

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

FEBRUARY 24, 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.

February 24, 2019

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"The most important thing that I learned growing up is that forgiveness is something that,
when you do it, you free yourself to move on." – Tyler Perry*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Two Gospel Preludes Gerald Near
Amazing Grace
Blessed Assurance

Welcome and Announcements Christian Heyer-Rivera

Introit: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* arr. Thurman

†*Call to Worship Christian Heyer-Rivera

One: Come and learn the ways of life.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

All: We have come to follow Jesus.

One: Come and learn the ways of life.

*Hymn 341: *Blessed Assurance*

ASSURANCE

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Teacher of hard truths, it is difficult to let go of our anger toward those who prosper through deceit and unscrupulous ways; it is not easy to make ourselves believe that the meek will inherit the earth, when they are being crushed by the unjust systems stacked against them. We long to see the vindication of the righteous and the prosperity of those who work selflessly to bring your realm here on earth. We yearn for the day when all people will treat one another as they wish to be treated. Help us live into that day, Holy One, even when it is difficult, that your love might shine like the sun through our lives and our ministries.

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

Mani Heyer-Rivera, Reader

The First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Page 40 OT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

A Time For Children

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

Anthem: *Joshua!*

Kimberly Ingram/arr. Milton/Minko

We've heard about the battle of Jericho, but just what do we really know about the people marching 'cross that land? Mighty city, mighty foe! And oh! What strength it took to go and march, once they heard the radical plan! You best believe it was a radial plan! Joshua prayed and listened. Joshua followed God! Joshua led God's people in the way that they should go! Joshua led God's people right to the walls of Jericho! Right up to the city gates, the people marched for Heaven's sake, and listened as old Joshua gave the plan. Perhaps inside they were a state! But not once did they hesitate as Joshua said, "It's time to make a stand!" What courage as they followed God's command! Days one through six, they woke at dawn, and marched around those mighty walls, the Ark displayed, the trumpets clear and loud! Day seven, they marched seven times; then Joshua said, "The city's yours!" People wondered what would happen now? No time to grieve; you best believe: the walls came tumblin' down!

Children's Choir; Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

Page 60 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE JOURNEY TO FORGIVENESS**

Chaplain Arlene Grace

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 298: *There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

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 cruci-
fied, 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 ev-
erlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Christian Heyer-Rivera

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Walk with Me, Lord*

Spiritual/arr. Rosephanye Powell

Walk with me, Lord, all along this tedious journey. When I'm burdened, Lord, walk with me. When my head is bowed down in sorrow, Lord, walk with me. You are my shield. You are my sword. Until I make it safely home, Lord, please walk with me.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 587: *Amen, Amen*

Jester Hairston

Postlude: Recessional on *Amazing Grace*

Adolphus Hailstork

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: Today's music is drawn largely from African-American heritage in recognition of Black History Month. These selections include choral and organ works by Rosephanye Dunn Powell and Adolphus Hailstork.

Powell has been hailed internationally as the most often performed and published African-American female composer of choral music. Her compositions are in great demand at choral festivals around the country. Today's offertory anthem was commissioned by the American Guild of Organists and premiered at the AGO National Convention in Kansas City last summer. The Alabama native graduated from Westminster Choir College, earned a doctorate at Florida State University, and is professor of voice at Auburn University where she also conducts the women's chorus and gospel choir.

Hailstork is an African American who enjoys a distinguished career as a composer and educator. He has been awarded commissions by the American Choral Directors Association and the American Guild of Organists; his compositions are widely published. Born in Rochester, N.Y., he earned a doctorate in music composition from Michigan State University, a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music, and studied composition with Nadia Boulanger at the American Institute in Fontainebleau, France. He is professor of music and composer-in-residence at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Germantown Oratorio Choir will present a Brahms Festival Concert on Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. The program will feature the music of Brahms, Robert Schumann, and Clara Schumann in recognition of the bicentennial of Clara Schumann's birth. For more information or to participate, call the church office at 212-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE: The College of William & Mary Women's Chorus will present a free concert at First Church on Friday March 29, at 7 p.m., as a part of their spring concert tour. Overnight hosts are needed. If you can provide a place in your home for two or more young ladies to sleep and breakfast the following morning, please let us know by calling the church office at 215-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's hosts: Liz Drum and Marc DiNardo. Next week's host: Open. If you love to bake, buy or share hospitality, we need you to host this important time of fellowship! Please see Delores Solomon if you feel called to provide snacks or hands-on support.

REV. REBECCA SEGERS will be on vacation from February 17 through March 4.

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE OFFERING: THE DEACONS FUND. This fund assists the Deacons in their mission: "to minister to those who are in need, to the sick and to any who may be in distress in the community of faith." The deacons are exploring how they can increase their effectiveness in supporting members in experiencing abundant living in Christ. Please give generously to support this mission of our congregation.

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP 2019: Rev. Segers and Sheila Heyer-Rivera will be leading a group in mid-July to support the continued recovery efforts. If you think you may be interested in being part of this trip, please join us at a meeting on today after worship in the Primary Room.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Save your place for the **Saturday, March 2** Women's Retreat. This year's retreat focuses on *The Art of Living Faithfully*, and will be held at the Cranaleith Spiritual Center, 13475 Proctor Road, Philadelphia, PA 19116 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Due to an anonymous donor (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. Please see Gloria Bethea at the CD table in the Longstreth Auditorium after worship to reserve your spot.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER at First Church on Tuesday, March 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. \$5 per person (ages 5 and under free; \$20 maximum per family) will include pancakes, syrup, sausage, coffee, orange juice and Mardi Gras beads. Make your own Mardi Gras mask! Proceeds go to sending our youth to the PC(USA) Triennium, a national Christ-centered youth conference.

LENTEN WILDERNESS BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Segers will begin on Sunday, March 10 following worship. The class will also be held on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. beginning March 12. We hope you can join us for this five-week program during which we'll wrestle with what the Bible has to say about "wilderness" times and issues in our lives.



Commonwealth Youthchoirs
presents the 2nd Annual

Asher's Legacy Concert

Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 p.m.

Proceeds go to the Jack Asher Scholarship Fund and honor the memory of Jack Asher.

Tickets are on sale!

Call 215-849-1762 or visit cychoirs.org/asherslegacy/.

Upcoming at First Church

Today following Worship

Puerto Rico Mission Trip 2019 Planning Meeting

Today, 6 p.m.

Bread and Cup

Saturday, March 2, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Women's Retreat, Cranaleith Spiritual Center

Sunday, March 3, 4 p.m.

Jack Asher Memorial Concert

Tuesday, March 5, 5 to 7 p.m.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 10 following worship

Lenten Wilderness Bible Study with Rev. Segers begins

Sunday, March 17, 4 p.m.

Brahms Festival Concert

Friday, March 29, 7 p.m.

College of William and Mary Women's Chorus

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 24	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Chaplain Arlene Grace preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School—Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Puerto Rico Mission Trip 2019 Meeting—Primary Rm.
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Rm.
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Bread and Cup—Longstreth Auditorium
Monday, Feb. 25	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
Tuesday, Feb. 26	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Rm.
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth, Finney Rm.
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
Wednesday, Feb. 27	8:30 AM	GACM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Admin. Meeting—Primary Rm.
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir
	7:00 PM	Session—Finney Room
Thursday, Feb. 28	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Jennings Room, Longstreth
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
Friday, March 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—Choir Rm.
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group—Youth Lounge
Saturday, March 2	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
	8:30 AM	Women’s Retreat—Cranaleith Spiritual Center
	9:30 AM	Congregational Development & Fellowship—Finney Rm.
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
Sunday, March 3	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion - The Rev. Dr. Allison Seed preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School—Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir 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
	4:00 PM	Jack Asher Memorial Concert—Sanctuary

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org