



Wednesday, March 18: All Church Events and Activities Cancelled

Children's Easter Celebration

The Children's Easter Celebration is coming **Saturday, April 4** (10:30-11:30 am). Weather permitting, we will be outside. Celebrate the joy of Easter with crafts, fun and of course, Easter Eggs! There is no charge; canned food for the food pantry as an entrance will be welcomed. Rain or shine. Don't forget your basket!

*We welcome candy donations of individually wrapped items that are peanut free and can fit within a plastic Easter egg. Please drop off candy donations to the church office **BY MARCH 7th**!*



Fish Banks

During Lent, fish-shaped boxes will be distributed to children in Sunday School. On Palm Sunday, it is the tradition at First Presbyterian Church to receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering (the fish boxes). A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing allows us to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Children can bring the boxes with them on Palm Sunday (April 5) to be received during the Children's Moment in both services.



Kingdom Kids: Grades K-3
Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 pm
Crossing Zone: Grades 4-6
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm
Flock: Grades 7-8
Wednesdays 6:30-8 pm
Wave: Grades 9-12
Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm

Sermon Series Memory Verse

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." - Mark 8: 34, 35

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

For Families and Youth:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 (cell/text)
dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org

ADVISORY: All Church Activities Cancelled March 15-21; March 15 Worship Live Streamed

To ensure the safety of FPC church members and guests, all events and activities from March 15-21 have been **CANCELLED**. The office will be closed Monday, March 16 for deep cleaning, and will be open March 24-27. **LIVE STREAM WORSHIP:** On Sunday, March 15 there will be one **9:30 a.m.** sanctuary worship service which will be live streamed **ONLY**. There will be no in-person attendance. Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org at 9:30 a.m. to tune in.



School Supplies Requested by March 15

We are collecting school supplies and art supplies for our mission partners Ishmael, Thoko and Kimmie from last summer's Roar VBS. Will you please help them as they head back to Malawi and begin their new ministry called Love Driven Ministries by giving them a head start with supplies for the kids they will serve? We're collecting: Pencils (colored and #2), Pencil sharpeners (manual only); Markers; Crayons; Notebooks (composition and art); Gel pens; Construction paper; Erasers. Learn about Love

Driven at <https://lovedrivenministries.org/>. Please have all donations at the church by March 15th at the latest.

Way of the Week

12. OWN OUR CHURCH. The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Claim ownership of FPCM's mission, programs, and property. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church — because you are!

First Presbyterian Church
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www.fpcmoorestown.org
(856) 235-1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Kelly LePenske
Director of
Congregational Ministries
klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org

WORSHIP HOURS
- 8:30 am Traditional
- 11:00 am Contemporary

**Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.**

**ADVISORY
Sunday, March 15**

Due to health concerns, there will be one **9:30 a.m.** sanctuary worship service which will be live streamed **ONLY**. Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org at 9:30 a.m. to tune in.

All events and activities from March 15-21 have been **CANCELLED**. The office will be closed Monday for deep cleaning, and will be open March 24-27.

"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, FPC news and upcoming events? If not, contact the church office.



Connections



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown **March 15-22, 2020**

Way of the Week

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GRACE NOTES

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, along with many staff members, has been working over the past couple of years to begin to claim ownership of the facility and grounds. Through many generous bequests and donations, the Trustees, with Session approvals, have begun these upgrades. In deciding the priorities, the safety of the congregation and staff was first and foremost. The total replacement of the parking lot last summer was a major project, and many thanks go out to the congregation for weathering the longer than proposed disruption. Upgrades to the security systems, including cameras in the children's wing and common areas will attract younger families. All locks in the building were changed and a new key distribution system was implemented. Change is difficult, but we are thankful for such a caring and understanding congregation and staff.

The Sanctuary and narthex, as well as many other parts of the building, have been painted. The Sanctuary was last painted over 30 years ago and the stairway to the choir loft has not been painted in at least 50 years. New carpeting was installed in the Miller Commons lobby and will soon be replaced in the narthex and church halls. How many remember the black and white tile in the narthex, or the wood stairs leading to the choir loft that one might have raced up and down as a child?

A new sound system was installed in the Sanctuary and speakers are being added to the choir loft. Most of you probably never noticed the conduit that is now all hidden in the narthex and church. Also, the leak in steeple has been finally fixed to protect the organ and choir loft.

The annual Trustee work day, in coordination with "The Church Has Left the Building," planted hundreds of tulips and daffodils and spruced up the flower beds around the church and cemetery. The Wong Garden was completely redone with a waterfall constructed by someone wanting to give back. Trees in the cemetery were trimmed, dead trees on the property removed, and additional work is still to come.

All the graves in the cemetery were lifted and leveled by an anonymous donor; take a stroll after church some Sunday and see the newly constructed garden around the Cross.

There are still additional items on the to do list; new windows in the Christian Education building, exterior painting of the building and steeple, bathroom upgrades in the Christian Education wing and all knob and tube wiring to be removed in the house.

These are just a few of the many projects that the Trustees and staff have undertaken over the past couple of years to reclaim ownership of our property. The church has been enriched by those that have gone before us and donors, at a critical time in our history. We have truly been blessed by God.

Ginny Weber – President, Board of Trustees

**April Couples Retreat
“Marriage and Discipleship”
April 17-19, 2020**

Yes, you can still sign up for the Couples Retreat. Enjoy a nurturing weekend away at the Inn of Cape May **April 17-19**, hosted by Stuart & Leslie Spencer. Facilitators will be Revs. Tony & Katie Sundermeier. [Register online](#) on the church web site or pick up a brochure. Cost is \$430 per couple; \$100 deposit due by **March 12**. Includes two nights lodging, meals and workshops at FPC of Cape May.

Holy Week Schedule

- ◆ **April 5:** Palm Sunday (no Sunday School, Lent Groups meet)
- ◆ **April 9:** Maundy Thursday (7:30 pm, Miller Commons)
- ◆ **April 10:** Good Friday Tenebrae (7:30 pm, Sanctuary)
- ◆ **April 12:** Easter Worship
6:30 a.m. Sunrise
8:30 a.m. Traditional
9:30 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional

Coronavirus Update

This past week Pastor Spencer sent special eblasts to church members regarding how the church is responding to the COVID-19 virus outbreak. [Read the recent communication on our web site.](#)

Deacons March Food Drive

The Deacons kicked off March with a Food Drive to provide much needed food for the Ministerium Food Pantry at St. Matthew. Paper Bags and a suggested food item list were distributed at church on **March 1**. All food can be dropped off in the shopping cart located in the Commons Lobby by **March 22**. Thank you for your support.

Pastor’s Note
Pastor Spencer will be away on study leave March 16-23, returning to the office Tuesday, March 24. For pastoral care concerns, please contact [Kelly LePenske](#) or [Jan Martin](#) in the church office at (856) 235-1688.

Deacons Food Baskets

The Deacons are exploring options for the Easter Food Baskets. If you signed up to help with pickup, packing or delivery of the Easter Food Baskets on **Saturday, April 4** please contact Deacon Helen Dominy at 856-235-5594 or rmdsrillc@aol.com.



One Great Hour of Sharing

In the next few weeks, please look for special One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelopes in the pews. You may also give online at www.fpcmoorestown.org. Parents: See page 4 for children’s information about the ‘fish banks’.

Tag the church in Facebook posts from FPC activities

Cancelled: Jazz Vespers

Due to ongoing concerns for the health and safety of our church members and guests, the Jazz Vespers service scheduled for Saturday, March 14 has been cancelled. The event will be rescheduled.



**Spring Prayer Retreat
June 16-19**

Holy Cross Monastery
West Park, New York
“Praying the Lord’s Prayer”
Learn more/register at www.fpcmoorestown.org

Lenten Book Study

Our Lenten book study is underway and groups are reading “Not a Fan” by Kyle Idleman. Please see two schedule notes:

- **Fifth Sunday, 3/29:** Small groups will meet AFTER the combined 9:30 am service. Leaders are aware of this and will meet in their respective spaces from 11:00 AM–Noon.
- **Palm Sunday, 4/5:** Small groups will meet during the Education hour (9:45–10:45 AM) in their respective spaces.



For questions contact Kelly LePenske at (856) 235-1688 or klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org.



Order Easter Flowers

Orders for Easter Flowers will be taken **March 15, 22 and 29** to decorate our worship spaces with the symbol of renewal. Order forms will be available in *Connections* and on the church website www.fpcmoorestown.org. Flowers are \$13 each and colorful, assorted spring varieties. For questions contact [Rachel Scarborough](#) in the office at 856-235-1688, Ext. 124.

Canceled: Friday Nighters

Out of an abundance of caution, the April 3 Friday Nighters event has been canceled. The group plans to meet in May.

Thanks for wearing your nametag and greeting newcomers

Facility Facelift

On March 17-18, new carpeting will be installed in the hallways from the office to the sanctuary, Narthex and pulpit replacing the worn carpet. Recently the interior ceiling and walls of the sanctuary were professionally painted and scuffed narthex trim given a fresh coat of paint. See page 1 for more work that’s been done to our property!

Church Center App

Download the free “Church Center” mobile app to check-in to FPC Moorestown events, find or join a group, give online, register for events and contact the church. Visit your App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android) for the Church Center app and get connected.

Rummage Sale Canceled

After much prayer and consideration, PW coordinators decided to postpone the April 1-2 Rummage Sale. [Please see the complete letter](#) on our web site or church eblasts.

**Session Packet Deadline
Friday, March 20 (12 noon)**

PW Birthday Offering

PW Circle Members and Friends: The Birthday offering will be collected in Circles during the month of March. Traditionally, an amount is given commensurate with one’s birthday, ranging from 10 cents to \$1 per year. (Shy ladies may donate any amount). If you miss the meeting or do not belong to a Circle, please send your check to the office with “PW Birthday Offering” on the memo line. A list of 2020 recipients is on the PW bulletin board. Questions? Contact Susan Masiko at 856-630-3253 or susan.masiko@comcast.net.

**Save The Date
Saturday, May 2
8:45 am-Noon
(8:30 am Continental Breakfast)**

Part 2: Discipleship Training

Ed and Debby Gross
REGISTER ONLINE
If you missed the first session, you can watch it on our live stream. Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org

Own Our Church

Leaving a room? Please take care to turn the lights OFF and make sure the room is how you found it — or better. Please also make sure the office has a Room Reservation Form before your events so we can help.

We pray for the world, our health officials, and local, state and national entities impacted by the [Coronavirus](#) pandemic.

Alpha Provides Opportunity to Explore Your Faith

Who is Jesus? Why and how should I read the Bible? Who is the Holy Spirit? Explore questions like these at ALPHA, a 10-week/14 Lesson course open to the community. Sessions are held on Wednesday evenings and begin with a dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by a DVD video at 6:45 pm, and small group discussion. The Spring series begins **April 15** and runs through June, including a Holy Spirit Weekend retreat held at the church. Check out the Alpha page at www.fpcmoorestown.org (Events) or see leader Jim Cole (jamescole7@comcast.net).

Preschool Night

Take a night off of cooking Thurs. March 19th and swing through Chick-Fil A to support [Step by Step Christian Preschool](#). Be sure to mention to your server that you are supporting the fundraiser! Bring your friends and colleagues ... our wonderful school receives a percentage of every order. Dine in or carry out. Order a tray of chicken nuggets for a committee meeting. Chick-Fil A is located at 58 Center-ton Square in Mount Laurel.

