

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

SEPTEMBER 8, 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 8, 2019

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"He who dies with the most toys wins." - Malcom Forbes

"It ain't necessarily so..." - Sportin' Life

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

McNeil Robinson II

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

Thurman

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: O Lord, you have searched me you know me.

Many: You know when I sit down and when I rise. You discern my thoughts from far away.

One: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Many: Wonderful are your works. This I know very well.

One: With all your children,

All: I will give you thanks and praise!

*Hymn 559: *We Gather Together*

KREMSER

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of our lives, you search us and know us. We have refused to take up your cross, to bear the burdens that are ours to carry. We have not given up our attachments to possessions or to self. We have not counted the cost of walking into an unknown future with you. Help us turn away from evil, that we may walk with you once more.

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: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Page 677 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: *Jesus Is Calling*

Aaron David Miller

Softly, tenderly Jesus is calling to you.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching for you and me.

Come home, you who are weary.

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling sinners to come home.

Time is now fleeting, moments are passing from you and me;

Shadows gathering, night time is coming for you and me.

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised for you and me.

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon for you and me.

The Second Lesson: Luke 14:25-33

Page 73 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **ENDGAME**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 339: *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

*Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles' 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

Offering

Offertory: *With a Voice of Singing*

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,

O sing praises to the honor of his name,

Make his praise to be glorious.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 430: *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response : #585

Robinson

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.

THE MUSIC: This morning we welcome the Chancel Choir back to the choir loft. The choir brings as its anthem "Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling," a Nineteenth Century hymn of Invitation by Will Lamartine Thompson. In a fresh setting by Aaron David Miller, the anthem invites us to accept God's mercy by painting a picture of invitation like a mother calling after her children. We are reminded that there is nothing to be gained by delay, especially knowing that death is coming sooner or later. The final stanza entices us with a promise of love, pardon, and mercy that is offered to all who wish to accept it. Aaron Miller is Music Director at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn. He and First Church Music Director Tony Thurman were classmates at the Manhattan School of Music and students of McNeil Robinson.

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.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Church Potluck. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to Margaret Mukai 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.

CHURCH WELCOME BACK POTLUCK: Today, Sunday, September 8, following worship we will be having a potluck luncheon 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.

REV REBECCA SEGERS: Rev. Rebecca continues to heal at home. She has experienced some minor complications that have slowed down her recovery, but she is on the mend, and looks forward to being with you again soon. She is so incredibly grateful for all the support from our church family - and continues to hold all of you in prayer, even as she knows you are doing the same for her.

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 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.

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 22nd.

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 park-

ing 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 15th

Rally Day & Sunday School Commissioning

Sunday, September 22nd

Celebrating the Puerto Rico Service Trip

Sunday, September 29th

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

Sunday, October 6th

World Communion Sunday

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 8	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Kevin Porter preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Church Potluck—Longstreth Auditorium
Wed, Sept. 11	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Longstreth
	5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Primary Room
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, Sept. 12	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Friday, Sept. 13	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, Sept. 14	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-3pm)
	10:00 AM	Mission & Outreach—Jennings Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Sept. 15	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 the Triennium participants

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

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