

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

SEPTEMBER 3, 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.

September 3, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *It Is Well with My Soul*

Howard Helvey

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship (from Psalm 105) Christian Heyer-Rivera

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: O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

†*Hymn 476: *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*

LYONS

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

**O God of shalom, we have built walls to protect ourselves from our enemies,
but those walls also shut us off from receiving your love. Break down those
walls. Help us to see that the way to your heart is through reconciliation of
our own hearts with our enemies. Bless them and us, that we may come to
grow in love for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

†*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

Dick Liberty, Reader

The First Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

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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 Asked the Lord*

Johnny Lange/Jimmy Duncan

I asked the Lord to comfort me when things weren't going my way. He said to me, I will comfort you and lift your cares away. I asked the Lord to walk with me when darkness was all that I knew. He said to me never be afraid for I will see you through. I didn't ask for riches, he gave me wealth untold. The moon, the stars, the sun, the sky and gave me eyes to behold. I thank the Lord for everything, I count my blessings each day. He came to me when I needed him, I only had to pray. He'll come to you, if you ask him to. He's only a prayer away.

Soloist: Sara Carter-Blanford

The Second Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

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

*Hymn 404: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

Sermon: **THE PEACEFUL LIFE**

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 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: *The Lowest Place*

Paul S. Jones

Give me the lowest place, not that I dare ask for that lowest place, but thou has died that I might live, that I might live and share the glory by thy side. Give me the lowest place, but if for me that lowest place too high, make one more low where I may sit, where I may sit and see my God and love thee so. (Text: Christina Rossetti)

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano; Ted W. Barr, piano

*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 276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

*Charge and Benediction

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

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: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Come, Labor On*

ORA LABORA

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Rosensteel.

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: John Orandosh. Next week's host: Open. CDFC thanks Madeline Valentine for supplying the munchies for coffee hour last week.

THANK YOU from Terry Boyer. Thanks for the prayers and support of the many who were there for me in my time of sorrow. Sincerely, Terry.

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ to honor the memory of Jack Asher will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 PM. Because of this service, our church picnic has been moved to Sunday, September 24.

SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING will help support the Presbyterian Church USA Disaster Relief effort to aid those who have suffered so much from Hurricane Harvey. We have all been moved by the magnitude of the flooding and the level of damage that this storm has caused. This is a time to give generously to show that we care and that we are committed to making a difference when people are hurting.

CD's OF REVEREND RANDY'S SERMONS are available at no cost after worship every Sunday. CD's can be picked up at the table in the Longstreth Auditorium.

JAZZ CONCERT AT OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Oxford Presbyterian Church, 8501 Stenton Avenue, will present Rayburn Wright's JaszLab in concert on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 12 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$20.

FPCG COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT FUNDRAISER: Purchase tickets for \$5 apiece and receive a 25%-off shopping pass, good to use at any Boscov's on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The money received for the tickets will go towards hiring a shredding truck for a free shredding event at First Church, the date of which will be announced shortly. Stop by the table in the Longstreth Auditorium during Coffee Hour for tickets.

MEAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE LAGUNSDAD FAMILY: We praise God for the birth of Matthew Jacob Lagunsad! We are calling all persons willing to prepare a dinner for Martin, Jerelyn and Chloe to help them in this time of transition. Contact Christian Heyer-Rivera, 267-972-5662 or christianaheyer@yahoo.com.

Upcoming at First Church

Monday, September 4

Labor Day, Church Closed

Thursday, September 7

*Handbell Choir & Children's Choir
Opening Rehearsals*

Saturday, September 9

Chancel Choir Opening Rehearsal

Monday, September 11

GACM Reopens

Sunday, September 24

Church Picnic

Monday, October 9

Columbus Day, Church Closed

Tuesday, October 31

Germantown Oratorio Choir Opening Rehearsal

First Church Music Update

The Gospel Choir, under the direction of Sara Carter-Blanford, rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and sings during worship on the first Sunday of each month. For more information or to participate, e-mail ladycarter78@hotmail.com.

Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir directed by Evelyn Santiago, will rehearse on Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. in the Choir Room, beginning, September 7. We welcome new ringers (high school through adult) interested in joining the group. The ability to read music and good rhythmic skills are helpful. For information or to participate, please email escoqui@msn.com or speak with Evelyn during Coffee Hour.

A new Children's Choir is being formed and will be led by Evelyn Santiago. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room, beginning September 7. For information or to participate, please e-mail escoqui@msn.com or speak with Evelyn during Coffee Hour.

The Chancel Choir will resume singing during Sunday services next Sunday, September 10. The choir meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. to warm up and rehearses following worship from 11:30-12:30 each week. The opening rehearsal of the season will be on Saturday, September 9, from 1-3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or speak with Tony during Coffee Hour.

The Germantown Oratorio Choir, our community concert choir, will rehearse on Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7:30-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 31. The first concert will be Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 3, at 4 p.m. A second concert, the Brahms *Requiem*, is planned for Sunday, March 18. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or speak with Tony during Coffee Hour.

Keystone State Boychoir

Bring a Friend Open Houses

Thursdays, September 21 & 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
3rd & 4th grades

Saturdays, September 23 & 30, 9-10 a.m. **or** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
5th to 8th grades (unchanged voices)

12 to 2:30 p.m.—8th to 12th grades (changing or changed voices)

Upcoming Concerts at First Church

Sunday, September 17 at 4 p.m.

Joint Concert with Pennsylvania Girlchoir

Wednesday, September 27 at 6 p.m.

Joint Concert with Niños Cantores Chilean Choir

Contact: Julie Donahue at jdonahue@keystonestateboychoir.org

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4

5:00 PM Labor Day—Church Closed
Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, September 5

12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room

Wednesday, September 6

12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Programs Meeting—Finney Room
3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
7:00 PM Session—Finney Room

Thursday, September 7

6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
6:30 PM Children's Choir—Choir Room
7:00 PM Urban Resources Development Corporation—Finney Room
7:45 PM Handbell Choir—Choir Room

Friday, September 8

3:30 PM Drop-in Center
5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group

Saturday, September 9

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
10:00 AM Open Gym
1:00 PM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary

Sunday, September 10

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
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
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
2:00 PM Funeral Service for Jack Asher

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

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 the Handbell and Children's Choirs	Evelyn Santiago
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Parish Visitor	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Building Manager	Terry Boyer
Administrative Assistant	Joan Harris
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Tanicya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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