

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MAY 26, 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.

May 26, 2019

Memorial Day Weekend

*"In every encounter or dialogue, there is a third party - God! - involved." - Richard Niebuhr*

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Shall We Gather at the River*

John Carter

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Spirit of the Living God*

Daniel Iverson

†\*Call to Worship

One: Sing and shout for joy. God's light shines upon us.

**Many: Sing praises to God, sing praises.**

One: Sing and shout for joy. God's light shines within us.

**Many: Sing praises to God, sing praises.**

One: Sing and shout for joy. God's light shines through us.

**Many: Sing praises to God, sing praises.**

One: Hear the good news: Christ is risen!

**Many: Praise the One who conquers death.**

One: Live the good news: Christ is risen!

**Many: Praise the One who brings us life.**

One: Share the good news: Christ is risen indeed!

**All: We praise the One who leads us home.**

\*Hymn 470: *O Day of Radiant Gladness*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, we have wandered far from your love. We have neglected your Word in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day. Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world. Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything, to resist change, lest it require more of us. We know you are reaching out to heal us; help us to respond. We know we are surrounded by your love. Let us feel it deep within, that we may reflect that love to all we meet.**

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

Andrea Overton

The First Lesson: Psalms 67

Page 500 OT

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: *A Cry from Macedonia*

Fanny Crosby/William Bradbury

There's a cry from Macedonia come and help us, the light of the precious gospel bring,

Let us hear the joyful tidings of salvation, we thirst for the living spring.

O, ye heralds of the cross, be up and doing, remember the Savior's great command,

Go ye forth and preach the word to ev'ry creature, proclaim it in ev'ry land.

They shall gather from the East, they shall gather from the West, with the patriarchs of old.

And the ransomed shall return to the kingdom of the blest, with their harps and crowns of gold.

O how beautiful their feet upon the mountains, the tidings of peace from God who bring,

To the nations of the earth who sit in darkness, and tell them of Zion's King.

Then, ye heralds of the cross, be up and doing, go work in your blessed Master's field,

Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet of salvation, the Lord is your strength and shield.

Let the distant isles be glad, let them hail the Savior's birth, and the news of pardon free,

Till the knowledge of the truth shall extend to all the earth, as the waters o'er the sea.

The Second Lesson: Acts 16:9-15

Page 127 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 324: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

\*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Confession of 1967*)

**To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate men from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *At the River*

Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels' feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.  
Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.  
Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.  
Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

### **GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Hymn 562: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

MELITA

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response : #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fanfare and Trumpet Tune*

Lynn Trapp

---

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Joseph J. Leube Sr.

---

**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:** Fanny Crosby was one of the most prolific hymn writers in history, having composed more than 8,000 hymn texts that have appeared in print more than 100 million times. *A Cry from Macedonia* is set to a tune by William Bradbury, who is best known for having composed the tune for *Jesus Loves Me*. Aaron Copland's setting of *At the River* is based on a hymn by Robert Lowry, a favorite son of Philadelphia born in 1826. The hymn text was inspired by Revelation 22:1-2: "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city." The hymn is commonly associated both with baptism

and life after death, for at our baptism we begin a new life in Christ just as we do after death. Shall we gather at the river? In faith, our answer must be, “Yes, we’ll gather at the river.” On Sunday, June 16, we invite the men from the congregation to unite their voices in a Father’s Day Men’s Chorus. Rehearsals will be on Sunday, June 9, from 11:30-12:30 and Sunday, June 16 from 9-9:30 in the Sanctuary. **Save the date!** Our Gospel Choir will join their voices with the Grace Baptist Church CANCEL Choir in a Gospel Concert in our Sanctuary on Sunday, June 23, at 4 p.m. The concert will be directed by Sara C. Blanford.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week’s host: CDFC. Next week’s host: Open. Many thanks to the CDFC 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.

**BIRTHDAY CARDS:** You may have noticed that the deacons have offered an opportunity to sign birthday cards during coffee hour. This is going to happen twice a month. If your birthday is in the beginning of the month your card will be available to sign the 1st time. If your birthday is at the end of the month, you will notice your birthday card the 2nd time around.

**THANK YOU FPCG:** Both personally, and on behalf of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, thank you to each and every member staff, and friend of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown – as we;; as the business community and police precinct of the neighborhood – for your support in making the May 21st Presbytery meeting in our church so successful! Because of your organization, commitment, and offering of your time and talents, you provided a beautiful welcome that embodied the generous spirit of Germantown hospitality at its best for the 133 attendees from congregations and worshipping communities from the four-county metropolitan Philadelphia region. As a people whose very identity centers around bringing people together to discern the heart and mind of Christ, this was a wonderful moment for FPCG and the Presbytery to deepen our relational ties and appreciation of our respective ministries. Thanks be to God!

**IHN DEPARTURE:** Thank you to all who supported our spring PIHN hosting session. Following a month with us, today guests move to another congregation. Please keep these families in your prayers as they continue to seek safe, affordable housing. Through Mission and Outreach, FPCG supports Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network. Not only does PIHN coordinate the congregations that house families, but they provide the social services needed to support the families along their journey from homelessness to housing and family stability. This is a process that cant take up to a year.

**THE LITURGICAL DANCE CONTINUE:** **Rehearsal will be held** every Thursday at 5:30pm and every Saturday at 10am through Sunday, June 30th date when the dance will be ministered. Thursday rehearsals are held in the Sanctuary and Saturday rehearsals are held in the Youth Lounge. If you are interested please speak to Rev. Rebecca after worship or email her at [rsegers@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:rsegers@fpcgermantown.org).

**EARLY MORNING GROUP** will host their Annual Gratitude Anniversary Meeting on Friday, May 31st from 9:00am until 11:00am. During their meeting they will share and acknowledge their accomplishments.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Next Sunday, June 2nd at 2:00pm, FPCG staff will go on their Annual Program Planning Retreat, and will return on Tuesday, June 4th at 3:00pm. They will spend their time resting in the Lord, discussing the 2018-2019 program season—what worked and what didn't and what needs tweaking, and making decisions about the 2019-2020 season. Was there a program or activity that you loved and would like to see return? Or an idea you have you would like considered? Speak to any member of our program staff (Rebecca, Kevin, Christian, Tony, or Eileen) and we will make sure your voice is heard.

**FPCG ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS:** Applications for our annual scholarships are now available for church members, active program members and friends of the church. Scholarships are for trade school degrees, undergraduate degrees, and graduate studies. Applications are in the church office. If you'd like to have an application electronically please contact Christian Heyer-Rivera at [Christianaheyer@yahoo.com](mailto:Christianaheyer@yahoo.com). The application deadline is June 30th.

**MAY CHALLENGE OFFERING BEACON CHURCH IN KENSINGTON:**

Beacon is a church plant of the PCUSA that serves as a missionary to the neighborhood of Fishtown/Kensington. Many of its neighbors were raised Catholic or have grown up without any church influence at all. Beacon's mission is to build bridges across the divisions of socio-economic status, culture, and politics. Beacon strengthens the social fabric of its neighborhood by gathering for worship that is explanatory and accessible to all people, regardless of faith background, and hosting family art workshops that utilize visual art to build connection between neighbors and families. Over and over again, neighbors have experienced personal and community healing in and through art-making. Beacon worships every Sunday at 5pm (with a dinner afterwards on the first Sunday monthly). The members of Beacon would love to connect with their siblings in the faith at FPCG. For more information about Beacon, check out their website: [thewordatbeacon.org](http://thewordatbeacon.org), social media: [@thewordatbeacon](https://www.facebook.com/thewordatbeacon) or email [info@thewordatbeacon.org](mailto:info@thewordatbeacon.org).

***Upcoming at First Church***

Sunday, June 2nd

***Ordination & Installation of Officers***

Sunday, June 2nd - Tuesday, June 4th

***Staff Retreat***

Sunday, June 9th

***Pentecost***

Sunday, June 23, 4:00 p.m.

***Gospel Choir Concert***

Monday, June 24th - Friday August 2nd

***Freedom School***

**WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, May. 26</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	Deacons Meeting—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	2:00 PM	KSB—Sanctuary, Longstreth Auditorium
<b>Monday, May 27</b>	<b>CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY</b>	
<b>Tuesday, May 28</b>	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth, Finney Room
<b>Wednesday, May 29</b>	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	4:00 PM	KSB—Sanctuary, Choir Rm, Primary, Longstreth
<b>Thursday, May 30</b>	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth, Finney Room
	5:30 PM	Liturgical Dance Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Jennings Room, Longstreth Aud.
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
<b>Friday, May 31</b>	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Rm.
<b>Saturday, June 1</b>	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir—Choir Room, Primary, Sanctuary Finney Room, Longstreth Auditorium
	9:00 AM	Liturgical Dance Rehearsal—Youth Lounge
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
<b>Sunday, June 2</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
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	2:00 PM	Staff Retreat—Offsite

# 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  
OPEN  
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 C. 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
Communications Management Fellow	Cherese Akers
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	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](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)