



THE MESSENGER



A WORD FROM PASTOR GINA:

Hey Church Family! I love the rhythm of September. The mornings are a little cooler. Students head back to school with fresh notebooks and new backpacks. Football returns. Pumpkin spice somehow finds its way into everything! And here at FMC, the energy begins to build as our church family gathers again after a busy summer.

Fall always feels like a fresh start. This year, that fresh start comes with two simple words that have the power to change lives: Come and See. Those were some of Jesus' very first words to people who were curious about him. He didn't pressure them. He didn't have all the answers lined up in a neat presentation. He simply offered an invitation: "Come and see." I love that because I think it's something every one of us can do.

We will launch our Come and See worship series on Homecoming Sunday, September 13, as we move back to two powerful services: Contemporary at 9:00 a.m. and Traditional at 11:00 a.m. This series will help us discover that sharing our faith isn't about having the perfect words. It's about extending a simple invitation. An invitation to worship. To join a small group. To serve. To experience authentic community. To discover the hope we've found in Christ.

And honestly, I can't think of a better place to practice that invitation than our third annual Apple Festival on

Friday, Sept 18 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.! Apple Fest has become one of my favorite weekends of the year. Yes, there are incredible apple desserts. Yes, there are bounce houses, music, laughter, and all kinds of fall fun. But what I love most isn't on the menu. It's watching hundreds of people from our community walk onto our campus. Some have never been here before. Some haven't been to church in years. Some are simply looking for a fun family outing, rain or shine.

But what if Apple Fest became more than an event? What if it became an invitation? Imagine every volunteer, every conversation, every smile, every slice of pie, every helping hand quietly saying, "Come and see." Come and see a church that loves its neighbors. Come and see a community where you belong. Come and see what God is doing. Who knows? One invitation could be the beginning of someone's faith journey.

So, this fall, I'm going to be praying for one thing—that each of us will have the courage to invite someone. A friend. A neighbor. A coworker. A family member. Not because we have all the answers. But because we've experienced the love of Jesus, and we want others to experience it too. I'm excited for what God has in store this season, and I can't wait to experience it together. See you this fall!

With joy,
Pastor Gina

Find us at [FCMoorestown.com](https://www.FCMoorestown.com)

COME AND SEE: EVANGELISM FOR A NEW DAY

For many Christians, the word evangelism can feel intimidating or outdated. Yet at its heart, evangelism is simply sharing the good news of God's love through invitation, conversation, hospitality, and service. In a world hungry for connection and hope, we are invited to reclaim evangelism as a way of life rooted in curiosity, authentic relationships, radical welcome, and participation in God's mission.



September 13 – Come and See: invitation, Not Persuasion | John 1:35-39

Evangelism begins with curiosity, not certainty. Jesus says, "Come and see" rather than "Believe and behave."

September 20 – Grace-filled Conversations | Colossians 4:2-6

God works through ordinary conversations more often than extraordinary speeches.

September 27 – Holy Hospitality: Making Space for Others | Luke 14:12-14

Hospitality is a spiritual practice that opens hearts and tables.

October 4 – Good News for All: The Table is Bigger than We Think | Luke 4:16-21; Rev. 7:9-10

We do not bring Jesus to the world; we join Jesus where he is already at work.

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF PRAYER

This series explores the power of prayer through the lives of Jesus and God's People. Together, we will discover how prayer sustains us, shapes us, and connects us to God's presence and power.



October 11 – If Jesus Had to Pray | Luke 11:1-4

The Lord's Prayer teaches us how to live in dependence upon God.

October 18 – Prayer 101 | Luke 18:9-14

Prayer is fundamentally about God, not ourselves.

October 25 – LAITY SUNDAY: Praying through the Storms of Life | Luke 22:39-46

Saturday, October 3

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Conference - 11:30 a.m.



FMC is hosting 20 Charge Conferences from our District! The FMC Music Ministry Team will lead inspiring worship, and DS Ronell Howard will be preaching.

FMC's annual Charge Conference is a time to celebrate the Spirit-filled ministries of FMC and the incredible ways God is working through us—locally, nationally, and globally. Together, we'll honor the faithful service of our leaders, handle essential church business, and keep our mission and vision moving forward. As part of the connectional United Methodist Church, we give thanks for all God is doing in and through FMC! All are welcome to attend!

CONNECTED: LIVE TO GIVE

Generosity is not simply something Christians do; it is who Christians become. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live open-handed lives marked by gratitude, stewardship, and generosity. When people deepen their connection to God, one another, their purpose, and God's world, generosity becomes a way of life.

November 1 – Connected to God | Dt. 8:11-18; John 15: 1-8

Everything begins with God. Generosity grows from gratitude when we remember that all we have and all we are are gifts from God.

November 8 – Connected to Others | Is. 58:6-12 ; 1Cor. 12:12-27

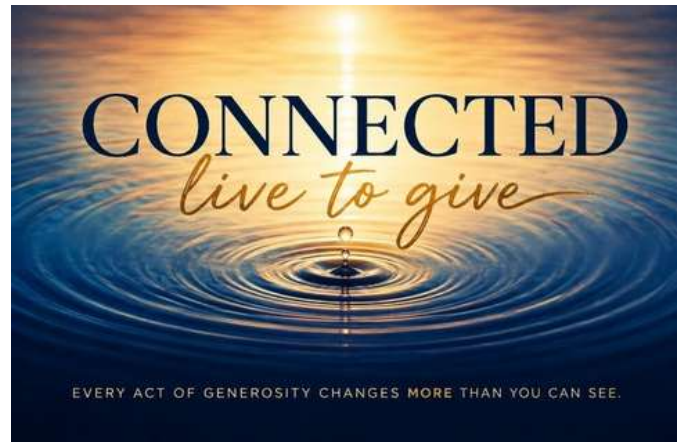
We are not created for the journey alone. Generosity creates community, strengthens belonging, and helps repair what is broken.

November 15 – Connected to Our Truest Selves | Micah 6:6-8; Eph. 2: 8-10

We are created on purpose and for purpose. Generosity forms who we are becoming. Many people today are disconnected from their truest selves because they have confused identity with achievement, consumption, productivity, image, or success.

November 22 – Connected to God's World – Commitment Sunday | 2Cor. 9:6-15; Psalm 67

Generosity is joyful partnership in God's mission. We are blessed to become a blessing. Generosity is not simply about meeting needs or supporting a budget. It is a way of participating in God's healing, reconciling, and life-giving work in the world.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
3rd Annual
Apple Festival

Friday
September 18, 2026
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Rain (Indoors) or Shine

Entry Fee
\$8 Per Adult
\$6 Per Child (under 10yrs)
\$25 Per Family (up to 5 people)
*Kids under 3 are FREE!

Entry Fee Includes

- Apple Dessert
- Magician & Juggler
- Facepainting
- Balloon Art
- Bounce House
- Inflatable Obstacle Course
- Live Music

Additional Items for Purchase

- Kona Ice
- Food & Baked Goods
- Apple Cider
- Apples by the Bag
- Handmade Items
- Apple Cider Donuts

Bring Your Family & Friends

LOCATION:
446 E. Camden Ave,
Moorestown, NJ

FRESH APPLE CIDER

GOOD FOOD - GREAT FUN - BUILDING COMMUNITY

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE NEWS

Mary Starn, starred5@comcast.net

Jen Kaminski, jbkaminski@comcast.net

Our United Methodist leaders continue to speak out on current events and social issues as they unfold. We invite you to get acquainted with UMC's General Commission on Religion and Race. Their mission statement reads as follows: "To challenge, lead and equip the people of the UMC to become intellectually competent, ensure institutional equity and facilitate vital conversations about religion, race and culture." The Equity and Social Justice Committee hopes to enliven our faith, so that personal piety is not separated from social commitment.

This fall we will focus on several themes as they are highlighted nationally. We will address Hispanic Heritage, Domestic Violence Prevention, and Native American History. Look for the list of speakers as we continue to challenge our understanding and spark our involvement. Don't forget that recordings of our past speakers can be viewed on the FMC website.

We will again sponsor "Jumping for Justice" at the Apple Festival in September. Hope you are ready to show off your jump rope skills. Double Dutch anyone?



YOUTH UPDATE

Jeremiah Appleton, jeremiah@fmcmoorestown.com

Youth Group Kick-off BBQ – September 13

Join us to kick off another amazing year of Youth Group (6th – 12th grades) with a BBQ for the whole family on Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m.—right here at FMC! We will provide the main course and kindly ask all attending to contribute a side dish or dessert for the meal. In addition to sharing fellowship, we will talk about all the exciting things our Youth can look forward to during the 2026-2027 year, and we may even break into a Youth vs. Adults kickball game. Students will also have the opportunity to check out a clean and refreshed youth space in the basement!

Ignite Wildwood Retreat – October 9-11

We will be returning to Wildwood this October for what has become one of our students' favorite weekends during the year. Leaving Friday night at 5:30, we will again head to the Waikiki Inn where we will stay Friday and Saturday nights. As usual, we will

have four sessions at the Convention Center from Friday night through Sunday morning, where Youth and Leaders will experience incredible live worship music, passionate speakers with messages targeted towards the youth, games, Communion, and even a live concert! In between these worship sessions, we will connect as an FMC group to go deeper into the messages and to have lots of fun kicking around Wildwood together! Cost for this retreat will be \$140/student. Check out www.ignitenj.org for more details!



Appalachia Service Project – Summer 2027

It seems odd to be writing this so soon after we've returned from our 2026 mission trip, but the popularity of this trip is growing, and we wound up with a few interested attendees unable to attend this year as the ASP center filled up by Mid-March. So, looking ahead, we will open registration for next summer's Mission Trip this September. The 2027 ASP Mission Trip dates are August 8 – 15. I will notify families and trip leaders who have gone or expressed interest in going on this trip over the past three years once the registration portal is open, but newcomers are always welcome...invite a friend! A \$50 deposit is all that will be due for each registered attendee until next March.



KIDS' CHURCH

- BEGINS: September 13, 2026
- TIME: Sundays from 9:00–10:00 AM
- LOCATION: Room F-103
- AGES: K–5th Grade

Engaging Bible lessons, meaningful conversations, and hands-on activities in a welcoming, Christ-centered environment.

YOUNG FOLLOWERS

- BEGINS: September 17, 2026
- TIME: Thursdays from 5:00–6:30 PM
- LOCATION: Choir Room and Room F-103
- AGES: K–5th Grade

Go deeper into Bible lessons through music, fellowship, discussion, and games/crafts. Dinner is provided.

YOUTH GROUP

- BEGINS: September 13, 2026
- TIME: Sundays from 5:00–7:30 + Special Events
- LOCATION: Fellowship Hall Basement
- AGES: 6th–12th Grades

Our Youth Group provides a fun and supportive space for middle and high school students to connect with each other and grow in their faith.

MORE YOUTH INFO HERE!

FMC FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

For More Information: jeremiah@fmcmoorestown.com

Trunk or Treat! Sunday, October 25, 1:00 p.m.

Save the date for FMC's Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 PM. Families are invited for a fun afternoon of decorated trunks, costumes, treats, and community.

Watch FMC communications for final event details and ways to participate.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS...

Trunk OR TREAT

OCTOBER 25
1:00–3:00PM

Contact: Jeremiah Appleton
jeremiah@fmcmoorestown.com

Young Families Presents: Growing Together

Growing Together is a monthly Brunch & Learn designed to build stronger relationships, deeper community, and practical tools for a more joyful family life. The gathering is open to everyone - newly married couples, parents, grandparents, empty nesters, and anyone who wants to strengthen relationships and connect more deeply with the church family.

Each gathering includes a simple brunch or light lunch, time for fellowship, childcare during the discussion portion, and a practical conversation centered on a helpful book or topic. Reading the featured book is never required; each session begins with a summary so everyone can participate.

Fall Topics

- September 20, 2026 - Raising Kids in a Digital World (*The Anxious Generation*)
- October 18, 2026 - Building a Marriage That Lasts (*The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*)
- November 22, 2026 - Creating an Intentional Family Culture (*The Intentional Family*)
- December 6, 2026 - Divide & Conquer Christmas Event (Fellowship event - no book)



YOUNG FAMILIES
Fellowship
BRUNCH & LEARN

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

FUN. FELLOWSHIP. FAITH.
Stronger Together.

WHEN:
11AM (FOLLOWING WORSHIP)

WHERE:
F105 (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

WHO:
COUPLES, PARENTS & FAMILIES OF ALL STAGES

While the name is Young Families, the vision is broader than that. Our goal is to create a welcoming community where couples, parents, and families can come together to build relationships, discuss meaningful topics, strengthen their faith, and learn practical ways to create more joy, connection, and purpose in their homes.

WE MEET once a month FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE for a Brunch & Learn gathering!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!




Monthly Monday Munch & Mingle

A light lunch fellowship small group geared toward seniors to build friendships and connection.

Bring a friend,
ALL ARE WELCOME!

MEETS
1ST MONDAY
OF THE MONTH
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

12PM

Starting
OCTOBER 5TH!

Contact Rich at richhendrickson58@gmail.com

Food for the body. Connection for the soul.

Grief & Grace

Every 2nd Monday | 7:00 p.m.

Grief can be a long and winding journey, and no one should have to walk it alone. Grief & Grace offers a caring, confidential place to share, listen, pray, and find support alongside others who understand the experience of loss. The group meets every second Monday at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. All are welcome.



Grief and Grace

A Monthly Support Circle

Each month on the second Monday

The Chapel
7pm - 8pm

Contact: gino@fmcmoorestown.com

Healing Through Loss • Sharing & Support • Finding Peace Together

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE THIS FALL!

FMC's music ministries are getting ready for a new season. If you love to sing, make music, or be part of a welcoming ensemble, there is a place for you. New and returning participants are invited to connect with Donna Banes for ensemble schedules, first rehearsal dates, and information about getting involved.

Contemporary Service Worship, 9:00 a.m. Sunday

- Praise Team & Band – Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Sanctuary

Traditional Service Worship, 11:00 a.m. Sunday

- Adult Handbells – Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Mondays in the Handbell Room
- Adult Choir – Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Choir Room
- Kids' Music & Arts – Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Choir Room



Donna Banes, Traditional Co-Music Leader
music@fmcmoorestown.com

Dustin Beck, Contemporary Co-Music Leader
dustin@fmcmoorestown.com



Introducing Memory Music Makers

Donna Banes, Traditional Co-Music Leader

We are excited to announce the launch of Memory Music Makers, a new music and fellowship group designed especially for individuals living with dementia or Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning on September 8, at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Music has a remarkable ability to reach people in ways that words sometimes cannot. Research has shown that familiar songs can awaken memories, reduce anxiety, improve mood, and encourage meaningful social interaction for those living with dementia. Even when other memories begin to fade, the parts of the brain associated with music often remain active, allowing cherished melodies to bring comfort and joy.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 7 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. Alzheimer's is a

a progressive brain disease that affects memory, thinking, and behavior, while dementia is an umbrella term for symptoms that interfere with daily life. As the number of people affected continues to grow, supportive community programs become increasingly important.

This ministry is especially meaningful to me because Alzheimer's disease has touched my own family for generations. My great-grandmother, my grandmother, and now my uncle have all been affected by this heartbreaking disease. Through those experiences, I have witnessed both the challenges families face and the incredible comfort that music can provide. Memory Music Makers is a place where participants and caregivers can come together to sing familiar hymns, favorite oldies, and well-loved songs in a welcoming, relaxed environment. No musical experience is necessary—just a love of music and a desire to share time with others. We hope each gathering will bring smiles, spark memories, and remind everyone that they are not alone on this journey.

We warmly invite anyone living with memory loss, along with their family members, friends, and caregivers, to join us as we begin this new ministry. Together, let's make memories through the gift of music. For more information, please email Donna Banes at music@FMCMoorestown.com.