

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, JULY 1, 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.

July 1, 2018

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

“America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and
an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.” – Harry Truman

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY

Prelude: *O Beautiful, for Spacious Skies*

Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Kevin Porter

†*Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

People: Behold our God is a Creator.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

People: Behold our God is a Redeemer.

Leader: The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon
the face of the deep; and the spirit of God was moving
over the face of the waters.

People: Behold our God is a Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let us worship the God who is one in three, three in one,
who heals our brokenness and gathers up all our meanings.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

*Hymn 564: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

MATERNA

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O God, Death is fear, lies, hate, envy, avarice, greed, lust, pride, destructiveness, violence, cruelty. Save us from death. Life is love, truth, courage, laughter, giving, creativeness, tenderness, humility, kindness. Give us life. Forgive us when we choose death instead of life. Light us to life—the life of Jesus. May God forgive us all. May we forgive ourselves and one another.

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

Glenna Hazeltine, Reader

The First Lesson: Lamentations 3:22-33

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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.

Solo: *Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor*

Irving Berlin

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free; the wretched refuse of your teeming shore, send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door! Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, with conquering limbs astride from land to land; here at our sea-washed sunset gates shall stand a mighty woman with a torch, whose flame is the imprisoned lightning, and her name, Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand glows world-wide welcome; Her mild eyes command the air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame. "Keep, Ancient Lands, your storied pomp!" Cries she with silent lips.

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

The Second Lesson: Mark 5:1-20

Page 37 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE SCARIEST STORY EVER TOLD**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

Affirmation of Faith: *Declaration on Where We Stand* (adopted at the 223rd General Assembly)

As confessing Christians, we trust God, whom we know through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray as others pray in other names. We are obligated to declare our concerns about the direction towards autocracy that our country is taking. We say Yes to God's power of love and justice for the neighbor as well as the self; and we say No to demonic power that urges hate of the other, scatters blame, and creates civic discord. We say Yes to our imperfect democracy with one person, one vote, and No to any corruption of our elections. We say Yes to universal health care and No to care based on the ability to pay. We say Yes to safe schools, houses of worship, and public gathering places; and No to

civilian access to assault and/or military-style weapons. We say Yes to core human values and No to dividing our humanity by ideology and partisanship. We say Yes to bridges and preservation of families and No to walls. We say Yes to affirming and celebrating the full spectra of human identity and No to discrimination and bigotry. We say: “In life, and in death we belong to God.” Amen and Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Rev. Kevin 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: *Tune Me, O Lord*

Paul S. Jones

Tune me, O Lord, into one harmony with thee, one full responsive vibrant chord; unto thy praise all love and melody, tune me, O Lord. Thus need I flee nor death, nor fire, nor sword. A little while these be, then cease to be, and sent by thee not these should be abhorred. Devil and world, gird me with strength, to flee the flesh, and arm me with thy word: as thy heart is to my heart, unto thee. Tune me, O Lord. –text by Christina Rossetti

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

*Hymn 389: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

NYLAND

*Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fanfare for the Common Man (Woman, and Child)*

Aaron Copland

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: Our soloist today is Margaret Mezzacappa, alto section leader in our Chancel Choir. A native of Ohio, Margaret rose to prominence in the opera world as the Grand Prize Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2012 and later performed Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College and Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts. Recent solo engagements include Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Columbus Symphony, Handel’s *Messiah* and Brahms’s *Alto Rhapsody* with the Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra, and Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Phoenix Symphony.

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 send an e-mail to music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or call the church office, 215-843-8811.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Praise & Evangelism Committee. Next week's host: Open. 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 Coffee Hour. Thank you to Ingrid Harris and Carolyn and Ernie Freeman for supplying the munchies last week.

JULY CHALLENGE: Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering: This offering supports as many as five new domestic and international projects which help meet a crucial need for persons who are hurting or disadvantaged. We plan to continue financially supporting Freedom School. Working in ministry with Rev. Segers, we will lend our hands and financial resources to bringing God's word and the world's blessings to our community and beyond. We will participate in the larger church through Philadelphia Presbyterian Women and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

THREE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS IN JULY: The *Searching for Happiness* book discussion group will meet to discuss Chapter Two today after worship in the Finney Room and Tuesday, July 10 at 5 p.m. in the Finney Room. A third group will meet at the home of Leah and Drew Hood, 328 West Duval St., 19144 on **Thursday, July 12**. Enjoy a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a discussion on chapters one and two at 6:30 p.m. Please email the Hoods at leah@throwinglight.com to let them know if you will be attending and, if so, what you will bring to the potluck.

PASTOR REBECCA WILL BE ON VACATION from July 2-9, returning to the office on Tuesday, July 10. Please note that she will not be at Uncle Bobbie's on Thursday, July 5. Also, the Tuesday evening book discussion group has been moved from July 3 to **July 10** and the July Session meeting will be **Wednesday, July 11**.

FREEDOM SCHOOL: Our 52 scholars and incredible staff had an awesome first week, one of the highlights being a trip to the movies to see *The Incredibles 2*. One of next week's highlights will be a magic show by a professional magician! We are looking forward to our **Annual Flapjack Fundraiser** on Saturday, July 21 at the Applebee's in Jenkintown.

PAPER SHREDDING AND ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT: The Mission and Outreach Committee is making it possible for you to bring to the church parking lot on July 14 materials to be shredded and electronic devices to be recycled. Electronics will be accepted from 9:00 a.m. until early afternoon. Shredding will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5. The following electronic items will be accepted: computer towers, laptop computers, tablets, servers, flat screen monitors, phone systems, game consoles, flat screen TVs, stereos/radios, small appliances, cell phones/calculators. However, because of environmental issues that call for safe disposal, additional fees from \$35 to \$85 are necessary for certain larger electronics: CRT monitors, conventional TVs, projection TVs. For a fee of \$15, air conditioners and dehumidifiers will be accepted. Also on that day, church committees are invited to sponsor a flea market table, the proceeds of which will go to the committees. For more information, please see Gloria Bethea during Coffee Hour.

June Session Highlights

- Pastor Segers led a discussion of the first chapter of Martin Thielen's "Searching for Happiness." Rebecca asked the session to think in terms of a "corporate" perspective when reading the book: "How does it relate to our congregation as a whole?"
- Ted Walkenhorst gave a report on the May 15th Presbytery meeting. Ted stated the highlight of the meeting was the examination of three candidates for ordination. Our own Peter Ahn was unanimously approved for ordination after delivering his statement of faith and answering questions from the commissioners.
- Session discussed ways to encourage the congregation to participate in short term, single goal projects that will not require long term commitment.
- Randy Rosensteel and Ingrid Harris were elected to serve as commissioners to the July 14th Presbytery of Philadelphia meeting at the Oxford Presbyterian Church.
- Maddy Valentine was enthusiastically elected to serve as Clerk of Session for the coming year. Thank you, Maddy!
- Deborah Thompson is preparing the July-August edition of Windows. Joan Harris and Lois Bethea are supporting the effort.
- Delores Solomon, chair of Congregational Development, asked for help in encouraging folks to sign up to bring snacks for coffee hour.
- Ted Walkenhorst, chair of the Personnel Committee, advised that there is an ongoing review of FPCG's personnel policies.
- Gloria Bethea, chair of Mission & Outreach, advised that there will be a shredding and recycling event at the church on July 14th.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, July 1

10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
10:15 AM Sunday School Grades K-5
11:30 AM Book Discussion with Pastor Rebecca—Finney Room
1:00 PM Puerto Rico Trip Meeting—Finney Room

Monday, July 2

1:00 PM **Freedom School**
Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium

Tuesday, July 3

12:00 PM **Freedom School**
Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day—Church Closed

Thursday, July 5

Freedom School

Friday, July 6

9:00 AM **Freedom School**
GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
6:30 AM Elementary School Youth Group

Saturday, July 7

9:30 AM Congregational Development & Fellowship Committee—Finney Room
10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, July 8

10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Allison Seed preaching
10:15 AM Sunday School Grades K-5

Upcoming

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day, Church Closed

Saturday, July 14

Presbytery of Philadelphia Meeting

Oxford Presbyterian Church, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 14

Shredding & Recycling Event

Saturday, July 21

Freedom School Flapjack Fundraiser

at Applebee's in Jenkintown

Saturday, July 21

Anti-Racism Discussion Group, 9 a.m.

Saturday, July 21-28

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Church Officers

Elders

2019

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

2021

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

Clerk of Session:
Madeline Valentine

Deacons

2019

Ruth Cato
Diane Filter
Dick Liberty

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

2021

Dhyan Cassie
Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

First Church Staff

	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	Taneyia Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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