

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

FREEDOM SCHOOL SUNDAY
JULY 29, 2018

ALIVE,
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 29, 2018

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

“My humanity is bound in yours, for we can only be human together.” Archbishop Desmond Tutu

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY

Prelude: Two Spirituals

Charles Callahan

Jesus Loves Me

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *When the Spirit of the Lord*

Fred Hammond

Freedom School Liturgical Dancers

Aquilah Ohemeng, choreographer

†*Call to Worship

Voice 1:	In the earliest days	Traci Benson
Voice 2:	When all was chaos	Kyle Scott Jr.
Voice 3:	As God created something new	Elijah Burnley
Voice 4:	God gathered the waters	Kameron White
Voice 1:	All else was separated, then formed. Put forth or called . . .	
Voice 2:	But the waters were gathered.	
Voice 3:	Gathered together in one place.	
Voice 4:	In our days	
Voice 1:	In all our chaos	
Voice 2:	God has gathered us here	
Voice 3:	Gathered us like the waters.	
Voice 4:	Be strong.	
Voice 1:	Have courage.	
Voice 2:	Rejoice in the Lord.	
Voice 3:	Come to the water.	
Voice 4:	Be gathered in.	
Voice 1:	Creator God, Living Christ, Spirit of Courage,	
Voice 2:	you wonderful unknown,	
Voice 3:	you fabulous hope,	
Voice 4:	you faithful friend,	
All Voices:	we are here to adore you.	

All: **We are here to love and serve you,
To sing your story,
To shout your justice,
To proclaim your truth,
To welcome your challenge,
And dance in your hope.**

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O God of love, God of power, we have heard your promises of abundant life and have been afraid to believe them. We have worshiped you with our lips but have reserved parts of ourselves for our own purposes and plans. We are bound by our need for absolute certainty and so we often miss your living presence in the surprises of life. Renew us by turning our trust to you again.

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.**

Level 1 Scholars: *Shake a Hand, Alleluia*

A la la la la la le lu ia, a la la la la le lu ia. A la la la la la le lu ia , a la la la la la, le lu ia. Shake another hand, shake the hand next to you. Shake another hand and sing this song. Pat another back, pat the back next to you. Pat another back and sing this song.

†*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

Lorenzo Campbell

The First Lesson: Psalm 133

Page 543 OT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Level 2 Scholars: *Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty*

Holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. Holy, holy is the Lord. Holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. Holy is the Lord forevermore. For the Lord is great and is greatly to be praised. Lift him up! Lift your hands and praise him, stomp your feet and praise him. Clap your hands and praise him. Shout for joy and praise him forevermore. Forever and ever, forever and evermore.

The Second Lesson: 2 Samuel 6:12-15

Page 267 OT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **GET UP AND DANCE!**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn: *For Everyone Born* (please see insert)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Freedom School Testimonial

Madison Lundy

*Affirmation of Faith (from *Confession of Belbar*)

Evan Black

Leader: We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

People: that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged.

Leader: We believe that God calls the church to follow him in this;

People: for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.

Leader: We believe that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

People: We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;

Leader: We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things,

People: 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.

Leader: We believe that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands,

People: namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

All: Jesus is Lord. This we proclaim; this we believe.

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: *Lord I Lift Your Name on High*

Lord I lift your name on high, Lord I love to sing your praise. I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the way. From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky. Lord I lift your name on high.

Level 3 Scholars

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 2235-b: *We Are Marching/Siyahamba* (from *Sing the Faith* hymnal)

Postlude: *When the Spirit of the Lord*

Hammond

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Charles G. Kaylor.

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: Today's Worship service has many moving parts, just as God's creation does. It weaves together liturgy from the 223rd General Assembly, music and dance and leadership from Freedom School, while incorporating people from the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, as we all worship and serve the Lord together. It is my prayer that it joyously praises God, while inspiring and uplifting us all, as we come together in the Lord's powerful presence.

THE MUSIC: Today's anthems and Offertory are being sung by our Freedom School Scholars, under the direction of Gospel Choir Director, Sara Carter-Blanford.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Rachel Circle. Next week's host: Praise and Evangelism Committee. 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.

DINNERS FOR EIGHT: Spaces are still available for tonight's Dinner for Eight at the home of Rev. Segers. If you would like to attend, please see Rev. Segers today during Coffee Hour. The next Dinner for Eight will be on Sunday, August 19. We look forward to hearing from you!

REV. REBECCA SEGERS will be attending the Crossroads Continuing Education Training in Stony Point, New York from Wednesday, August 1 through Friday, August 3. Please note that she will not be at Uncle Bobbie's on Thursday, August 2.

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.

FREEDOM SCHOOL's focus this past week was "I can make a difference in my world." Among the books read by the scholars are *This Is Our Earth* and *Nelson Mandela*. Level 3 continued their reading and discussions of *Cooper Sun* by Sharon Draper. We welcome all of you today to Freedom School Sunday!

GACM SUMMER VACATION DATES: The Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry will be closed from Monday, August 13 through Friday, September 7. The GACM will reopen for clients on Monday, September 10.

GREAT ROAD FESTIVAL 2018 will take place on Saturday, August 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sponsored by the Germantown Special Services District (GSSD), the “**Great Road**” is **Germantown Avenue**, and the festival is between Chelten Avenue and Penn Street. First Church will have a booth near Chelten and Germantown Avenues. A main features of the festival is an antique car show, organized by our own sexton, Harold Whaley! The event will also feature live music, food trucks, local vendors and a Resource Fair and Reading Circle at Market Square. The festival is free and open to the public. To reserve a vendor table, contact Sierra White at 205-209-9102 or sierra.white@tabor.org. To volunteer at the table for First Church please contact Lois Bethea in the church office.

July Session Highlights

Pastor Segers led a discussion around the idea of doing more with fewer committees while moving toward activities that would encourage congregation members to become involved with specific, single goal project teams. Session was asked to think about whether their committees could possibly integrate with other committee(s) on certain projects.

Session members were asked to comment on the GA declaration that had been used as the Affirmation of Faith the two previous Sundays. Thoughts, feelings, and opinions were offered and heard with an open and respectful attitude. It was agreed that a congregational listening session would be helpful to engage the entire congregation in the conversation.

CE Chair, Bob Seed, announced a men’s breakfast has been scheduled for the early fall.

Gloria Bethea reminded Session that the Mission and Outreach Committee-sponsored Shredding and Electronic Recycling event will take place on July 14.

Session voted to approve the Standard Terms of Employment letters developed by Ingrid Harris’s Personnel team.

Administrative and Finance Chair, Joe Leube, advised that Jim Thompson has prepared a timeline for various stewardship activities.

Pastor Segers and two other congregation members will be travelling to St Louis in September to participate in the Stewardship Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope is a three-day event with speakers and workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns and generosity.

Property Chair, Marc DiNardo, reported on flooding problems in the gym and the time consuming and labor intensive cleanup required after severe storms. Marc also advised that the 2018 budget for church maintenance has been exhausted. There is a need to locate sources to fund anticipated repairs and required maintenance for the remainder of this year.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, July 29

10:00 AM

10:15 AM

6:00 PM

Freedom School Sunday

Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching

Sunday School Grades K-5

Dinner for Eight—home of Rev. Segers, 4920 Greene Street

Monday, July 30

1:00 PM

Freedom School

Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium

Tuesday, July 31

Freedom School

Wednesday, August 1

5:00 PM

Freedom School

Rev. Segers at Crossroads Professional Education Training

Keystone State Boychoir Auditions—Choir Room

Thursday, August 2

Freedom School

Rev. Segers at Crossroads Professional Education Training

Friday, August 3

Freedom School

Rev. Segers at Crossroads Professional Education Training

Saturday, August 4

10:00 AM

Open Gym

Sunday, August 5

10:00 AM

10:15 AM

11:30 AM

Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching

Sunday School Grades K-5

Searching for Happiness Book Discussion with Rev. Segers—Finney Rm.

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org