

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,  
CELEBRATING  
& SERVING  
THE LIVING LORD!

MAY 27, 2018

*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.

May 27, 2018

First Sunday After Pentecost

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Organ Hymn*

"For God alone my soul waits in silence" Ps. 62:1

Raymond H. Haan

Welcome and Announcements

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

John Carter

†\*Call to Worship

Leader: God's spirit is moving among us; give thanks!  
Our God is about to do a new thing in our midst.

**People: How good it is to be chosen by God;  
we gather to sing our thanks and praise.**

Leader: God has done great things for us; we are glad!  
Now God is pointing us toward new goals.

**People: We are waiting to hear what God would have us do;  
we press on, responding to the upward call of Christ.**

\*Hymn 139: *Come, Thou Almighty King*

ITALIAN HYMN

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**O Holy God, we acknowledge to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we are not what you have called us to be. We have not stood by our faith, shared our hope, or reached out with love. We have done unkind and shameful deeds, and we have left undone deeds which could have made a difference in the lives of those around us. We have failed to speak and act for peace and justice in our world. Have mercy upon our repentance, forgive our sin, and change our lives, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

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.**

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\*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.")

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Manni Heyer-Rivera , Reader

The First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7, 18-19

Page 631 OT

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: *Thou Art Holy*

Craig Courtney

Holy, holy, holy, thou art holy, thou alone art holy. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert and art and evermore shalt be. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see; only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity.

The Second Lesson: John 3:1-17

Page 88 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **YES, AND . . .**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 324: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

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

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought; one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;**

That this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

That the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

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: *Poco vivace*

Hermann Schroeder

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

### GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn 430: *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

\*Charge and Benediction

Rebecca: We have experienced the glory and majesty of God.

Kevin: *Now go forth to roll up your sleeves and work for justice.*

**All: We have been born again in the love of Christ Jesus who offers who offers us nothing less than eternal life.**

Rebecca: Now go forth to offer hope to those for whom hope has died.

**All: We have been transformed by the witness of the Holy Spirit.**

Kevin: *Go forth to testify to the resilience of love.*

**All: We go in peace to serve God and our neighbor. Amen.**

Choral Response: *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Peter C. Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

Postlude: *Italian Hymn*

Albert L. Travis

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### IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Joseph J. Leube, Sr.

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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 MUSIC:** We give thanks for the faithful members of our Chancel Choir, who complete their season of singing in worship today. The Gospel Choir will complete their season of singing next Sunday. All of our church choirs will be back in September. Over the summer months, there will be opportunities for vocal soloists and ensembles as well as instrumentalists to offer their gifts in worship. To participate, please e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com) or call the church office, 215-843-8811. On Sunday, June 17, we invite the men from the congregation to unite their voices in a Father's Day Men's Chorus. Rehearsals will be on Sunday, June 10, from 11:30-12:30 and Sunday, June 17 from 9-9:30 in the Sanctuary.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: Administration and Finance Committee. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to Gayl and Herb Henze for supplying the munchies last week. If you love to bake, buy or share hospitality, we need you to host this important time of fellowship! Please speak to Delores Solomon if you feel called to provide the snacks or hands-on support for our community's gathering time after worship.

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED** to attend the ordination and installation of Peter Ahn on Saturday, June 9 at 1 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 608 North 22nd Street, 19130.

**MAY CHALLENGE OFFERING: *FREEDOM SCHOOL*.** We look forward to another awesome summer of learning and fun. For those unfamiliar with Freedom School, it is a seven-week program (this year, June 25 to August 10) which focuses on literacy, mental and spiritual growth, and fun for approximately 50 children and young adults. Mornings include reading and other age-appropriate educational activities. Afternoons include dance, music, swimming, Bible study, assemblies, arts and crafts, field trips and more. Breakfast and lunch, prepared on site, and an afternoon snack are provided daily. Children can be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. and picked up as late as 6:00 p.m. Please consider giving generously. A gift of \$750 will sponsor a child for the entire seven-week program; a \$300 contribution will offset the transportation cost for a local field trip; \$100 can provide a subsidy to a working family to enable a sibling to also attend the program; \$50 will pay for two days of afternoon snacks. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

**NEW RAINBOW FISH SYMBOL:** You may have noticed the rainbow fish symbol on our sign outside. A member of our congregation brought the idea to the Praise & Evangelism Team (P&E) as a way to show First Church's commitment to love and inclusivity. With P&E's blessing, displaying the symbol was brought to the Session for approval at the May 2018 meeting, where it was unanimously approved. In addition, on Sundays, June 17 and June 24, we will be holding studies after worship entitled *A Scriptural Dialogue on Homosexuality*, during which we will discuss FPCG's values of inclusion and hospitality. We welcome those who might find these conversations affirming as well as those who might find them challenging.

**WINDOWS:** The deadline to submit material for the summer (July/August) issue of Windows is June 13. Items can be emailed to Deborah Thompson at [fpcgwindows@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgwindows@gmail.com) or placed in Deborah's mailbox in the church office.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE:** Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for updated information. We are in the process of adding our new members and hope to have the directory ready for distribution by June 1. If you are not ready to join First Church but would like to be included as a friend of the church, please email your information to [fpcg.germantown@gmail.com](mailto:fpcg.germantown@gmail.com) and send a selfie to Lois Bethea at 215-771-1469 or see Lois during coffee hour and she will take your picture and information. It is painless!

**THE MINISTRY OF USHERS:** The ministry of Sunday morning ushers plays a vital role in welcoming people to First Church. If you are looking for a way to become more active in the life of First Church and/or want to meet new people, ushering may be just 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, please speak to Mary Lundy to learn more about this ministry. You can speak to Mary today, telephone her at 215-927-4648 or call the church office.

**A MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION WITH PASTOR REBECCA** will begin in June, and will be held at 11:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and 5 p.m. on the Tuesday following it. Our first discussion book is *Searching for Happiness* by Martin Thielen and is available during coffee hour for \$12. We will discuss the preface and Chapter One in June. We hope to see you there!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST—MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the Christian Education Committee Men's Breakfast on Saturday June 23 at 8:30 a.m. Enjoy fellowship, a hearty breakfast, and our own David Cassie speaking about his experiences in Cuba. Hope to see you there!

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Day at the Kimmel Center will include a performance by the Opera Philadelphia chorus, including our own Evelyn Santiago and Rob Phillips, accompanied by FPCG Music Director Tony Thurman on Saturday, June 23. The day-long celebration of the organ begins at 11 a.m. The organ and opera performance will be at 1:15 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

**BRIGHTEN UP SOMEONE'S DAY:** Please consider contributing non-perishable food items to the *Brighten Up Someone's Day* box by the church office. The requested food items will change periodically and all donations will be given to the GACM food pantry. The current request is for peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce and canned fruits and vegetables. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

**REMEMBER TO VISIT THE RESOURCE ROOM.** 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.

***Upcoming Holidays***

Monday, May 28

***Memorial Day—Church Closed***

Wednesday, July 4

***Independence Day—Church Closed***

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## WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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### Sunday, May 27

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching  
6:00 PM Dinner for Eight—home of Pastor Segers, 4920 Greene Street

### Monday, May 28

**Memorial Day—Church Closed**

### Tuesday, May 29

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room  
5:30 PM Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Jennings Room

### Wednesday, May 30

- 8:30 AM Thrive Meeting—Jennings Room  
10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room  
12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room  
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room

### Thursday, May 31

- 8:00 AM Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Avenue (8-10 a.m.)  
11:00 AM Rachel Circle Officers Meeting—Finney Room  
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Longstreth Auditorium, Primary Room  
6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary

### Friday, June 1

- 9:00 AM Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry Staff Meeting—Finney Room  
3:30 PM Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gymnasium  
5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room  
6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group—Youth Lounge

### Saturday, June 2

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir  
9:30 AM Congregational Development & Fellowship Committee—Finney Room  
10:00 AM Open Gym

### Sunday, June 3

- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching  
Ordination and Installation of Officers  
11:30 AM Book Discussion with Pastor Segers—*Searching for Happiness*  
12:30 PM Deacons Meeting—Finney Room  
5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Summer Concert

# 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)