



Windows

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
February 2020

5TH @ 5:00 HAS A NEW NAME: FAITH @ 5:00!

Our alternative worship service was so successful in 2019 that we will be holding it six times in 2020. Join us for meaningful worship and fellowship at the table afterward this year the last Sunday of the month at 5:00pm.

**JAN, MARCH, MAY
AUGUST, OCTOBER,
DECEMBER**

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Items for the March issue of *Windows* are due on Feb. 17th. Send to *Communications* @fpcgermantown.org

From the Pastor

Lately it feels like I’m living in the Land of Broken Things. Shortly before Christmas, my laptop got wet, stopped working, and I had to purchase a new one. Then last Friday, I came into the office and my keyboard, which had been shorting out for about a month or so, kept turning off after writing two or three words. Since I’ve moved to Philly, both bumpers on my car have been hit: the front is popped out of alignment with the hood and the back is cracked in three places. While Grace was home for Christmas, we saw a movie and my driver side mirror was hit in the parking garage. The cover was popped off and missing and the turn signal light hanging down, although I was able to snap it back into place. Then it was clipped again in the last couple of weeks and now a piece is chipped off. Last week, the other side mirror was completely sheered off. It was lying on the ground when I found it, and is now on the floor inside my car. Then while I was doing laundry on Saturday, the dryer made a big CLONK and stopped working. The power is still on, but nothing happens.



This has me pondering brokenness in general. All the ways I am broken, we are broken, humankind is broken. All you have to do is pay attention to the news to see the brokenness: the pain, the division, the disasters – natural and unnatural, wars, famine, earthquakes, wildfires, the list goes on and on. Then there is what is going on in our community: gun violence, poverty, hunger, underfunded schools, and so forth. On top of all of that, we have what’s going on in our own personal lives, where we often have broken relationships, financial concerns, issues with addiction, illness, and more.

Some of these things can be fixed, particularly when we’re talking about a computer part or an appliance. Items can be repaired or replaced. As a matter of fact, while I sit in Uncle Bobbie’s writing this article, I’m also waiting for a call from the GE repairperson to meet him/her at home to fix my dryer. I’ve already replaced the keyboard and scheduled an appointment to reattach the passenger side mirror. For some of them, though, the cost outweighs the benefit, so they will remain cracked or out of alignment. Sometimes, it feels like the things in our lives will remain cracked or out of alignment as well.

This may in fact be true. Some things in our lives may never be fixed. We may not be healed of illness, or have our financial woes completely abated. We may not be able to repair our relationships or completely restore what is broken in our communities. But the fact remains

Pastor News (cont. on Page 2)



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sundays at 10 a.m.

Everyone is invited to worship, study and enjoy friendships at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. There are service, outreach and fellowship opportunities in abundance. In addition to weekly and monthly scheduled services and activities, visit www.fpcgermantown.org and click on Special Events web pages for more information.

To learn more, please email fpcg.germantown@gmail.com or call the church office at 215-843-8811.

Windows is a publication of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. For questions regarding the information published here or to submit content, please call the church office at 215-843-8811 or email: communications@fpcgermantown.org

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- Rev. Rebecca Segers
- F. Anthony Thurman

that our God is in all of it with us. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (NASB) God didn’t think the cost of forgiveness outweighed the benefit. God was willing to give God’s own self *for US*. This is the amazing gift of grace.

It is practically unfathomable to me – the great mystery of faith: that no matter our brokenness, Jesus lived for us, died for us, rose for us, prays for us, reigns in power for us. How great is our God! No matter what is going on, in our world or in our lives, if we rest in this knowledge, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” (Julian of Norwich).

Rev. Rebecca Segers

FPCG Hosts Climate Conference

We will be hosting the Annual Conference of Pennsylvania Inter-faith Power and Light *The Long Journey: From Extracting the Past to Cultivating the Future* on Sunday, February 9, 2020 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The keynote speaker is Colette Pichon Battle of the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy. She will draw connections between the fossil-fuel entwined histories of Pennsylvania and Louisiana and explore what we can learn from each as we build the movement for a sustainable future. Following the opening liturgy and keynote speaker, there will be workshops on local issues as well:

Resisting: One Family’s Story: This year’s PA IPL Visionary Award Recipients, The Clatterbuck family, founders of Lancaster Against Pipelines, will recount how they stood up to a large corporation, and built solidarity around stopping gas transmission charted to go through their community. Mark is the Associate Professor of Religion at Montclair State University in NJ, and Malinda the Associate Pastor at Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster and Community Rights Coordinator for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. They and their teenaged children will also lead us in discussion around the spiritual underpinnings that we hold grounding us in the work we do.

To Thrive Is to Grow!: Increasing Philadelphia’s ‘green footprint’ battles climate disruption on several fronts: trees create shade and moisture, cooling overheated neighborhoods; green spaces absorb CO₂; and community gardens and urban farms provide locally-grown and consumed food, shaving emissions from trucking produce from miles away. Come learn more from our panelists who will give an overview of projects-in-progress, and offer information on how to become locally involved.

Turning On, Turning Away, Turning Toward: What does it mean for people of faith in Philadelphia? This workshop will take a deep dive into the keynote. We’ll explore what we bring as a faith community, what we’ve done in the past and how we may do things differently in light of the questions and insights raised by

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our speaker. This will be a structured conversation, led by facilitators who have studied the keynote.

Not only are we hosting, we are INVITED to be a part of this conference and the conversations and actions it supports. You may register at www.paip1.us. The costs is \$10.00 per person when you click the “group pre-registration” option. Please join Rev. Rebecca and other interested Philadelphians of faith for this important and informative gathering.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Elizabeth Drum	Feb. 1st	Pamela Murray	Feb. 13th
Andrea Overton	Feb. 3rd	Tamara Daniels	Feb. 13th
F. Louise David	Feb. 4th	Deborah Thompson	Feb. 14th
Wynter Jones	Feb. 5th	Marlene Young	Feb. 14th
Amara McCord-Amasis	Feb. 5th	Mary Benjamin	Feb. 15th
D.J. Clever	Feb. 7th	Faith Wolford	Feb. 15th
Herbert Henze	Feb. 8th	Regina Carter	Feb. 23rd
Arlene Ricketts	Feb. 8th	Carolyn Ballard-Freeman	Feb. 24th
Mimi Kotto-Ohemeng	Feb. 9th	Shanise Gladden	Feb. 25th
Evadney Miller	Feb. 10th	Earl Ball	Feb. 26th
Debbie Ricketts	Feb. 11th	David Corbin	Feb. 26th
Carolyn Asher	Feb. 13th	Taleah Dixon	Feb. 26th

Come Walk with God this Lenten Season

Rev. Rebecca will be leading a Bible Study on “The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life” by Adam Hamilton this Lenten season. From the Lord walking in the Garden of Eden to Jesus walking with his disciples along the Galilee, the Bible is filled with examples of how important it is to walk with God. However, we can become complacent, and merely sit with God on a Sunday morning, out of practice when it comes to centering ourselves in God’s presence throughout the rest of the week.

Jesus called to his disciples: “Follow me.” The word “to follow” in Greek is *akoloutheo*, which means to accompany on a journey or to walk with someone down a road. In these difficult and uncertain times, it is ever more important for us to walk with Jesus – to accompany him and one another on our individual and corporate journeys of faith.

Each week, we will explore and incorporate more fully into our lives five spiritual practices: Worship and Prayer, Study, Service, Giving, and Sharing. These may seem self-evident, but when we offer all of our lives to God with deep intention, our faith and our relationships – with God and with one another – be-

come stronger and more meaningful.

There will be two opportunities to participate: Sundays immediately following worship starting on March 1st and Tuesday evenings starting March 3rd. The Christian Education Committee would like to hold the Tuesday evening sessions at a parishioner’s home with a potluck supper (CE will provide the entrée) at 6:00 p.m. and the study beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you are willing to open your home for this event for 5 consecutive Tuesdays from March 3-March 31, please let a member of the Christian Education Committee (Don Carlin, Christian Heyer-Rivera, Contina Lundy, Andrea Overton, Bob Seed, and Rev. Rebecca Segers) know. If you would like to participate in the study, please sign up after worship on the sheet, and we will assure that you have a book in advance to prepare in time for the first session.

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE OFFERING

February’s Challenge Offering will be dedicated to the Deacons fund. This fund assists the Deacons in their mission: “to minister to those who are in need, to the sick and to any who may be in distress in the community of faith.” Please give generously to support this mission of our congregation.

YOUTH NEWS

Inside the Issue

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Three young people from FPCG have entered into the confirmation process. Siena Williams, Henry Hunsicker, and Mimi Ohemeng are spending time in serious study of Scripture, Faith and Presbyterianism. We will meet each Sunday throughout the month of February. Pray for us and encourage them about this commitment they've made.



DISCIPLES BASKETBALL

Disciples basketball has started again and with over two months of practices, two days a week, the team is now engaged in league play at Germantown Friends School's Fieldhouse. Among the team of 8 players, 5 are returning players, and 2 are members of the church, Emanuel Heyer-Rivera and Amir Staten. The team's games are on Mondays at 6:30p and will be announced in Sunday worship bulletins. Here is our schedule for February:

- 2/3- St James v 1st Pres
- 2/17 - 1st Pres v Bethel
- 2/24- St. James v 1st Pres



CALLING ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOUTH

You're invited to a Lock-in President's Day Weekend Sunday, February 16, 6:00 p.m. - Monday, February 17, 9:00 a.m.

Theme: "We're All in This Together"

"For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building." 1

Corinthians 3:9

Leaders: Rev. Rebecca Segers, Contina Lundy, Christian Heyer-Rivera

Please RSVP to any of the leaders by Friday, February 14 if your child intends to participate.

Good News Youth Corner

Continuing our Windows section called the Good News Youth Corner, this section will be devoted to lifting up some of the great things that our young people are experiencing and accomplishing. Any parent or member is welcome to share some good news big or small about one of the young people who participate in our community and ministry. Email Cheresse Akers at communications@fpcgermantown.org.



Emanuel Heyer-Rivera survived his first time skiing last month. Ask him about his school's trip and the fun he had



Addy Hoekema performed in a winter concert at CW Henry, playing the violin. She was able to play every piece and has been incredibly disciplined in her practice times. Congratulate Addy when you see her on her progress



FPCG youth took their place among those serving at our Rise Against Hunger event on MLK Day. The Elementary Youth Group then enjoyed a day at the movies watching "Dolittle" to finish off the day together.

Mina Hoekema is literally bouncing off walls lately as she has taken to Parkour. Find out more about what it is and how amazing she is at it by talking with her next time you see her.



Drew Hood was happy to report that within the last month Emery and Soren Hood were able to enjoy watching television on the couch without annoying each other or getting into a tussle. How many of us can relate to this growing up or parenting! Well done, Hood boys, well done!



GERMANTOWN AVENUE CRISIS MINISTRY NEWS

It's finally begun! On Tuesday January 21 the renovation to the Food Cupboard began. Much welcomed is the noise and dust that is the precursor to an expanded storage and work area. GACM received funding to cover the renovation cost and replacement of shelving and non-energy efficient equipment.

GREAT NEWS

On Thursday Jan 16, Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry was one of 18 organizations to receive funding through the Commonwealth of PA Keystone Grant. During a luncheon held at Historic Johnson House, State Representative Stephen Kinsey presented GACM a \$2610 mock check. The funds will be used to purchase a Commercial single door refrigerator and shelving for the Cupboard.

FREEDOM SCHOOL

We are still in need of help for planning for Freedom School 2020. If you are interested in helping to strengthen our Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) activities, please see Eileen Jones. The 2020 program will operate June 29-Aug. 14.



NO EMERGENCY REQUIRED!!!

GACM does more than provide emergency assistance. We are a source of information and application assistance. Did you know The Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is a rebate program that benefits eligible PA residents age 65 or older, widow(er)s age 50 or older and people with disabilities age 18 or older. The program is designed to help eligible individuals receive rent or property tax relief. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can increase rebates to \$975. For more information about this and other programs call GACM or stop in during our Social Service hours, Monday through Wednesday, 9 am - 2pm.

DEACONS

Kudos to the Funeral Care Team participants, Susan Farrington, Rosie and Gene Gardenhire, Deborah Gary, Lorraine Hall, Raymond Johnson, Mary Lundy, Tim Robinson, Delores Solomon and David Wolford who provided hospitality and support to the families of Kevin Patterson, son of beloved church member Gloria Patterson (deceased) and Viviette Brooks Applewhite, mother of member Marlene Young. Although unusual to have two services held a week apart, the team rallied and met the needs of the grieving families. Both families have expressed gratitude for the FPCG family and care provided at this time. If you'd like to serve on this important team that offers hospitality and support during funeral and memorial service repasts, speak to Heidi Littles or Kevin Porter.

From the Choir Loft

F. Anthony Thurman, music director

McLean Memorial Organ Centennial Concert Series

On Sunday afternoon, January 19, organist Marvin Mills and Philadelphia Brass performed a concert of music commemorating the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend and recognizing the gifts of African-American composers. Co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the concert drew more than 120 people while more than 100 viewers have enjoyed the Internet livestream.

Marvin Mills is a favorite son of Philadelphia whose musical interests were inspired by the concerts he attended in this great church more than 40 years ago. With his concert we brought him full circle from being a member of the audience to being our soloist. Marvin expressed his deep appreciation to Robert Carwithen for the kind attention he paid to the young high school student. "It takes a village to raise a child. The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown was a part of my village. I will forever be grateful for what this church has done for me."



If you missed the concert or if you attended and would to hear it again, visit: <https://bit.ly/2NQzskr>. The Internet livestream was supported by grants from the American Guild of Organists: Boston, Indianapolis, and New York City Chapters.

Major funding for this series is provided by members and friends of First Church. Additional support is provided by the American Guild of Organists, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



Music in Worship

February

During the month of February, in recognition of Black History Month, our choirs will be honoring the heritage of music from the African American tradition. Spirituals and anthems sung in worship will highlight African American composers.

March

During the month of March, in recognition of Women's History Month, our choirs will be honoring the gifts of women. Songs and anthems sung in worship will highlight female composers and poets.



Upcoming Concerts

Sunday, February 23, 3 p.m.

A Salute to John Williams
Philadelphia Sinfonia, joined by the Germantown Oratorio Choir

Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m.

Beethoven Festival Concert
Germantown Oratorio Choir with concert pianist Gayle Martin

Sunday, April 26, 4 p.m.

McLean Memorial Organ Centennial Concert Series
Ken Cowan, organ

RISE AGAINST HUNGER 2020

This year's Annual MLK Day of Service was successfully organized and executed by Cherese Akers, FPCG's Communications Manager. With the support from our church community and community partnerships, we raised \$8519.04 which allowed us to package 25,000 meals to feed those in need around the world.

Our community partners included 1199C who donated a significant portion of our goal, our very own Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, We Heard You which is founded by Cherese Akers, The Prestige Society, Philly Cares who closed the gap to complete our goal with their sponsorship, Thomas & Woods Foundation, and Pleasant Playground Advisory Council.

Our event was featured in the Philadelphia Tribune. You can read the article at shorturl.at/oxyHQ. We were also highlighted from the media outlets that attended including Channels 3, 6, 10, and Fox 29.

Thank you very much to everyone who donated and to the 174 volunteers who came out and worked so hard to Rise Against Hunger. Thank you to the Mission & Outreach team for making sure everyone had a nourishing meal for breakfast and lunch.



Painting above is by Josh Cameron in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Thanks Josh, for allowing this stunning painting to be displayed at our event. It received many compliments.



INVITATION

Join us for the conversation on how to be a blessing here.

We will discuss:

- How to discern your own legacy
- How to share that message with the church and those you love, and
- How to make a planned gift to continue your ministry here.

We look forward to exploring how you and I can continue to be Christ's hands in the world through First Presbyterian Church in Germantown – even after our lifetimes.

When: Sunday, February 23, 2020
11:30 a.m.

Where: First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
Jennings Room
Light Lunch will be served

Led by: The Rev.
Ellie Johns-Kelley,
Ministry Relations
Officer,
Presbyterian
Foundation

Equipping future generations will never happen if we don't plan it.



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IN GERMANTOWN

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