

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

FREEDOM SCHOOL SUNDAY  
JULY 30, 2017

**ALIVE,**  
**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 30, 2017

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Three Gospel Preludes

Gerald Near

*(Amazing Grace, Blessed Assurance, In the Garden)*

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship (from Psalm 105)

Madison Lundy, Level 3 Scholar

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**People: Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**People: Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

**People: He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.**

†\*Hymn 280: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. 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.”)

Freedom School Chorus (Level 1 Scholars): *I've Got the J-O-Y*

I've the J-O-Y, JOY, JOY in the Holy Ghost. Don't let the devil steal your JOY, JOY in the Holy Ghost. I've got the P-E-A-C-E, PEACE in the Holy Ghost. Don't let the devil steal your PEACE, PEACE in the Holy Ghost. I've got the L-O-V-E, LOVE in the Holy Ghost. Don't let the devil steal your LOVE, LOVE in the Holy Ghost.

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Rachel Chmelko, Level 1 Servant Leader

The First Lesson: Genesis 29:15-28 (P. 25)

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Freedom School Chorus (Level 2 Scholars): *Holy, Holy Is the Lord God Almighty*

Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty. Holy, Holy is the Lord. Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty. Holy is the Lord forevermore. For the Lord is great and is greatly to be praised. Lift Him up. Lift your hands and praise Him. Stomp your feet and praise Him. Clap your hands and praise Him. Shout for joy and praise him forevermore. Forever and ever and evermore.

The Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39 (P. 148)

Evan Black, Level 2 Scholar

Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

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

\*Hymn 341: *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

ASSURANCE

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**\*Confession of Faith: (from the *Confession of Belhar*)**We believe:**

- That God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- That God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
- That God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- That God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- That God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- That for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- That God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- That the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
- That the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must bear witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

My Freedom School Experience

Aniyah Brown, Level 3 Scholar

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

Autumn Watson, Level 3 Scholar

Offertory: *This Day*

Edwin Hawkins

Give us this day our daily bread. You said you would supply all my needs according to your riches. I have but to ask and I shall receive. To go from here and share this love you gave to me. To show someone who's lost and help them find their way. The way to truth and faith so they can be free like me. Free like me. Lord, we need your love. Lord, we need your peace. Lord, we need your joy this day.

Soloist: Sara Carter-Blanford

\*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 485: *To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

\*Charge and Benediction

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

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: *To God Be the Glory*

Fred Swann

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### IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Charles G. Kaylor.

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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: Women's Association. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to Madeline Valentine for supplying the munchies last week.

**TODAY'S WORSHIP** will be conducted by Peter Ahn. Peter and his family are members of First Church. Originally from Seoul, South Korea, Peter moved to the U.S. when he was 13. He spends 50% of his time cooking for Joy, Micah, Nathan and Aria. Peter and Joy will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in four days! Peter is a candidate for ministry in PC(USA).

**MAINE SERVICE-LEARNING FUNDRAISER TODAY:** During Coffee Hour, Abrianna Kendrick, Jasmine Greene, Madison Lundy, Zaria Cuffee, Taye McCord-Amasis, Josh Overton and Emanuel Heyer-Rivera will host a bake sale to raise funds for their August 12 trip to Maine. Please stop by to learn about the trip, purchase delicious baked goods and/or make a donation. (Donations of \$25, \$50 and \$75 come with thank you gifts!) Thank you!

**FREEDOM SCHOOL'S "BIG TRIP" TO THE BIG APPLE** is on Friday, August 11 and includes visits to the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum and Madame Tussauds. Scholars will have breakfast on the bus and the group will stop for dinner before returning home. The cost is \$45 per scholar, \$85 per child guest and \$125 per adult guest. The bus will depart at 7:00 AM sharp and return at approximately 7:00 PM. Call Contina Lundy, 215-512-8824 with questions.

**CENTSIBILITY OFFERING:** Today is First Church's monthly collection in support of combatting hunger. 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.

## July Session Highlights

- The Session heard from FPCG 's newest deacon, Carolyn Tarver. Carolyn comes to us as a "new" Presbyterian. Her most recent church membership was with the Disciples of Christ in Dallas. Carolyn says she felt welcomed at FPCG when she inquired about using the building for an event. Carolyn has jumped in enthusiastically to volunteer at the Crisis Center and the church office. We are excited to welcome her to the Board of Deacons.
- Incoming ordained elders Randy Rosensteel and Marc DiNardo were also present at the meeting and were welcomed back into the Session fold!
- The May 21<sup>st</sup> Congregational Meeting and the confusion caused by the wording of the ballots was discussed. Also reviewed were irregularities with the meeting's early adjournment and the vote counting process.
- Elder Lois Bethea presented a joint motion from the Administration and Finance Committee and the Property Committee to remediate issues in the youth lounge, gym and one of the basement restrooms. The proposal for the renovations comes from ServPro and the estimate to complete these long overdue repairs and improvements is approximately \$80,000. Lois explained that the financing for this project will come from three sources: fund raising, a generous donor and the Sarah McLean YWCA fund. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
- Clerk of Session Maddy Valentine handed out a schedule of the next three celebrations of the Lord's Supper: August 6<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Session was reminded that all ordained elders, not only ruling elders, are encouraged to participate in serving communion.
- Joe Leube and Bob Seed will serve as FPCG commissioners to the Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting at the Church on the Mall, Plymouth Meeting.

## **EDUCATION OVER INCARCERATION**

**American Rebirth Tour** is hosting two private screenings of the international award-winning film *The Cage* at First Church. *The Cage* tells the story of Zeke, a young basketball player encountering poverty and violence — and beauty and love — in North Philadelphia. *The Cage* is narrated by activist/performance artist Michael "OG-LAW" Ta'Bon, who also co-stars in the film. The screenings are free and will be at FPCG this afternoon from 4 to 6 pm and tomorrow from 6 to 8 pm.

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## WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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### **Sunday, July 30 Freedom School Sunday**

- 9:00 AM Handbell Choir—Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Worship—Peter Ahn preaching
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
- 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting—Primary Room
- 4:00 PM American Rebirth Tour screening of *The Cage*—Longstreth Auditorium

### **Monday, July 31**

- 6:00 PM American Rebirth Tour screening of *The Cage*—Longstreth Auditorium

### **Tuesday, August 1**

- 1:00 PM Commonwealth Youthchoirs Staff Meeting—Primary Room

### **Wednesday, August 2**

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

### **Thursday, August 3**

### **Friday, August 4**

- 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group

### **Saturday, August 5**

- 9:00 AM Congregational Development and Fellowship—Finney Room
- 10:00 AM Open Gym

### **Sunday, August 6**

- 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

### 2018

Marc DiNardo  
Robert Seed  
Ted Walkenhorst

### 2019

Joseph Leube  
Delores Solomon  
Deborah Thompson

### 2020

Gloria Bethea  
Andrea Overton  
J. Randall Rosensteel

Clerk of Session:  
Madeline Valentine

## Deacons

### 2018

Don Carlin  
Vera Harrison  
Dani Howard

### 2019

Ruth Cato  
Diane Filter  
Dick Liberty

### 2020

Randy Clever  
John Orandosh  
Carolyn Tarver

## 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  
Taneya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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