

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, NOVEMBER 19, 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.

November 19, 2017

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Thanksgiving Fanfare*

Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *We Gather Together*

Netherlands Folk Hymn

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

†*Call to Worship

From Psalm 123

Leader: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**People: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.**

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**People: Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn
of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.**

*Hymn 552: *Give Thanks, O Christian People*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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.**

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

†*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.")

Anthem: *Look at the World*

John Rutter

Look at the world, ev'rything all around us; look at the world, and marvel every day. Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way. Praise to thee O Lord for all creation, give us thankful hearts that we may see all the gifts we share and ev'ry blessing, all things come of thee. Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; look at the sky: the sunshine and the rain; look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, valley and flowing river, field and plain. Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer bringing the harvest before the winter's cold. Everything grows, everything has a season, til' it is gathered to the Father's fold. Ev'ry good gift, all that we need and cherish comes from the Lord in token of his love; we are his hands, stewards of all his bounty, his is the earth, and his the heav'ns above.

Children in grades five and younger may now leave for their classes.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Susan Mills Farrington, Reader

The First Lesson: Judges 4:1-7

Page 210 OT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 415: *Come, Labor On*

ORA LABORA

The Second Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

Page 27 NT

Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **WISE INVESTMENTS**

The Reverend 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: *Thanks to God for My Redeemer*

Johannes A. Hultman

arr. Paul S. Jones

Thanks to God for my Redeemer, thanks for all thou dost provide! Thanks for times now but a mem'ry, thanks for Jesus by my side! Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime, thanks for dark and dreary fall! Thanks for tears by now forgotten, thanks for peace within my soul! Thanks for prayers that thou has answered, thanks for what thou dost deny! Thanks for storms that I have weathered, thanks for all thou dost supply! Thanks for pain and thanks for pleasure, thanks for comfort in despair! Thanks for grace that none can measure, thanks for love beyond compare! Thanks for roses by the wayside, thanks for thorns their stems contain! Thanks for homes and thanks for fireside, thanks for hope, that sweet refrain! Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow, thanks for heav'nly peace with thee! Thanks for hope in the tomorrow, thanks thro' all eternity! (Text: August L. Storm, 1891)

*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 555: *Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Charge and Benediction

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Albert Travis

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of
Capt. Michael P. Cassidy and in honor of Pamela Thompson Flake.

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 (CDFC). Next week's host: Madeline Valentine. The CDFC thanks Vera Harrison for supplying the munchies last week.

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER 26 BULLETIN is Tuesday by 10 a.m. since we are closed on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. Thank you.

DEACONS MEETING REMINDER: The next Deacons meeting will be next Sunday, November 26 at 12:30 p.m.

THE MUSIC: Our Children's Choir led by Evelyn Santiago, joins the Chancel Choir to bring the anthem today. The young people will sing again on Christmas Eve during the morning service. Parents: Time is short if you want your children to participate. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 6:30 in the Choir Room. Next week: Steven Heitzer, trumpet, from the Opera Philadelphia Orchestra, will play during worship.

THE MESSIAH IS COMING! The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will give our church's annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 3, at 4 p.m. Save the date! All-Church Christmas dinner follows.

A GRAND VISION: VIOLET OAKLEY AND THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. The Woodmere Art Museum continues its large-scale exhibition of the work of Violet Oakley (1874–1961) and has given special attention to the *Great Women of the Bible* mural series here at First Church. Join art historians from Woodmere and the East Falls Residents Association on Friday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. for a lecture in the Jennings Room, followed by an organ demonstration in the Sanctuary. The Oakley exhibition concludes January 21. For more information, visit woodmereartmuseum.org or call 215-247-0476. Visit Woodmere for free on Sundays.

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING supports *Rise Against Hunger* (formerly *Stop Hunger Now*). FPCG has scheduled a meal packing event to be held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2018. We have committed to pack at least 10,000 meals to feed the hungry children of the world. To meet this commitment we need to raise \$3,000. As Pastor Bremer has personally experienced in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, the meals mean the difference between malnutrition and health. Check out www.riseagainsthunger.org to learn more.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS will be distributed again on Monday, November 20. It is not too late to contribute either financial donations or food items. The cost of each basket is approximately \$35. Food items needed include turkeys, turkey breasts, roasting chickens; canned vegetables including green beans, peas, corn, kale/collard greens and yams/sweet potatoes; mashed potatoes, rice, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, stuffing, cake and cookie mixes and icing. Volunteers are needed for a minimum of two hours to help pack and distribute the baskets. Please contact the GACM office to sign up. Thank you!

BRIGHTEN UP SOMEONE'S DAY: As Thanksgiving Day approaches, please consider contributing food items to the *Brighten Up Someone's Day* box by the church office. The current request is for canned fruit and vegetables, and non-perishable hot and cold cereal and all donations will be given to the GACM food pantry. Thank you.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room on Monday, November 20th. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RACHEL CIRCLE is collecting used prescription and nonprescription glasses and sunglasses for children and adults. The glasses will be cleaned and repaired for distribution to those in developing countries who lack the funds to buy them on their own. You will find a collection box on a table in the hall.

“GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE.” The Christian Education Committee presents Friday Night Movies at FPCG with a showing of “The Muppet Christmas Carol” with Michael Cain, Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy and all the Muppets. Join us Friday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. for pizza and a showing of this wonderful tale of forgiveness and redemption as Bob Cratchit and the Spirits open Scrooge's eyes - and his heart- to the true meaning of Christmas. See Bob Seed, Christian Heyer-Rivera, Don Carlin or Barbara Harris for details.

FPCG'S MONTHLY COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF COMBATTING HUNGER is next Sunday. 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.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 3

Believe it or not, it's that time again—the Messiah Concert followed by the Annual Christmas Dinner!



Ticket prices remain the same as last year.

Children under 5 - Free; Youth 5-11 - \$6.00;

Youth 12+ and adults - \$13.00



Tickets will be sold during coffee hour beginning today and through the church office from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the week.

Menu to follow.

Spread the word—invite a family member, neighbor or friend!

For more information and to volunteer see any member of the CDFC.

Volunteers are needed for setup Saturday; serving & cleanup Sunday.

November Session Highlights

Clerk of Session Report: The 2016 Session minutes have been reviewed by the Presbytery and were passed “without exception.” Well done, Maddy!

The Synod of the Trinity held its meeting in State College in late October. Commissioner Maddy Valentine, the Rev. Kevin Porter and the Rev. Allison Seed were participants. Rev Kev represented the Philadelphia Presbytery and Allison spoke on behalf of the Board of Pensions.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, November 14. Maddy Valentine and Bob Seed will be commissioners representing FPCG. Reverend Bremer will drive the church bus at 2 p.m. for anyone needing transportation.

Administration & Finance: The 2018 church budget was reviewed and approved by Session and will be presented to the congregation at today’s meeting. *Be sure to speak up if you have questions!*

Christian Education: The dinner and showing of the movie “Luther” were a success. We were joined by Christian’s Friday youth group. Bob reminded Session that Douglas Swank will lecture on the Protestant Reformation on Sunday, November 5.

Women’s Retreat: See Bob Seed or Christian Heyer-Rivera if you are interested in a Saturday retreat similar to the well-received event held at FPCG in 2013.

Communication: Deborah Thompson reported that the November Windows is complete. Help is needed updating the church website. Do you know of someone?

Congregational Development and Fellowship: The annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3 following the Messiah concert.

Property: Marc reported that the youth lounge construction is nearing completion and repairs to the basement exit door and stairs will be starting soon. A more capable humidifier is needed. Commercial grade units cost \$1600-\$1700. Repairs to the furnace chimney loom on the horizon. A \$47,000 bid has been received. Ouch! Marc asks for help monitoring the building for water leaks as well as turning off lights when not in use.

Mission & Outreach: Gloria reminded Session that the November Challenge Offering is to raise funds to purchase meals for the “Rise Against Hunger” event at FPCG on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 15, 2018.

Worship & Music: The organ chamber has been painted and the refurbished organ pipes should be back in place in January. The Messiah Concert will be held on Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m. Over 40 people participated in the mural and stained glass lecture on October 14 sponsored by the Woodmere Art Museum.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, November 19

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, November 20

Distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets—Finney/Jennings Rooms
11:00 AM Rachel Circle—Primary Room
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
5:00 PM Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, November 21

12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room
7:30 PM Germantown Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 22

8:30 AM GACM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
6:30 PM Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings Room

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day
Church Closed

Friday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday
Church Closed

Saturday, November 25

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
9:00 AM Readers' Choice
9:30 AM Worship and Music Committee—Upstairs Office
1:00 PM Tony Thurman Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, November 26

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
12:30 PM Deacons Meeting—Primary Room

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	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org