

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

SEPTEMBER 16, 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.

September 16, 2018

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

*“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.”*

- Meister Eckhart

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY

Prelude: *Simple Gifts*

Traditional Shaker Melody  
arr. Rulon Christiansen

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Mandy Adams-Henderson

Introit: *Come to Zion*

Traditional Shaker Melody  
arr. Ted W. Barr

†\*Call to Worship

Leader: My people are hungry. Give them something to eat.

**People: There are too many to feed.**

Leader: My people are hungry. Give them something to eat.

**People: We have only seven loaves and a few small fish.**

Leader: My people are hungry. Give them something to eat.

**People: It would take a miracle.**

Leader: With God, all things are possible.

**People: In Christ, new hope has dawned.**

Leader: God’s love and grace are here!

**People: God’s love and grace are here!**

Leader: Give thanks and endless praise!

**People: Give thanks and endless praise!**

\*Hymn 473: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**O God, we are in awe before you, for you have provided for us in rich abundance. The earth is full of your provisions. There is beauty all around us from the work of your hands. You have surrounded us with people who care about us with the love of Christ. Help us, O God, to count our blessings. Point us beyond our cries and complaints that we might realize our capacity to act in your name for the sake of others. As we wrestle with issues of faith and trust, help us to risk our false security for the venture of feeding others in the spirit of Christ.**

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

Ted Walkenhorst

The First Lesson: Psalm 34:1-8

Page 480 OT

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

The Time for Children

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

Anthem: *Down in the River to Pray*

Traditional Southern Gospel  
arr. David L. Mennicke

As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way! O sisters let's go down, down in the river to pray. As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way and who shall wear the robe & crown? Good Lord show me the way! O brothers let's go down, down in the river to pray. As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way! O fathers let's go down, down in the river to pray. As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way and who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way! O mothers let's go down, don't you wanna go down in the river to pray? As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way! O sinners let's go down, down in the river to pray.

The Second Lesson: Mark 8:1-21

Page 40 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **PROOF**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 329: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

BREAD OF LIFE

\*Affirmation of Faith (*Apostles Creed*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the  
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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: *Offertory*

John Ness 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)

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

### **GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Hymn 288: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

\*Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *March in B-Flat Major*

Thurman

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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:** Familiar music of Americana can be found throughout the service today. "Down in the River to Pray" is attributed to George H. Allan and published in the *Slave Songbook* (1867). The song was made popular in the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" (2000) as sung by Alison Krauss. The haunting, repetitive melody and deeply spiritual text call us to remain faithful even in times of darkness.

If you love to sing and can be faithful in attending rehearsals, please consider joining one of our church choirs: The Gospel Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and sings in worship the first Sunday of each month. The Children's Choir (grades 2-8) rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and sings in worship the last Sunday of each month. Voices in Bronze Handbell Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. and rings in worship the second Sunday of each month. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. and from 11:30-12:30. The Oratorio Choir will rehearse on Tuesdays beginning October 30 from 7-9 p.m. For more information or to participate, please e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com) or call the church office, 215-843-8811.

**REV. REBECCA WILL ATTEND THE PRESBYTERIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP GATHERING** in Minneapolis from Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 22. **Please note that she will not be at Uncle Bobbies this Thursday, 9/20.**

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Mandy Adams-Henderson will have a special table set up today where you can speak with her and get information on the **Presbyterian National Committee for Self-Development of People**. Please check out this table, talk to Mandy and see what you can do to support this cause. Next week's Coffee Hour host: Open.

Many thanks from Chair Delores Solomon and the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee to everyone who helped to make our **Annual Picnic last Sunday** a tremendous success! The setup, the food, the conversation, the cleanup, everything was smooth as butter and twice as delicious. A good time was had by all who were there!

**THE RACHEL CIRCLE**, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room on Monday, September 17. All women are encouraged and invited to attend!

**SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS BOOK GROUP:** The Hoods will host another discussion of Chapter 4, "Focusing on the Present," on Wednesday, September 19 at their home, 328 W. Duval Street in Germantown: potluck supper at 6 p.m.; discussion at 7 p.m.

**COMING TO THE TABLE:** The Northwest Region of the Presbytery will continue its conversation regarding race and reconciliation on Saturday, September 22 at Summit Presbyterian Church, 6757 Greene Street. This is the first of a three-part series (parts 2 and 3: Oct. 20 and Nov. 17 at FPCG) of watching and discussing Ava DuVernay's documentary film, *13th*, which explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Registration: 9:30 a.m.; film viewing and discussion: 10 a.m. to noon.

**GACM 21st ANNIVERSARY GALA:** You still have time to submit congratulatory messages for the September 28 *21st Anniversary Gala* program booklet. Please contact Hope Primas at (215) 843-2340 or [hprimas@crisisministry.org](mailto:hprimas@crisisministry.org).

## **SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING:**

### **Village to Village Care**

**Village to Village Care** is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 by FPCG member, Dr. Annie Kotto, and her sister Dr. Anne Marie Cadet, whose mission is to focus on the needs of rural villages throughout the world with a specific focus on healthcare.

**Village to Village Care's** conception coincided with the spread of the Ebola virus in West African countries in the summer of 2014 and was designed to address the glaring inadequacies in healthcare and health education illuminated by the epidemic.

**The organization's goal** is to provide primary healthcare to remote villages so that emergency issues do not result in grievous loss of life. A clinic with proper equipment and a trained staff can be the difference between life or death.

**Ultimately, Village to Village Care** seeks to empower rural communities around the world and promote self-sustaining health practices among the locals. More information about this organization and its mission trips can be found at [www.villagetovillagecare.org](http://www.villagetovillagecare.org).



Peace  
Day  
Philly

Every year on **September 21**, the *International Day of Peace* is celebrated around the world. This year's global Peace Day theme, set by the United Nations, is "**The Right to Peace—The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70.**"

In our area, the organization *Peace Day Philly* creates and promotes exciting events to observe the week of Peace Day (September 16-21), including music, art, education, personal development and other topics.

Please see the cards on the literature table and the event schedule at [www.peacedayphilly.org/events](http://www.peacedayphilly.org/events) or speak with Marc Dinardo to learn how you can participate!

## **September Session Highlights**

**World Communion Sunday** will be October 7. It was suggested that we use different breads from around the world during the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The next **Philadelphia Presbytery** meeting will be held Tuesday, November 13 at the Wallingford Presbyterian Church.

Christian Ed chair, Bob Seed, reported that the following students have been awarded **FPCG scholarships** for the current school year: Kristina Ohemeng, Kiara Greene, Jason Greene, Camari Fitzgerald, DeShaye Carter, and Kai Burton.

The next **men's breakfast** will be held Saturday, Nov. 3. Drew Hood will speak.

**Animate** is here again! Second Sundays and following Mondays beginning October 14 and 15. See Bob Seed to order journals.

Oxford Presbyterian Church will be holding a seminar to examine **The Presbyterian Book of Confessions** from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Session endorsed a "Citizenship Sunday" **voter registration** event sponsored by the Faith and Freedom Coalition. More information to follow.

Congregational Development chair, Delores Solomon, reported that the annual **Christmas dinner** will be held on December 2.

Marc DiNardo, **FPCG's Property Committee** chair and jack of all trades, reports: power outlets have been installed to improve control power to the organ, thermostat upgrades are being considered to improve efficiency, flooding after storms is an ongoing issue, improving access to the building and possible options for glass doors are being discussed, the west gate will be repaired and upgraded, and new tires and air conditioning repairs for the minibus have been approved.

Randy Rosensteel, chair of the **Worship & Music Committee**, reported: a less confusing practice for serving communion to choir members is being developed, a suggestion that the congregation remain seated during the passing of the bread and cup is being considered, two of the three boxes of Glory to God hymnals donated by the Board of Pensions in 2015 have yet to be found, and a suggestion that the FPCG Gospel Choir perform in a Gospel Festival during Black History Month in February.

# *Window on the Week*

## **Sunday, September 16**

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching  
10:15 AM Sunday School Grades K-5  
11:30 AM “Third Sunday”—Longstreth Auditorium  
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room  
12:15 PM Confirmation Class

## **Rally Day**

## **Monday, September 17**

11:00 AM Rachel Circle—Jennings Room  
1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym

## **Tuesday, September 18**

12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Primary Room  
1:00 PM Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office

## **Wednesday, September 19**

10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room  
12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room  
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Rm., Jennings Rm.  
6:00 PM Book Discussion—Offsite  
7:00 PM Property Committee—Finney Room

## **Thursday, September 20**

6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Primary Room  
6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary  
6:30 PM Children’s Choir—Choir room  
7:45 PM Voices in Bronze—Choir Room

## **Rev. Rebecca at Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gathering**

## **Friday, September 21**

1:00 PM GACM 21st Anniversary Gala Run-through  
Jennings Room, Longstreth Auditorium  
3:30 PM Drop-In Center—Youth Lounge, Gym  
5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room  
6:00 PM Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room  
6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group

## **Rev. Rebecca at Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gathering**

## **Saturday, September 22**

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir  
9:30 AM Anti-Racism Discussion Group  
Summit Presbyterian Church, 6757 Greene Street, 19119  
10:00 AM Open Gym

## **Rev. Rebecca at Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gathering**

## **Sunday, September 23**

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Worship—Puerto Rico Service and Discipleship  
10:15 AM Sunday School—Grades K-5  
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class

# 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

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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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