

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

SEPTEMBER 1, 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.

September 1, 2019

Twelfth 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: *Aria*

Flor Peeters

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Sometimes worship is a parade, a celebration, a gathering of people expressing their joy.

Many: Sometimes worship is an adventure, a quest, a gathering of people searching for meaning.

One: Sometimes worship is a funeral, a fast, a gathering of people seeking comfort in their grief.

Many: Among us today are people who have come to march, people who have come to search, people who have come to weep...

One: Yet we have all come to acknowledge God and to touch each other.

All: Come with open minds, open hearts, open arms; that we all might find that for which we have come and that, as well, we all might be surprised.

*Hymn 411: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Ever present God, help us in our weakness. We do not always listen for your voice. We do not always acknowledge the many ways you sustain us in life and faith. We feast on your providence, yet wonder if you are near. Forgive our past indifference, as we pledge to be more attentive to your presence and guidance. Forgive our past selfishness, as we promise to share the feast of your bounty with those in need. For actions and inactions that have hurt your heart and the well-being of others, we seek your forgiveness and grace.

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

Denise Cowie

The First Lesson: Psalm 112

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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: *We Are God's People*

Johannes Brahms/arr. Fred Bock

Text: Bryan Jeffery Leech

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of his spirit, established by his word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
We are God's loved one, the bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God out-poured;
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.
We are the body of which the Lord is head,
Called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

Linda Jaymes, soloist

The Second Lesson: Luke 14:1, 7-14

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **NOT AS I DO?**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 504: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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: *Adagio*

Felix Mendelssohn

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 391: *Take My Life*

HENDON

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response : #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Allegro Assai Vivace*

Mendelssohn

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Rosensteel

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: We are grateful for the musical gifts offered in worship today. Today's soloist is the Rev. Linda Jaymes. A native of Union, N.J., she started singing alto in the church choir when she was in the ninth grade. Linda is a graduate of Penn State University (1971) and Princeton Theological Seminary (1994) where she sang with the Seminary Singers and the Touring Choir. Her first call was to the Central Presbyterian Church in Chambersburg, Pa.,

where she served as the associate pastor from 1994-1998. In 1998 she was called to be the solo pastor of Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia where she served until her retirement from full-time ministry in 2017. Linda has two sons: John and Adam, and two grandchildren. She lives nearby in the Blue Bell Hill neighborhood and loves worshipping here at FPCG when she is not traveling or filling the pulpit somewhere else. 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.

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

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.

SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING ATHLETES IN ACTION: For more than 40 years, Carl and Noreen Dambman have devoted their lives to the world-wide ministry of Cru (known in some areas as the Campus Crusade for Christ). The Dambmans have served in Europe with Athletes in Action (AIA), trained wrestlers for the 1990 Moscow Olympics, and helped start a sports ministry behind the Iron Curtain. As an official chaplain, Carl has served at nine Olympics; Noreen has been a board member for many years at Hinkson Christian Academy in Moscow. Most recently, Carl, whose parents were long-time members of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, has been in Lima, Peru, with a group of 22 AIA staff members, teaching a workshop on connecting with elite athletes, and leading devotions based on Hebrews 12: 1-3. Currently, the Dambmans are in South Africa at the International Sports Leadership School for the 12th year serving as shepherds for 20 students. (On their first morning at the school, staff and students were greeted by a troop of a dozen Baboons.) Always most grateful for the prayers and financial support they receive from First Church, as the Dambmans have so often written us, they now ask for prayers for their safe travel and for the continuing success of ministry to athletes. **The September Challenge Offering** is our opportunity to support once again the work of the Dambmans and Cru. Please be graciously generous in giving to this international ministry.

CHURCH OFFICE: The church office has been closed since 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?

CHURCH WELCOME BACK POTLUCK: Next week, Sunday, September 8, following worship we will be having a potluck luncheon to welcome Pastor Rebecca back from her recent illness, and to welcome our church family back to a new program year. Please see the sheet in coffee hour to sign up for either an entrée, side dish, or dessert to serve 8-10 people.

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.

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 storm-water 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 was 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.

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.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 1	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Kevin Porter preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
Tuesday, Sept. 3	6:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Jennings Room
Wed, Sept. 4	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	6:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Jennings Room
Thursday, Sept. 5	6:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Friday, Sept. 6	9:30 AM	GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, Sept. 7	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-3pm)
	9:30 AM	CDFC Meeting—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Sept. 8	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Church Potluck—Longstreth Auditorium

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org