

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

JANUARY 27, 2019

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.

January 27, 2019

Fourth Sunday After Christmas Day

"It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters." - Epictetus

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Nimrod*, from the *Enigma Variations*

Edward Elgar

Welcome and Announcements

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

arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

As members of Christ's body, we are called to witness
to the goodness of God, the goodness of creation
and the good news that Jesus proclaimed.

You call us to witness to your power and grace.

You give us mouths to sing your praises,
hands and feet to do your will.

You call us to proclaim the good news of your reign.

We yearn to become your people, the body of Christ,
living for the sake of the world.

Let us worship the God who calls us.

*Hymn 470: *O Day of Radiant Gladness*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, sometimes we confess we do not know what to confess. We seek to keep your law, but the right course is not always clear. We want to follow your direction, but it is hard to discern what is true. Sometimes it is difficult to care about people whose values are different from ours. How can we be one with those who do not share our beliefs? At times, our own faith is shaken—our faith in ourselves and our faith in you. We need your help, God, so our sins will not have domination over us. Help us, we pray.

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 worshippers, 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

Addy Hoekema, Reader

The First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

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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

Anthem: *The Lion and the Lamb*

Natalie Sleeth

You be the lion fierce and wild, I'll be the lamb so meek and mild; we'll live together happily, that's how it ought to be! You be the lion, brave and bold, I'll be the lamb with heart of gold; we'll get along in harmony, that's how it ought to be! "Peace, good will to all the earth," sang the choirs at Jesus' birth; yet this world needs us today, pointing out the way! So you be the lion filled with pride, I'll be the lamb and walk beside; we'll make the dream reality, that's how it ought to be!

Children's Choir; Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: Luke 4:14-21

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **RUB(r)IK'S CUBE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 167: *God's Law is Perfect and Gives Life*

HALIFAX

*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Scots Confession*)

We confess and acknowledge that the law of God is most just, equal, holy and perfect, commanding those things which, when perfectly done, can give life and bring us to eternal felicity; but our nature is so corrupt, weak and imperfect, that we are never able perfectly to fulfill the works of the law. Even after we are reborn, if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth of God is not in us. It is therefore essential for us to lay hold on Jesus Christ, in his righteousness and his atonement, since he is the end and consummation of the Law and since it is by him that we are set at liberty so that the curse of God may not fall upon us, even though we do not fulfill the Law in all points. For as God the Father beholds us in the body of his Son Jesus Christ, he accepts our imperfect obedience as if it were perfect, and covers our works, which are defiled with many stains, with the righteousness of his Son. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *The Spirit of the Lord*

Elgar

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations. (Isaiah 61: 1–3, 11).

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 332: *Live Into Hope*

TRURO

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fugue in C Major*

Felix Mendelssohn

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 children's choir is looking for a few more nice voices! The ensemble is scheduled to sing again on the last Sundays of February and March, and will join their voices with the Chancel Choir and Voices in Bronze for a combined choir anthem on Palm Sunday. Faith inspired rehearsals are led by Evelyn Santiago on Sundays at 12:30 in the choir room.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Germantown Oratorio Choir will present a Brahms Festival Concert on Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will feature the music of Brahms, Robert and Clara Schumann in recognition of the bicentennial of Clara Schumann's birth. For more information or to participate, call the church office at music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or 215-843-8811.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Dhyana and David Cassie. Next week's hosts: Lois and Charles Bethea. 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.

2019 PLEDGE CARDS: Thanks to all who have submitted your 2019 pledge card—so far we have received 71 for a total of \$293,244. You can still make a difference transforming lives at FPCG and in the community beyond; just place your pledge in the *Transformed by Gratitude* box on the literature table and add your commitment toward next year's ministry.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL *RISE AGAINST HUNGER* EVENT: 200 volunteers packed 25,056 meals and enjoyed themselves and each other in the process! FPCG raised \$7,466.24 for this worthy organization which focuses on feeding the hungry throughout the world. **Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed and volunteered.** Here's to another *Rise Against Hunger* event in 2020!

JANUARY CHALLENGE OFFERING: *HEALING THE CHILDREN, GREATER PHILADELPHIA*: Ethiopia is a large country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a population of over 100 million people. There are at most 30 ENT doctors, 30 Anesthesiologists, and no Audiologists for the entire population. Since 2009, *Healing the Children, Greater Philadelphia* has been traveling to Ethiopia twice a year to provide clinical care for children in need and to provide education. We take care of patients in partnership with Ethiopian ENT and Anesthesiology physicians and trainees. We care for patients at Cure Ethiopia, a mission hospital run by the US-based foundation, *Cure International*, and local government hospitals. *Cure International* primarily cares for children with orthopedic deformities, burns and cleft lip and palate deformities. We teach Ethiopian students and residents and mentor Ethiopian physicians who are starting their careers. Our audiology team provides hearing exams and hearing aids to children with hearing impairment who otherwise would not have access to this type of care. I have been blessed to be part of this ongoing mission work since its inception. --Elizabeth T. Drum, MD

BOOK DISCUSSION AND BIBLE STUDY NEWS: Rev. Rebecca Segers is combining the last two chapters of *Searching for Happiness* – “Contented People Care for Their Bodies” and “Contented People Care for Their Souls” – in the February discussions on Sunday the 3rd after worship and Tuesday the 5th at 5:00 p.m. **Beginning the week of March 10,** Rev. Segers will lead a five-week Lenten Wilderness Bible Study with both a daytime and an evening opportunity (dates and times to be announced). Please join us in February as we close out our discussion on becoming more spiritually contented Christians, and then in March and April as we wrestle with what the Bible has to say about “wilderness” times and issues in our lives.

5th SUNDAY WORSHIP PLANNING NEEDS YOUR GIFTS! Do you play a musical instrument? Love to dance? Or cook? Or make things look nice? Do you have a creative idea you would like to use to praise the Lord? Share your gifts in planning exciting alternative worship services that will be held on the 5th Sunday of the month (March, June, September, December) at 5:00 p.m. followed by a shared family meal. We are getting together to outline our themes, plans and hopes in the Primary Room on Sunday, February 10th following worship.

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP 2019: Are you interested in joining FPCG's 2nd Puerto Rico Mission Trip? Rev. Rebecca Segers and Sheila Heyer-Rivera will be leading a group in mid-July to support the continued recovery efforts. We will be holding an Interest Meeting on Sunday, February 24th in the Primary Room to discern interest and begin making plans.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Save your place for the Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Due to an anonymous donor (thank you, thank you, thank you!) we are able to keep the cost at \$30 per person. A \$10 deposit will hold your place with the balance due the day of the retreat. See Gloria Bethea at the CD table in the Longstreth Auditorium after worship to reserve your spot.

January Session Highlights

Session approved **2019 dates for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**: Sunday, January 6, 2019 – First Sunday of the New Year; Sunday, March 10, 2019 – First Sunday in Lent; Thursday, April 18, 2019 – Maundy Thursday; Sunday, June 9, 2019 – Pentecost; Sunday, August 4, 2019 – Mid Summer Sunday; Sunday, October 6, 2019 – World Communion Sunday; Sunday, December 1, 2019 – First Sunday of Advent.

Andrea Overton and Bob Seed were elected commissioners to the Saturday, February 9, 2019 **Philadelphia Presbytery Meeting** at the Olney Presbyterian Church. Come one , come all!

Delores Solomon, **Congregational Development** Chair, reminded Session that **coffee hour hosts** are needed and that **Rachel Circle** meets every 5th Sunday.

Mission and Outreach Chair, Gloria Bethea, reported that the **Challenge Offerings for 2019** have been determined: Healing Children - Greater Philadelphia, She Academy, One Great Hour of Sharing, Beacon Art Ministry, Friends of Vernon Park, Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, PAR- Recycle Works, Athletes in Action, Presbyterian Peace & Justice, Rise Against Hunger and Presbyterian Joy Offering.

Joe Leube, **Administration & Finance** Chair, reported that the 2018 market value of the church's endowment is down from 2017. Joe stated this reduction in value will affect our distribution in 2020. Also, the **2019 pledge campaign** update from Jim Thompson was encouraging as pledges and estimates of giving are very close to the \$360,000 goal. Joe will finalize the 2019 FPCG budget in February after all pledges are known.

Property Chair, Marc DiNardo, reported the leak in the nursery roof was investigated and an attempt to seal/coat the subject area will be made. Also, leaks in the NE corner of the gym continue to be a serious nuisance. The committee is looking into replacing the shades in the Primary Room. **Other areas requiring attention**: heating/air conditioning actuator valves, east parking lot gate repairs, possible upgrading of sanctuary thermostats, exhaust fans in the gym, a leaky dishwasher drain, and furnace chimney maintenance. FPCG is blessed to have Marc spearheading this hard working committee!

Date to remember: Saturday March 2, 2019. Why? **The Women's Retreat!** See Pastor Segers, Allison Seed, Sara Greene, Liz Drum or Gloria Bethea for details.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 27	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 PM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	12:30 PM	Children's Choir—Choir Room
	12:30 PM	Deacons' Meeting
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Triennium Pre-trip Event—Jennings Room
Monday, Jan. 28	1:00 PM	Ladies Team Challenge—Gym
	7:15 PM	Disciples Basketball Game—Germantown Friends Fieldhouse
Tuesday, Jan. 29	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
Wednesday, Jan. 30	8:30 AM	GACM <i>Thrive</i> Program—Jennings Room
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Admin. Meeting—Primary Room
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir
Thursday, Jan. 31	8:00 AM	Rev. Segers at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Jennings Rm., Longstreth Auditorium
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
Friday, Feb. 1	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—Youth Lounge
Saturday, Feb. 2	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
	9:30 AM	Congregational Development & Fellowship—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
Sunday, Feb. 3	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	Book Discussion with Rev. Segers—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Praise and Evangelism Team—Primary Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	12:30 PM	Children's Choir—Choir Room
1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym	
6:00 PM	Triennium Pre-trip Event—Jennings 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:
Robert Seed

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, Tony Nixon, David Slaughter

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