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 16: <u>Give Cheerfully</u> (January 26-February 1, 2025) Ways Speaker: Jeff Legath

16. GIVE CHEERFULLY. Rejoice, you get to give! Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that's been entrusted to you – time, abilities and money – ask, "How is God calling me to share what I've been given?







January 26, 2025 is Blanket Sunday An offering sponsored by our Deacons

Your contributions to Church World Service enable CWS to help families recover from disasters and displacement, while helping to rebuild viable, sustainable lives and communities. Look for Blanket Sunday envelopes at both services. You may also give securely online at www.fpcmoorestown.org/giving - just choose Blanket Sunday from the drop down list. And thank you!

NOTE: This is not a Sunday when we **collect** blankets. Please do not bring blankets to donate to the church.

Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2025

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Lent Study Introduction

This year our Lenten Study will be reading "Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer. On Sunday, Jan. 26 Wes Allen hosts an introduction to the course for those who may be interested in leading a group. This will take place in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 pm. We need people to SERVE by leading the course. If you are able please let Wes know and plan to attend on Jan. 26. 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).

For more details visit www.practicingtheway.org.

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

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is on the ground helping with the California wildfires. To give, visit <u>https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/</u> <u>agencies-entities/interim-unified-</u> <u>agency/ministry-areas/disaster-</u> <u>assistance.</u>

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."*



MSCG Painting Party Fundraiser

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

DO YOU KNOW?

A Random Collection of Presbyterian Tidbits

Do you know what it is symbolized when the Beadle carries the open Bible down the center aisle of the sanctuary at the end of the worship service? The open Bible signifies that the Word is to be taken out of the church and into our communities as we are witnesses and disciples of Jesus Christ. The carrying of the open Bible is a tradition unique to FPC Moorestown.

<u>Annual Report;</u> Annual Meeting and Potluck

- The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Feb.
 2, 2025 in Fellowship Hall. We'll gather for a potluck luncheon, and the meeting will begin about 12:30 p.m. The Meeting will also be available via Zoom (see event page for link).
- The 2024 Annual Report will be available Sunday, Jan. 26.
- Based on the first letter of your last name, please bring the following covered dish: (A-L): Main Dish or Entrée; (M-Q): Side Dish or Salad; (P-R): 8 oz. pony bottles of water; (S-T): Rolls or Bread; (U-Z): Desserts.

2025 Offering Envelopes

Boxed offering envelopes for 2025 are available on a table in Miller Commons. <u>Please pick yours up to</u> <u>save \$6.00 per box postage cost</u>.

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 e-mailed in January.

Sock It To Me

Presbyterian Women are collecting **white cotton socks** for the Christian Caring Center. Drop socks in the collection box in the Lobby through January.

Women's Prayer Event Saturday, February 22 8:00 a.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. If praying is a new or unfamiliar spiritual practice, just do what makes you comfortable. Join other women on their prayer journey. Women of high school age or older and friends are welcome. Sign up online. Event will start in the Lounge then women will find quiet spaces throughout the building to pray.

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 Church</u> <u>Center event page</u> for info and to sign up.



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.

Invite a friend to church or to the Lent small group events

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 submit an opt-out form online or call the church office. 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.

2025 Per Capita Campaign supports the larger church; Due February 28

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.

Practicing the Way

Be with Jesus Become like him Do as he did

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon February 8

In recognition of the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers, FPC Moorestown is pleased to invite all members of the congregation to a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on **Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**. This special event will celebrate and honor the tireless efforts of the many individuals who help make our church a vibrant place of worship and service. **RSVP ONLINE BY FEB. 5.**



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.

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Youth: Sunday, January 26 Midterms Study Day (1:00-3:00 PM)



Youth Groups Return in February

Fellowship groups are 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.

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

For Families and Children: Holly Asciutto 856-235-1688, x116 hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." (Exodus 20: 8)

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 Winter Break

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossisng Zone (grades 4-6) and Family Dinner are off for Winter Break through the month of January and will return **Wednesday**, February 5, 2025.

Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins with Ash **Wednesday March 5**, **2025.** There will be no Kingdom Kids or Crossing Zone. The first Sunday in Lent is March 9.

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!

