

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, SEPTEMBER 29, 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 29, 2019

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Prelude in G Major*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

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

arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Stephanie Garrett

One: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

Many: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

One: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

Many: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

One: Come now, all who thirst,

Many: and drink the water of life.

One: Come now, all who hunger,

Many: and be filled with good things.

One: Come now, all who seek,

All: and be warmed by the fire of love.

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

AZMON

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Rev. David Cassie

All-powerful God, we have become so comfortable with our advantages that we forget who makes them possible. We are so eager for riches that we wander away from faith. We consider ourselves more worthy than others to enjoy your bounty. We look down on people less industrious or differently gifted than we. We turn away from the plight of neighbors who need our helping hand. O God, forgive our misplaced priorities. Have mercy on us and melt our hardened hearts so we may participate in the joy of your realm here and now. 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

Eileen Jones

The First Lesson: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

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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: *God, Whose Giving Know No Ending*

Lloyd Larson

Text: Robert Edwards

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all. Amen!

Jesse Padgett, baritone

The Second Lesson: Luke 16:19-31

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE DIVINE EXPECTATION OF EMPATHY** Christian Heyer-Rivera

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Affirmation of Faith—(from *Confession of Belbar*)

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

Offering

Offertory: *Offertory*

John Ness Beck
Text: Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I give him my first born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you

But to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 358: *Help Us Accept Each Other*

BARONITA

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response: 585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Promenade in G Major*

Robinson

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.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: Would you like to know more about what it is to be a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of FPCG? Join Pastor Rebecca on Sunday, October 6th at 11:30 am for discussion and instruction, with the opportunity to join the church and be welcomed during worship on Sunday, October 20, 2019.

THE MUSIC: 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 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 performed on the largest pipe organ ever built for a private residence. 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. Read more about the Longwood online at Longwoodgardens.org.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Rachel Circle. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to Fatima Robinson for supplying last weeks 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: Today begins FPCG volunteer duties to support the PIHN guests that arrived last week. There are many reasons PIHN is a wonderful alternative. "We offer a safe and child friendly alternative to more chaotic public shelter settings, allowing families to remain intact." During coffee hour can you sign up to prepare a meal, serve as a evening host, provide lunch foods and snacks or volunteer as overnight host. Information about the program is available on the literature table or you can see Eileen Jones or Delores Solomon for more information or to volunteer.

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 broncobob@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.

2020 CALENDAR SALE TO BENEFITS THE DEACONS: After a three year hiatus, the Deacons will be selling 2020 Calendars featuring photography by Heidi Mercado-Littles. Calendars are \$15 and will be available in time for Christmas. You can see a sample and place your order during Coffee Hour through Sunday, November 24, 2019. Thank you for supporting the work of the Deacons.

FPCG YOUTH GROUP TRIP TO CHERRY CREST ADVENTURE FARM ON OCTOBER 5TH: On October 5th, all youth group members and their families are invited to come to the Cherry Crest Adventure Farm located in Ronks, PA. This annual trip is a favorite of many with tons of activities, entertainment, and good food. More details about the farm can be found at <https://www.cherrycrestfarm.com/>. We are offering a special discount to youth groupers and family members with ticket being just \$15. The first fourteen people to sign up for rides will ride free on the minibus. Each additional person after the first 14 will pay an additional \$5/person if rides are required. Families are encouraged to provide their own transportation to the farm and parking at the farm is free. See Christian Heyer-Rivera for a participant permission slip.

SUSAN MILLS FARRINGTON & VAUGHN MACDONALD, are pleased to invite members of the congregation to join them in the celebration of their marriage on Saturday, October 12th at 2pm in the sanctuary. It will be followed by a reception in Longstreth Auditorium, where you will have a chance to greet them and members of their family with the cutting of the cake and a champagne toast!

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 27, 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.

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. 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—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
Monday, Sept. 30	Rev. Rebecca Segers, Elders Daniel Connor and Jim Thompson will be attending the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference Mon 9/30 - Thursday 10/2	
Tuesday, Oct. 1	5:30 PM	KSB Percussion Rehearsal—Choir Room
Wed, Oct. 2	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Jennings, Longstreth
Thursday, Oct. 3	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, Oct. 4	9:00 AM	GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, Oct. 5	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
	10:30 AM	Cherry Crest Adventure Farm Trip
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal & Photography—Sanctuary
Sunday, Oct. 6	World Communion Sunday	
	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—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	New Member Class—Finney Room

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

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 (CJ) Cotton
Sextons		

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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