

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

SEPTEMBER 30, 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.

September 30, 2018

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good.”— C.S. Lewis

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY

Prelude: *Prelude and Fugue in C Major*

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *This Little Light of Mine*

arr. Mark Patterson

Children’s Choir
Evelyn Santiago, director

†*Call to Worship

Leader: Come one and all to meet God here.
Let all who are suffering find hope in this place.

**People: We have come that God might raise us up.
Our only hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Come all who are weary and oppressed.
God offers relief and enlists our mutual helpfulness.

**People: God hears our prayers and answers us.
God equips us to be helpful to one another.**

Leader: Come together to sing songs of praise to God.
Give thanks for God’s wondrous deeds.

**People: God’s glory abides in this place of worship.
God’s presence and help are real.**

*Hymn 461: *God Is Here!*

ABBOT’S LEIGH

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

All-powerful God, we confess our devious ways. Even when prayers for others are on our lips, we seek ways to secure our own advantages. We put our trust in things we can accumulate rather than aligning ourselves with your will and way. Our behavior creates enemies and multiplies divisions among your people. Then we want you on our side against those who are different from us. We confuse our preferences with your intentions. O God, we need healing, but we are afraid to lose the illusions of control that are so much a part of us. We fear the very changes that would give us integrity. Help us, gracious 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

Jasmine Greene

The First Lesson: James 5:13-20

Page 217 NT

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.

Solo: *Be Thou Faithful Unto Death* (from *St. Paul*)

Mendelssohn

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Be not afraid, my help is nigh.

Dugan Morgridge, tenor

The Second Lesson: Mark 9:38-50

Page 42 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **CUT IT OUT!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 438: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

Affirmation of Faith (from the *Westminster Confession, Chapter IX* in inclusive language)

God has endued the will of humanity with that natural liberty, that it is neither forced, nor by any absolute necessity of nature determined to good or evil. Humanity, in its state of innocence, had freedom and power to will and to do that which is good and well-pleasing to God; but yet mutably, so that they might fall from it. Humanity, by its Fall into a state of sin, has wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation; so as natural beings, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, are not able, by their own strength, to convert themselves, or to prepare themselves thereunto.

When God converts a sinner and translates him or her into the state of grace, he frees them from their natural bondage under sin, and, by his grace alone, enables them freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet so as that, by reason of their remaining corruption, they do not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but do also will that which is evil. The will of human beings is made perfectly and immutably free to good alone, in the state of glory only. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *How Lovely Are the Messengers* (from *St. Paul*) Mendelssohn
How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings. (Romans 9: 15,18)

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 420: *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

*Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen* McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Processional and Trumpet Tune on CWM RHONDDA* Wayne Wold

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 Dugan Morgridge. Dugan is no stranger to First Church, having previously served as tenor section leader in our Chancel Choir from 2005-2007. A native of New York City, he began singing as a treble in the Choir of Men and Boys at the Church of the Transfiguration, where he developed a lifelong love for liturgical music, and joined the tenor section as a teen. He was a core member of The Philadelphia Singers and appears regularly as a soloist and section leader with Philomusica Chorale and various ensembles in the Philadelphia area. Dugan received his undergraduate degree in voice from the New England Conservatory in Boston and earned a graduate degree in voice at Temple University. He and his wife Kristi live in the Academy Gardens area of Philadelphia and have two children, John (7) and Margaret (4).

Today's tenor solo and choral anthem are drawn from Mendelssohn's oratorio, *St. Paul*. As was the case with Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, *St. Paul* was composed to be performed both in German as well as in English. It was premiered in 1836 and received its first U.S. performance in Boston in 1837. "How Lovely Are the Messengers" is certainly the most famous chorus found in the oratorio and a beloved anthem sung by church choirs around the globe. Mendelssohn is credited for having resurrected the music of Bach after many decades of neglect. *St. Paul* includes several German chorales that pay homage to the great Cantor of Leipzig.

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

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Rachel Circle. Next week's host: Praise and Evangelism Team. Thank you to Rosy and Ted Walkenhorst for supplying the munchies last week.

SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS: The next book discussion with Rev. Segers will focus on Chapter 5, "Contented People Practice Forgiveness" on Sunday, October 7 after worship, Tuesday, October 9 at 5 p.m. and at the home of Leah and Drew Hood, date to be announced.

ANIMATE: The next *Animate* series will begin on Sunday, October 13 after worship and Monday, October 14 at 5 p.m. Journals are \$13 each and can be purchased in the church office.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SHIRLEY ANDERSON: Please join us for a memorial service for Shirley Anderson on Sunday, October 14 at 12:30 p.m. Shirley was a beloved member of the Oratorio Choir. May she rest in peace.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY is free and open for business! A wide variety of books from Bible commentaries to spiritual poetry to the Gospel According to Peanuts and more has been collected in the upstairs office for your reading pleasure. If you would like to check out what we've got and then "check it out" to take home, please take a look and then sign the clipboard letting us know what you've borrowed.

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.

SEPTEMBER CITIZENSHIP SUNDAYS: The Session of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown and FPCG's Rachel Circle of the Presbyterian Women U.S.A. are sponsoring September Citizenship Sundays to give unregistered voters, 18 years of age and older, a chance to register to vote in the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 6.

Registered voters will choose representatives from Pennsylvania to serve in the United States Senate and House of Representatives; registered Pennsylvania voters will also vote for Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania along with other state and local officials.

The paperwork needed to register to vote, including change of address forms, will be available during Coffee Hour today. Absentee ballots will also be available. Please stop by the Citizenship Table to complete the forms in time for the November 6 election.

This is in no way an endorsement of any party or persons running for certain seats in government and is in full compliance with IRS rules and regulations governing voter education activities by 501(c)(3) organizations.



*"To the lover of wilderness Alaska
is one of the most wonderful places in the world."*
-John Muir

Alaska Cruise August 20-27, 2019

Experience the majesty of Alaska on the beautiful **Carnival Legend**. Glide by spectacular glaciers, deep green forests, snow-capped mountains, sea and wild life and more. Visit Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan in Alaska and Victoria, British Columbia.

See Gloria Bethea for more information about this affordable trip.



*"My heart's in the highlands, the birth of valour,
the country of worth."*



So sang Robert Burns about his native **Scotland**, and so too sing we all.

Scotland is the home of John Knox, who studied with Jon Calvin and so brought us our denomination. The Presbyterian Church is the national Church of Scotland and FPCG has begun the planning process for a congregational trip to Scotland, birth of valour and the Presbyterian Church.

We would visit **Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Isle of Skye, Inverness, the Orkneys, Arthur's Seat, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond, Loch Ness, Stirling Castle** and **Iona Abbey** (resting place for Scotland's ancient kings, including Macbeth). And let's not forget the Harry Potter Train!

Lots to dream about. We're thinking about 2020 and ways to make such a trip affordable for everyone. If you'd like to be a part of the

Window on the Week

Sunday, September 30

- 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 Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 12:30 PM Deacons Meeting—Finney Room
- 1:00 PM Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) families arrive
- 6:00 PM Dinner for Eight at home of Rev. Segers, 4920 Greene Street

Monday, October 1

- 1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym

Tuesday, October 2

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Primary Room
- 2:30 PM Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium, Jennings Room

Wednesday, October 3

- 10:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Rm., Jennings Rm.
- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Rm., Jennings Rm.
- 7:00 PM Session—Finney Room

Thursday, October 4

- 8:00 AM Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
- 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Primary Room
- 6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Children's Choir—Choir room
- 7:30 PM Stewardship Meeting
- 7:45 PM Voices in Bronze—Choir Room

Friday, October 5

- 9:00 AM GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 3:30 PM Drop-In Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group

Saturday, October 6

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:30 AM Congregational Development & Fellowship—Finney Room
- 10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, October 7

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers Preaching—
World Communion Sunday
- 10:15 AM Sunday School—Grades K-5
- 11:30 AM Book Discussion with Rev. Segers—Finney Room
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room

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

Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Pastor	Rebecca 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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