

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

SEPTEMBER 22, 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 22, 2019

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Without disruption in life, where would we be?" - Sarah Gadon

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Seth Bingham

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Stephanie Garrett

One: Call upon the Lord, for God hears our pleas.

Many: Cry a river of tears to wash away life's sorrow.

One: Put your faith in God, our great physician.

Many: Reach out for the balm of Gilead, for God hears the cries of the suffering.

One: The Lord delivers the faithful to the glory of God's name.

Many: We will call upon the Lord, for God hears our pleas.

All: Enter God's gates with hope and gladness.

*Hymn 438: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Rev. David Cassie

God our Creator, we come to you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have sought our own ways rather than the way of Christ. We have refused to learn the lessons of the past, and still we remain bound up with past offenses. We dream of what cannot be and yet do not devote ourselves to laying a foundation for genuine hope. Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be in order to rise with Christ and serve you with trust and joy.

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

Abi Kendrick

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

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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: *Pues si vivimos*

Traditional Spanish/arr. Alice Parker

with Puerto Rico Photo Presentation

While we are living, in the Lord we’re living;
And when we’re dying, in the Lord we’re dying.
So while we’re living or when we’re dying, we are in the Lord.
We all are given many gifts to share;
In helping others they return to God.
So when we’re giving or when receiving, we are in the Lord.
Sometimes we sorrow, sometimes we grieve,
Rejoice in beauty, resound with love.
When we are suffering and when rejoicing, we are in the Lord.
And as we travel we will surely find despairing people who are all alone.
Then when we help them, feed them and clothe them, we are in the Lord.

The Second Lesson: Luke 16:1-13

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **FROM RUPTURE TO RAPTURE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 394: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

BALM IN GILEAD

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

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s com-

hearse 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 or call the church office, 215-843-8811.

Longwood Gardens: A field trip is planned for Sunday afternoon, October 13, departing from the church at 12 Noon. Enjoy the beautiful fall colors of Longwood and an organ recital by First Church Music Director Tony Thurman. The cost is \$35, which includes roundtrip bus transportation and Gardens admission. Sign up with Gloria Bethea during coffee hour or call the church office at 215-843-8811 to reserve your place.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Fatima Robinson. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to David & Dhyana Cassie for supplying last week's munchies. 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.

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 today, Sunday Sept 22. During this 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 today, Sunday, September 22nd.

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 ensure 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 Seed at brncobob@prodigy.net or 816-591-3988.

PARKING LOT PROJECT: The project was tentatively scheduled to begin in late August or early September but has been delayed due to new regulations and increased construction costs. We will continue to keep you posted with any news. More information about this project and storm water management is available on the Literature Table.

ANNA REIMANN is celebrating her 100th birthday on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 1:30-4:00pm at Rydal Park. All are welcome. Please RSVP by October 10th to Greta Reimann at greta0301@gmail.com.

ACT & ENGAGE: The Mission and Outreach Committee is happy to present a new program to educate, inform, and call our congregation to action around the important issues of our time. The first two topics we will address are Criminal Justice Reform and Environmental Sustainability. If you have a passion for either/both of these subjects, would like to help choose future topics and/or design the programs, speak to Rev. Rebecca or M&O committee member John Orandosh. Meanwhile, put Sunday, October 20, 2019 on your calendar and plan to join us after worship for our first gathering.

DO YOU HAVE A FPCG STORY TO TELL? Perhaps there is a time when the church supported you in crisis, or a reason you give of your time, talents or treasures the way you do. If you would be willing to share with the congregation in a unique and different way on Sunday, November 10th during worship, please speak with Discipleship Chair Daniel Conner or Rev. Rebecca Segers for more information.

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 29th

5th @ 5:00 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, October 6th

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 20th

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

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 22	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	Praise & Evangelism Team Meeting—Jennings Room
	1:00 PM	PIHN Move-In
Tuesday, Sept. 24	4:00 PM	NA 6th Anniversary Celebration—Longstreth
	5:30 PM	KSB Percussion Rehearsal—Choir Room
Wed, Sept. 25	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Jennings, Longstreth
	7:00 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting—Offsite
Thursday, Sept. 26	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Friday, Sept. 27	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, Sept. 28	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-3pm)
	9:00 AM	Readers Choice—Offsite
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal & Photography—Sanctuary
	2:00 PM	Lechelle Garnett Baby Shower
Sunday, Sept. 29	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Christian Heyer-Rivera preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Deacons Meeting—Finney Room
	5:00 PM	5th @ 5:00PM—Sanctuary, Longstreth

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, Clinton (CJ) Cotton

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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