



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
March 2020



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From the Pastor

I was recently invited to meet an old friend in Center City. Her daughter was competing in a gymnastics competition at the Convention Center, so we planned to meet there for the awards ceremony and then have dinner together. I really didn't want to go. I mean, *I did*. Laura is a former colleague's wife who I met when I was living in western New Jersey. She and I became very close and I definitely didn't want to miss the opportunity to see her, but I was really wrestling with the whole parking space thing. You see, I live on a block where there is only parking on one side of the street, and generally if I get home before 6:00 p.m., I can get a spot on the block, but any later and I have to park on another block, walk further, and I can't see my car out my window. I know that shouldn't really matter to me, but somehow it does. It made me realize how much of my life revolves around getting a good parking space in front of my home. How it limits my desire to leave once I get there, isolates me and diminishes my quality of life.

Then it occurred to me: there are other options! I can walk down to Wayne Junction and take the train. Or walk over to Germantown Avenue and ride the 23 bus. Or even spend a few dollars and take an Uber or a Lyft. I opted for the first option on the way there. I had purchased a 10 trip for the regional rail a while ago, so I already had a ticket. The cost was a wash or even a little cheaper, since I didn't pay for gas or parking. Sure, it took a little longer, but I made good use of the time. I took a book and did some reading on the way. Coming back, I took the bus (yes, I have a SEPTA Key card) and had a lovely conversation with a gentleman who waited with me for it to arrive. Plus, I got fresh air and pleasant exercise too.

The point is I think this is often how we operate. We get stuck in the same way of doing things, hanging on to something that we think is important, while becoming more isolated in the midst of it. Meanwhile, there are options that we may not even see that not only can get us where we need to go but offer new opportunities and relationships along the way. Sure, there might be some risk and cost along the way, but the benefits far outweigh the detriments.

I invite you this Lenten season to consider the places where you are "stuck." Where you are doing things the same way and it is no longer leading you toward a fuller and more meaningful life but insulating you from it. Maybe you faithfully read your Bible but could use a little more interaction as you pon-

Pastor News (cont. on Page 2)

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



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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der it. Join us at Bible Study during Lent on Sundays after worship or Tuesday evenings at the Reisse's home. Maybe you love worship Sunday morning, but would like to broaden your worship experience. Join us at Faith @ 5:00 the last Sunday in March, or the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper on April 9th or Tenebrae on April 10th. Perhaps you love the group with whom you regularly connect but would like to get to know more of our faith community. You could join the Chancel or Gospel or Handbell Choir, go to Puerto Rico this summer, or help share our wonderful church with others by staffing our table at Mt. Airy Day. Whatever you choose to do, I ask you to step out in faith this Lenten season and choose to do something different. Something that will open your life to new experiences and to deeper relationship with God and one another. "For we are God's servants, working together." (1 Corinthians 3:9a)

- Rev. Rebecca Segers

LENT & HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Sundays in Lent: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 10:00 AM

29
Mar

Faith @ 5:00 Lenten Service
5:00 PM | Sanctuary

05
April

Palm Sunday
10:00 AM | Sanctuary

09
April

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
6:30 PM | Longstreth Auditorium

10
April

Good Friday Tenebrae Service
7:00 PM | Sanctuary

11
April

Easter Festival
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

12
April

Easter Sunday Worship
10:00 AM | Sanctuary

Lenten Bible Study: an Opportunity to Walk Closer with God

We want to follow Jesus, but sometimes wonder what that actually looks like in everyday life. In our Lenten study "The Walk," Adam Hamilton highlights five essential practices modeled in Christ's own walk with God and reinforced throughout the New Testament.

We will discuss and discover the transformational power of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to your faith for five consecutive weeks beginning the first Sunday in Lent, March 1st immediately fol-

(Lenten Bible Study cont. on page 3)

lowing worship in the Finney Room. There is also an opportunity to participate on Tuesday evenings, starting at 6:00 p.m. for dinner or joining at 7:00 p.m. for the Study only at the Reisse home, 812 E. Gravers Lane in Wyndmoor. Either way, you can deepen your Lenten experience by joining us and learning to practice these important principles in your faith journey. If you would like to attend the latter, but need a ride, please speak with Rev. Rebecca and she will assure you are able to participate.



March Birthday's

2nd	Irene Overton	19th	Emmanuel Heyer-Rivera
3rd	Duane Horne	20th	Leslie Burton
4th	Francina Carroll	20th	Alexandra Deas
7th	C. Wesley Reisse	21st	Bert Aiken
7th	Rosemary Walkenhorst	21st	Mark McCord-Amasis
10th	Sally McCord-Amasis	21st	Zara Gibbs
14th	Ted Walkenhorst	26th	Tyrone Burton
17th	Randolph Clever	27th	Soren Hood
		29th	Justin Garner

Total March Birthday's = 17

3rd Sunday Laments

This past February, our 3rd Sunday Intergenerational Bible Study recognized the ways we can feel overwhelmed: at work, in school, in life, in general. We were offered the opportunity to share about the things that concern us and then each group wrote Laments like those found in some Psalms and in Lamentations. Here are the Laments we wrote:

Dear Lord, I remember when you have brought me through stressful weeks in the past. I'm overwhelmed, I've got too many things to do. Help me to decide which things are most important - help us trust that our value is in you. For you bring me peace and hope!

Dear Lord, we remember when you helped us solve a problem in school or work. We're frustrated when we're not where we want to be. Help us to be patient. We trust you to lead us in the right path/direction. Amen.

Emmanuel, Thank you for being with me when I was nervous. We have too much to do. Help us with homework, not feel nervous, find a smaller house and good place to love. Help me trust you with our future. I trust that you are with us always.

Hi God, I remember when you comforted me when I was sick! We feel worried and overwhelmed about the coronavirus and other challenges in life. Help us when we are worried and help us find a cure so people don't die prematurely. We stay hopefully because you will not forsake and you are forever faithful because we know you love us.

Dear God, You've walked with us through hard times before: helped solve problems I thought were unsolvable, brought me through big changes and survived disappointment. They are asking too much of me at school, at work and at home. Our world is full of anger. I feel overwhelmed. Help me believe that "you've got this!" Help others to see your truth. I believe your promise to always be with us and that you care.

In March, there will be no 3rd Sunday gathering as we are holding the Lenten Bible Study during its regular time. 3rd Sunday activities will return in April.

Youth News

Elementary School Lock-in

On Sunday, February 16 nine youth from our Elementary School Youth Group gathered in the evening at the church for an overnight lock-in under the leadership of Rev. Rebecca. The theme of the night was found in 1 Corinthians 3:9 so our children were led in meaningful games and activities that helped them reflect upon what it means to be co-workers with God. Children were placed into tribes and throughout the night each activity invited and taught them to empathize and consider the life circumstances of children around the world. The students also created journals in which they exchanged written words of affirmation with and for each other.

The evening ended with the movie Zootopia and its theme of overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions in order to see and affirm each person's worth in community. The next morning the children were treated to a grand breakfast with waffles made by Elder Daniel

Conner as the centerpiece of the meal. Thank you, Daniel, for rising early and donning your chef's hat. We would like to thank each parent for allowing your children to attend, and special thanks to those parents who helped prepare and cook our evening meal! Thank you to Rev. Rebecca for organizing and leading the lock-in and it's theme. Thank you to Contina Lundy for helping prepare and lead alongside Rev. Rebecca, and a word of gratitude to and for Siena Williams who offered herself as helper for the evening. The testimonies of the kids who attended were filled with how meaningful and fun the entire event was for them. Praise God!



Feature your Youth Here!

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 Cherese Akers at communications@fpcgermantown.org.



Siena Williams just finished acting in her school's production of the play Frog and Toad. She will also be traveling soon with her school to Guatemala at the end of March. Please congratulate her on these opportunities and ask her what part she played in the play.



Manni finished his school basketball season!



Sol Williams is now entered into a class at the Circus School in the art of contortion. She attends other classes at the school and is becoming quite the well rounded performer. Let's hope Sol gives her FPCG family a chance to see her under the metaphoric "big top" at some upcoming performances or exhibitions. We may have to twist her arm a bit for the dates, but it's good to know she is now preparing for us in that regard.



Elisa baked and frosted a beautiful and delicious cake to celebrate Valentines with her church friends!

Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry News

Good News!!! The Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry (GACM) Food Cupboard renovation is now complete! Join us on March 5th for the Food Cupboard's Grand Re-opening. A dedication ceremony will take place at 8:30 until 9:30am, followed by the first day of regular operations beginning at 10am.

GACM is grateful to our major funders, 25th Century Foundation, Judith E. Favell and family and also the wonderful support of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. This project truly would not have been completed without the expertise, guidance and hands-on service provided by Marc DiNardo, FPCG Property Chairperson. We also thank Garry Miller who is a GACM supporter for his donation of professional services.

Thank You!!!!

The Food Cupboard's
GRAND
Re-Opening

COME AND JOIN US IN CELEBRATION OF OUR GRAND RE-OPENING FOR THE FOOD CUPBOARD!!!

MARCH 5 2020 **MUSIC & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

8:30-9:30AM (Dedication Ceremony)
10:00AM Food Cupboard Opens (Giveaways)

Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry

35 W. Cheltenham Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

www.crisisministry.org / ph:(215) 843-2340



THRIVE is the education arm of GACM. Under this umbrella GACM offers a variety of programs and services that educate and facilitate access to resources.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

March 18th and 25th, 10am-2pm GACM is the mobile office location for Senator Art Haywood. His staff will provide services including problem solving with SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid. Property Tax & Rent Rebates and Free Notary.

March 19, 11AM, A Parent Café Experience-Taking Care of Yourself. This is designed for parents or other caregivers to children. A meal, childcare & Septa cards provided.

GACM Volunteer Opportunities

Food Cupboard

Set up team 8:30-10:30

Service Team 9:30-1:30 & 12:30-3:30

Break down team 2:30-4:30

Office Support

Receptionist

Tues or Wed 9-1pm or Thursday 9:30-1:30

Tasks include answering the phones, light filing and other office support as needed.

Counselors

Mon, Tues or Wednesday 9-1pm or 10-2pm

Counselors work directly with clients. Training regarding GACM programs and services is required. Counselors provide services as simple as assisting clients with applications or more involved to include energy and or housing assistance. Counselors require State and FBI clearances. (Clearance access can be provided)

From The Choir Loft

F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director

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 in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. The concert is free and open to the public. Childcare will be provided. For those unable to attend, an Internet livestream of the concert can be found on the church website.

Performing groups around the globe are giving special attention to Beethoven and his music during this anniversary year. While Beethoven's symphonies and piano sonatas are his best-known works,

his choral music is often overlooked. Our concert will include the rarely performed Choral Fantasy, a work likened to a piano concerto with choral accompaniment. It has long been considered the forerunner to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, where the famous "Ode to Joy" was given birth. The concert will also include excerpts from the Mass in C and Mount of Olives plus arrangements of other works.

Beethoven's musical output bridged the divide between the Classical and Romantic periods. He was born in Bonn and earned his living as a church organist before moving to Vienna and becoming the composer we remember today.



“ I have never thought of writing for reputation and honor. What I have in my heart must come out; that is the reason why I compose. ”

-Ludwig van Beethoven



The soloist in the Choral Fantasy will be Gayle Martin, who has become Germantown's "Immortal Beloved" concert pianist. Gayle enjoys a distinguished career as a concert pianist and Steinway Artist. She rose to international prominence in 1978 as the only American finalist of the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow—the third American woman ever to reach the finals.

A native Texan, Martin has been concerto soloist with the Houston Symphony (since age 12), California Philharmonic, Philharmonia Virtuosi of New York, Moscow Radio Philharmonic, Moravian Philharmonic, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Argentina, Maracaibo Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Denver Symphony, and Virginia Symphony. Additional performance credits include the White House and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.; Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City; Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles; and appearances throughout the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico,

South America, England, Austria, Poland, Israel, Czech Republic, Russia, and mainland China. Gayle Martin was a student of Rosina Lhévinne and Martin Canin at The Juilliard School, where she won both the prestigious Josef Lhévinne Prize and the Tchaikovsky Concerto Competition. Other teachers include Eugene List, Arminda Canteros, Seymour Bernstein, and German Diez. Martin holds a master's degree from New York University and taught on the faculty.

Listen to Gayle perform Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" at the dedication of the Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano: <https://bit.ly/2P2cXts>

March Challenge Offering

For three years in a row, FPCG has been supporting Puerto Rico's recovery after Hurricane Maria in 2017, by sending work teams to one of PDA's sites in the island. According to the Miami Herald in August 2019: "Puerto Rico's Housing Administration says anywhere from 25,000 to 30,000 people still don't have permanent roofs after Maria. And some cities and towns, particularly in the central highlands, are rebuilding roads that washed out two years ago". This year, we will be taking a team of 10 to 15 adults and young people to work in the community around the PCUSA camp El Guacio in San Sebastian, PR. This camp is not only a center of resources for this rural community, but they are also developing a garden that will offer fresh food for its neighbors and the surrounding communities. This month's challenge offering will not only help our team go to PR but will also allow us to leave a monetary gift so that the Presbyterian Churches in PR can continue assisting in the rebuilding and development of the island.

As a Puerto Rican and a member of FPCG, I am honored and overwhelmed with gratitude as I have seen how our congregation in Philadelphia has come together to support my people as they try to get back on their feet. – Sheila Heyer-Rivera

CE Puerto Rico Service Trip Upcoming Fundraisers

- Mar 15** Hot Chocolate & Bake Sale (During coffee hour)
- Apr 18** Used Book Sale Primary Room (9-12pm)
- Apr 24** Date Night 6-9pm
- May 10** Mother's Day Flowers & Bake Sale (During Coffee Hour)
- May 29** Date Night 6-9pm
- June 14** Pina Colada & Bake Sale (During Coffee Hour)

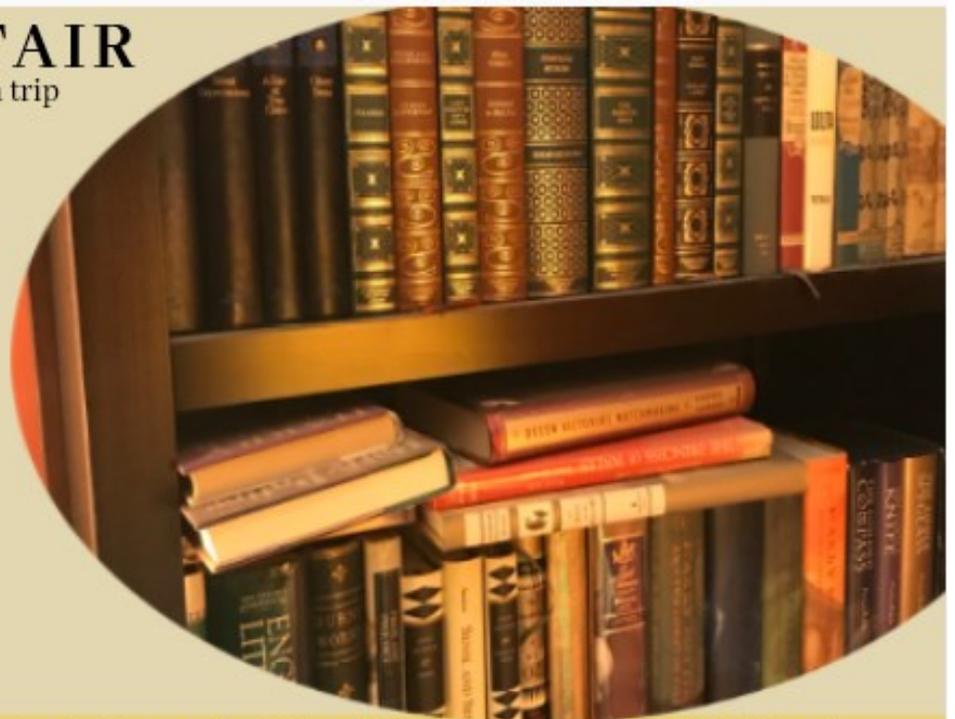
USED BOOK FAIR

to benefit the Puerto Rico mission trip

April 18, 2020

9am - 12pm

Does your
bookshelf
look like
this?



Would you like to help FPCG in mission in Puerto Rico? We will be collecting adult and children's books in good condition in April that will be available for new homes and new readers for good prices. DVDs are also welcome. Can't bring them in? We will pick them up at your home. For more information or if you would like to assist, see Allison Seed or email her at aseed@prodigy.net.



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