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 18: Ask For Help (February 9-15, 2025) Ways Speaker: Jen Allen

18. ASK FOR HELP. Part of being a real and authentic member of the church is to acknowledge your weaknesses and be willing to ask for God's help and the support of others. None of us can go it alone. Vulnerability is a sign of strength and a gift to others.

Ideas for Action: First think about what you need help with right now. Then, share that need with someone else from our congregation this week.





February 9-15, 2025



Lent Study Course

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

Look for signups soon 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: <u>www.practicingtheway.org.</u>

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Capital Sunday Feb. 23

Capital projects are essential for continued maintenance, safety and preservation of our Church and 23 acres of grounds. In the 2025 Annual Report, Trustees prioritized 23 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 convenience. Contributions to the Capital Fund can be made throughout the year through the <u>online church giving</u> <u>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.



Year-End 2024 Statements

Year-end statements for 2024 have been e-mailed. Statements for 2024 giving are also available 24/7 in the Church Center app. Touch "Give" and "My Giving" for a full history and statements. For questions contact Norman Vandergrift at 856.235.1688, x112.



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



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 (I Will Give)

February is Per Capita time and the Stewardship Committee reminds you to 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 nonresponding members. *Please note not responding is NOT the same as opting out.* See <u>Church Center</u> event page to send online.

Church Has Left The Building (I Will Serve)

Sunday, March 30 — Fifth Sunday 9:30 AM Worship followed by service projects

Plans are underway for our Church Has Left The Building church-wide service initiative on **Sunday**, **March 30.** The Deacons coordinate this event. Watch for more information soon on special events



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

Join other women on their prayer journey. Experience the wonder of spending special time alone with God as we seek His intent for our lives. Bring your Bible, journal and a snack if you'd like. Coffee, hot tea, and water provided. Women of high school age or older and friends are welcome. <u>Sign up online.</u>

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)

Welcome Newcomers: Inquirers Class

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



Bus Trip to See "Noah"

As of Feb. 7. 12 tickets remain for the remain for the bus trip on March 20, 2025 to see the Sight and Sound production of "Noah." We will 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. Cost is \$150/person and includes bus transportation (the church is absorbing this expense), show ticket, lunch and driver gratuity. Please sign up online. Tickets are selling briskly. No refunds or exchanges.

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



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."

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.



Ashes, Communion and Worship March 5, 2025

Adult Prayer Breakfast with Sister Marcy Saturday, March 8, 2025 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

This year during Lent, the Men's Prayer Group of FPC Moorestown cordially invites men and women of the congregation to a morning with amazing food and a special time of learning and fellowship. After breakfast, Sister Marcy from the Francis House of Prayer Retreat Center, will address the group. High school age or older and their friends are most welcome.





Children's and Youth fellowship groups new year has begun!



Youth Groups Returned in February

Middle School and High School youth groups returned in February from Winter Break. We can't wait to see you!

- High School: returned on Sunday, Feb. 2
- Middle School: returned 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) For Families and Children: Holly Asciutto 856-235-1688, x116 hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

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

Wednesday Groups are Back!

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) and Family Dinner returned from Winter Break on **Wednesday, February 5.** We can't wait to see you. Make sure you've registered on the <u>Church Center event page</u>.

Ash Wednesday ~ Lent Begins

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**. COMING: Watch for information about Lent-in-a-Box (available around Sunday, March 9) and One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks which will be collected on Palm Sunday April 13.

Sunday School Classes

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

Save The Date

Save The Date for Vacation Bible School June 23-27, 2025.

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 <u>sign up online</u>. **We'd love to have you!**

