

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

AUGUST 25, 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.*

Good morning and welcome! If you come in here knowing that you are a flawed creature, sometimes smart yet often foolish, especially in hindsight, then you are in the right place. If you come feeling insignificant and inadequate in the presence of an awesome God who deserves the highest and most perfect praise, then you are in the right place. If you have come wanting to rest your weariness or shabbiness in the arms of an unconditional Lover, then you are in the right place. The joy of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

August 25, 2019

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

"I'm so tired of waiting, aren't you, for the world to become good and beautiful and kind?" - Langston Hughes

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Cantilena*

Joseph Rheinberger

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *It Is Well With My Soul*

Philip Bliss/arr. John Ness Beck

Text: Horatio Spafford

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well with my soul."
My sin, O the joy of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, O my soul!
And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall resound and the Lord shall descend; "Even so" it is well with my soul!

Lydia Overton, soprano; Andrea Overton, alto; Jason Williams, baritone
Jesse Padgett, piano

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Many: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.

One: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.

Many: Who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

One: Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Many: The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

One: He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

All: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Psalm 103:1-8)

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

On the timid who will not dare to be strong, and on the strong who refuse to acknowledge their many weaknesses; Lord, have mercy. On the foolish who cling to their ignorance, and on the clever who act with arrogance and despise the slow witted; Lord, have mercy. On the half-hearted who ignore new opportunities, and on the impatient who rush in where angels fear to tread; Lord, have mercy. On the people with few gifts who waste what they have, and on the very gifted who overstretch themselves with trying to do too much; Lord, have mercy. Holy and loving God, have mercy on us and your erring children everywhere. Bring us to a genuine repentance and restore us to your salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. 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

Charles Bethea

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-19

Page 656-657 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: *O Bless the Lord, My Soul*

Stephen Schwartz

Text: Psalm 103

Oh bless the Lord my soul! His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me joins to bless his holy name!
Oh bless the Lord my soul! His mercies bear in mind!
Forget not all his benefits; the Lord, to thee, is kind.
He will not always chide; he will with patience wait;
His wrath is ever slow to rise and ready to abate.
He pardons all thy sins, prolongs thy feeble breath;
He healeth thy infirmities and ransoms thee from death.
He clothes thee with his love; upholds thee with his truth;

And like the eagle, he renews the vigor of thy youth.
Then bless his holy name; whose grace hath made thee whole;
Whose love and kindness crown thy days, Oh bless the lord, my soul.

The Second Lesson: Luke 13:10-17

Page 71 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **EXCUSES**

The Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 408: *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

GERMANY

*Affirmation of Faith—Apostle's 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 crucified, 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 everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *We Are Our Heavenly Father's Children*

Roberta Martin
Arr. Robert Morris

Vera Harrison, piano

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 2130: *The Summons* (from *Sing the Faith*)

KELVINGROVE

*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed

Minister: As you prepare to go your separate ways, take encouragement from an old Gaelic prayer: May God make safe to you each step. May God open to you each door. May God make clear to you each road. May God enfold you in loving arms. And grace, mercy and

peace, from the Creator, the Savior and the Counselor, will be with you now and always.

*Congregational Response : #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Gigue Fugue, BWV 577*

J.S. Bach

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 members of our church family, Vera Harrison, Andrea Overton, Lydia Overton, Jesse Padgett, and Jason Williams. We give thanks for the gifts they offer today. Our guest organist is Kevin Freaney, who is filling in for Tony Thurman. Kevin has lived in the Philadelphia area since 2000 and has held church jobs throughout the region. In addition, he has been office manager for Emery Brothers, the curators of the McLean Memorial Pipe Organ.

CHOIR SEASON OPENS SOON! All of our choirs are preparing to resume their regular schedules and activities. If you enjoy making music, please consider joining one of our church choirs. Rehearsal schedules follow:

Chancel Choir: Saturday, September 7 from 1-3 p.m., then Sunday's at 9 and 11:30 a.m. Contact Tony Thurman for more information, music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

Gospel Choir: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 12. Contact Sara Blandford for more information, ladycarter78@hotmail.com.

Voices in Bronze Handbell Choir: Thursdays at 7:45 beginning October 3. Contact Evelyn Santiago for more information, escoqui@msn.com.

Children's Choir: TBD. We will schedule a meeting with parents to determine best rehearsal time. Contact Evelyn Santiago for more information, escoqui@msn.com.

Oratorio Choir: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. beginning October 29. Contact Tony Thurman for more information, music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: CDFC. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to the John Orandosh & 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.

PREACHING TODAY IS THE REV. DR. ALLISON K. SEED, wife of Clerk of Session Bob Seed. Allison joined the Board of Pensions as a regional representative in January 2011, deployed primarily in the Synod of the Northeast and Philadelphia, and she retired in 2019 after 41 years in ordained service. She continues to be employed by the Board of Pensions as finance/benefits faculty for the Credo program for ministers for weeklong retreats around the country. Previously, she served 15 years as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Independence, MO, as well as in congregations in Missouri, Colorado, and South Carolina and campus ministry in South Carolina. She was ordained by the Presbytery of Miami in 1977 in her home congregation, Southminster, Dayton, Ohio. Still a member of Heartland Presbytery, among her various assignments and appointments in the presbytery and Synod of Mid-America, Allison served as Moderator of Heartland Presbytery and two terms as Chair of the Heartland Presbytery Council. In the greater PC(USA) Allison served two years as Chair of the General Assembly Council, now known as the Presbyteri-

an Mission Agency Board. She was also on the Review Committee of the whole of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Six Agency Review Committee) Special Offerings Task Force, and the Review Committee for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Allison holds a BA from Duke University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in religion and French literature, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a D. Min. from Erskine Theological Seminary. She and Bob are parents of adult children and currently share their Philadelphia home with a golden retriever named Scout and a Great Pyrenees pup named Lizzy, aka Elizabeth Bennet. Still a classic rock fan, she would say “what a long, strange trip” her life has been!

REV REBECCA SEGERS: Rev. Rebecca is out of the hospital and in her home, where she is continuing to undergo treatment. Visitations are still restricted. She thanks you all for the prayers, flowers, cards, notes, emails, and texts. They are much appreciated and have meant the world to her even if she doesn't respond. We will make everyone aware when she is up to receiving visitors. You can continue to send cards to the church and we will be sure they get to her. Please continue to keep Rev. Rebecca in your prayers.

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.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting Monday, September 16th at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

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.

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 mqjones@par-recycleworks.org.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, August 25	10:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship—Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed preaching Sunday School Grades K-5
Monday, August 26	7:00 PM	Property Committee Meeting—Finney Room
Wed, August 28	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office Personnel Committee Meeting—Offsite
Thursday, August 29	4:00 PM	Tony/Music Confab
Friday, August 30	6:30 PM	FPCG Youth Leaders Meeting
Saturday, August 31	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Reader’s Choice—Offsite CDFC Meeting—Finney Room Open Gym—Gym
Sunday, Sept. 1	10:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship 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

	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

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