

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

**ALIVE,**

**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.

February 16, 2020

Black History Month

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Ours is a nation of laws: of citizens who live under them and for the citizens who enforce them. So to a community in Ferguson that is rightly hurting and looking for answers, let me call once again for us to seek some understanding rather than simply holler at each other. Let's seek to heal rather than wound each other"*

- Barack Obama

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Wondrous Love*

Dale Wood

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Softly and Tenderly*

Thurman

†\*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

**Many: We come rejoicing and giving thanks.**

One: This is the day God invites us to love and to live.

**Many: We seek to dwell in God's love as we turn our hearts toward God.**

One: This is the day to worship our creator and redeemer.

**All: We worship the God of life.**

\*Hymn 2002: *I Will Call Upon the Lord* (2x through) (from *Sing the Faith*)

I WILL CALL

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, there are so many times when our hearts turn away from you: when we become angry or judgmental; when we speak falsehoods; when we squander your blessing; and when we covet the things that are not ours. Forgive us. Help us speak words of encouragement and love. And help us follow your ways, that we may be your faithful followers. In your holy name, we pray.**

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

Rev. Kevin Porter

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Page 179 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: *Give Me Jesus*

Spiritual/arr. Jesse Padgett

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

You may have all this world, give me Jesus.

Just about the break of day, give me Jesus.

And when I come to die, give me Jesus.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 5:21-37

Pages 4-5 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **TOUGH LOVE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 260: *A Mighty Fortress*

EIN' FESTE BURG

\*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Belhar Confession*)

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, background, convictions, as well as the various languages and culture, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God; that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy**

**will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory: *Prayer: An Offertory*

George Walker

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

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

\*Hymn: *There is Power in the Blood*

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response : #587

Jester Hairston

Postlude: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Johann C. Kittel

**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.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: Andrea Overton. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to the CDFC & Vera Harrison 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.

**THE LITURGY:** This week one of the ways we are recognizing Black History Month is by using a part of the Confession of Belhar as our Affirmation of Faith. The full version, originally published in Afrikaans and written in response to apartheid, was adopted by the synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in September 1986. This inclusive language version in English was prepared by the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship and added to the Book of Confessions in 2016 by the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at its meeting in Portland, Oregon. It was selected today that we might remember and strive for unity in all aspects of our lives as followers of Christ.

**THE MUSIC:** During the month of February, we are recognizing Black History Month in our service music and anthems. Today we hear Jesse Padgett's arrangement of *Give Me Jesus*, which bears the dedication "In loving memory of my father." After losing his father unexpectedly in 2005, Jesse sought comfort in his music and his faith. In this arrangement, the third verse, which states "and when I come to die" is followed by a chorus singing "Give me Jesus" while the soloist sings above them, rhythmically out of sync with the rest of the chorus. For Jesse, this represents his struggle keeping up while the world marched on. The highest point of the arrangement occurs as the soloist cries out above the choir, pleading for comfort and healing, which is finally found as the soloist and chorus end together, back in harmony on the final sung note.

**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.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY COMING SOON:** "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" will be the book we use, leading us through our walk with Jesus in this holy season. See Don Carlin to sign up after worship on Sunday, February 16 or Sunday, February 23, or call into the office and let one of the volunteers know of your interest. Books will be available on Sunday, February 23 at a suggested donation of \$5.00 each, but available for free if this is a hardship. The study will occur twice weekly beginning the first week in Lent: on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. following worship in the Finney Room, and on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship with the study starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Reisse home, 812 E. Gravers Lane, Glenside, PA 19038. Please join us for what is sure to be a meaningful time together as we grow closer to one another and the Lord.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCK-IN:** This evening, Sunday, February 16th at 6:00pm through Monday, February 17th (Presidents Day) at 9:00am, Elementary School Youth are invited to join Rev. Rebecca Segers, Contina Lundy, and Christian Heyer-Rivera in fun, fellowship, and faith around the theme "We're All in This Together" based on Corinthians 3:9. Speak to any of the chaperones to reserve your spot.

**MARCH WINDOWS DEADLINE:** Just a friendly reminder that the deadline for the March Windows is tomorrow, Monday February 17th. If you have not sent in your items for please send them to Cherese at [Communications@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:Communications@fpcgermantown.org). If you need more time please let Cherese know so that she can leave space.

**THE RACHEL CIRCLE**, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting, tomorrow, Monday, February 17th at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

**HOW BLESSED WE ARE - HOW CAN WE PASS THE BLESSING ON?** Please join us for worship and conversation afterward on Sunday, February 23rd. Ellie Johns-Kelley, our Ministry Relations Officer at the Presbyterian Foundation, will lead us in worship that day and then we will enjoy a light lunch with a presentation and conversation in the Jennings Room. During our time together, we will discuss: how to discern your legacy, how to share that message with our church and those you love, and how to make a planned gift to continue to your ministry here. Our church has a long history of passing along a deep and abiding faith, a faith that is vibrant and hopeful and makes an impact in people's lives. We are planning now to equip future generations with faith like this. We'd like to invite you to join that tradition and consider the following: What is your lasting legacy of faith to the next generations in our church? Please join us in exploring how we can continue to be the presence of Christ in the world through our church and even beyond our lifetime.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Next Sunday, February 23 at 3 p.m., the Philadelphia Sinfonia will present a concert in our church sanctuary. Joining them will be the Germantown Oratorio Choir in a performance of the *Hymn to the Fallen* (from *Saving Private Ryan*) by John Williams. The Germantown Oratorio Choir, with concert pianist Gayle Martin, will present a Beethoven Festival Concert on Sunday, March 15, at 3 p.m. The program will feature the choral music of Beethoven, including the rarely performed *Choral Fantasy*, in commemoration of

the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birth. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information or to participate, call the church office at 212-843-8811 or e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com).

**PUERTO RICO SERVICE TRIP:** The CE Committee is asking all persons interested in the upcoming trip to Puerto Rico for a commitment and a deposit of \$350 by Sunday, March 15th in order to secure reasonable airfare and travel reservations. Please reach out to Christian Heyer-Rivera by text 267-972-5662 or email [cheyer-rivera@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:cheyer-rivera@fpcgermantown.org) to reserve a spot or for answers to any questions about the trip. The trip will happen on July 18, 2020 through July 26, 2020.

### ***Upcoming at First Church***

Sunday, February 16th, 11:30am

***Third Sunday Intergenerational Bible Study***

Sunday, February 16th, 6:30pm (Through 9am Mon, 2/17)

***Elementary School Lock-in***

Tuesday, February 18th, 6:00pm—8:00pm

***Public Safety Meeting***

Sunday, February 23rd, 11:30am

***Leaving a Lasting Legacy with Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley***

Sunday, February 23rd, 3:00pm

***Sinfonia Concert***

Tuesday, February 25th, 5:00—7:00pm

***Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper***

Sunday, March 1st, 3:00pm & 6:00pm

***Jack Asher Concert***

Thursday, March 5th, 8:30am

***Food Cupboard Grand Re-Opening***

Sunday, March 15th, 4:00pm

***Beethoven Concert***

**WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Feb. 16</b>	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	3rd Sunday Intergenerational Bible Study—Longstreth
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—CE Classroom Upstairs
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—CR, Sanctuary, Jennings , Finney
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Lock-in <b>(Through 9am Mon 2/17)</b>
<b>Monday, Feb. 17</b>	<b>Food Cupboard Renovations still underway!</b>	
	11:00 AM	Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 18</b>	6:00 PM	Rep. Kinsey’s Public Safety Meeting—Longstreth
	7:00 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
<b>Wed, Feb. 19</b>	9:00 AM	Senator Haywood—Finney Room <b>(9-2p)</b>
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Longstreth, Choir Room
	6:00 PM	Basketball Practice—Gym
	7:00 PM	Property Committee Meeting—Finney Room
<b>Thursday, Feb. 20</b>	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Admin & Finance Committee Meeting—Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
<b>Friday, Feb. 21</b>	9:00 AM	Piano Tuning—Sanctuary, Choir Room <b>(9-5p)</b>
	3:45 PM	Drop-In Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group—YL, Gym
<b>Saturday, Feb. 22</b>	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, Feb. 23</b>	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	1809 Legacy Society Workshop—Longstreth
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—CE Classroom Upstairs
	3:00 PM	Sinfonia—Sanctuary, Jennings, Finney
	1:30 PM	Basketball Practice—Gym
	1:30 PM	Oratorio Rehearsal—Choir 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

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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

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)