

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

OCTOBER 15, 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.

October 15, 2017

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Fanfare and Processional*

Lynn Trapp

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Come to Zion* (Shaker melody)

Ted W. Barr

Come to Zion sin sick souls in sorrow bound. Lay your cares upon the altar where true healing may be found. Shout Alleluia, alleluia! Praise resounds o'er land and sea. All who will may come and share the glories of this jubilee.

†*Call to Worship

From Psalm 106

Leader: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

**People: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,
or declare all his praise?**

Leader: Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

**People: Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them;
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.**

†*Hymn 155: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

DARWALL'S 148TH

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

Then God spoke all these words:

**I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.**

**You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that
is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water
under the earth.**

**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the
Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.**

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

We confess, O God, that we have failed to live up to your standards.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Silent Meditation

†*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 worshippers, 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

Sara Greene, Reader

The First Lesson: Exodus 32:1-14

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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!

Anthem: *Prelude*

Donald E. Allured

Voices in Bronze

The Second Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 382: *Somebody's Knocking at Your Door*

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN'

Sermon: **CLINGING TO THE TRIED AND FAILED**

The Rev. Randal L. Bremer

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Confession of Faith (*Apostles Creed*)

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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: *Rejoice in the Lord Always* (*The Bell Anthem*)

Purcell

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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 145: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

*Charge and Benediction

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

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: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Robert Hobby

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: Gloria, Charles and Lois Bethea. Next week's hosts: Gayl and Herb Henze.

OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY go out to Peter Smith and family as we learn of the passing of Peter's mother, Edith Smith. A Service of the Celebration of her life will be held on Monday October 16 at Mt Zion AME church, 1312 Willow St, Norristown, PA. The Memorial Service begins at 11:00 am with repast at the church immediately following the service.

OCTOBER CHALLENGE: THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING supports the peacemaking and reconciliation efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts given to the Offering through a congregation are divided in the following manner: 25% retained by congregations for support of their own peace and reconciliation efforts; 25% retained by mid-councils (12.5% presbytery/12.5% synod) for support of their own peace and reconciliation efforts; and 50% to the Mission Agency to provide assistance and resources for congregations to promote the peace of Christ.

COMPANY IS HERE! Today begins our third week of hosting IHN guests. We remain in need of volunteers to support all areas of the program. Can you provide two hours of service as a dinner provider or evening host? Can you provide juice boxes or snacks for the children? Or, consider spending the night as an overnight host. No problem if you need to go to work. Families leave the building at 7AM. Arrangements can be made if you need to leave before then. To volunteer or have your questions answered, see Eileen Jones or Delores Solomon during coffee hour.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold it's monthly meeting at 11:00AM in the Jennings Room on Monday, October 16. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. Please bring your sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING conducted by the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability. This interactive training will keep you engaged as it teaches the basic skills needed to identify, understand, and respond to signs and symptoms of behavioral health challenges and crises. It will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Jennings Room. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served. All participants will receive a certification in Mental Health First Aid. Space is limited, so please call the church office to register. For more information, please pick up a flyer from the literature table or speak with Sara Greene, who has already been certified. This event is being sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee and the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry. Do not miss this opportunity! It is worth the investment of time because it just may help you to identify and assist a family member, co-worker or neighbor who is in crisis.

FIND A HOME FOR YOUR HEART IN ONE OF OUR CHURCH CHOIRS!

Rehearsal days and times are as follows: Gospel Choir, led by Sara Carter Blanford, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary; Children's Choir, led by Evelyn Santiago, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room; Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir led by Evelyn Santiago, Thursdays at 7:45 in the Choir Room; Chancel Choir, Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 11:30 a.m. in the Choir Room; Oratorio Choir, our community concert choir, Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary beginning October 31. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE THE 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION. The Christian Education Committee has planned two events to celebrate Martin Luther's momentous nailing of the theses to the church door in Wittenburg. On Friday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m., join us for dinner followed by a 7 p.m. showing of the movie "Luther" starring Joseph Fiennes. The Christian Ed Committee will provide the main course and drinks. Please see Bob Seed in Longstreth on Sunday after worship to sign up for any side dishes you would be willing to contribute. On Sunday, November 5 at 11:30 a.m., join us for an overview of the Reformation by our guest speaker, Douglas Swank, a second-year student at The Lutheran Seminary in Mt Airy. Rev. Randy has graciously agreed to suspend the adult education class on this Sunday.

THE WOODMERE ART MUSEUM is presenting a large-scale exhibition of the work of Violet Oakley (1874–1961), the first in more than three decades. The exhibition focuses on the artist's public commissions, rarely seen because of their fixed locations in civic buildings, churches, schools, and private residences. Studies for commissions will include her work at the Pennsylvania State Capitol and the *Great Women of the Bible* series here at FPCG. Join art historians and guests from Woodmere on Wednesday, November 1 from 2-4 p.m. in the Jennings Room. The exhibition runs September 30, 2017–January 21, 2018. For more information, visit woodmereartmuseum.org or call 215-247-0476.

October Session Highlights

Installation of officers – Andrea Overton and John Orandosh, who were unable to attend the July 17 installation service, were installed as Ruling Elder and Deacon, respectively. Andrea and John were asked the constitutional questions and answered them affirmatively as did the ruling elders present representing the congregation.

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, 11/14/17. Two Commissioners are needed. If you are interested please see Maddy Valentine to volunteer.

Property – Chair Marc DiNardo reported that construction in the basement is progressing. Also, leaking steam pipes have been repaired, gutters on the west side near the choir room are being replaced and some plumbing issues in the kitchen will be tackled once the basement renovations are complete. Marc was seen high on a ladder installing new security lights near the back door to Longstreth.

Administration & Finance – Joe Leube reports that the 2018 Pledge goal is \$340,000. Joe outlined the 2018 Stewardship Campaign. The 2018 FPCG budget was discussed but not acted upon as several committees have not submitted their preliminary budgets. FPCG has applied for a loan through the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP) to cover a portion of the basement renovation.

Worship – Chair Randy Rosensteel announced that the October 1st Song Recital was well attended and that the PA Council for the Arts grant has been matched. Since Christmas is on a Monday this year the plan is to have two services on Sunday December 24: Regular worship at 10:00 and a Christmas Eve service that evening. Session discussed the possibility of encouraging *all* to sign the pew pads, not just visitors. Dick Liberty will be asking folks to be Advent Candle readers. The Messiah Concert is scheduled for December 3rd.

Christian Education – Karlyne Staten has been hired as a nursery attendant. CE will sponsor a movie night ("Luther") and a Sunday School speaker to help enhance our knowledge of Martin Luther and the Reformation. *See today's bulletin for more information on those two events.*

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, October 15

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

Monday, October 16

11:00 AM Rachel Circle—Jennings
5:00 PM Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, October 17

12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room
3:30 PM Orgina Rose Dance Grp. Registration—Youth Lounge (backup-gym)

Wednesday, October 18

8:30 AM GACM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
7:00 PM Property Committee—Finney Room

Thursday, October 19

3:30 PM Orgina Rose Dance Grp. Registration—Youth Lounge (backup-gym)
6:00 PM Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Primary Room, Longstreth Auditorium
6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
6:30 PM Children's Choir—Choir Room
7:45 PM Handbell Choir—Choir Room

Friday, October 20

6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room

Saturday, October 21

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir

Sunday, October 22

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

WINDOWS DEADLINE

The deadline for the November WINDOWS is October 20.
Email submissions to fpcg.germantown@gmail.com or fpcg.windows@gmail.com.
This is a Thanksgiving issue. What are you thankful for?

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	Taneyia Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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