



# • Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

## Get to Know Our Pastoral Candidate!

The PNC announced a few weeks ago that we extended a call to a pastoral candidate. However, it is not enough to simply find a pastor that we like. There are lots of committees and processes to navigate in the Presbyterian Church...but we are getting there!

In short, the Candidate accepted our invitation, the Presbytery Commission on Preparation and Membership (CPM) approved, and just this week our Session voted in favor of moving forward. Praise God!

Because of a time-sensitive stewardship campaign concluding at her current congregation, she is not announcing her departure until the new year. So, while we can't tell you her **name** yet, there are plenty of things that we can share...



## 8 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT OUR CANDIDATE:

1. She has a deep commitment to social justice.
2. She has knowledge & experience in the area of stewardship.
3. Her passion is in pastoral care for the elderly and young people.
4. She is full of faith, energy, and enthusiasm.
5. Her prior vocational experience is in the arts (being a pastor is her second career).
6. She takes a relational approach to church leadership & being part of the neighborhood.
7. She has an engaging & approachable preaching style.
8. She has talents in guiding congregations to set (realistic) goals and move forward.

## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 6:30-7:30PM

Meet & Greet at Youth Group. All First Pres youth and families are invited for a special time to get to know our Candidate.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 1:00-3:00PM

Candidate Meet & Greet Reception. Come to the church to meet the candidate and her young adult daughter in a relaxed atmosphere.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Candidate leads worship and preaches at First Pres; congregational vote follows; PNC hosts coffee hour following church.

### JANUARY-EARLY FEBRUARY

A series of supply preachers will lead worship. Pastor Randy has graciously scheduled this for us.

### EARLY FEBRUARY

If the way is clear, the candidate will start at First Pres in February!

## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

As we transition to new pastoral leadership, various worship leaders will fill the pulpit. Below are the worship leaders for January 7 through February 11, 2018.

### JANUARY 7, 2018

Baptism of the Lord  
Sermon from Pastor Nominee

### JANUARY 14, 2018

First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Pastor Dale Williams  
*pastor.dale.williams@gmail.com*  
(717) 253-8236

### JANUARY 21, 2018

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
David Cassie  
*dcassie@mac.com*  
(856) 397-8854

### JANUARY 28, 2018

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Kevin Porter  
*statedclerk@presbyphl.org*  
(215) 518-1675

### FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Ruth Santana Grace  
*rfsantanagrace@gmail.com*  
(215) 242-1400

### FEBRUARY 11, 2018

Transfiguration of the Lord  
Christian Heyer-Rivera  
*christianaheyer@yahoo.com*  
(267) 972-5662



## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**Sundays 10am-11am**

Everyone is invited to worship, study, and enjoy friendships at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. There are service, outreach, and fellowship opportunities in abundance. In addition to weekly and monthly scheduled services and activities, visit our Special Events web pages for more information about other ways to participate.

To learn more, please e-mail  
**FPCG.Germantown@gmail.com**  
or call the church office at  
**215-843-8811.**

Windows is a publication of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

For questions regarding the information published here or to submit content, please contact the church office or email **fpcgWindows@gmail.com**.

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# Our Pastoral Candidate...

## IN HER OWN WORDS

Did you know the PNC has been getting to know our Candidate for nearly a year? Through written correspondence, multiple video/webinar conversations, and a visit here in Germantown, the committee has been blessed by the time we've spent with her.

We are excited to share some of her own words about her vision for ministry and her gifts. We hope that this helps you get ready to meet her in January and vote to approve her call as our next pastor.

Let's all commit to pray for her, our church family, and our community over this next month!

**Q: What is your understanding of urban ministry and what gifts and skills would you bring to it?**

**A:** I see ministry as broadly relational – it's about developing a deeper relationship with God and with the community: the church community and the neighborhood. Urban ministry is inside and right outside the church doors. That can be both a gift and a challenge. People are passing by all the time – and people are passing by all the time. How do we invite them to stop, to engage, to come inside those doors?

I am a high energy, collaborative, creative individual. I love people and I am intensely curious about what makes them tick. I enjoy learning about individuals, sharing with them, exploring things that excite them.

I think that building relationships is the place to begin: with staff, with congregational leaders, with youth and children, with those who have been at Germantown all their lives, and with those who are just walking in the door right now. I have lots of ideas, but also lots of questions, and the passion to explore how we can better serve and share God's love together.

**Q: In your first year how would you build bridges in the congregation & in the community?**

**A:** I am a relationship-oriented person, who is constantly engaged in creative process. The church's physical presence in the community is a given. It is up to us to be outside the doors as well as within – and for what we do inside to faithfully inform and direct what we do outside.

One of the first things I would do is spend time with people. I would visit them at home and/or invite them to visit me at the church or at my home. I would start one-on-one and then build toward group conversations about who we are and how God is calling us today to be God's faithful people. Prayer and bible study together is a big piece of this conversation, as we look for God's guidance in the journey.



**Parish Visitor Heidi Mercado-Littles will be in Chile from January 10 until March 9.**

If you have any pastoral concerns during her absence please contact your Deacon or the Church Office.

# Pastor Candidate's Statement of Faith

**I BELIEVE** in God. God as Trinity: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of all things. The doctrine of the Trinity is one of my favorite theological conundrums, for it speaks so deeply to my heart. God in relationship with Godself and desirous of being in relationship with us.

**I BELIEVE** in God as Creator of all, the infinite vastness of space to the infinitesimally tiny atoms out of which it is all made. God is Awe-some, Awe-full, All-Knowing, All-Seeing, in All and through All.

**I BELIEVE** that no matter how much I study, how long I pray, how hard I try, God is way beyond my imagination, and I've got a pretty big imagination!

**I BELIEVE** in God as Redeemer through our Lord, Jesus the Christ. God who longed so strongly to be in relationship with humankind that God became one of us: laughed, wept, was tempted, taught, preached, prayed, healed, died, and was resurrected for our sakes.

**I AM A CHRISTIAN** because of Resurrection writ large. Jesus' resurrection, and the power the resurrection story has in our lives today. The ways that we are given 2nd (and 3rd and 4th and so on) chances to work toward becoming the people God imagines us to be.

**I BELIEVE** in God as Holy Spirit, as Advocate, as Counselor and Guide. God who enriches and enlivens us, who invigorates and inspires us. God not just active in a holy history, but God present in our world, in our lives today. God with us. Emmanuel.

**I BELIEVE** in the Sacraments as worship, as living representations of God's work in the world, as patterns that strengthen our connections with one another and God.

**I BELIEVE** that the Lord's Supper is more than bread and cup; it is a connection to God in Christ across 20 centuries touching all the congregations who have gone before and all who are celebrating the supper now. I believe that it is both individual and communal, as we are assured singly and in community that we are God's own, remembering Jesus as we eat and drink together.

**I BELIEVE** that Baptism is more than Water and Word; it is the sacred space where God claims us as God's own and in which we respond either personally or by proxy, committing to God in return.

**I BELIEVE** in baptism as a communal activity, one that strengthens our bonds as God's beloved people, striving together to be Christ's body on earth.

**I BELIEVE** that the church is our spiritual home; it is a place where we can encourage, learn, help, teach, praise, struggle, love, and grow together. I believe that just as Jesus lifted up those who were hurting, helpless, invisible, disenfranchised, and lost, it is the church's job to welcome and love all people regardless of any label that society may put upon us/them. I also believe that while this sounds like a lovely sentiment, it is an awesome responsibility in actual practice. One that constantly challenges me, and anyone who is truly attempting to fulfill it. Still, church is the place where, when we get it right, we are able to work toward becoming our best selves. It is my heart's home.

## FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Adult Christian Education

ANIMATE! Searching for a different Sunday School experience? Animate might be just what you are looking for! This seven-week series is designed to be a unique way of digging into some of the questions we all have about faith and spirituality:

- Is God real?
- Can we be spiritual without being religious?
- What is salvation?
- Why read the Bible?
- What was Jesus up to?
- What really happened on the cross?
- What does it mean to be the church?

Maybe you have been asking these questions for a while. Maybe you have never thought about them. Either way, are you interested? We begin the journey on February 4th.

~Robert Seed,  
CE Committee Chair



## YOUTH LOUNGE UPDATE

We are planning a grand opening of the Youth Lounge toward the end of January 2018. Stay tuned for the exact date.

Here is the old Youth Lounge Plaque. Who knows anything about Charles Dearnly or why the Youth Lounge honored him. We would love to hear from you.

Please email us at [fpcg.germantown@gmail.com](mailto:fpcg.germantown@gmail.com).



# Birthdays



Wish these members a happy birthday next time you see them!

## January

- 1 Krista Hoekema-Boerman
- 5 Matthew Reisse
- 6 Dieter Littles
- 8 Garth Herrick
- 8 Christopher Thompson
- 9 Andrew Hood
- 9 Annie Kotto-Ohemeng
- 11 Elizabeth Cameron
- 15 John Orandosh
- 16 Jeremy Jones
- 16 Kevin Patterson
- 16 J. Randall Rosensteel
- 16 Peter Thompson
- 17 Jessie Coleman
- 17 Chloe Lagunsad
- 18 Christian Heyer-Rivera
- 19 Klaas Hoekema-Boerman
- 22 Carl Spurlock
- 23 Peter Miller
- 24 Jen Hasse
- 26 Lawrence Elliott

### The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown



*The mission of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is to reflect the loving presence of Christ in Germantown as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully, and share life together in a diverse and generous community.*

## FINANCIAL INFO



PLEDGES	
Budgeted	To Date
\$ 360,000	\$ 306,751

EXPENSES	
Budgeted	To Date
\$ 795,502	\$ 717,815

Through the eleven-month period ending November 30, 2017, our pledge income is falling behind in proportion to our annual budgeted figures. We should be at 92% of expected 2017 pledge income, we are only at 85%. In other words, we are about \$23,000 short to date. However, our expenses are in proportion to our annual budget. Hopefully we will in better condition by December 31, 2017.

We are very grateful and appreciate all of the pledges and contributions you made in 2017. Our program and maintenance expenses on our older building continue to exceed our budgeted expectations; there are always expenses that occur expectantly.

Renovations in the Youth Lounge are almost complete. However, we continue to uncover issues that are more expensive to remedy, but necessary. This means we are very cautious as we get this work done and at the same time have the cash on hand to meet our obligations.

As we look to 2018 and a new pastor your commitment is essential to the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

If you have not yet pledged for 2018 please do so at your earliest convenience. Your support is crucial to our financial health.

Many thanks to all of you who continue to support your church through your financial commitments.

## STEWARDSHIP

*Gifts Given and Given Gladly*



We are grateful to the many families who have made a financial commitment to support the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown for 2018; as of mid-December, we have received pledge commitments totaling over \$217,643 dollars. We are over 64% of the way toward our goal!

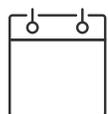
We also are blessed by those who continue to give generously, even if they have not yet submitted a pledge card. Please consider submitting your pledge card soon so we can plan accordingly for our 2018 ministry.

Thank you also to those who are committed to pray and to serve at FPCG; your prayers, gifts of time, and talents help to make our ministries a beacon of hope for our congregation, our community and the world.

God has richly blessed the members of First Church in 2017, and we gratefully anticipate your continuing year-round generosity to continue our ministry for 2018.

Items for next *Windows* due Jan 19. Submit to [fpcgWindows@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgWindows@gmail.com).

## MEAL PACKING WITH RISE AGAINST HUNGER



**Jan 15, 2018 | 9 am**  
**Day of Service**  
 First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, FPCG will host our second meal packing event with Rise Against Hunger. Last year, we packed over 26,000 meals. Volunteers of all ages are asked to join. A light meal will be served.







# December at FPCG in Pictures

December was a very busy and exciting month at FPCG. Music filled the air from Handel's Messiah to favorite sacred hymns and carols. The halls were decked and the trees were flocked in anticipation of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Revisit the joy of the month through the many images of our members and friends celebrating this sacred season.



Angels in waiting.



Annie creates.



Chairman Bob.



Childrens choir and Evelyn Santiago.



Sheila, the Christmas elf.



Deep in thought.



Festival joy!



Christian, Santa's helper.



Smiles all around!



Dolores celebrates.



Emory's gingerbread ranch house.



The winner!



Thoughtful Soren.



Shepherds in waiting.



Gingerbread house architects.



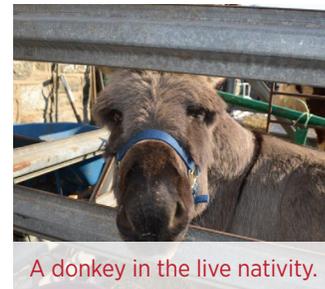
Randy and Donna.



Two bold kings and one shy king.



One king minus two.



A donkey in the live nativity.



Will Lewis the shepherd speaks.



Job well done!



Wreath makers.



Jasmine had only one birthday wish - to celebrate with her first church friends!



Tim texts - even at lunch.



The best Christmas pageant ever!



## CHILDREN'S BOOK SPOT

### Social Justice for All

Social justice may mean different things to different people, but at its foundation social justice means that all individuals, no matter their race, sex, level of wealth, religion, nationality, language or sexual orientation, have equal rights to access institutions that provide a high quality of life. The Rise Against Hunger/Day of Service at First Pres on January 15, is an example of social justice in action. This month's titles cover a range of social justice issues. Read one or all to improve your social justice IQ. Happy Reading! ~ *Deborah Thompson*

Amnesty International. *We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures*. Frances Lincoln, 2008.\*

Ancona, George. *Can We Help? Kids Volunteering to Help Their Communities*. Candlewick, 2015

Brimner, Larry Dane. *Strike! The Farm Workers Fight for Their Rights*. Calkins Creek, 2014.\*

D'Aluisio, Faith. *What the World Eats*. Photographs by Peter Menzel. Tricycle Press, 2008.\*

Drummond, Allan. *Green City: How One Community Survived a Tornado and Rebuilt for a Sustainable Future*. FSG, 2016.

Freedman, Russell. *Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor*. Clarion, 1995.\*

Goodman, Susan E. *The First Step: The Girl Who Put Segregation on Trial*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Bloomsbury, 2016.

Haskins, Jim. *Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights*. Illustrated by Benny Andrews. Candlewick, 2005.

Jennings, Jazz. *Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen*. Crown, 2016.\*

Levinson, Cynthia. *The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist*. Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton. Atheneum, 2017.

Markel, Michelle B. *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909*. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Blazer + Bray, 2013.

Marrin, Albert. *Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy*. Random House, 2011.\*

Milway, Katie Smith. *The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough*. Illustrated by Sylvie Daignault. Kids Can Press, 2010.

Reisch, Suzanne. *Stand Up and Sing! Pete Seeger, Folk Music and the Path to Justice*. Illustrated by Adam Gustavson. Bloomsbury, 2017.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*. Abrams, 2014.

Warren, Sarah. *Dolores Huerta: Hero of Migrant Workers*. Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Two Lions, 2012.

Asterisks (\*) mark the titles for older or advanced readers.



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