

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

**ALIVE,** JULY 2, 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.

July 2, 2017

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Tis a Gift to Be Simple* (three variations)

Robert Lau

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship

Psalm 13

Leader: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?

**People: How long must I bear pain in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**

Leader: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death.

**People: My enemy will say, "I have prevailed,"  
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.**

Leader: But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

**People: I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

†\*Hymn 276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

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\*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

†\*Congregational Response 579: *Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father  
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
And ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

†\*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

Marney Hague, Reader

The First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-14

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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!**

Solo: *I Will Arise*

Alice Parker

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love. Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

The Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

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

\*Hymn 391: *Take My Life*

HENDON

Sermon: **CHOOSE YOUR MASTER**

The Reverend Randal L. Bremer

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *Simple Gifts*

Aaron Copeland

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'will be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gain'd to bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd, to turn, turn will be our delight 'till by turning, turning we come round right.

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

### **GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Hymn 564: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

MATERNA

\*Charge and Benediction

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

\*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *God of Our Fathers*

George W. Warren  
arr. Edward Broughton

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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 host: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Next week's host: Deborah Thompson. The CDFC thanks Sally and Mark McCord-Amasis for supplying the munchies last week.

**JULY BULLETIN DEADLINES:** Please note that the deadline for both the July 9 and July 16 bulletins is **Thursday, July 6 at 10:00 a.m.** Thank you.

**FREEDOM SCHOOL HAS BEGUN!** A session of HARAMBE! is how our fifty scholars, ages five through 14, and staff of nine begin each day of Freedom School. Harambe (literally, “all pull together” in Swahili) features motivational chants and songs (our favorite is “Something Inside So Strong”), continues with the reading of a favorite children’s book by the day’s Read Aloud guest and ends with announcements of birthdays and accomplishments and a moment of silence. The scholars then enjoy a nutritious breakfast (breakfast and lunch are prepared onsite daily) before heading off to their classrooms, each led by a Servant Leader, one of a group of eight college-aged individuals who are ready to serve and motivate during the seven-week program, June 26 through August 11, 2017.

Freedom School’s core program is from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and features morning classes and afternoon activities. The classes focus on conflict resolution, social action and, most of all, reading. Lunch is from noon to 1 p.m. and afternoon activities include Bible study, assemblies, arts and crafts, dance, music, a game of basketball or dodgeball, swimming and field trips. Children can be dropped off at First Church as early as 7:30 a.m. and remain as late as 6:00 p.m.

There are many *volunteer opportunities* for you to provide hands-on support – be a Read Aloud guest, a classroom aid or hall monitor or assist at mealtime. Or, help in the afternoons by playing a board game with the scholars or leading a craft activity. If you would like to volunteer please contact Melvin Brown at [mellymelv215@gmail.com](mailto:mellymelv215@gmail.com) or Program Director, Contina Lundy, at [freedomsschoolfpcg@gmail.com](mailto:freedomsschoolfpcg@gmail.com) to confirm a day. Here’s to a fun and productive summer!

**TODAY’S MUSIC:** Our soloist today is Margaret Mezzacappa, alto section leader in our Chancel Choir. A native of Ohio, Margaret rose to prominence in the opera world as the Grand Prize Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2012 and later performed Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College and Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts. Recent solo engagements include Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Columbus Symphony, Handel’s *Messiah* with the Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra, and Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Phoenix Symphony. Margaret is joined by our substitute organist and pianist, Mary Eileen Johnston, who began playing the piano at the age of five. Early involvement with church choirs, woodwinds and the organ led to her life-long fervor as a music professional. As a vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, director and composer, her professional work, which spans more than 30 years, has shown innovation in the fields of music therapy, music education and music liturgy. Also published in church music, lullabies and music for the visually impaired, Mary Eileen enjoys a full-time vocation of music giving.

**DO YOU SEW?** We are forming a sewing mission group. All are welcome. Be a founding member. Help choose the name of the group—“Germantown in Stitches” or “Stitches in the Hood.” Contact Stephanie Garrett at 215-842-0568 or 215-807-9016 (cell) or [stephaniegarrett7@aol.com](mailto:stephaniegarrett7@aol.com) (corrected from last week’s bulletin).

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are available in the church office and on the literature table outside the sanctuary. The scholarship program is open to all members and friends of the church who are involved in FPCG programs and are enrolled in post-secondary education programs. **The application deadline is July 15, 2017.**

**LIFELINE SCREENING** is an organization which aids people in discovering health problems about which they may not be aware. The group travels around the country and sponsors sites where local residents can be examined by board-certified physicians and technicians for conditions such as cardiovascular disease, risk of stroke and osteoporosis. Information about signing up can be found on the literature table or you can call First Church if you have any questions.

**VOICES IN BRONZE:** The Handbell Choir, Voices in Bronze, under the leadership of Evelyn Santiago, is rehearsing on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Choir Room. We welcome new ringers (high school through adult) interested in joining the group. The ability to read music and good rhythmic skills are helpful. The Handbell Choir will play during worship later in the summer.

**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 items will change periodically and all donations will be given to the GACM food pantry. The current request is for 100% fruit juice, canned fruit and any non-perishable breakfast items. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

## PAR RecycleWorks Event at First Church

*Saturday, July 15 from 9 am to 1 pm*

PAR Recycleworks is a non-profit organization located in Germantown that addresses two vital issues:

- \* **Environmentally responsible recycling of electronic waste**  
and
- \* **Employment of formerly incarcerated individuals.**

On Saturday, July 15 from 9 am to 1 pm, First Church will host a recycling event in our parking lot. Bring your old computers, printers, keyboards, cell phones, etc.

Data on old hard drives will be triple-destroyed by magnetic degaussing, followed by a hole being drilled into the drive and, finally, by shredding.

Devices are deconstructed by hand and the resulting metals are packaged and sold to metal processors to help pay for salaries and job skill training for formerly incarcerated men and women.

Plan to clean your house of e-waste and help a great cause in the process.

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## WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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### **Sunday, July 2**

- 9:00 AM Handbell Choir—Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Adult Education—Finney Room
- 11:30 AM PNC Meeting—Upstairs Office

### **Monday, July 3**

- 5:00 PM Adult Education—Finney Room

### **Tuesday, July 4 Independence Day**

Church Closed

### **Wednesday, July 5**

- 3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
- 6:30 PM Session—Finney Room

### **Thursday, July 6**

### **Friday, July 7**

- 9:00 AM GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 3:30 PM Drop-in Center

### **Saturday, July 8**

- 10:00 AM Open Gym

### **Sunday, July 9**

- 9:00 AM Handbell Choir—Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Adult Education—Finney Room
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office

# 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	Randal L. Bremer
Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry	Eileen Jones
Director of Music	F. Anthony Thurman
Director of the Gospel Choir	Sara Carter-Blanford
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Parish Visitor	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Building Manager	Terry Boyer
Administrative Assistant	Joan Harris
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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