

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MAY 21, 2017

CELEBRATING

& SERVING

THE LIVING LORD!

*The mission of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
is to reflect the loving presence of Christ  
as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully and share life together  
in a diverse and generous community.*

In preparation for worship please take the opportunity to speak silently to God.  
At the close of the service let us greet one another with cheerfulness.  
Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

May 21, 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## **ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**

### **GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY**

Prelude: *The New Commonwealth*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

Arr. John Carter

†\*Call to Worship

From Psalm 66

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

**People: For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

Leader: Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.

**People: I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.**

Leader: But truly God has listened;  
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

**People: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.**

†\*Hymn 263: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

### **CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Confession of Sin

**Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

\*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

†\*Congregational Response 579: *Gloria Patri*

†\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

(As worshipers, we come from diverse experiences and points of view. We have different racial, educational, and economic backgrounds. Yet we are all one in Christ. We symbolize this as we exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation such as, “The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.”)

### PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scott Condello, Reader

The First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

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Leader: God’s Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: *I Will Sing with the Spirit*

John Rutter

I will sing with the Spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also, Alleluia.

The Second Lesson: John 14:15-21

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

**People: The Story of your grace.**

\*Hymn 105: *Because You Live, O Christ*

VRUECHTEN

Sermon: **KNOWLEDGE THAT COMES FROM LOVE**

The Rev. Randal L. Bremer

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*Confession of Faith: (*Apostles Creed*)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the People

The Reverend Kevin L. Porter

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *The Call*

Vaughan Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death. Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.

Robert Phillips, baritone

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

**GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME**

\*Hymn 376: *Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

\*Charge and Benediction

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

\*Congregational Response 585: *Threifold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *March in D-flat Major*

Thurman

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**WELCOME:** If you are visiting with us today, please sign the Fellowship Pad at the end of your pew. We pray the hour will be meaningful to you and you will come and worship with us again. Everyone is cordially invited to a time of fellowship in the Longstreth Auditorium following the worship service.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week’s hosts: Deacons. Next week’s host: Madeline Valentine. Thank you to Carolyn and Ernie Freeman for supplying the munchies last week.

**STORIES OF HOSPITALITY, GENEROSITY AND INCLUSION**—final week of the study group led by Don Carlin and sponsored by the Christian Education Committee. Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 to 7:45pm at the home of Don Carlin and Thursday, May 25, 10:45am to noon in the Finney Room.

**FPCG’S MONTHLY COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF COMBATTING HUNGER** is next Sunday, May 28. As most of you know, your donation can either support the Centsibility Offering of the Presbytery or GACM’s Food Cupboard. Many thanks in advance.

**BRIGHTEN UP SOMEONE’S DAY:** Please consider contributing food items to the *Brighten Up Someone’s Day* box by the church office. The requested food item will change each month, and all donations will be given to the GACM food pantry. This month’s request is for canned fruit. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE:** The churches along the Germantown Avenue corridor are planning a community worship service for this Ascension Day, Thursday, May 25. It will be held at the Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church at 7:00 pm, 224 East Gowan Avenue in Mt. Airy.

**KIRKWOOD CAMP REGISTRATION:** “The difference I noticed in my two sons after going to Kirkwood was incredible!” The “Kirkwood effect” is real. A week at Kirkwood is likely to have an outsized impact on your child or teen’s personal and spiritual growth. Plus, they will make long-lasting friendships and have a ton of fun! So what are you waiting for? Register at [kirkwoodcamp.org](http://kirkwoodcamp.org) or call 570-421-8625 for more info.

**PAR RecycleWorks EVENT ON SATURDAY, JULY 15** at First Church from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. PAR RecycleWorks is a social enterprise offering environmentally responsible recycling services while providing life-changing workforce training to formerly incarcerated individuals. The Session of FPCG has decided to support this vital ministry in our community. On Saturday, July 15 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, we will host a collection event in our parking lot. Bring your outdated electronic devices to have them recycled. We are assured that any data on old hard drives will be triple-destroyed by being magnetically degaussed; then the drive will be rendered inoperative by drilling a hole in it, and finally by shredding. Plan to clean house of your e-waste (old computers, printers, keyboards, cell phones, etc.) and bring them to FPCG and help a great cause in the process.

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*after worship*

## TODAY

for the purposes of electing Elders and Deacons to the class of 2020, electing an Elder to the class of 2018, hearing the financial reports for the year 2016 and voting on the Session recommendation, passed by a 4 to 3 vote, that no additional members be elected to the PNC, and that the seven members currently constituting the PNC continue their search for the next pastor.

***Please plan to attend this meeting.***

## *Upcoming at First Church*

*KSBoychoir Festival Concert: Wednesday, 5/24 at 6:15 pm*

*Memorial Day: Monday, 5/29 Church Closed*

*Pentecost Sunday: 6/4*

*KSB Grad Concert: Sunday, 6/4 at 5:00 pm*

*Freedom School Begins: Monday, 6/26*

## **May Challenge Offering: *FREEDOM SCHOOL***

*June 26 through August 11, 2017*

With a maximum of 50 children who will be broken up into small groups, we look forward to an awesome summer of reading, growing and fun. Here is where you come in! Every dollar you give to the May Challenge Offering could make the difference between a child attending the program or being at home, unsupervised, as a parent works. For example:

- A gift of \$610 will sponsor a child for the entire seven-week program.
- A \$300 contribution will offset the transportation costs for a local trip for all 50 students.
- A donation of \$50 will cover the cost of afternoon snacks for two days.
- \$100 can provide a subsidy to a working family that enables a sibling to attend the program.

*Every dollar given will be distributed as scholarship assistance to ensure no child is denied the opportunity to attend Freedom School because of the inability to pay. Please give generously. Thank you*

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## WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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### **Sunday, May 21**

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting
- 11:30 AM Adult Education
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Finney Room

### **Monday, May 22**

### **Tuesday, May 23**

- 1:00 PM Commonwealth Youth Choirs Staff Meeting—Primary Room
- 6:30 PM Hospitality, Generosity and Inclusion Study Group at the home of:  
Don Carlin, 7147 Ardleigh Street, 19119, (215) 247-4196
- 6:30 PM Worship and Music Committee—Upstairs Office

### **Wednesday, May 24**

#### **All-Day Keystone State Boychoir Festival**

- 3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 6:15 PM Keystone State Boychoir Concert—Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings

### **Thursday, May 25**

- 10:45 AM Hospitality, Generosity and Inclusion Study Group—Finney Room
- 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir
- 6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary

### **Friday, May 26**

- 3:30 PM Drop-in Center
- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir
- 6:30 PM Middle/High School Youth Group

### **Saturday, May 27**

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:00 AM Readers' Choice
- 10:00 AM Open Gym

### **Sunday, May 28**

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Adult Education
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Finney Room
- 12:30 PM Deacons Meeting—Primary Room

# Church Officers

## Elders

### 2017

Andrew Hood  
Christopher Scott  
Gloria Bethea

### 2018

Ted Walkenhorst  
Carolyn Ballard-Freeman  
Robert Seed

### 2019

Joseph Leube  
Delores Solomon  
Deborah Thompson

Clerk of Session:  
Madeline Valentine

## Deacons

### 2017

Randy Clever  
Linda Farlow  
Susan Mills Farrington

### 2018

Don Carlin  
Vera Harrison  
Dani Howard

### 2019

Ruth Cato  
Diane Filter  
Dick Liberty

## First Church Staff

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Interim Pastor  
Director of Adult Education and Community Life  
Director of Urban Ministry  
Director of Music  
Director of the Gospel Choir  
Director of Christian Education  
Parish Visitor  
Building Manager  
Administrative Assistant  
Bookkeeper  
Sextons

Randal L. Bremer  
Kevin L. Porter  
Eileen Jones  
F. Anthony Thurman  
Sara Carter-Blanford  
Christian Heyer-Rivera  
Heidi Mercado-Littles  
Terry Boyer  
Joan Harris  
Cindy Osborne  
Tanicya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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