

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

**ALIVE,**

SEPTEMBER 15, 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 15, 2019

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*"Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above." - Robert Robinson*

## **ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**

### **GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY**

Prelude: *Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach

Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, piano duo

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Jim Thompson

Introit: *Be Thou My Vision*

Irish Tune/arr. John Carter

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

†\*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: When the lost are found,

**Many: There is joy!**

One: When hope overcomes despair,

**Many: There is joy!**

One: When we seek and find God's faithfulness,

**Many: There is joy!**

One: Praise to God who is present to us through Christ Jesus!

**All: Praise to God who is present to us through one another!**

\*Hymn 356: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

### **CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we confess that our hearts are closed tight against your love and mercy. We hold on to unlove for ourselves, resentment against those for whom we care, anger at our helplessness, and complicity in the structures of society. We have protected ourselves emotionally, socially, and spiritually; and our selfishness has nourished the pain of the world rather than its hope. Open, loosen, and unbind us, God. Enable our frozen hearts to love, our**

clenched hands to help, and our stifled spirits to breathe and pray, in the name of Christ Jesus.

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

Dani Howard

The First Lesson: Psalm 51:1-10

Page 492 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

Commissioning of Sunday School and Sunday School Teachers

Minute for Triennium

Anthem: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Irish Tune/arr. Mack Wilberg

Text: Ps. 23/Henry Baker

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;

And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

The Second Lesson: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Page 581 OT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **A TIME FOR EVERYTHING**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 2133: *Give Me a Clean Heart* (2x) (from *Sing the Faith*)

DOUROUX

\*Affirmation of Faith—The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe on holy catholic and apostolic church, We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

John Rutter

Text: Ps. 23

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yeah, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

For thou are with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:

Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

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

\*Hymn 467: *How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response : #587

Jester Hairston

Postlude: *Toccata on Great Day*

Adolphus Hailstork

**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.

**WE WELCOME REV. REBECCA SEGERS** back into the pulpit and the life of the church this week. She is grateful to be “home” again and appreciates all the love and support through her healing journey.

**THE MUSIC:** The Chancel Choir, joined by pianist Ted W. Barr, brings two settings of Ps. 23, perhaps the most beloved of any of the Psalms of David, in fresh, contemporary settings by Mack Wilberg (conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) and John Rutter (conductor of the Cambridge Singers). If you love to sing and can be faithful in attending rehearsals, please consider joining one of our church choirs: The Chancel Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. and from 11:30-12:30. The Gospel Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and sings in worship the first Sunday of each month. The Voices in Bronze Handbell Choir will rehearse on Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. beginning on October 3. The Children’s Choir will resume rehearsals in October as well. The Oratorio Choir will rehearse on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. beginning October 29. For more information or to participate, please e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com) or call the church office, 215-843-8811.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week’s host: David & Dhyan Cassie. Next week’s host: Open. Many thanks to everyone who made the church potluck a success. for supplying last week. Everything turned out great. 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.

**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.

**THE RACHEL CIRCLE**, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, 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.

**THE PRAISE AND EVANGELISM TEAM** is starting up again. If you are interested in praising God and sharing his love inside and outside our walls, join us on Sunday, Sept. 22nd immediately following worship in the Jennings Room to dream and plan for the coming year.

**PHILADELPHIA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK**, known as IHN is coming to FPCG. Our fall hosting session is scheduled to begin September 29 however, families will move in a week early, on Sunday Sept 22. During that week the network will provide the meals and volunteers. FPCG members and friends will be needed for meals, evening and overnight duties beginning Sept 29. Information about the program is on the literature table. You may sign up to help during coffee hour beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CHURCH SECURITY & SAFETY?** We are putting together a team to work in cooperation with local fire department and law enforcement to come up with a plan and training for some of our members so that we can assure the safety and protection of all those who come through our doors each week. If you are interested in being part of this initiative please contact Bob See at [brincobob@prodigy.net](mailto:brincobob@prodigy.net) or 816-591-3988.

**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 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.

### *Upcoming at First Church*

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Celebrating the Puerto Rico Service Trip*

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

*5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. Worship Service*

Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

*World Communion Sunday*

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

*Bread & Cup (5:00-6:30pm)*

**WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Sept. 15</b>	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching Rally Day/CE Commissioning
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	3rd Sunday—Led by Triennium participants
<b>Monday, Sept. 16</b>	11:00 AM	The Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
<b>Wed, Sept. 18</b>	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB —Sanctuary, CR, Jennings, Longstreth
	7:00 PM	Property Committee Meeting—Finney Room
<b>Thursday, Sept. 19</b>	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Admin & Finance Committee Meeting—Finney
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
<b>Friday, Sept. 20</b>	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Elementary Youth Group—YL, Gym
<b>Saturday, Sept. 21</b>	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-3pm)
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, Sept. 22</b>	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching Celebrating the Puerto Rico Service Trip
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Deacons Meeting—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Praise & Evangelism Team Meeting—Jennings
	1:30 PM	IHN Move-in Day

# 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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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 C. 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
Building Manager	Cherese Akers	Cindy Osborne
Communications Management Fellow	Bookkeeper	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter, Clinton Cotton
Sextons		

## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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