

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

**ALIVE,** FEBRUARY 25, 2018  
**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.

February 25, 2018

Second Sunday in Lent

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Two Chorale-Preludes Johannes Brahms  
*Ob, How Blest Are Ye Whose Toils Are Ended*  
*Ah, Holy Jesus*

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* John Carter

†\*Call to Worship

Leader: We are invited to walk with God.  
We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

**People: How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator!  
We bring our praise to glorify God.**

Leader: God calls us by name and gives us new names.  
We are summoned to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

**People: God not only speaks to us but also listens.  
God hears our cries and meets our need.**

Leader: Let the ends of the earth remember and turn to God.  
Let the families of all nations worship the Creator.

**People: We will pay our vows to the One who calls us.  
We praise the God of all nations and all peoples.**

\*Hymn 142: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* CORONATION

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (Genesis 17, Romans 4)

**Dear God, when we forget who we belong to and who we would follow, forgive us. Help us resist the temptation to dismiss the miracles all around us, because they seem hard to believe. Forgive us, O God, and strengthen our faith. In Abraham and Sarah, you have given us models of faith. Like them, empower us to be fully convinced that you are able to do all that you have promised. Even in the face of death, you do not desert us. Forgive our doubts, and free us to rest secure in our faith. 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.")

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Delores Solomon, Reader

The First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Page 12 OT

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Children's Choir: *This Little Light of Mine*

Spiritual/arr. Mark Patterson

A Time For Children

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

The Second Lesson: Mark 8:27-30

Page 40 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*Hymn 372: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

\*Affirmation of Faith (from the *Confession of Belhar*)

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world; that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and**

perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity; that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine. Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Rev. 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: *Lord, Lead Us Still*

Brahms

Along the varied paths of life, through hours of joy and sorrow keen, in grim temptation's mortal strife, in doubt or confidence serene, Lord, lead us still. Through all the changes of the years, whate'er of good or ill betide, in laughter gay or bitter tears, O keep us ever at thy side; Lord, lead us still. And when at last the tale is told, thy vict'ry won by thy good grace, may we thy glory, Lord, behold, in that blest homeland see thy face; Lord, lead us still.

\*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 563: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

LIFT EVERY VOICE

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

arr. Frederick Swann

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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.

**THE LITURGY:** This is the last Sunday in Black History Month, so the words we speak, the songs we sing and the sermon we hear are designed to acknowledge and affirm the importance and impact of black history in our culture and lives. The Confession of Belhar was written in Afrikaans in 1982 as a protest against apartheid. It was adopted in English as a confession of faith by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986. The PC(USA) approved the Belhar Confession 540-33 at the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. Rev. Segers is proud to have been one of those affirmative votes.

**THE MUSIC:** Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) is better known for his orchestral and chamber music than for his sacred music, however, the music he composed for the church are monuments in the nineteenth century repertory. Certainly his best known sacred work is *A German Requiem*, which will be performed here at First Church by the Germantown Oratorio Choir on Sunday, March 18, at 4 p.m. His last musical works were a set of eleven organ preludes based upon Lutheran chorales; we hear two of these today in the organ prelude. At the Offertory, the Chancel Choir sings a sacred anthem Brahms set to the tune of a German folk song. The English text is by Helen Dickinson, wife of Clarence Dickinson who was a founder of the American Guild of Organists in 1896. He joined the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1912, founded the School of Sacred Music there in 1928, and was organist/choirmaster at the Brick Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Next week's host: open. Thank you to Diane Filter for supplying the munchies last week.

**FEBRUARY CHALLENGE OFFERING:** The Deacons Fund. This fund assists the Deacons in their mission: "to minister to those who are in need, to the sick and to any who may be in distress in the community of faith." Please give generously to support this mission of our congregation.

**USHERS:** The ministry of ushers on Sunday morning play a vital role in hospitality and welcoming people to First Church. Perhaps you are looking for a way to become more active in the life of First Church or want to meet new people, but are unsure about how to go about it. Ushering may be exactly what you are looking for. It's a once-a-month commitment that requires you to be helpful and have the spirit of hospitality. If this is you, then you need to speak to Mary Lundy and learn more about this ministry at First Church. You can speak to her today or by email ([nastylady13@aol.com](mailto:nastylady13@aol.com)) or phone ([215-927-4648](tel:215-927-4648)) or call the church.

**DINNERS FOR EIGHT:** Rev. Segers will host Dinners for Eight at her home at 6 p.m. on the last Sunday of every month, beginning on Sunday, March 25. Please call the church office (215-843-8811) to reserve a spot! You can reserve now for any future date in 2018. Rev. Segers will provide an entrée and participants will provide a side dish, bread or dessert. Please let the office know what you plan to bring when you call to reserve your spot.

**REV. SEGERS AT UNCLE BOBBIES** every Thursday morning from 8 to 10 a.m. Please stop by for coffee and a chat! No reservation needed.

**REV. SEGERS'S SERMONS ON CHURCH WEBSITE:** Rev. Segers's sermons can now be heard on the church website: [fpcgermantown.org](http://fpcgermantown.org), click "Community Life" and then click "Sermons."

**CHURCH DIRECTORY:** We are in the process of updating our church directory so kindly contact us as soon as possible if there are any changes to your information. Thank you.

**SPRING CONCERT:** The Germantown Oratorio Choir will perform the Brahms *Requiem* and *Alto Rhapsody* on Sunday, March 18, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to participate, e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com) or call 215-843-8811.

## *Upcoming at First Church*

March 17-24

*University of Maryland Service Group*

Sunday, March 18

*Germantown Oratorio Choir presents*

***Brahms Requiem, 4 p.m.***

Thursday, March 29

***Maundy Thursday Service at Summit Presbyterian, 7 p.m.***

*The Rev. Rebecca Segers Preaching*

Saturday, March 31

***Easter Festival, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.***

Sunday, April 1

***Easter Sunday***

*April 8-May 6*

***International Hospitality Network (IHN) Families at FPCG***



## *Commonwealth Youthchoirs*

Saturday, March 3

***Benefit Concert with Bratislava Boys' Choir, 7:30 p.m.***

**Asher's Legacy—CY Remembers Jack**

At this concert held on Jack Asher's birthday, Commonwealth Youthchoirs will rename its scholarship fund the "Jack Asher Scholarship Fund." All proceeds will support singer scholarships. For more information please visit [www.cychoirs.org/asherslegacy](http://www.cychoirs.org/asherslegacy) or call 215-842-1769.

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# WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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## Sunday, February 25

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM *Animate* Series—Finney Room
- 2:00 PM Disciples Basketball Practice

## Monday, February 26

- 5:00 PM *Animate* Series—Finney Room
- 6:30 PM Disciples Basketball Game—Germantown Friends School

## Tuesday, February 27

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:30 PM Sunday Suppers—Longstreth Auditorium
- 7:30 PM Germantown Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary

## Wednesday, February 28

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
- 5:45 PM Disciples Basketball Practice
- 6:30 PM Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings Room

## Thursday, March 1

- 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, March 2

- 9:00 AM GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group

## Saturday, March 3

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:00 AM Congregational Development and Fellowship—Finney Room
- 10:00 AM Open Gym
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Potluck Dinner—Longstreth Auditorium
- 6:30 PM Keystone State Boychoir Donor Reception—Jennings Room
- 7:30 PM Commonwealth Youthchoirs Jack Asher Legacy Concert  
with the Bratislava Boys Choir—Sanctuary

## Sunday, March 4

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Rebecca Segers preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM *Animate* Series—Finney Room
- 2:00 PM Disciples Basketball Practice

# 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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	Pastor	Rebecca Segers
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

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[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)