

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, APRIL 22, 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.

April 22, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Easter

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Raymond Haan

Welcome and Announcements

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

John Carter

†\*Call to Worship

Psalm 23:1 John 10:14-16

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**People: He lays down his life for his sheep.**

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**People: He knows us, and we belong to him.**

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**People: He speaks, and we listen for his voice.**

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**People: Let us follow him now!**

\*Hymn 171: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Good Shepherd, we have wandered down the strange pathways of our world. We have ventured into dead-end streets that looked more inviting than the narrow ways marked out by the signposts of your love. We have trusted other voices and turned away from your truth. We have accepted your gifts without acknowledgement. We have failed to use our overflowing cups to fill the cups of sisters and brothers who need what we could offer. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to your fold.**

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

Bob Seed, Reader

The First Lesson: Psalm 23

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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!**

A Time For Children

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

Anthem: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Virgil Thompson

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name; in pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream. He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake his ways, and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. When I walk thru the shades of death, thy presence is my stay; one word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows; thine oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may thy house be my abode, and all my work be praise! There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come, no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

The Second Lesson: John 10:11-18

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **TAKE IT UP WITH JESUS**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 384: *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

\*Affirmation of Faith: (from *The Confession of 1967*)

**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the true love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all men stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all men. God's reconciling act in**

Jesus Christ is a mystery which the scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for man. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate men from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call. 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 Lord Is My Shepherd*

Thomas Matthews

\*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 387: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fanfare and Processional*

Lynn Trapp

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

*after worship on*

**SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018**

*for the purposes of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and voting on said report; receiving the reports from the staff, committees and organizations of First Church; and formally presenting the financial report for the Corporation for 2017.*

***Please plan to attend this meeting.***

**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 MUSIC:** Two settings of Ps. 23 are sung by the Chancel Choir today. The first is Virgil Thomson's arrangement of an American folk hymn from *Southern Harmony*. He used a time-honored text by Isaac Watts, who is best known as the hymnwriter of "Joy to the World." Thomas Matthews, whose setting is sung at the Offertory, became organist/choirmaster at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Chestnut Hill after having been assistant at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. He conducted the Blue Jacket Choir during World War II and served churches in Evanston, Ill., and Tulsa, Okla., after the war. Matthews has more than thirty published anthems to his credit. "The Lord Is My Shepherd" is best known; it has sold more than one million copies. This anthem is especially well-suited for our choir and organ because of the orchestral voices specified in the organ accompaniment: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, French Horn, and Strings. Our McLean Memorial Pipe Organ has them all! Matthews employs beautiful voicing in the choir and contrasting harmonies and dynamics to bring the psalmist's text alive, especially "in the valley of the shadow of death" and in a dramatic rising melodic line leading into "the house of the Lord forever." Looking ahead: The Children's Choir will sing in worship next Sunday and on May 13 (Mother's Day); the Gospel Choir will sing in worship on May 6 and June 3; Voices in Bronze will play again on May 20.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: John Orandosh. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to Rosy and Ted Walkenhorst for supplying the munchies last week.

**APRIL CHALLENGE OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING.** Your contributions to The Presbyterian Church U.S.A.'s *One Great Hour of Sharing* support multiple critical ministries. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** has worked in regions as diverse as the Republic of South Sudan to fund relief projects for displaced refugees, the Caribbean and the U.S. to provide food and water to hurricane victims, and Mexico to assist in reconstruction of communities following devastating earthquakes. The **Presbyterian Hunger Program** provides hands-on training in regenerative farming and whole-foods cooking in the U.S. and abroad with the goal of producing healthy and resilient soil, farmers and communities. **Self-Development of People** has assisted in such diverse activities as certifying low-income individuals in professional bicycle repair and shop operations in Redmond, Oregon and assisting fisherfolk in Belize to establish cooperatives, increasing their ability to compete with other fishing groups and to store perishable goods. See the Information Table for details on these vital ministries and please consider giving generously. Thank you.

**NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (NPIHN):** It's that time of year when First Church opens its doors to families experiencing homelessness. As an NPIHN host, our Sunday School classrooms are serving as private bedrooms for three families (with a total of eight children) through Sunday, May 6. First Church members and friends volunteer by preparing dinner, being an overnight host or providing lunch or snacks, all to help our guests feel safe and welcome during their stay with us, and volunteers are still needed. For more information or to volunteer, please see Eileen Jones or Delores Solomon. Please keep these families, as well as thousands of other Philadelphians who are unable to afford surging rents or gain access to affordable public housing, in your thoughts and prayers.

**FPCG'S MONTHLY COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF FIGHTING 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.

**FREEDOM SCHOOL BEGINS ON JUNE 25!** Detailed information and applications will be available shortly.

**“EXPLORING OUR FAITH”** classes will be held on **Monday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.** and **Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Finney Room for those interested in the possibility of joining in membership with the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, but are open to any who would like to attend. On April 30, our focus will be the history of Christianity from Jesus to the Presbyterian Church(USA). The May 7 class will focus on our ministry at First Pres including information from session members about opportunities for service here. Please let Ted Walkenhorst or Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in joining us.

**FIRST CHURCH PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP: July 21-28, 2018.** In September of last year, Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria. Many people lost their homes, belongings and source of income. The beautiful *'Isla del Encanto'* or *Island of Enchantment* was rendered unrecognizable in the wake of this storm. Today, nearly six months later, the recovery effort is still very much underway as many locations remain without power. This July, a group of about 20 people from First Church will work at the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** site located at the Añasco Presbyterian Church in Añasco, Puerto Rico on the western coast of the island. If you are interested in financially supporting this trip you can do so through one of several fundraising events: Saturday, May 5: Face Painting & Puerto Rican Coffee Sale at Mt. Airy Day; Saturday & Sunday, May 12 & 13: Mother's Day Plant Sale; Saturday, June 10: Piña Colada Sale; Saturday, June 30: Puerto Rico Evening. For more information please see Christian Heyer-Rivera, Sheila Heyer-Rivera or Jason Williams. MUCHAS GRACIAS!

**USHERS:** Sunday morning ushers play a vital role in welcoming people to First Church. If you are looking to become more active at First Church and/or want to meet new people, this once-a-month commitment may be just what you are looking for. To learn more, please speak to Mary Lundy today or phone her at 215-927-4648.

**NEW RESOURCE ROOM IS OPEN!** Located across from Pastor Rebecca's office on the second floor, the room is filled with inspirational books, magazines and Bible Study materials. Resource Room hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and you are welcome to visit and/or check out materials. If you would like to visit on a weekend, please leave a request with one of the church office volunteers.

**INFORMATION TABLE IN CHURCH OFFICE HALLWAY:** As you are probably aware, the church has an **Information Table** of literature, handouts and notices that describe events, activities and other related religious and community updates that may be of interest to members and visitors who come to FPCG. Anyone interested in placing information on the table should contact Ernie Freeman by calling the church at 215-843-8811 and leaving a voicemail message. Ernie will review and confirm the information is consistent with other church activities and programs. We thank you and ask that you continue to keep our church informed.

**“SUNDAY SUPPERS”** continues its program at First Church on Tuesday nights through the end of June. Families are served a full meal at their own special table, receive a cooking lesson and are sent home with that night's recipe and the ingredients needed to prepare the meal at home on their own. Preparation for the evening begins at 2:30 p.m. and the families are here from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Volunteers are very much needed for any portion of those times. To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Jackie at 215-203-6364 or Jackie@sundaysuppersphilly.org.

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## WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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### Sunday, April 22

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching  
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class—Primary Room  
11:45 AM Praise and Evangelism Team—Finney Room

### Monday, April 23

1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium

### Tuesday, April 24

9:00 AM Communications Team Meeting  
12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room  
5:30 PM Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium

### Wednesday, April 25

10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room  
12:00 AM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room  
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room

### Thursday, April 26

8:00 AM Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbies, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)  
6:00 PM Liturgical Dance Group—Sanctuary  
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Longstreth Auditorium, Primary Room  
6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary  
6:30 PM Children's Choir—Choir Room  
7:45 PM Voices in Bronze—Choir Room

### Friday, April 27

5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room  
6:30 PM Middle/High School Youth Group—Youth Lounge

### Saturday, April 28

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir  
9:00 AM Readers' Choice—offsite  
10:00 AM Open Gym

### Sunday, April 29

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching  
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room  
12:30 PM Chancel and Gospel Choirs Luncheon—Finney Room  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class—Primary Room  
2:00 PM Chancel and Gospel Choirs—Sanctuary  
3:00 PM Service for Installation of The Rev. Rebecca Segers  
4:30 PM Post-Installation Reception

# 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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