

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, NOVEMBER 18, 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.

November 18, 2018

Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy*

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Thanksgiving Suite*

Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Kevin Porter

Introit: *We Gather Together*

Sixteenth Century Dutch Hymn

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing; sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

†\*Call to Worship

Leader: How awesome to gather before God!  
We are here to celebrate with wide-eyed wonder.

**People: The God of all worlds is with us.  
Praise God for this season of giving.**

Leader: Praise God for all the signs of harvest.  
Praise God for all we can do together.

**People: Praise God for the life and ministry of Jesus.  
Praise God for all who share that ministry today.**

Leader: Christ came to offer us abundant life.  
We are here today to reclaim that gift.

**People: We gather in the name of Jesus Christ.  
We want to follow in the steps of Jesus.**

\*Hymn 558: *Come, Sing a Song of Harvest*

CHRISTUS DER MEIN LEBEN

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**O God, we do not want to admit that our possessions possess us. Yet we do seem captive to all the things we have acquired and all the things we want. We are reluctant to share too much, lest we be deprived of the comforts we cherish. We do not want to suffer for our faith. There are limits to our willingness to follow Jesus. O God, help us trust you beyond these limits.**

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

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\*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

Leah Hood

The First Lesson: Romans 12:1-2 (ASV)

**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: *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

Healey Willan

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise; with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise. By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move; sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love. By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring. The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing. He filleth with his fullness, all things with large increase; he crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace. Heap on his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave, the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls he died to save. Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet ye fall, and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

The Second Lesson: Acts 4:32-5:6

Page 114 NT

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

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

Sermon: **THE BEGINNING AND THE END**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 560: *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

NYLAND

\*Affirmation of Faith (from the *Heidelberg Catechism*)

Q. What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

**A. First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I diligently attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.**

**Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.**

\*Dedication of Our Gifts and Our Lives

**Thank you, God, for the abundant life we enjoy, not in the things we possess but in the relationships you offer and the opportunities for sharing that you provide. May all that we here dedicate to you be distributed in ways that meet human need and offer praise to you. Extend our outreach beyond our vision, that we may live in awe and wonder before you, marveling before your goodness and mercy.**

*(During the hymn you are invited to bring your pledge forward and place it in the box on the Communion Table at the front of the sanctuary.)*

\*Hymn 375: *Lord of All Good*

TOULON

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

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 435: *We Are All One in Mission*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Albert L. Travis

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Captain Michael P. Cassidy, USA  
and in honor of Pamela Thompson Flake.

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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.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: Diane Filter. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to Pernell Jackson for supplying the munchies last week. 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.

**THE MUSIC:** The organ and choral music offered in today's service is uniquely American. Charles Callahan (Vermont) and Albert Travis (Texas) are composers of our time, while John Ness Beck (Ohio) lived in the twentieth century. We borrow the post-romantic music of Healey Willan from our Canadian neighbors. "Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American" wrote O. Henry (the pen name of William Sydney Porter) in *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*, (New York, 1905). The Thanksgiving holiday and season of stewardship are uniquely intertwined in the life of the church. Thanksgiving, a national holiday celebrated in other countries besides the U.S., is, in America, a time to gather together loved ones and family; a time to remember the early settlers, including those brought in bondage that came before us; and a time to honor the shared meals our ancestor-immigrants enjoyed with the Native Americans. How we live out our own history and how we make the world a better place for others is demonstrated through the thoughtful stewardship of our gifts and talents.

**OUR MESSIAH IS COMING!** The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will perform excerpts from G.F. Handel's beloved oratorio *Messiah* on Sunday, December 2, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7-9 p.m. For more information or to participate, e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com) or call the church office at 215-843-8811.

**DON'T HAVE ANY CASH? FORGOT YOUR PLEDGE ENVELOPE?** We've got you covered! Now you can give online *from your pen*. There are new cards in the pew racks that have both a QR code and a bit.ly, either of which allow you to use your smart phone to take you directly to our secure giving page on the First Pres website. After giving, you may place the card in the Offering Plate, publicly acknowledging your gift along with those who are using envelopes or loose cash as we all share our gifts to the Lord.

**NOVEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING: RISE AGAINST HUNGER** is an organization whose mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and to create a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. *Hunger doesn't have to exist. Let's end it together!* Please consider giving generously to this worthwhile cause. Please note that on **Monday, January 21, 2019**, First Church will hold our third annual meal packing event.

**RACHEL CIRCLE**, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, November 19, at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

**NOVEMBER 25 BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please note that the deadline for submissions for next Sunday's bulletin is **Tuesday, November 20 at 10:00 a.m.** Thank you.

**FPCG'S MONTHLY COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF COMBATTING HUNGER** is next Sunday. As most of you know, your donation can either support the Centsibility Offering of the Presbytery or GACM's Food Cupboard. Many thanks in advance.

**THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE** would like to offer the congregation the opportunity to make suggestions for the 2019 Challenge offerings. If you know of an organization in our community that would benefit from a Challenge Offering, please contact a committee member for more information: Larry Elliott, Andrea Overton, Sam Whyte or Gloria Bethea, Chair.

**BRIGHTEN UP SOMEONE'S DAY:** Please consider contributing non-perishable food items to the *Brighten Up Someone's Day* box by the church office. The requested food items will change periodically and all donations will be given to the GACM food pantry. The current request is for canned fruits and vegetables. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

**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.

**USHERS:** The ministry of ushers on Sunday morning play a vital role in hospitality and welcoming people to First Church. Perhaps you are looking for a way to become more active in the life of First Church or want to meet new people, but are unsure about how to go about it. Ushering may be exactly what you are looking for. It's a once-a-month commitment that requires you to be helpful and have the spirit of hospitality. If this is you, then you need to speak to Mary Lundy and learn more about this ministry at First Church. You can speak to Mary today or via phone ([215-927-4648](tel:215-927-4648)) or call the church.

**ALASKA AND SCOTLAND TRIPS:** An Alaskan cruise and a trip to Scotland are in the planning process. Experience the majesty of Alaska on the beautiful *Carnival Legend* August 20-27, 2019. Visit Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan in Alaska and Victoria, British Columbia. See Gloria Bethea for more information. In 2020, travel to Scotland, the home of John Knox, who studied with Jon Calvin and thus brought us our denomination. Visit Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Isle of Skye, Inverness, the Orkneys, Arthur's Seat, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond, Loch Ness, Stirling Castle and Iona Abbey. And let's not forget the Harry Potter Train! See Glenna Hazeltine for details.

### **Upcoming at First Church**

Thursday, November 22

***Thanksgiving Day, Church Closed***

Sunday, December 2

***Handel's Messiah Performance, 4 p.m.***

*followed by*

***FPCG Annual Christmas Dinner***

Monday, December 24

***Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.***

Tuesday, December 25

***Christmas Day, Church Closed***

**WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Nov. 18</b>	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School—Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	<i>Third Sunday</i> Bible Activity—Longstreth Auditorium
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class
	12:00 PM	Praise and Evangelism Team—Jennings Room
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym
<b>Monday, Nov. 19</b>	9:00 AM	Thanksgiving Basket Distribution <i>Finney Room, 9am to 6pm</i>
	11:00 AM	Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 20</b>	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Staff Meeting—Finney Rm.
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday, Nov. 21</b>	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary
	7:00 PM	Property Committee—Finney Room
<b>Thursday, Nov. 22</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Day Church Closed</b>
<b>Friday, Nov. 23</b>	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensembles—Choir Room
<b>Saturday, Nov. 24</b>	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
	9:00 AM	Readers’ Choice—Offsite
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
<b>Sunday, Nov. 25</b>	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School—Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym

# 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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