

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

SEPTEMBER 9, 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 9, 2018

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

*"It's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me." - Batman, Batman Begins*

## **ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**

### **GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY**

Prelude: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

McNeil Robinson

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

John Carter

†\*Call to Worship

Leader: Across the barriers that divide race from race:

**People: Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Leader: Across the barriers that divide the rich from the poor:

**People: Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Leader: Across the barriers that divide people of different faiths:

**People: Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Leader: Across the barriers that divide Christians:

**People: Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Leader: Across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old:

**People: Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.**

Leader: Confront us, O Christ,  
with the hidden prejudices and fears which deny and betray our prayers.  
Enable us to see the causes of strife.  
Remove from us all false sense of superiority.

**People: Open us to unity with all God's children,  
showing and sharing Christ's love and justice  
as we worship and in our very lives!**

\*Hymn 467: *How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

### **CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**O God, we confess that our good intentions have gone astray. We favor the people who are like us and honor those we deem to be important. We dishonor the poor, write off those with whom we disagree, excuse our self-serving be-**

\*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

havior, and sow injustice on every hand. It is so much easier to give advice than to do good. We would rather point fingers at others who are unfair than to give up our own advantages. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and for a depth of faith that will make a difference in us and in our world.

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

Sheila Heyer-Rivera

The First Lesson: James 2:1-10, 14-17

Page 215 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.*

Anthem: *Jesus Is Calling*

Aaron David Miller

Softly, tenderly Jesus is calling to you. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching for you and me. Come home, you who are weary. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling sinners to come home. Time is now fleeting, moments are passing from you and me; shadows gathering, night time is coming for you and me. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised for you and me. Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon for you and me.

The Second Lesson: Mark 7:24-37

Page 39 NT

**Leader:** God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **WHO'S ON FIRST**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 413: *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

CHARLESTOWN

\*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.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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: *With a Voice of Singing*

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

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

\*Hymn 386: *O for a World*

AZMON

\*Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Promenade in G Major*

Robinson

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC IS TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP!**

**SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING: VILLAGE TO VILLAGE CARE**  
(Please see next to last page for more information on this important organization.)

**DINNERS FOR 8:** The last chance to enjoy a Dinner for 8 at Pastor Rebecca's house, 4920 Greene Street in Germantown, is on Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Sign up to come and bring a side dish or dessert – Rebecca will provide the entrée and beverages – and get to know her and others who are sharing the meal a bit better.

**THE MUSIC:** This morning we welcome the Chancel Choir back to the choir loft. The choir brings as its anthem “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling,” a Nineteenth Century hymn of Invitation by Will Lamartine Thompson. In a fresh setting by Aaron David Miller, the anthem invites us to accept God's mercy by painting a picture of invitation like a mother calling after her children. We are reminded that there is nothing to be gained by delay, especially knowing that death is coming sooner or later. The final stanza entices us with a promise of love, pardon, and mercy that is offered to all who wish to accept it. Aaron Miller is Music Director at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn. He and First Church Music Director Tony Thurman were classmates at the Manhattan School of Music and students of McNeil Robinson.

Today, we also welcome the return of the East Chancel divisions of our McClean Memorial Pipe Organ. In 2017, a roof leak above the organ chamber required the removal of all of the pipes from this section of the organ. In addition to the repair and restoration of the organ chamber's ceiling and walls, a number of other repairs, unrelated to the water damage, have also been carried out. More than 2,000 organ pipes from the Chancel Great, Choir, and Swell divisions have now been repaired, re-voiced, returned to their original locations, and retuned; playing actions for the Great and Choir divisions have been restored; and wind leaks have been eliminated.

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.

**SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS** book discussion Chapter 4 “Focusing on the Present” is occurring after worship, during the Annual Picnic under a tree in Vernon Park, on Tuesday, September 11 at 5 p.m. in the Finney Room, and on Wednesday, September 19 at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper and 7 p.m. discussion at the Hood home, 328 W. Duval Street in Germantown. As we human beings, particularly in regard to the church, have a tendency to live in the past or the future, this is a wonderful chapter to grapple with!

**“THIRD SUNDAY”** coming up! You are invited to be a part of our Interactive Intergenerational Bible Study on Sunday, September 16, 2018 following worship. We will gather once a month on the third Sunday for a half hour time together starting at 11:30 a.m. to get to know the Bible, God, and each other a little bit better. Everyone in the congregation is welcome to participate – Tony has even said he will start choir ½ hour later on third Sundays, so singers (and maybe even he!) can join the fun! So no matter who you are, families and single people and couples and everyone of every type imaginable, come check out “Third Sunday,” this month and every month upcoming through April 2019.

**REV. REBECCA IS BACK FROM VACATION** and back at Uncle Bobbie's on Thursday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. If there is a joy or concern you would like to share with her or theological questions you want to wrestle with or simply to come by and chat in a more informal setting, you are welcome to stop in for coffee and conversation any Thursday morning – and support a local Germantown business at the same time!

## 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.village tovillagecare.org](http://www.village tovillagecare.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!

### You still have time for . . .

- **Tour and Tea with Violet Oakley:** Tuesday, September 11 and Wednesday, September from 1 to 3 p.m. Contact Beth Cox, (215) 808-1571 or [ecox312@verizon.net](mailto:ecox312@verizon.net), to schedule your tour!
- **Submitting congratulatory messages** for the September 28 21st Anniversary Gala program booklet. Contact Hope Primas at (215) 843-2340 or [hprimas@crisisministry.org](mailto:hprimas@crisisministry.org).



# *Window on the Week*

## **Sunday, September 9**

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Grades K-5
- 11:15 AM Annual Picnic
- 11:30 AM Book Discussion with Rev. Segers
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room

## **Monday, September 10**

- 1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym

## **Tuesday, September 11**

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting-Primary Rm.
- 1:00 AM Tour and Tea—Sanctuary, Jennings Room
- 5:00 PM *Searching for Happiness* Book Discussion—Finney Room
- 6:30 PM Personnel Committee—Offsite

## **Wednesday, September 12**

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room
- 1:00 PM Tour and Tea—Sanctuary, Jennings Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Rm., Jennings Rm.
- 5:30 PM GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
- 6:00 PM Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office
- 6:00 PM Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
- 7:00 PM Women's Group Retreat Planning—Rev. Segers' office

## **Thursday, September 13**

- 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
- 7:45 PM Handbell Choir—Choir Room

## **Friday, September 14**

- 3:30 PM Drop-In Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Middle/High School Youth Group

## **Saturday, September 15**

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 10:00 AM Open Gym

## **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 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

---

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](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)