

June 28, 2026

One Gospel. Every Age

Today, we hear 2 passages that are deeply connected.

First, the prophet Joel imagines a day when God's Spirit will be poured out on all people.

Then, in Acts, Peter proclaims that this promise has begun through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Listen for God's vision of a church where everyone has a place... and everyone has a part to play.

Joel 2:28–29 (NIV) reveals God's Word, saying:

“And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your old men will dream dreams,

your young men will see visions.

Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Acts 2:17 (NIV)

““In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.””

*This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

I've really been chewing on a question this past week...

What does a healthy church look like? What does it look like?

- Some might talk about attendance.
- Some might talk about budgets.
- Some might talk about buildings or programs.

But after these past few weeks, I know exactly how I would answer.

A healthy church looks like generations worshipping, serving, learning,
and growing together.

A healthy church looks like FMC.

For the past month, we have explored a series called *GENERATIONS*.

And what an inspiring month it has been.

~On Youth Sunday, our young people didn't just participate in worship—
they led it.

Almost every aspect of the service was led by youth.

They greeted us, prayed, read scripture, preached,
and led the praise worship team.

They were the band & the vocalists.

Dustin helped them channel their gifts...as did Jeremiah that Sunday.

Wasn't that amazing? Gotta check it out online if haven't yet.

They reminded us that God is not waiting for them to grow up
before God can use them. ...God is using them right now.

Then Rev. Dr. Drew Dyson stood in this pulpit and reminded us
that aging is not about winding down.

It is about continuing to discover who God is calling us to be.

I loved that message. Because discipleship doesn't retire.

~God never stops shaping us.

~God never stops calling us.

~God never stops inviting us into new adventures of faith...

No matter what age we are! Amen?

And then just last week, four men from our congregation shared
about the people who influenced them & are still influencing them!

Parents & grandparents; Teachers, coaches & pastors; Friends & Mentors.

~People who invested in them.

~People who passed along wisdom.

~People who showed them what faith looked like...

and what it didn't look like!

And what struck me most profoundly,
was not simply their gratitude for those influences.

It was their desire to do the same for someone else.

~To encourage.

~To mentor.

~To guide.

~To pass along wisdom they had received.

Friends, this entire series has been pointing us toward one simple truth:

There is one Gospel...Every age.

One Gospel:

- Not a youth Gospel.
- Not a senior adult Gospel.
- Not a gender specific Gospel.
- Not a Gospel for one generation and not another.

One Gospel. One Lord. One Spirit. One Church—

Every age.

And that is exactly what the prophet Joel envisioned.

Centuries before Jesus, Joel imagined a day when God's Spirit
would be poured out on all people.

~Young and old.

~Dreamers and visionaries.

~Every generation participating in God's work.

Joel's prophecy is not primarily about predicting the future—

it's about God's dream for God's people—

a dream where everyone has a role to play.

And then, to add an exclamation point on this—

on the Day of Pentecost, Peter in Acts 2:17, stood up and said,

"This is it. This is what Joel was talking about."

The Spirit had come. God has poured out the Spirit...

And you know what?...Everyone was invited.

****The church was born as an intergenerational movement.**

I poured out my Spirit on ALL people—sons & daughters
will prophesy, young & old will dream dreams, & see visions.

This is NOT generations existing side-by-side.

It's generations belonging to one another...in the HS flow together!

And friends, I think that's exactly what we are seeing at FMC.

The Spirit is moving among us.

Dreams are being dreamed.

Visions are being seen.

And every generation is part of it.

***I see it in Matt Stewart—brand new HS graduate.**

Last summer, while serving on our ASP mission trip,
something stirred within him. A sense of calling.

A sense that God might be leading him toward a life
of intentional service and helping others.

In a year's time Matt will explore what that calling might look like...
and how he can use his gifts for the greater good.

That is a young person seeing a vision.

***I see it in the Owens family.**

Since joining FMC 4 years ago, they have carried a passion
for helping young families connect and grow together.

This August they will launch “Growing Together” a Brunch and Learn—
monthly gathering where families can keep growing connections,
community, and skills for a more joyful family.

That is a family dreaming God's dream for other young families...
investing in the next generation.

Oh the Spirit is moving among us!

I see it in our Music Director, Donna Banes.

Donna saw a vision of using the gift of music in a new way—to bring joy, connection, and comfort to people experiencing memory loss and cognitive decline.

She understands something powerful:
even when memories fade, music often remains.

Familiar songs can awaken emotions, spark recognition,
and reconnect people to cherished moments and relationships.

And so she will be starting a new ministry this Fall—
Memory Music Makers—exploring ways that the gift of music
can become a ministry of healing, encouragement, and hope.

~That is someone seeing a need and imagining a new way
to share God's love.

~That is a vision inspired by the Spirit.

***I see it in the FMC Grief and Grace Support Group.**

A ministry born from the needs of people carrying loss, sorrow,
and heartache.

A place where people can find support, healing, and community.
That is the church being the church.

***I see it in our first Vacation Bible School in several years.**

This August, children and families from our community will gather
for games, laughter, snacks, friendships, and yes—
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Seeds of faith will be planted. Lives will be touched.
That is a church investing in generations yet to come.
One Gospel...Every Age!

***And I see it in another new Fall ministry called Munch & Mingle.**

Its purpose is simple. Good food. New friendships.
Connection around the table.

Because sometimes the Gospel begins with an invitation.

A conversation over a hot lunch. A place to belong.

****Oh friends, do you see what is happening?**

~These are not simply programs.

~These are not simply activities.

~These are people listening to God's Spirit. Young & old.

New members & longtime members. Individuals & families.

Every age. Every stage. Every generation.

DOING something...because God isn't finished with us yet.

\And that brings me to something I want us to hear today.

We are not simply preserving a church.

We are preparing a future church...

the future First Methodist Church in Moorestown, NJ.

- A future where children know they are loved.
- Where youth know they are valued.
- Where young adults know their questions matter.
- Where families find support.
- Where older adults continue to inspire and lead.
- Where every person knows they belong.

And friends, let me be clear so there's no confusion...

FMC is NOT just for the people who are here today.

FMC is NOT just for the people who are here today!

FMC is for:

- ~The people who have not arrived yet.
- ~For the children who will one day be baptized in this sanctuary.
- ~For the youth who will one day stand in this pulpit.
- ~For the families who will one day walk through our doors
looking for support and connection.
- ~For the retiree who is looking for community and renewed purpose.

Friends, FMC is not a church for one generation.

FMC is a church for all generations.

And that **matters**, because our world desperately needs places
where people of different ages learn from one another,
care for one another, and walk together in faith.

- ~We need the enthusiasm of youth.
- ~We need the wisdom of older adults.
- ~We need the experience of those who have walked through hardship.
- ~We need the vision of those who see new possibilities...
And the dreamers who are dreaming God-sized dreams.

~**We need each other.**

THAT is God's design: One Gospel...Every age.

One family. One mission. One Spirit.

So as we conclude this series, I want to challenge you.

- Learn the name of someone from a different generation.
- Listen to someone's story.
- Mentor someone.
- Encourage someone.
- Invite someone.
- Show up for someone.
- Bring your vision & dreams to me or another leader at FMC...
So we can help you bring it to life!

Because that is how faith is passed on.

That is how discipleship grows. That is how churches thrive.

& that is how the Gospel continues from generation to generation.

Friends, God is not finished with FMC.

The Spirit is still moving.

Because God isn't finished with us!

Dreams are still being dreamed.

Because God isn't finished with us!

Visions are still being seen.

Because God isn't finished with us!

And the best chapters of our story are still to come.

Because God isn't finished with us!

Thanks be to God! Amen & Amen!

Children's Time: Passing the Baton

(Hold up a relay race baton.) Does anyone know what this is?
That's right—a baton!

In a relay race, one runner carries the baton for part of the race
and then passes it to someone else.

Nobody runs the whole race alone.

The church is kind of like that.

~Older people teach us about God's love.

~Parents and grandparents help us grow in faith.

~Youth lead and inspire us.

~And kids like you remind us to be curious, joyful, and trusting.

We all have a part to play.

And you too help someone else learn about Jesus too.

So when we pass the baton, we're saying:

"You matter." "You belong." "Now it's your turn."

That's what our church is all about.

One Gospel. Every Age.

Let's pray:

Dear God, Thank you for every generation. Thank you for people who
teach us about you. Help us share your love with others. And remind us
that everyone has a place in your family. Amen.