

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

FEBRUARY 3, 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 3, 2019

Fifth Sunday After Christmas Day

"The world is before you and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in."

– James Baldwin

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *In Peace and Joy*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

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

arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Come, people of God, to the one in whom we trust.

Praise God who delivers and rescues us.

God is our rock of refuge, our strong fortress.

God saves us amid wickedness and cruelty.

Hope in God, who has created you.

Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

God accepts us, even when people do not.

God affirms us, even when we fail.

Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them.

God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith.

We are here to worship the God who empowers us.

*Hymn 370: *Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

WOODWORTH

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of love, when you call us to serve, we are full of excuses: we are too young or too old, we don't know enough, we don't have the skills that you need. We would rather not speak your words of truth. We would much rather stay where we are, than trust you to lead us on adventures of growth and love. We are arrogant, insisting on our own way, sure that our plan is better than yours. We are envious, boastful, rude, irritable and resentful. Give us the wisdom and courage to follow your call, even when it leads to places we cannot clearly see. Teach us to trust your love as we answer your summons, that through our response, others may be blessed.

*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

Susan Farrington, Reader

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

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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: *Friend of a Wounded Heart*

Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

Smile, make 'em think you're happy. Lie and say that things are fine and hide that empty longing that you feel, don't ever show it. Just keep your heart concealed. Why are the days so lonely? I wonder where can the heart go free? And who will dry the tears that no one sees? There must be someone to share your silent dreams. Caught like a leaf in the wind, looking for a friend, where can you turn? Whisper the words of a prayer, and you'll find him there, arms open wide, love in his eyes. Jesus, he meets you where you are. Oh, Jesus, he heals your secret scars. All the love you're longing for is Jesus, the friend of a wounded heart. Joy comes like the morning, hope deepens as you grow. And peace beyond the reaches of your soul comes flowing through you, for love has made you whole. Once like a leaf in the wind, looking for a friend, where could you turn? You spoke the words of a prayer and you found him there, arms open wide, love in his eyes.

Gospel Choir: Sara Carter-Blanford, director; Andrea Overton, soloist

The Second Lesson: Luke 4:21-30

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 525: *Here I Am, Lord*

*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. We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The same spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ

through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Give Me Jesus*

Spiritual/arr. Jesse Padgett

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus. Just about the break of day, give me Jesus. And when I come to die, give me Jesus.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 354: *Guide My Feet*

GUIDE MY FEET

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response 587: *Amen, Amen*

Jester Hairston

Postlude: *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*

Spiritual/arr. Jeremy Flood

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: Jesse Padgett's arrangement of *Give Me Jesus* bears the dedication "In loving memory of my father." After losing his father unexpectedly in 2005, Jesse sought comfort in his music and his faith. In this arrangement, the third verse, which states "and when I come to die" is followed by a chorus singing "Give me Jesus" while the soloist sings above them, rhythmically out of sync with the rest of the chorus. For Jesse, this represents his struggle keeping up while the world marched on. The highest point of the arrangement occurs as the soloist cries out above the choir, pleading for comfort and healing, which is finally found as the soloist and chorus end together, back in harmony on the final sung note.

First Church Music Director Tony Thurman is traveling this weekend for the American Guild of Organists. We give thanks to Jesse Padgett for leading the Chancel Choir and welcome Jeremy Flood as our guest organist. Dr. Flood combines an avocation as an organist with his medical practice of endocrinology. He is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, with his clinical practice based at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where he is Chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism. He has been an Assistant Wanamaker Grand Court Organist at Macy's in Center City Philadelphia since 2009 and is active as a substitute organist for churches throughout the Philadelphia area.

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

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: Lois and Charles Bethea. Next week's host: Open. Thank you Dhyana and David Cassie 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 see Delores Solomon if you feel called to provide 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.

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." Please give generously to support this mission of our congregation.

LENTEN WILDERNESS BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Segers will begin the week of March 10. There will be both a daytime and evening opportunity (dates and times to be announced) to participate in this five-week program during which we'll wrestle with what the Bible has to say about "wilderness" times and issues in our lives. Please join us!

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: Rev. Segers and Sheila Heyer-Rivera will be leading a group in mid-July to support the continued recovery efforts. We will be holding a meeting on **Sunday, February 24th** in the Primary Room to discern interest and begin making plans.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Save your place for the **Saturday, March 2nd** Women's Retreat. Due to an anonymous donor (many thanks!) 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.



Commonwealth Youthchoirs
2nd Annual Asher's Legacy Concert
Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 p.m.

*All proceeds go to the Jack Asher Scholarship Fund
and honor the memory of Jack Asher.*

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, Deacons Fund, 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, 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 PM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
Monday, Feb. 4	1:00 PM	Ladies Team Challenge—Gym
	7:00 PM	Mount Airy Learning Tree—Longstreth Auditorium
	7:15 PM	Disciples Blue Team—GFS Fieldhouse
Tuesday, Feb. 5	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
	12:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium
	5:00 PM	Book Discussion with Rev. Segers—Finney Room
	6:00 PM	GACM Capital Campaign—Upstairs Office
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
Wednesday, Feb. 6	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Admin. Meeting—Primary Room
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir
	7:00 PM	Session—Finney Room
Thursday, Feb. 7	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. 8	9:00 AM	GACM Staff Meeting—Jennings Room
	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—Youth Lounge
Saturday, Feb. 9	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
Sunday, Feb. 10	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>Animate</i> —Finney Room
	11:30 AM	5th Sunday Worship Planning—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

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

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