

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

MARCH 8, 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.

March 8, 2020

Women's History Month

"Do the thing you think you cannot do. Fail at it. Try again. Do better the second time. The only people who never tumble are those who never mount the high wire. This is your moment. Own it." - Oprah Winfrey

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Chorale-Prelude on DUNLAP'S CREEK*

Raymond H. Haan

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord* (Ps. 95)

Nancy Wertsch

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Leave your well-worn paths and walk with God.

Many: But we are secure where we are.

One: Walk in new paths and you will be blessed.

Many: Can't God bless us on our own turf?

One: If you walk in faith, God will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you.

Many: Lead on, O God, your faithful people await.

All: Receive God's blessing to be a blessing to others.

*Hymn 2128: *Come and Find the Quiet Center* (from *Sing the Faith*)

BEACH SPRING

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, you know we rebel against you. You know how we doubt and fear and hold back, when you call us to freedom and to partnership in Jesus Christ. God, forgive us. Free us by the power of your cross, that we may serve you without fear. Grant us your peace, through Jesus Christ who was faithful to the end.

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

Sheila Heyer-Rivera

The First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-9

Page 9 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: *By Faith*

Townend and Getty
Chisholm and Runyan
arr. Lloyd Larson

By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation’s grand design,
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death, and rise triumphant from the grave.
We will stand as children of the promise; we will fix our eyes on Christ, our souls’ reward;
Till the race is finished and the work is done, we’ll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the church was called to go in the power of the Spirit to the lost,
To deliver captives, and to preach good news to every corner of the earth.
By faith this mountain shall be moved, and the power of the gospel shall prevail;
For we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon his name.

Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

By faith we see the hand of God. By faith this mountain shall be moved.
We’ll walk by faith and not by sight. We’ll walk by faith!

Evelyn Santiago, soprano

The Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Pages 144-145 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE BLESSINGS OF AN IMPERFECT FAITH**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 2186: *For the Faithful Who Have Answered* (from *Sing the Faith*)

OMNI DIE

*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Second Helvetic Confession*)

We are justified by faith alone. But because we receive this justification, not through any works, but through faith in the mercy of God and in Christ, we therefore teach and believe with the apostle that sinful man is justified by faith alone in Christ, not by the law or any works. For the apostle says: “We hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law” (Rom. 3:28). Also: “If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say?

Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness....And to one who does not work but believes in him who justified the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness” (Rom. 4:2 ff.; Gen. 15:6). And again: “By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast,” etc. (Eph. 2:8 f.). Therefore, because faith receives Christ our righteousness and attributes everything to the grace of God in Christ, on that account justification is attributed to faith, chiefly because of Christ and not therefore because it is our work. For it is the gift of God.

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: *Walk with Me, Lord* Spiritual/arr. Rosephanye Powell
 Walk with me, Lord, all along this tedious journey.
 When I’m burdened, Lord, walk with me.
 When my head is bowed down in sorrow, Lord, walk with me.
 You are my shield. You are my sword.
 Until I make it safely home, Lord, please walk with me.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

*Hymn 399: *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* DUNLAP’S CREEK

*Charge and Benediction Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #587 Wertsch

Nancy Wertsch

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.' are written below the notes.

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Postlude: *March in D Major* Elizabeth Turner

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: Rev. Rebecca & Grace Segers. Next week’s host: Open. Many thanks to Pernell Jackson 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 MUSIC: Much of our music today was selected in honor of Women's History Month. Today we hear a fresh, new setting of *Walk with Me, Lord* by Rosephanye Dunn Powell. Powell has been hailed internationally as the most often performed and published female African-American choral music composer. Her compositions are in great demand at choral festivals around the country. The Alabama native graduated from Westminster Choir College, earned a doctorate at Florida State University, and is professor of voice at Auburn University where she also conducts the women's chorus and gospel choir. Today's offertory anthem was commissioned by the American Guild of Organists and premiered at the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting, Monday, March 16th at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: "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. Books are available 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, Wyndmoor, 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.

CALLING ALL WOMEN! It is time for our annual women's retreat! Please save the date because you will not want to miss this time of refreshing and renewal. The retreat will take place on Saturday, April 25th at the office of the Philadelphia Presbytery, located at 915 E Gowen Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19150. The cost of the retreat is \$20. To reserve your spot, please sign-up with Sara Greene at coffee hour today. A deposit of \$5 is requested. More information is forthcoming!

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 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.

LOOKING AHEAD: 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 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.

APRIL WINDOWS DEADLINE: Just a friendly reminder that the deadline for the April Windows is, Tuesday March 17th. If you have something you would like to be published for April please send it to Cherese at Communications@fpcgermantown.org.

CATHRYN CLEVER & DARRYN BROCKINGTON-DAVIS are pleased to invite members of the congregation to join them in the celebration of their marriage on Saturday, March 21st at 5pm in the sanctuary.

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 Ad-

ministration 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

2020 MEMBERS DIRECTORY: We are working on publishing the members directory for 2020. If you have an address change, phone number change or would like to update your directory photo please let us know. Information updates can be emailed to fpcg.germantown@gmail.com or can be called in to the church office any morning of the week, 9 - 1 Monday through Friday. If you would like a new photo you may send a selfie to Lois Bethea at 215-771-1469 or see her in coffee hour for a quick snapshot. We will also have a copy of the current directory available during coffee hour for the next few weeks if you want to double check your listing.

REV. REBECCA will be at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for continuing education next week. She will leave immediately following worship on Sunday, March 15th and will return on Friday, March 20th at 6:00pm. Christian Heyer-Rivera will lead the Bible Study and Rev. Kevin Porter will give the welcome at the Beethoven Concert.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, March 15th, 3:00pm
Beethoven Concert

Sunday, March 29th, 5:00pm
Faith @ 5:00 Lenten Service

Sunday, April 5th, 10:00am
Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9th, 6:30pm
Maundy Thursday Soup Supper

Friday, April 10th, 7:00pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 11th, 2:00pm
Easter Festival

Sunday, April 12th, 10:00am
Easter Sunday

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, March 8	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	Lenten Bible Study—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Praise & Evangelism Meeting—Primary Room
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—CE Classroom Upstairs
	1:30 PM	Basketball Practice—Gym
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room
Monday, March 9	9:00 AM	Piano Tuning—Sanctuary, Finney Room (9-5p)
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
Tuesday, March 10	5:00 PM	KSB Percussion Rehearsal— Choir Room
	6:00 PM	Lenten Bible Study—The Reisse’s Home
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Wed, March 11	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Longstreth, Choir Room
	5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
Thursday, March 12	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	6:30 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, March 13	3:30 PM	Drop-In Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, March 14	10:00 AM	Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting—Finney
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	10:00 AM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, March 15	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	Lenten Bible Study—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Piano Tuning—Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—CE Classroom Upstairs
	1:30 PM	Basketball Practice—Gym
	3:00 PM	Beethoven Concert—Sanctuary
3:30 PM	KSB 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

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

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