First Presbyterian Church 101 Bridgeboro Road MAIL: P. O. Box 868 Moorestown, NJ 08057 <u>fpcmoorestown.org</u> 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 I I: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 <u>www.fpcmoorestown.org</u> or <u>YouTube</u> or <u>Facebook</u>.

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

#### First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

#### Way of the Week 17: Show Who You Really Are (February 2-8, 2025)

Ways Speaker: Cynthia Saint Cyr

**17. SHOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.** Our church is for "real" people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths, and your weaknesses. God loves you as you are. Don't hide your struggles, failures or problems.

**Ideas for Action**: This week, sit down with or talk to another member by phone and share one area of struggle, failure or a fear you have.



# February 2-8, 2025





#### Lent Study Course

This year our Lenten Study will be reading "Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer. We need people to host the course. Please let Wes Allen know if you can help host a group. It is our hope that the majority of our groups will proactively INVITE neighbors, family and friends to participate - including those who are not affiliated with FPCM and those on the fringes.

We will also have signups available for people to join groups. Since Lent is only six weeks and the materials span eight weeks, groups will either begin two weeks before Lent (the week of Feb. 23) or continue two weeks beyond Easter (Easter is April 20).

Learn more: www.practicingtheway.org.

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#### Welcome Newcomers: Inquirers Class

Are you interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown? Come to our Inquirers Class series which begins **February 26.** <u>See our</u> <u>Church Center event page</u> for info and to sign up.



MSCG Painting Party <u>Fundraiser</u> Sunday, Feb. 23 (2:00-4:30 pm) \$50 donation per person See Leslie Spencer or our Church Center <u>Event Page</u> Contact (215) 584-7659

#### Capital Sunday Feb. 23

Capital projects are essential for continued maintenance, safety and preservation of our Church. The goal is to come together as a congregation, and ensure the longevity and well-being of our cherished church without encumbering our annual operating budget. In the 2025 Annual Report, Trustees summarized prioritized capital improvements that will require action in upcoming years. Because of budgetary restraints there was no capital money budgeted for 2025. Instead, leadership offers the congregation the chance to give to these projects during a Capital Campaign. In 2024, through the great generosity of our congregation, we raised \$154,000.

This year we ask that you consider a gift on Capital Sunday February 23, 2025. You may choose to give as a family or individual to a specific project or give to the overall campaign. Trustees also remind you that this is above and beyond your normal giving commitment to the Church. Watch your mail for information and a 2025 Pledge Card for your convenience. Contributions to the Capital Fund can be made throughout the year through the <u>online</u> <u>church giving portal</u> or by utilizing special Capital Fund pew envelopes. Your participation in this campaign will make a significant impact on the preservation, safety and enhancement of our church facilities.



Preschool Dine & Donate Thursday, February 27 11:00 am—10:00 pm Iron Hill Brewery (Maple Shade) 124 E. Kings Highway 20% of food bill to Step by Step

#### Per Capita 2024

The Stewardship Committee reminds you that February is Per Capita time and asks you to please cover your share of **\$38.75** per member. Details have been mailed to members regarding this annual support. As Presbyterians, we are a *connectional church*. This "per member" contribution of \$38.75 above one's pledge supports the General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery and our church is required to pay this. If you do NOT wish the church to pay your Per Capita, you must <u>submit an opt-out form</u> online or call the church office (856.235.1688) Last year, our church paid \$15,858 from operating funds for non-responding members. *Please note not responding is NOT the same as opting out.* See Church Center event page to send online.

#### <u>New: Volunteer Recognition Luncheon</u> <u>Saturday, February 8</u>

In recognition of the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers, FPC Moorestown cordially invites all volunteers to an Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

We are blessed with countless volunteers who give of their time and talents to serve our community: office volunteers, choirs, elders, deacons, trustees, youth leaders, VBS and Wednesday Night helpers, audio/visual operators, ushers, Stephen Ministry greeters, musicians, and *more*. This luncheon is an opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who serve. <u>Please RSVP online</u> by Wed. February 5 so we can accurately gauge our food needs.

### Our Church is Hugged by the Faithful Arms of Volunteers Please Join Us for a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Saturday, February 8, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall

#### Women's Prayer Event Saturday, February 22 8:00 g.m. to 12 noon

Experience the wonder of spending special time alone with God as we seek His intent for our lives. Please come for a special time of prayer. Bring your Bible, journal and a snack if you'd like. Coffee, hot tea, and water will be provided. Join other women on their prayer journey. Women of high school age or older and friends are welcome. <u>Sign</u> <u>up online.</u> Event will start in the Lounge then women will find quiet spaces throughout the building to pray.

#### **Database Updates**

Have you or your adult children moved from the Moorestown area? Please make sure the <u>church office</u> has the correct contact information, email. cell phone and birthdates.



Please note that teens and/or adult children who have been confirmed (even

if not living locally) are considered members of FPC Moorestown unless removed from FPC Moorestown rolls. E-mail Jan Martin at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org.

2025 Per Capita Campaign supports the larger church; Due February 28 (see page 2)

#### 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 for 2024 will be emailed in January.

#### Bus Trip to See "Noah"

We have arranged a bus trip on Thursday, March 20, 2025 to see the Sight and Sound production of "Noah." We will depart from the church that morning, travel to Lancaster, PA, and enjoy lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord Amish Country Buffet. We will attend the 3:00 pm production, and return that evening to the church parking lot. Only 38 tickets are available. Cost for the trip is \$150 per person and includes bus transportation (the church is absorbing this expense), show ticket, lunch and driver gratuity. Please sign up online. Tickets are limited and are expected to sell out fast. No refunds or exchanges.



Save The Date: Adult Prayer Breakfast Saturday, March 8

#### Spring Prayer Retreat

Registration is open for the Spring Prayer Retreat **April 1-4, 2025** at Holy Cross Monastery. Please see our event page or brochure. Registration due **March 9.** 



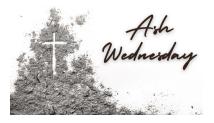
#### Campus closed Monday, Feb. 17 for Presidents Day

#### Sunday Morning Check Ins

Please check in to register your attendance **each time** you attend in person or watch on your device. This records critical data for the staff & Membership Team. <u>Download the Church Center app</u> to check in. Friendship Pads are in the pews and in Miller Commons. Sign in and date the page. New live stream viewers are encouraged to sign in on the **Get Connected** form on the live stream page on the site.

#### Note from Nominations

The Nominating Committee will soon begin its work to find nominees for Elders, Deacons and Trustees to serve our church. Please pray about where you or someone you know may best fit and become involved. Look for an online sign up shortly or contact any member of the committee. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."



Ash Wednesday Worship March 5, 2025

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## Children's and Youth fellowship groups return Wednesday, Feb. 5



#### Youth Groups Return in February

Fellowship groups have been off for Winter Break through January, and will return in February. Happy New Year to our amazing teens. We will see you soon!

- High School: returns on Sunday, Feb. 2
- Middle School: returns on Wednesday, Feb. 5

For information contact Youth Director Dave Fauvell at call/text 609-980-7885.



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

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20: 8) Holly Asciutto 856-235-1688, x116 hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Children:

Middle School and High School: Dave Fauvell 609-980-7885 call/text dfauvell52@gmail.com



Children's Sunday School meets Sunday morning from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Please sign up online.

#### Wednesday Groups Return

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) and Family Dinner will return from Winter Break on **Wednesday**, **February 5.** We can't wait to see you!

#### Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday **March 5**, **2025.** There will be no Kingdom Kids or Crossing Zone that evening. The first Sunday in Lent is March 9. Watch for information about Lent-in-a-Box too!

#### **Looking for Acolytes**

As light bearers, acolytes symbolically bring the light of Christ into the worship service at the beginning of worship and take Christ's light out into the world at the end of worship. This act frames all we do in our worship services, and is a beautiful way to engage children in church life. If your young person is interested in serving, please sign up online. We'd love to have you!

