

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MARCH 10, 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.

March 10, 2019

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"The more you practice tolerating uncomfortable emotions, the more confident you'll become
in your ability to tolerate the distress that may be necessary to reach your full potential." – Amy Morin*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Prelude in G Minor*

Clara Schumann

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord* (Ps. 95)

Nancy Wertsch

†*Call to Worship

One: Refuge Almighty, Fortress Most High,

Many: Deliverer, Dwelling Place and Protector,

One: be a tent on our wilderness journeys.

**Many: Send your angels as our guides,
that we may find you, find ourselves,
and remember who we are.**

One: Guide us today, O God, into a season of examination.

**Many: Show us our ancestors' ways:
journeying, even wandering, boldly;
remembering deliberately who they were and who we are.**

One: Guide us inward to the Word felt in our hearts,
and outward to the Word heard on the lips of others.

**Many: Grant us a season of depth and courage,
and let it begin with our worship today.**

*Hymn 2128: *Come and Find the Quiet Center* (from *Sing the Faith* hymnal)

BEACH SPRING

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Holy Lord, as we enter this Lenten season, we are reminded of our weakness
and our need for your strength. We ask your forgiveness when we succumb to
the temptations of this world, when we tread paths that are contrary to your
will. We ask your forgiveness when we fail to look beyond our own desires to
see another's need. We ask for your presence in our wilderness wanderings.
May your hand guide us from the arid land of sin into a land flowing with milk
and honey—a land made rich and abundant by your saving love.**

*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

Dick Liberty, Reader

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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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!

A Time For Children

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

Anthem: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Wertsch

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself; oh, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself. You must walk this lonesome valley, you have to walk it by yourself; oh, nobody else can walk it for you, you have to walk it by yourself. I must walk this lonesome valley, I have to walk it by myself, oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I have to walk it by myself. I must go and stand my trial, I have to stand it by myself, oh, nobody else can stand it for me, I have to stand it by myself.

The Second Lesson: Luke 4:1-13

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **IN IN-OPPORTUNE TIMES**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 80: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

LONESOME VALLEY

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 God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. 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!" Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Meditation in F Major*

Clara Schumann

Gayle Martin, piano

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 341: *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

ASSURANCE

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Amen

Post-
lude:

Nancy Wertsch *Postlude*
in F
Minor



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Luise Adolpha Le Beau

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 LITURGY: Today's liturgy was designed with two themes in mind: Lent and Women's History Month. The former is obviously our primary focus, as this is the First Sunday in Lent, thus beginning our Sabbath journey to the cross. Scripture, responsive readings, and the creedal statement were all selected with this important focus at the center of our worship today. While the foundation of our worship is, as always, in Christ, and the season in which we travel, the decoration on our structure – the curlicues and cornices, if you will – are in honor of Women's History Month. Two of the hymns we are singing are by famous women lyricists: Fannie J. Crosby (March 1820-February 1915) and Shirley Erena Murray (b. March 1931), and the quote is by Amy Morin, a contemporary author who is a columnist for Inc., Forbes and Psychology Today and who also gave one of the most popular TEDx talks of all time.

THE MUSIC: Much of our music today was selected in honor of Women's History Month. Female composers have contributed a vast repertoire to the church although many have been overshadowed by their male counterparts. Clara Wieck Schumann was not only one of the finest concert pianists of her day, but was also an accomplished composer. Were it not for Clara, Robert Schumann would not have been the composer he was, for she edited his music for publication. Some similarities in compositional style between the two might make one wonder who composed what. Nancy Wertsch, a friend and colleague of our music director, has composed a new choral introit and congregational response, which are being sung for the first time today. We give God thanks for this generous gift of new music to First Church! The Wisconsin native has built a career as a pianist, mezzo-soprano soloist, composer, teacher, professional chorister, and choral contractor and consultant in New York City. We also share her stirring arrangement of *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*, accompanied by concert pianist Gayle Martin.

Looking Ahead: The Germantown Oratorio Choir will present a Brahms Festival Concert NEXT SUNDAY, March 17, at 4 p.m. The program will feature the music of Brahms, Robert Schumann, and Clara Schumann. Childcare will be provided. If you are unable to attend in person, please join us via Internet livestream, www.fpcgermantown.org/brahms-2019.

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: Fatima Robinson and Annie Kotto. Next week's host: Marney Hague. 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.

LENTEN WILDERNESS BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Segers will begin today following worship. This week's topic is loss, something all of us have experienced. Preparatory readings are on the literature table and can be mailed or emailed in advance of each week if requested. The class will also be held on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 p.m., beginning this Tuesday, 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.

MARCH CHALLENGE OFFERING: SHE (Securing Her Experience) ACADEMY.

SHE Academy is non-profit organization that, through literacy and other life-changing experiences, focuses on leadership development for girls in grades K-8 and, in the future, hopes to expand its program to include high school girls as well. SHE Academy's co-founders, Tiffany Davis and Dominique Bobo-Peden, are kin to our Freedom School program as both were servant leaders and, combined, have more than a decade's worth of Freedom School experience! Tiffany and Dominique are also National Ella Baker Trainers for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools. Please give to our young women to help ensure their growth and commitment to leadership. Email pleasesecureherexperience@gmail.com for more information and/or ways to volunteer.

23RD ANNUAL WALK AGAINST HUNGER TO BE HELD ON APRIL 27. Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry joins communities across Philadelphia to help end hunger one step at a time, both in Northwest Philadelphia and across the region. Hosted by the Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, the Walk Against Hunger will support the efforts of GACM and hundreds of other agencies to eradicate hunger in our community. GACM encourages family and friends of all ages to form teams to support GACM and register to walk. **Join GACM on Saturday, March 16** at 11:00 a.m. in the Finney Room when team captains can pick up materials, exchange information and strategies for increasing engagement and learn more about the work that the Walk Against Hunger supports. **RSVP to hprimas@crisisministry.org by March 13.** To register to walk, see <https://hungercoalition.salsalabs.org/walkagainsthunger2018registrationcopy1/index.html> and use the code FOOD5 to receive a discount. For more information about the Walk Against Hunger and how you can support GACM, contact Hope Primas at 215-681-9554 or hprimas@crisisministry.org.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, March 10 (today) 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

Sunday, April 14
Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 21
Easter Sunday

Saturday, April 27
Walk Against Hunger

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Mar. 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	Lenten Wilderness Bible Study—Finney 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
Monday, Mar. 11	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
	6:15 PM	Disciples Basketball B Team—GFS Fieldhouse
	7:15 PM	Disciples Basketball A Team—GFS Fieldhouse
Tuesday, Mar. 12	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth, Jennings Room
	5:00 PM	Lenten Wilderness Bible Study—Finney Room
	6:30 PM	5th Sunday Planning Meeting—Finney Room
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
Wednesday, Mar. 13	8:30 AM	GACM Thrive 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
	5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
	7:00 PM	Session—Finney Room
Thursday, Mar. 14	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave., 8-10 a.m.
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Longstreth, Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
Friday, Mar. 15	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, Mar. 16	10:00 AM	Open Gym
	10:00 AM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
Sunday, Mar. 17	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	Third Sunday/Lenten Wilderness Bible Study Longstreth Auditorium, Finney Room
	12:15 PM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
4:00 PM	Brahms Festival 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

Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Urban Ministry	Kevin L. Porter	Eileen Jones
Director of Music	F. Anthony Thurman	Sara Carter-Blanford
Director of the Gospel Choir	Evelyn Santiago	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs	Christian Heyer-Rivera	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Director of Christian Education	Parish Visitor	Terry Boyer
Administrative Assistant	Building Manager	Joan Harris
Bookkeeper	Administrative Assistant	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Bookkeeper	Tanieya Matthews, Tony Nixon, David Slaughter

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