

SUNDAY

Worship Service

February 23, 2025

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:

Wonder rather than doubt is the root of all knowledge. - Abraham Joshua Heschel

There is this wonderful word in the Gospel and it is "patience." In the Gospel to have patience means to stay fully where you are, to live the moment to the full, to trust that all you need is where you are. - Henri Nouwen

Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit. - E.E. Cummings

GATHERING MUSIC

Howard Raudenbush

WORDS of GREETING and GRACE

Rev. Linda Pepe

***HYMN of PRAISE**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Congregation

- 1. Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.***
- 2. All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.***
- 3. You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, grant to us your heart and mind;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to your joy divine.***
- 4. Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we onward, faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jerome Whitehead

ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM

Pastor Linda

HAPPENINGS & OFFERINGS

Rev. Nevin Werron

PRAYERS of the COMMUNITY

Rev. Jennifer Bradley

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Linda

SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:1-13

MINISTRY OF MUSIC ***This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made***
by Mark Hayes

FBC Choir

SERMON

Sensing Sprit: Wonder

Pastor Linda

***CLOSING HYMN**

What A Wonderful World

Congregation

***I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom, for me and for you
And I think to myself - what a wonderful world!***

***I see skies of blue, and clouds of white
the bright blessed days, dark sacred nights
And I think to myself - what a wonderful world!***

***The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands sayin' "How do you do?"
They're really sayin' "I love you."***

***I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself - what a wonderful world!***

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***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Linda

POSTLUDE

Howard

**Please stand if you are able.*

TODAY and THE COMING WEEK at FBC MOORESTOWN

TODAY, February 23	10:00 am	Morning Worship Service (Sanctuary/Balcony & Facebook Live) Youth Gathering (Room 3)
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
	11:30 to 1:30	Qmunity Gathering (Home of Pastor Jen and Sandy Lehr)
TUESDAY, February 25	11:30 to 1:30	Food Pantry Hours (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
	5:30 to 7:00 pm	Food Pantry Hours (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
THURSDAY, February 27	11:30 to 1:30	Food Pantry Hours (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice (Rooms 4, 5 & 6)
	6:45 pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
FRIDAY, February 28	10:00 am	Bible Basics Study Group (Conference Room)
SATURDAY, March 1	9:30 to 11:00	Women's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

PRAYER CONCERNS - February 23, 2025

Please pray for:

***Christine Bensen, Denise Bensen's sister, for breast cancer surgery recovery,
The Family of Mark Scattolini, Mark Morgan's cousin, who passed away
after an aggressive fight against brain cancer,
Joanie Perry for recovery from surgery, and
Mike Maccherone, a Food Pantry Volunteer, for health concerns,***

Please pray for these church family members:

Jan Applegate, Lorene Moore, Leila Morgan and Ruth Reigens

****If you have prayer requests or you would like to be removed from this list,
please contact the church office at fbcmoorestown@gmail.com.***

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Linda A. Pepe, Senior Pastor	Lindapepepastor@gmail.com
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Carol Murray, Church Office Administrator	fbcmoorestown@gmail.com

**Church Office Hours: MON. to FRI. – 8:00 am to Noon // (856) 235-1180
& <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstbaptistmoorestown/>**

2/23/2025

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all who have joined us for worship today. Please visit with us during coffee and refreshments which will be served in Fellowship Hall (basement level) following worship.

Thank You

Today's **Coffee Hour Refreshments** were provided by **Robbie and Coach Thornton-Peek**. Today's **Greeters** were **Robbie and Coach Thornton-Peek**. Next week's **Greeters** are **Adam Buck and Patrick O'Brien**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To: Casey and Thomas Ratcliffe, Today, and Margo Schreiber on Saturday, March 1st. If we do not have your birthday, or you would like to add a family member's birthday, please contact the church office at **856-235-1180** or at fbcmoorestown@gmail.com.

GIVING TO FBC

Please help support the ministries of First Baptist Church. There are several ways you can give:

- There are donation collection boxes at the top of the stairs on both sides of the sanctuary as you exit. Donation envelopes are available for your use in the pews.
(We do not pass a collection plate during the worship service)
- Checks may be mailed to the Church Office.
- You can securely donate to the church online. You can click on the **"Give to FBC"** button at the top of the FBC website homepage (www.fbcmoorestown.org); or you can use your smartphone camera to scan this QR Code.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Please remember the Food Pantry this week.

Financial donations are always welcome. A check or cash can be put into a giving envelope and then into the offering boxes. Non-perishable food items may be brought to church on Sundays and placed in the Food Pantry Cart or they may be left in the black bin next to the side ramp door or beside the pantry room door on the lower level any day of the week.

This week we fed 283 people, including 108 children and 49 seniors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Youth! Don't miss it . . . TODAY we are gathering together to hang out, chat, enjoy some goodies and have a good time. We're meeting in the last room on the right on the main floor – Room 3. You are welcome to come downstairs at the beginning of the church service or you can stay in the service to witness our Baptisms and come down when the younger kids do. Questions, please reach out to Patrick at (609) 828-3378/ patrickmikeobrien@yahoo.com or Dana at (610) 453-2964/ seidman.dana@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 23rd – QMUNTY GATHERING - Our next Qmunity meeting will be held TODAY, from 11:30-1:00 at Pastor Jen and Sandy's home - 118 Union St in Moorestown. This will be our 2025 organizational meeting as we discuss upcoming events, such as our movie showing of "1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture". We hope you are able to attend. If you are able, please bring a shareable side dish or dessert. If not, no worries! If you have any questions, please reach out to Sandy at fbcmqmunity@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK

FEBRUARY 28th – NEW “BIBLE BASICS” STUDY GROUP - A new Bible Basics series continues on Fridays. All are welcome and no Bible background is required! We'll be looking at the great epics in the book of Genesis, including creation, the flood, and the Tower of Babel, and comparing them to similar stories from other cultures. **We meet in person on Fridays at 10 am in the Conference room.** Contact Jill Lee at j.huntington_lee@icloud.com.

MARCH 1st – WOMEN'S BREAKFAST - All ladies, please join us for our next Women's Breakfast, March 1st, from 9:30-11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. We can't wait to see you, to share food and fellowship around the table. Please bring a shareable dish if you are able and arrive as close to 9:30 as possible so we can make the most of our time together. Many thanks and stay safe and warm! Hope to see you there!

NEXT WEEK

MARCH 2nd – FRIENDSHIP FORCE WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY OPPORTUNITY – In observance of Friendship Force World Friendship Day, FBC will again be hosting a Sandwich Making event in partnership with the local chapter of Friendship Force International of SNJ, of which Robbie Thornton-Peek is a member. **The event will be from 2 to 4 pm, on Sunday, March 2nd.** We are inviting our FBCM family to join us again as **we make peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden NJ.** Please contact Robbie Thornton-Peek at 609-280-7810 or email at robbiethornton1@aol.com if you would like to participate this year.

MARCH 5th – LENTEN NATURE WALKS and TALKS BEGIN! - Lent is the perfect time to recharge your spirit by experiencing God's natural world first-hand. **We will meet in the church breezeway each Wednesday at 2pm and carpool out to a county park for a refreshing walk.** If the weather is bad, we'll assemble in the church lounge for a hands-on Nature talk on fossils, insects, ducks, birds and more. Either way, you will definitely learn something you didn't know before! For more information, email Jill Lee at j.huntington_lee@icloud.com.

MARCH 5th - LENTEN STUDY BEGINNING - We will be reading and discussing, "Practice of the Presence - A Revolutionary Translation". This is Carmen Acevedo Butcher's modern translation of Brother Lawrence's Presence. Jen Bradley will be leading the study and she has copies in her office if you need one. The book is also available online at a variety of booksellers. **We will meet on Wednesdays via Zoom beginning March 5th from 6:45pm to 8:00pm.** During this time, we will share prayer requests, pray for one another, and discuss our weekly reading and its application in our day to day lives. Some of our time will be spent in a larger group and other times we will split into small groups to allow for easier discussions. **Before our meeting time the Zoom room will open at 6:30 if folks want to hang out and chat about life and what's going on before we jump into the book study and discussion. Similarly, the Zoom room will stay open from 8-8:30 for folks to chat following our study.**

If you are looking for a Lenten study to nurture your soul, deepen your connection to the Holy, and connect with others in our FBC Q-munity please sign up on the sheet in the lounge or email me, jbradley12@gmail.com. The hope is that through this study we will connect more deeply with the Holy within and around, be challenged and encouraged to move into a deeper space as we see God revealing Godself all around every day.

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH

MARCH 16th - CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING – A Congregational Business Meeting will follow Church Service on Sunday, March 16th, in the Sanctuary. The Business of the Church will be shared, including new Safety Measures, and there will be time for questions or concerns.