

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

JULY 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.

July 22, 2018

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

*"I guess real maturity, which most of us never achieve, is when you realize
that you're not the center of the universe." – Katherine Paterson, author*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Morning Has Broken*

Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed

†*Call to Worship

Leader: Come into the presence of God to be fed.
Come to call on God, who is eager to answer.

**People: We gather to seek God's face.
Let our eyes see all that is right and true.**

Leader: Incline your ears to hear all God would teach.
Seek to experience God's steadfast love.

**People: We are here to receive God's blessing.
God is our refuge in a frightening world.**

Leader: God is near to all who call and seek.
Come to praise God and receive a blessing.

**People: Open all our senses to pay close attention, O God.
We want to renew our covenant with the living God.**

*Hymn 487: *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of love and liberation, we give thanks for the stories of our faith in which Jesus fed the hungry crowds that followed him. Like them, we sometimes forget to be grateful for what we have and are consumed by complaining about what we do not have. Like them, we sometimes grab more than our daily bread. Help us to take only what we need and leave the rest for those who hunger. Forgive us when we follow Jesus or pray to you only seeking after our own good. Help us to pray for higher things, for the things that will equip us for the work of ministry and to perform the works of God.

*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

Ernie Freeman, Reader

The First Lesson: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Page 38 NT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Children's Time

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

Solo: *The Quiet Heart*

John Ness Beck

The quiet heart knows the pace of kindness. The quiet heart measures love in gentleness.

The quiet heart sees beauty in reality. The quiet heart survives in understanding. The quiet heart waits in yearning patience to find the mind of God.

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

The Second Lesson: Mark 6:35-52

Page 39 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE MIDDLE**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 2212: *My Life Flows On* (from *Sing the Faith* hymnal) HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*Affirmation of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving

sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed

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: *Offertory*

Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give him my first born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:6-8)

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 357: *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

MARYTON

*Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *If You but Trust in God to Guide You*

J.S. Bach

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Patricia A. Thompson.

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: CDFC. Next week's host: Rachel Circle. 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.

REV. REBECCA SEGERS will be working on Monday this week and taking Friday off instead to move her daughter, Grace, to Washington, DC.

REV. KEVIN PORTER SABBATICAL: Please note that Rev. Kevin Porter will be on sabbatical through Friday, August 31. He will be bringing his creative spirit to the sabbatical, working on a musical play based on the Council of Jerusalem.

FPCG'S MONTHLY COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF COMBATTING 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.

FREEDOM SCHOOL's focus this past week was "I can make a difference in my country." The scholars and staff read the following books: Level 1: *Richard Allen and The Library Card*, *Rosa* and *The Storyteller's Candle*. Level 2: *As Good as Anybody*, *Freedom on the Menu* and *SIT-INS: How Four Friends Made a Stand Sitting Down*. Level 3 read *Cooper Sun* by Sharon Draper and discussed the video *This is America* by Childish Gambino. We have also been a part of "The Action Bible" thanks to Dani Howard and Esperanza. During daily *Drop Everything and Read* time, the scholars and Contina focused on Bible study. For our weekly trip, we enjoyed seeing the musical *Aladdin* at the Storybook Theater. Thank you to all who came out to support our Flapjack Fundraiser on July 21. We appreciate your support! We also want to thank Joe Leube and Ruth Cato just for being spectacular! We are looking forward to Freedom School Sunday next week.

A DISCUSSION ON THE PC(USA) DECLARATION ON WHERE WE STAND will take place on Sunday, August 12 after worship in the Finney Room. How did the Declaration come about? What is its purpose? How will the PC(USA) and its churches use it? What is your take on the Declaration? Where did it speak to your heart and/or where did it make you uncomfortable? Save the date and join Pastor Rebecca to learn and talk more about it.

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 Mary today or via phone ([215-927-4648](tel:215-927-4648)) or call the church.

CHURCH CALENDAR SCHEDULING: To schedule events and meetings on the church calendar, please email Joan Harris at joan.fpcg@gmail.com **and** Lois Nafziger at fpcg.germantown@gmail.com. Also, please follow the same procedure if a regularly scheduled meeting or event will not be taking place. Thank you!

Puerto Rico Service Trip Update!

Seventeen members of FPCG, along with five other brothers and sisters in Christ from our area, are now in Puerto Rico. The group has been worshipping at the Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana de Añasco, where Christian was invited to preach.

The group has begun their work to repair the damages of Hurricane Maria to the Añasco church and the surrounding area, joining with the ministry of the Añasco church and members of the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) in scraping, sealing, painting and landscaping.

In addition, due to your generosity, the group has been able to donate 50 backpacks filled with school supplies along with reusable lunch bags to the children of Añasco, where school starts the beginning of August.

Please continue to pray for all involved that they might continue to faithfully serve in the name of Jesus. If you would like to follow the group's activities in Puerto Rico, please see FPCG's Facebook page.

Again, the group wants to thank the congregation for its generosity and support that has allowed them to extend their ministry to the people of Añasco in Puerto Rico.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, July 22	Puerto Rico Mission Trip
10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
Monday, July 23	Puerto Rico Mission Trip
	Freedom School
1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium
Tuesday, July 24	Puerto Rico Mission Trip
	Freedom School
Wednesday, July 25	Puerto Rico Mission Trip
	Freedom School
10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Auditions—Choir Room
Thursday, July 26	Puerto Rico Mission Trip
	Freedom School
8:00 AM	Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
5:30 PM	Sunday Suppers Alumni Dinner—Longstreth Auditorium
Friday, July 27	Puerto Rico Mission Trip
	Freedom School
Saturday, July 28	Puerto Rico Mission Trip Returns
9:00 AM	Readers' Choice—Offsite
10:00 AM	Open Gym
Sunday, July 29	Freedom School Sunday
10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
12:30 PM	Deacons Meeting—Primary Room
6:00 PM	Dinner for Eight—home of Pastor Segers, 4920 Greene Street

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	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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