

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

AUGUST 12, 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.

August 12, 2018

The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” Leo Buscaglia

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY

Prelude: *In Thee Is Gladness*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Christian Heyer-Rivera

Leader: Wait for the Lord. Wait with faith and hope.

**People: We come as a people of faith,
yearning to touch the hem of hope.**

Leader: Wait for Christ’s healing and strength.

**People: We come as a people strengthened by God,
Yearning to touch the hem of healing.**

Leader: Waiting and hoping, we come to worship.

People: We come to be healed.

*Hymn 470: *O Day of Radiant Gladness*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O God, when we ponder the vast universe at your command, we are astounded. We are nothing, except that you have given us life. How often we have squandered that gift in meaningless pursuits, killing time we might have invested in honoring you! Instead we have belittled your prophets and made light of your commands. We alternate between boasting over our personal accomplishments and near-panic at our inability to cope with life’s challenges. O God, we confess our desperate need for healing, forgiveness and a new perspective on life.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

†*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

Dolores Shanks, Reader

The First Lesson: Psalm 130

Page 542 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.

Solo: *He Leadeth Me*

William B. Bradbury

He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me: his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom, By waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine; Content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victory's won, E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Diane Filter, Soprano

The Second Lesson: Mark 5:24b-34

Page 37 NT

Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE FINISHING TOUCH**

The Reverend Rebecca L. 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*)

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 mis-

sion 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: *He Looked Beyond My Fault*

Dottie Rambo

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise, for it was grace that bought my liberty; I do not know just why he came to love me so, he looked beyond my fault and saw my need. I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary, to view the cross where Jesus died for me; How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul, he looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

*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 335: *Though I May Speak*

O WALY WALY

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Hymn to Joy*

Albert L. Travis

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God

in loving memory of George M. Parker

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 Diane Filter, a member of our Gospel, Chancel, and Oratorio Choirs, who joined First Church in 2015, and is currently serving as a Deacon. Diane grew up outside Philadelphia in a home rich with music, including regular family sing-alongs around the piano. She estimates having half the Baptist hymnal memorized. Diane works as a nurse practitioner and associate medical director at Esperanza Health Center, caring for the under-served Latino population in Northern Philadelphia.

The hymn text “He Leadeth Me” was written by Joseph H. Gilmore at the close of a lecture at the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, in 1859, and published in the Baptist Hymnal (Philadelphia, 1871).

Looking ahead: First Church choir rehearsals will resume soon.

Gospel Choir, Thursday, August 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Children’s Choir, Thursday, September 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Voices in Bronze Handbell Choir, Thursday, September 6, at 7:45 p.m.

Chancel Choir, Saturday, September 8, 2-4 p.m.

Oratorio Choir, Tuesday, October 30, 7-9 p.m.

For more information or to participate, please e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or call the church office, 215-843-8811.

COFFEE HOUR: This week’s host: Mission & Outreach 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.

REV. KEVIN PORTER SABBATICAL: Please note that Rev. Kevin Porter will be on sabbatical through Sunday, August 26. He will be bringing his creative spirit to the sabbatical, working on a musical play based on the Council of Jerusalem.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED from Monday, August 27-Monday, September 3 to give our wonderful office volunteers a break. Thanks to those who so generously answer the phones and support the church staff Monday through Friday throughout the year.

THE GERMANTOWN AVENUE CRISIS MINISTRY WILL CLOSE on Friday, August 10 and reopen on Monday, September 10.

A DISCUSSION ON THE PC(USA) DECLARATION ON WHERE WE STAND will take place today, 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.

SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS BOOK DISCUSSION continues: for those who were unable to make the chapter 3 discussion, there is one more opportunity on Thursday, August 16 at the Hood home, 328 Duval Street. Potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. and discussion starting at 6:30 p.m. Chapter

FREEDOM SCHOOL completed its seventh week on a High Note, with a fun-filled time at Dorney Park. On Wednesday evening, the sanctuary was filled with singing and dancing, as they ended their program by sharing an overview of everything they learned throughout the seven weeks. It was truly an impressive event. Many thanks to all who made Freedom School possible!

DINNER FOR EIGHT with Rev. Rebecca is occurring this month on Sunday, August 19 at 6:00 p.m. at her home, 4920 Greene Street. She will provide an entrée and invites guests to bring an item to share. There are still slots available, so please sign up to come enjoy a wonderful meal and even better fellowship!

THE PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS ARE BACK! There are lots of ways you will be hearing about their amazing trip: work accomplished, relationships built, and sites seen. Look for articles in Windows, stories told in coffee hour, and a special service of worship on Sunday, September 23. It is our hope and prayer that this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship in Anasco with much more to come in the future.

Upcoming at First Church

Monday, September 3

Labor Day—Church Closed

Sunday, September 9

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 16

Rally Day—Sunday School classes begin

Sunday, September 23

***Puerto Rico Mission Trip Celebration
in Worship***

Friday, September 28

***Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry
Good Neighbor 21st Anniversary Gala***

Sunday, October 7

World Communion Sunday

**AUGUST CHALLENGE OFFERING:
ATHLETES IN ACTION**

(AIA) is a sports ministry of **Cru** (formerly Campus Crusades for Christ). Their goal is to reach sportspeople for Christ and train them to share their faith with others. Carl and Noreen Dambman have devoted more than 40 years in many countries to AIA; our church has supported them with both prayers and financial support for many years. Carl and Noreen are currently at the Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia with other AIA staff helping accelerate sports chaplaincy in Asia. More information can be found on the church bulletin board or at <https://give.cru.org/0007991>. Please help to ensure this important work continues with your generous contributions to the August Challenge Offering.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, August 12

- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Grades K-5
- 11:30 AM *Declaration on Where We Stand* Discussion with Rev. Segers—Finney Rm.

Monday, August 13

- 1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium

Tuesday, August 14

- 11:00 AM N.A. Workshops & Cookout—Primary, Longstreth, & pkg lots (11-7)
- 12:00 PM CYChoirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room

Wednesday, August 15

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 12:00 PM CYChoirs Program Meeting—Primary Room
- 5:00 PM Keystone State BoyChoir Auditions—Choir Room
- 6:00 PM Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office
- 7:00 PM Women's Retreat Meeting—Finney Room

Thursday, August 16

- 8:00 AM Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
- 5:30 PM *Searching for Happiness* Book Disc., ch. 3 at the Hood's home, 328 W. Duval St.

Friday, August 17

- 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group—Gymnasium, Youth Lounge

Saturday, August 18

- 9:30 AM Worship, Music, & the Arts Committee—Upstairs Office
- 10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, August 19

- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Grades K-5
- 6:00 PM Dinner for Eight at Rev. Rebecca's home, 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
Dani Howard
Rhonda Highsmith

First Church Staff

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| Director of Adult Education and Community Life | Pastor | The Rev. Rebecca L. Segers |
| Director of Urban Ministry | | Kevin L. Porter |
| Director of Music | | Eileen Jones |
| Director of the Gospel Choir | | F. Anthony Thurman |
| Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs | | Sara Carter-Blanford |
| Director of Christian Education | | Evelyn Santiago |
| Parish Visitor | | Christian Heyer-Rivera |
| Building Manager | | Heidi Mercado-Littles |
| Administrative Assistant | | Terry Boyer |
| Bookkeeper | | Joan Harris |
| Sextons | | Cindy Osborne |
| | | Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley |

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