

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

AUGUST 18, 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.

August 18, 2019

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

*"It is a mistake to become a disciple of Jesus expecting to be famous or to become a religious success.  
It is always a road of hardship and persecution."* - Toyohiko Kagawa

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

Dan Miller

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, stir up your might and come to save us!

**Many: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

One: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Many: Restore us, O Lord of host; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*Hymn 466: *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Lord of all great endeavors, we confess that often we are tempted to give up before we have reached our goals. We lose hope when the voices of despair sap our faith and energy. We have forgotten that the darkness is as light to You. We have failed to remember that Jesus promised to be with us in the midst of all our struggles. May your love open us up again to your Gospel of hope. In the name of Jesus, the author and pioneer of our faith. Amen.**

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

Dave Wolford

The First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

Page 596 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: *Gracious a la Vida*

Violeta Parra

Thanks to life for all it has given to me.  
It gave me two eyes and when I open them  
I can perfectly distinguish black from white  
And high in the sky, its starlit background  
And in a crowd, the one I love

Thanks to life for all it has given to me.  
It gave me sound and the alphabet.  
With it the words I think and declare.  
Father, friend, brother and the light that shines  
on the path of the one I love.

Thanks to life for all it has given to me.  
It gave me the pace of my tired feet.  
With them I walked through cities and puddles,  
beaches, deserts, mountains and flatlands  
and your house, your street, your yard.

Thanks to life for all it has given to me.  
It gave me a heart that stirs it frame  
when I see the fruit of the human brain,  
when I see good so far away from evil,  
when I gaze into the depth of your eyes.

Thanks to life for all it has given to me.  
It gave me laughter and it gave me sorrow,  
the two components that make up my song.  
And your song, which is the same song.  
And everybody's song which is my own song.

Heidi Mercado-Littles, guitar

The Second Lesson: Heb 11:29-12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

Page 212-213 NT  
Page 70-71 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

.....let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..... Hebrews 12:1

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 344: *Christ of the Upward Way*

SURSUM CORDA

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

**In each time and place, there are particular problems and crises through which God calls the church to act. The church, guided by the Spirit, humbled by its own complicity and instructed by all attainable knowledge, seeks to discern the will of God and learn how to obey in these concrete situations. God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes the natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. It is the will of God that his purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from creation. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Gabriel's Oboe*

Ennio Morricone

\*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. David G. Cassie

\*Congregational Response : #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *O For a Thousand Tongues*

Frederick Swann

**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 musical offerings are brought by our own Heidi Mercado-Littles and Ted W. Barr. Heidi was born in Switzerland, raised in Chile, and came to the U.S. in 1976 to pursue a degree in Special Education at Western Michigan University. For 20 years, she worked in the field of Developmental Disabilities and her professional career included teaching, case management, five years as a foster parent of three young adults with developmental delays, and eleven years in Early Intervention. Heidi and her family joined First Church in 1992. She has been serving as Parish Visitor since February 2001. Heidi and her husband, Dieter, live in Delaware. Ted W. Barr has distinguished himself as a collaborative

pianist, a motivating vocal coach, and inspiring teacher on the voice faculties of Westminster Choir College, Rutgers University, and Wagner College in New York City. His students have performed on Broadway, with major orchestras and opera companies, and in television drama series. A Kentucky native, Ted holds degrees from Western Kentucky University and Westminster Choir College in Princeton. He studied and accompanied in the private voice studio of internationally renowned pedagogue Maria Farnworth in New York City and offers private instruction in voice, organ, and piano in Cherry Hill, N.J., where he lives with his husband, First Church music director Tony Thurman.

**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.

**BIO OF THE REV. DAVID G. CASSIE:** The Rev. David G. Cassie is the former Executive Presbyterian of the Presbytery of West Jersey (PCUSA). He has served congregations in Rhode Island, Chicago, Puerto Rico & Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Dhyan, an Audiologist, were missionaries in Honduras and Mexico. In México they were involved in Church Planting with the Presbyterian Border Ministry. They also served in Honduras with the Christian Commission for Development (CCD: *La Comisión Cristiana de Desarrollo*), where Dave taught rural and urban pastors in CCD's theological extension program, while Dhyan worked in CCD's Health Division, training rural health workers in the prevention of hearing disorders. Dave has had a long relationship with the Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Cuba and was part of a Presbyterian Board of Pensions team that went there to do research to identify Presbyterians whose Pensions had been embargoed by the US Government. He has helped the Cuban Presbyterian Church preserve its historical documents. Dave was part of the West Jersey Presbytery team sent to Cuba to install two water purification plants. Dave is committed to the transformation of persons and congregations through local and international mission outreach.

**REV REBECCA SEGERS:** Pastor Rebecca continues to be hospitalized. She thanks you all for the prayers, cards, notes, emails, and texts. They are much appreciated even if she doesn't respond. We will make everyone aware when she is able to receive visitors. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

**MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS:** The Deacons started sending birthday cards to every member of our congregation. Deacons John Orandosh and Carolyn Tarver have spearheaded this effort, and now there's a way you can contribute as well, in addition to adding your well-wishing notes in the cards when you see them at coffee hours. If you receive greeting cards in the mail from various charities, please consider donating them to the Deacons. The Deacons would also welcome cards purchased for this purpose if you feel called to do so. Thank You.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** The church office will be closed from August 26 through Labor Day for summer vacation for the volunteers. It will reopen on September 3, 2019. Where did the summer go, does anyone know?

**PARKING LOT PROJECT:** The church applied for and was awarded a stormwater management grant to put in a new storm water management system on our property. This project provides an opportunity to fix drainage problems and possibly solve some of our

flooding problems in the basement areas of the church. It will provide substantial funding to repave our parking lots at the end of the project. We will also benefit because our stormwater fees will be reduced. This is all good news, but it will come with some pain. Our parking lots will be torn up and under construction for close to 2 months. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin in late August or early September and will take about 2 months. We are making plans for alternate parking. Entrance to the church from the parking lots may not be possible during much of the project. There are many unanswered questions, but we will keep you posted. More information about this project and storm water management is available on the Literature Table.

**AUGUST CHALLENGE OFFERING PAR RECYCLE WORKS:** PAR Recycles Works is a social enterprise, which means it is operated as a traditional business, but with a strong social purpose and mission. The mission creates a significant amount of “financial friction” that prevents us from being profitable from our recycling revenue alone. PAR currently generates almost 2/3 of their needed total revenue, but depends on the generosity of individuals, organizations, and foundations to cover the shortfall. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, we are able to accept tax-deductible contributions. As a traditional employer, the objective is to stabilize newly returning citizens and help them develop the skills and habits that will make them successful in mainstream, full-time employment. Assistance is needed to make connections with organizations that can serve as employers and benefit from the trained and motivated individuals that come out of our program. Also, waste electronics such as computers, servers, monitors, and printers are the raw materials of our business that enable us to create jobs. You can assist by making introductions and connections to companies that use and replace computers as well as entities that may want to host a community e-Waste collection. To discuss further please contact (267) 335-5455 or [mjones@par-recycleworks.org](mailto:mjones@par-recycleworks.org).

**SEPTEMBER WINDOWS DEADLINE:** The submission deadline for the September issue of the Windows is the end of the day tomorrow, Monday, August 19th. Please email Cherese at [communications@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:communications@fpcgermantown.org) if there is anything you'd like to have published.

**FREEDOM SCHOOL:** We concluded another great year of Freedom School. Thank you to all who supported the program. Please pray for all of our children as they prepare for the upcoming school year.

**WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, August 18</b>	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. David Cassie preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
<b>Wed, August 21</b>	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
<b>Friday, August 23</b>	6:30 PM	FPCG Youth Leaders Meeting
<b>Sunday, August 25</b>	10:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5

# Church Officers

## Elders

### 2020

Gloria Bethea  
Andrea Overton  
J. Randall Rosensteel

### 2021

Marc DiNardo  
Robert Seed  
Jason Williams

### 2022

Ingrid Harris  
Joseph Leube  
Delores Solomon

Clerk of Session:  
Robert Seed

## Deacons

### 2020

Randy Clever  
John Orandosh  
Carolyn Tarver

### 2021

Dhyan Cassie  
Rhonda Highsmith  
Dani Howard

### 2022

Dick Liberty  
Dolores Shanks  
OPEN

## First Church Staff

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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

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