

PLEASE LET US KNOW... If you or someone you know is ill or in the hospital, let the church office know so that we can help in their healing process through our prayers, visits, etc. Thank you!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Doug Nemeth (son of Dot Nemeth), John Chwastyk, John & Catharine Carty, Pati Anne Feeley (daughter-in-law of Jan & Jack Feeley), Nancy Gager (Paul Gager's sister), Emmy Cahilly (11 yr. old niece of Shelly & Greg Kinkaid), Madison Luyber - her parents, Julie and Tony (friends of the Bewleys), Donna Lasoski, Walter Colby (brother-in-law of Jan & Jack Feeley), Heather Oman (niece of The Youse/Mack Family), Richard Thompson (brother of Doris Gager), Bill (father-in-law of Sandra Handel's son), Jim & Sherry Heller and family (son of Carol Heller), Tina Tesch (niece of Linda Wanagas), Penny McClellan (cousin of Linda Wanagas), Sheryl Moon (former South Valley Elementary School teacher), Carolyn Myers, Mary Raroha.

The Staff of First United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson, Lead Pastor
 Pastor
 (Gina@meetwithGod.com)
 Donna Banes & Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leaders
 Kathy Clawges, Youth Director
 Membership/Finance Secretary
 Devika Gill, Pre-School Director

Rev. Jessica Campbell, Associate Pastor
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 Joan Flamini, Office Administrator
 Gretchen Young,
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Both services are live streamed on Facebook and YouTube

<https://www.instagram.com/fumc.moorestown>
<https://www.facebook.com/fumcmoorestown>



First UMC

A United Methodist Community
 In Moorestown, New Jersey



"A community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions."

November 14, 2021 **Preaching Series: BLESS** 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Bish

WELCOME Pastor Gina

***OPENING HYMN #539** O Spirit of the Living God

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Pastor Gina

Leader: Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world,

People: God loves the world, we are the beloved!

Leader: May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today,

People: And renew our sense of calling.

Leader: So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;

People: Come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

Leader: Come, in friendship to God and to each other,

People: And in friendship to the world, to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.

Leader: Friends of God, let us worship!

OPENING PRAYER Pastor Gina

Blow, wind of God, blow away the tight rules that hold me back from trusting, risking, loving. Blow away the sin that stands in the way of encountering my neighbors. Ready me for birth. Prepare me for risk. Equip me with courage and vision for the new thing that waits around the corner. We cannot choose the stories we have inherited. But we can choose the stories that we become. May it be so in Jesus' name. Amen

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S TIME Pastor Jess

A fun learning time with the Pastor for all kids.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 The Apostles' Creed Pastor Gina

GLORIA PATRI 70

PASTORAL PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Gina

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

PRAYER RESPONSE TFWS #2226 Bind Us Together

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

God So Loved the World
Adult Choir

Nygard

CELEBRATING OUR GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Pastor Jess

We welcome all who worship with us this morning. We ask you to prayerfully consider giving generously to support the ministries of FUMC and the communities we serve for Christ. You can place your offering and the Attendance Card including any special prayer requests you may have in the offering basket located in the worship space or send them to church@meetwithGod.com.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 534 Be Still My Soul

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-18 The Message Pastors Gina & Jess

There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we all know you're a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren't in on it."

Jesus said, "You're absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it's not possible to see what I'm pointing to—to God's kingdom."

"How can anyone," said Nicodemus, "be born who has already been born and grown up? You can't re-enter your mother's womb and be born again. What are you saying with this 'born-from-above' talk?"

Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch.

But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

"So don't be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be 'born from above'—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next. That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God."

Nicodemus asked, "What do you mean by this? How does this happen?"

Jesus said, "You're a respected teacher of Israel and you don't know these basics? Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don't believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can't see, the things of God?"

"No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

MESSAGE:

BLESS: Stories Matter

Pastor Jess

*CLOSING HYMN #156

I Love to Tell the Story

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jess

*POSTLUDE

***THE PEOPLE STAND**