Shaffer; **Coffee Hospitality:** Lissa Herman and Susan Shaffer; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

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

TODAY: Epiphany Concert and Celebration – Enjoy this holiday performance of carols, songs and anthems of the season as we celebrate Epiphany. Today's concert features the Choristers (gr. 5-8), Chapel Choir (gr. 9-12) and Adult Choir. Dana Riker Jackson from the Riker Opportunity Institute, is our Ways speaker guest.

Registration for 2025-2026 Step by Step Christian Preschool opens soon! 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.

Deacons Food 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.

Choir Next Door Concert – Save The Date! Choir Next Door's upcoming FREE concert is coming **Saturday, Jan. 11** at 7:30 p.m. Led by FPC Moorestown grad Sam Scheibe, this 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. Please also bring **white cotton socks** for the Christian Caring Center. A collection box is located in Miller Commons.

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

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.

Holiday Schedule -- The church campus will be CLOSED **Monday, January 20** for the Martin Luther King holiday.

