



• Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
August 2020



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Items for the September
issue of *Windows* are
due on
August 17th. Send to

Communications
@fpcgermantown.org

From the Pastor

While I was on Continuing Education leave in North Carolina last month, my phone began acting strangely. Admittedly, it was very old – the original battery had died years ago, and I was continuing to limp along by purchasing new ones every 6 months or so. I just didn't want to get a new model and deal with whatever was going to be different with it. But that changed while I was away.

It wasn't just that it wouldn't hold a charge. Other things started going wrong as well. For example, I could receive group texts but couldn't reply to them. Not earth-shattering, but still a pain. Then something happened that I couldn't deal with: my GPS began to wig out. It couldn't find me or would put me a couple of blocks away from where I actually was. It would direct me onto the highway when I was already on the highway or drive me around in circles. Being in a place you've never been before is not the time to have your GPS stop working!

I had no choice. I had to break down and purchase a new phone. So I did. It's basically the same phone with some upgrades, most of which are good and some of which are annoying. But the best thing about the phone is that it has security monitoring. I don't really care about the security monitoring. I mean I guess it's all well and good. What I love is that every single time I open my phone it tells me under the heading AT&T Mobile Security, "Everything is OK."

Everything is OK! What a great reminder in these times when everything does not feel OK at all. Back in March, when we first realized the gravity of the COVID19 pandemic, and began to take action because of it, we had no idea the magnitude of its effect. On our personal lives, our church life, our community. We couldn't have imagined that we would be sheltering in place for going on five months, and still struggling with mitigation. Our lives are upended, and we still don't have answers about when or how it will be safe to be together again. What's going to happen with schools and businesses and yes, church re-opening? It is hard not to be anxious and afraid when there is still so much that is unknown.

There is a saying that the Bible tells us to "Fear not" 365 times, once for every day of the year. This is not technically accurate. Depending on the translation, and the wide number of ways one can say "Fear not/Do not be afraid" there are anywhere from 38-314 times this guidance is given. But the point is not how often we are told "do not worry about anything" (Phil. 4:6), but that God is sovereign. God is the one in control. We can lean back on the everlasting arms, and trust that no matter what our circumstances, everything is okay. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Everything *is* OK, even when it feels like it's not.



- Rev. Rebecca Segers



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE

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

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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AUGUST BIRTHDAY'S

Leah Hood

AUGUST 04TH

Lois VanEerden

AUGUST 08TH

**Jameson
McCord-Amasis**

AUGUST 11TH

Joseph Leube

AUGUST 14TH

Matthew Lagunsad

AUGUST 15TH

Angel Adams

AUGUST 18TH

Johari Smith

AUGUST 20TH

Aleisha Gibbs

AUGUST 27TH

◆ **Zach Hasse**

◆ AUGUST 30TH

Richard Liberty

AUGUST 08TH

Delores Solomon

AUGUST 11TH

Siena Williams

AUGUST 12TH

Anthony Ohemeng

AUGUST 15TH

DeShaye Carter

AUGUST 17TH

Lois Bethea

AUGUST 19TH

Helen Brown

AUGUST 24TH

William Lewis

AUGUST 29TH

Khalil Overton

AUGUST 31ST

Shawde Rolle

AUGUST 31ST

On Wednesday, July 1, 2020, the FPCG session unanimously decided to put up a banner that says, "Black Lives Matter" on the fence in front of the Crisis Ministry. The banner was designed by Communications Management Fellow Cherese Akers. It was hung up by Rev. Rebecca Segers, Building Manager Terry Boyer, and Sexton Tony Nixon on Friday, July 24, 2020.



Youth News

Enjoy an inexpensive day away at Johnsonburg camp.

Individuals, quarantine buddies, couples or families looking for a fun day activity should check out what Johnsonburg is offering. There is also 2 and 4 day/night stays being offered safely for groups of 4 or more. Check out their website address located on the flyer for more details.



FOR ANYONE, AT ANY AGE

A DAY AT CAMP

**Families, friends,
church groups,
birthday parties,
reunions,
school groups,
everyone...**

Please call the camp office today to reserve a date!

Please note we are abiding by the New Jersey Department of Health, recommendations from Governor Murphy's office, the CDC and the American Camp Association, in conjunction with our team of health advisors.

Come and spend a day at Johnsonburg! Bring your group for an exciting day of staffed activities, hiking trails and lunch!

Activities include boating, swimming, guided and unguided trails, arts & crafts, teambuilding and more. All while being safely distanced from any other groups at camp.

Price:
\$25 Tier I/ \$40 Tier II per person, Day Pass includes programmed activities and lunch

www.campjburg.org (908) 852-2349

Confirmation class will begin a 4 week book study!

We are gearing up for classes again. We will meet August 2.9.16 and 23rd at the normal Sunday time. We then break for two weeks and begin our NT study throughout the fall beginning September 13th. Sept 13th. For our August study we will be using the book Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers.

Director of Music Ministry Search Committee Update:

The search committee for a new Director of Music Ministry met for the first time on Tuesday, July 21st, via Zoom. During the meeting the committee members reviewed the job description approved by Session in July and crafted a job posting to be placed in various publications and websites, as well as on FPCG's website. The team is comprised of David Cassie, Daniel Conner, Susan Mills MacDonald, Ingrid Harris, Jason Williams and Pastor Rebecca Segers; however, we want to ensure that all voices of the FPCG family are included in this process. To that end, we are inviting you to reflect on the importance of our music ministry in your own spiritual life and the life of our church. Please take a few moments to think about and respond to the following three questions:

1. What are some of your favorite FPCG musical memories?
2. What type of music/music ministry do you envision for our future?
3. How can our music ministry be improved?

Responses may be emailed to: searchcommittee@fpcgermantown.org or sent via mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
Attn: DMM Search Committee
35 West Cheltenham Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Additionally, please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members with your questions, comments or concerns as we work to discern who will lead us in this vital aspect of our faith community.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Meet The Nominees

The times might be challenging, and the process a little delayed, but thanks to Zoom and a hardworking Nominating Committee, Andrea Overton, Chair; J. Randall Rosensteel, Randy Clever, Elizabeth Drum, Arlene Grace, Don Carlin, Will Lewis; we have a full slate for the Officer Elections occurring on Sunday, August 9th at 11:30 a.m.

Elder Andrea Overton and Deacons John Orandosh and Carolyn Tarver have all agreed to renew three-year terms. Thank you to these faithful servants. We have two new Elders and one new Deacon joining the Class of 2023, as well as a new Deacon who will serve a two-year term in the Class of 2022. Welcome to all of you and thank you for being willing to serve in such a time as this.

Elders Class of 2023



Drew Hood

Thirteen years ago, Leah and Drew walked into the sanctuary of First Pres looking for a church in their neighborhood. They assumed it would be the first stop in a long process of finding a church home. They never even

visited another church. Since then, their faith has grown, their relationships have deepened, and their children have experienced what it's like to grow up in a loving community where God's unconditional love is embodied by so many.

Drew is excited for this opportunity because he wants to be an active part of what First Pres is doing to reflect the love of Christ in Germantown and beyond. He also wants to contribute what he can to this community that has contributed so much to him and his family. In his day job, he serves as Vice President of Ministry Impact at American Bible Society, leading a team of over 60 people implementing ministry projects in 100 countries around the world. Along with his wife, Leah, and his sons Emery and Soren, Drew is grateful for this church community and looks forward to the opportunity to serve alongside so many wonderful people.



Fatima Robinson

Fatima found faith in many places throughout her life but began her journey with her grandmother, who was a devout Roman Catholic and lifelong member of a parish in the Bronx, as an example of living faithfully by serving your family and

your community. Fatima's faith journey included many twists and turns, but ultimately brought her to choosing Presbyterianism and FPCG. She is the proud mother to an amazing almost 3 year old, Maddox, who was baptized at FPCG. She feels that she and her son are where they belong when they join First Pres for worship, fellowship and community. Fatima feels humbled and excited to be invited into leadership at FPCG because she cares deeply about its future given her commitment to the church and the role it plays in her and her son's Christian formation. She looks forward to working as an Elder to support the needs of the First Pres members and community.

The Robinsons live in King of Prussia and Fatima works in Malvern at an Asset Management company. She also serves on the advisory board of a local nonprofit Calm Clarity, a pioneering social enterprise that uses science to empower people of all backgrounds to overcome adversity and develop a mindset for growth.



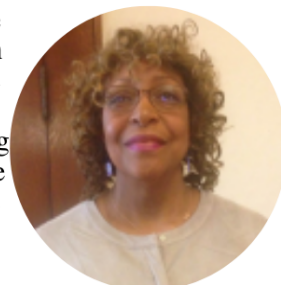
Chris Scott Jr., Deacon (Class of 2023)

Chris Scott Jr joined FPCG in 2004. Over the last 16 years, Chris has been an active part of the church community. Whether he was coaching the Disciples Basketball team, teaching Sunday School or volunteering for the Crisis Ministry, Chris has demonstrated in many ways the ability to use his time and gifts to serve God and neighbor. Currently, Chris is utilizing his technical background to present the Sunday morning worship via YouTube. Chris is excited about the opportunity of serving as a Deacon to FPCG.

Stephanie Garrett, Deacon (Class of 2022)

Stephanie is a faithful and devoted volunteer at the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, where she is most often found working in the food cupboard. (She thanks Eileen for her patience.) She sings in the Gospel Choir and is grateful to both Sarah and Tony for helping her to find her voice. Stephanie is incredibly creative; she enjoys sewing, baking, and home decorating. She has also blessed FPCG with those abilities, staffing crafts that she has designed at the Christmas and Easter festivals, helping to make the shadowbox for our Faith@5:00 Christmas service, and acting as our resident chef on the 2019 Puerto Rico Service Learning Trip. She admits that "life has its challenges at times, and wants to say thank you all for your prayers and support." As you can tell, Stephanie is truly bringing a deacon's heart to this calling, and we look forward to having her as an Officer at FPCG.

Stephanie is a life-long resident of Mount Airy and Germantown, and is a retired court clerk of the Philadelphia Court system. She has an adult son, Steven, who is a professional chef and has recently moved to Maryland for work.



The Reopening Task Force Needs Your Input!

When will we as the friends and family of First Presbyterian Church in Germantown be able to meet face-to-face, person to person to worship our God together?

At its July meeting the Session named Ernest Freeman, Annie Kotto, Dick Liberty, Allison Seed, Jim Thompson, and David Corbin to serve on a task force to address that critical question.

The task force needs your input and has put together a survey (see below) to discover your willingness to attend services in our sanctuary under altered circumstances as we seek to protect your health and well-being. To do this in as safe a manner as possible, there will be guidelines and protocols we will ask you to follow.

When we do reopen, please know that this will be an **“invitation”, not an “expectation.”** Some of us are very anxious to get back together again, while others are more cautious. We trust you to use your own good judgment. If you choose to stay home, do continue to worship with us online. Please feel no pressure to attend until you are comfortable doing so. As Psalm 96 reminds us, we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, whether we are at home, in the sanctuary or in God’s good creation.

Survey

1. Are you currently able to stay connected with the FPCG family virtually with YouTube church services and other events?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comments:

2. Will you attend service if the church takes all necessary precautions to reduce coronavirus transmission (e.g. mandatory facial masks, physical distancing, no singing, no passing of the peace, bring your own communion elements, no Coffee Hour/social gathering afterward, families sit together but not close to other individuals/groups, etc.):

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I’m not sure

Comments:

3. How many people from your household will attend?

4. Would you attend an outdoor church service in Vernon Park or the church parking lot?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I’m not sure

5. If the opening of the church building is further delayed, what virtual events would you like the church to host? (e.g. online Bible Study)

Comments:

6. How would you like to receive additional information about church events? (check all that apply and include appropriate info)

- ☐ Name/Contact Information _____
- ☐ Phone _____
- ☐ Text Message _____
- ☐ Email _____
- ☐ U.S. Mail _____

You may fill out the survey and mail it to The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, 35 W. Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144 Attn: Reopening Task Force. We will also be sending out the survey electronically and need your responses by August 10. Thank you for your help!

UPDATE FROM THE DAMBMAN'S

ATHLETES IN ACTION

We received an update message from the Carl and Noreen Dambman earlier this summer. For more than 40 years Carl and Noreen have devoted their lives to the worldwide ministry of CRU (known in some areas as Campus Crusade for Christ). Our church has faithfully supported their ministry for many years; of late through one of our monthly challenge offerings. This year it will be the September Challenge Offering. More on that will be in September *Windows*.

Here are some excerpts from their latest newsletter:

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest USA---

"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalms 46: 10-11

I have added Work Place and Zoom to Skype, WhatsApp, Telegram and Facebook, so I can connect internationally with sport ministry leaders and friends across the globe. My zoom connections are with 12 years of the International Sports Leadership School

(ISLS) classes that were in South Africa 2008-2019 when I served as "shepherd." During those years we have served 280 students (from 109 different countries). Since all travel has ceased, being able to zoom around the world is a wonderful way to encourage our country sports leaders.

I am also skyping or zooming with Eurasia in a partnership with Athletes In Action Russia and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Church is in our living room on live stream on Sunday mornings with the 7 of us. We are also able to connect via zoom with other church prayer meetings. A challenge of schedule is that the ISLS zoom meetings start early and the Eurasia meetings are late at night.

Please pray that Carl will balance the desire to connect and shepherd sports leaders he knows and quality time with the LORD and family. God is calling us to be more intentional in our prayers and asking we are asking Him to show us those who need our encouragement the most.

I have shed tears as I heard of the difficulties in some of the areas where I know the sports leaders. I am proud of how many are stepping up to let the Light of Christ shine in their communities.

August Challenge Offering:

PAR Recycle Works

PAR Recycles Works is a social enterprise, which means it is operated as a traditional business, but with a strong social purpose and mission. The mission creates a significant amount of "financial friction" that prevents us from being profitable from our recycling revenue alone. PAR currently generates almost 2/3 of their needed total revenue, but depends on the generosity of individuals, organizations, and foundations to cover the shortfall. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, we are able to accept tax-deductible contributions. As a traditional employer, the objective is to stabilize newly returning citizens and help them develop the skills and habits that will make them successful in mainstream, full-time employment. Assistance is needed to make connections with organizations that can serve as employers and benefit from the trained and motivated individuals that come out of our program. Also, waste electronics such as computers, servers, monitors, and printers are the raw materials of our business that enable us to create jobs. You can assist by making introductions and connections to companies that use and replace computers as well as entities that may want to host a community e-Waste collection. To discuss further please contact (267) 335-5455 or mqjones@par-recycleworks.org.

SILVER LINING THROUGH PANDEMIC

One silver lining for me as I work from home now is to be able to spend more time with my mom who is 92. I feel grateful that I can take some time during my work day to have lunch with her.

- Ingrid Harris

How to Use Zoom for the Congregational Meeting

1. LOGGING INTO THE MEETING

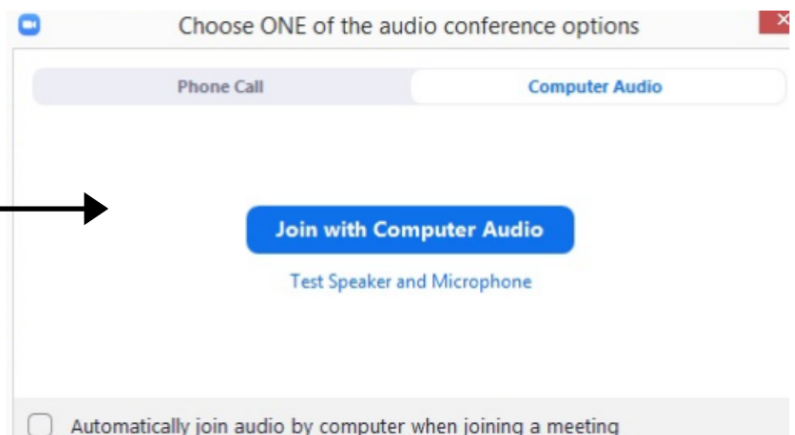
You will receive an email invitation to the meeting similar the one below. If you are using a computer, cell phone or tablet, you can click the link in the blue text. This will log you into the meeting. You may or may not be prompted for a passcode.



If you are joining by phone, you will be given a phone number and a Meeting ID. You call the number and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID followed by the # sign.

2. AUDIO

After successfully logging in, your device will prompt you to connect to the meeting using your computer audio. Click "connect".

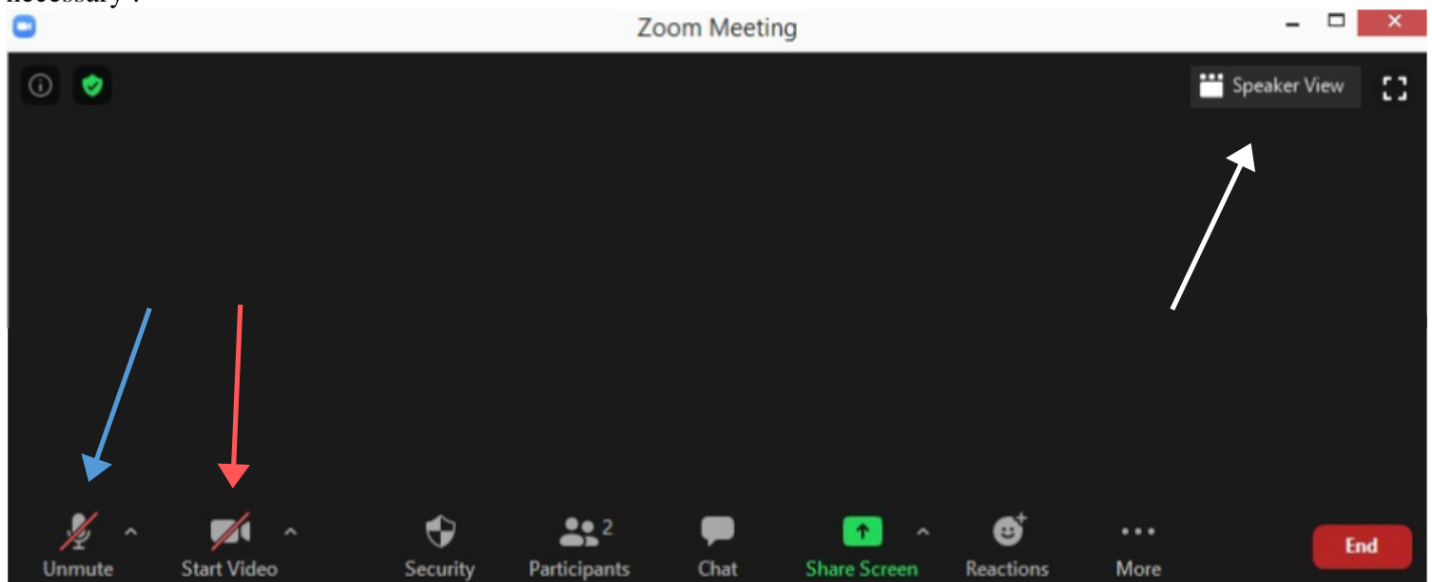


3. VISUAL

Congrats! You've logged into the Zoom meeting. But where is everyone? Why can't anyone see/hear me?

For most computers and laptops, in the lower left corner, there are two icons "mute/unmute" and "start/stop video." If there is a red slash through either icon, either your microphone is muted or your video is turned off. Just click the icon to turn each one on.

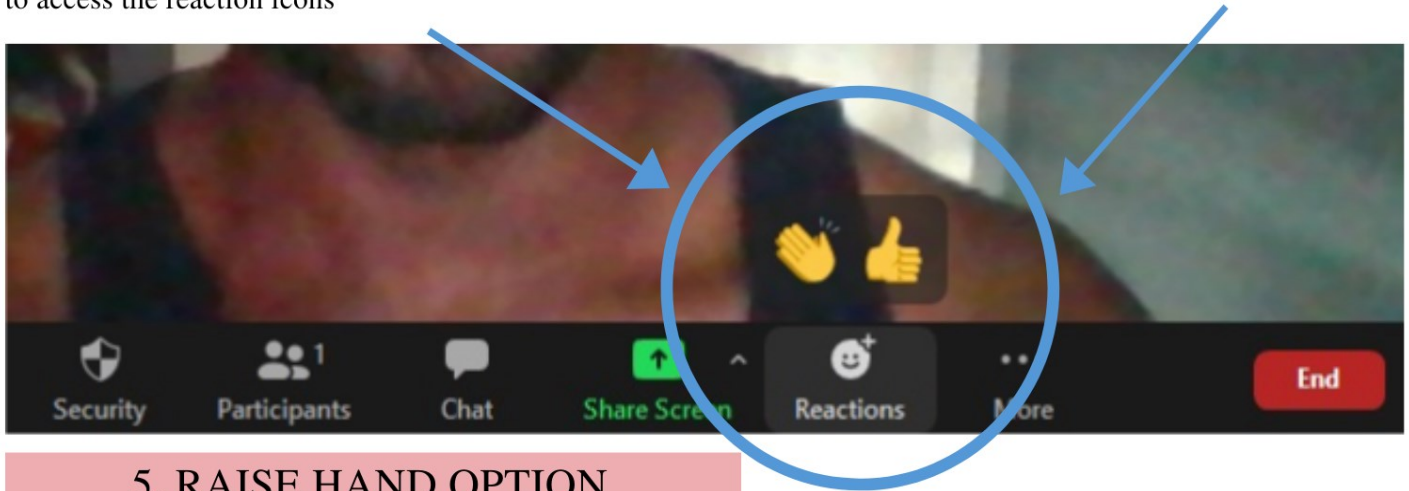
For most tablets, those icons may be in the upper right corner. Don't forget to increase your audio volume if necessary .



How to Use Zoom for the Congregational Meeting continued

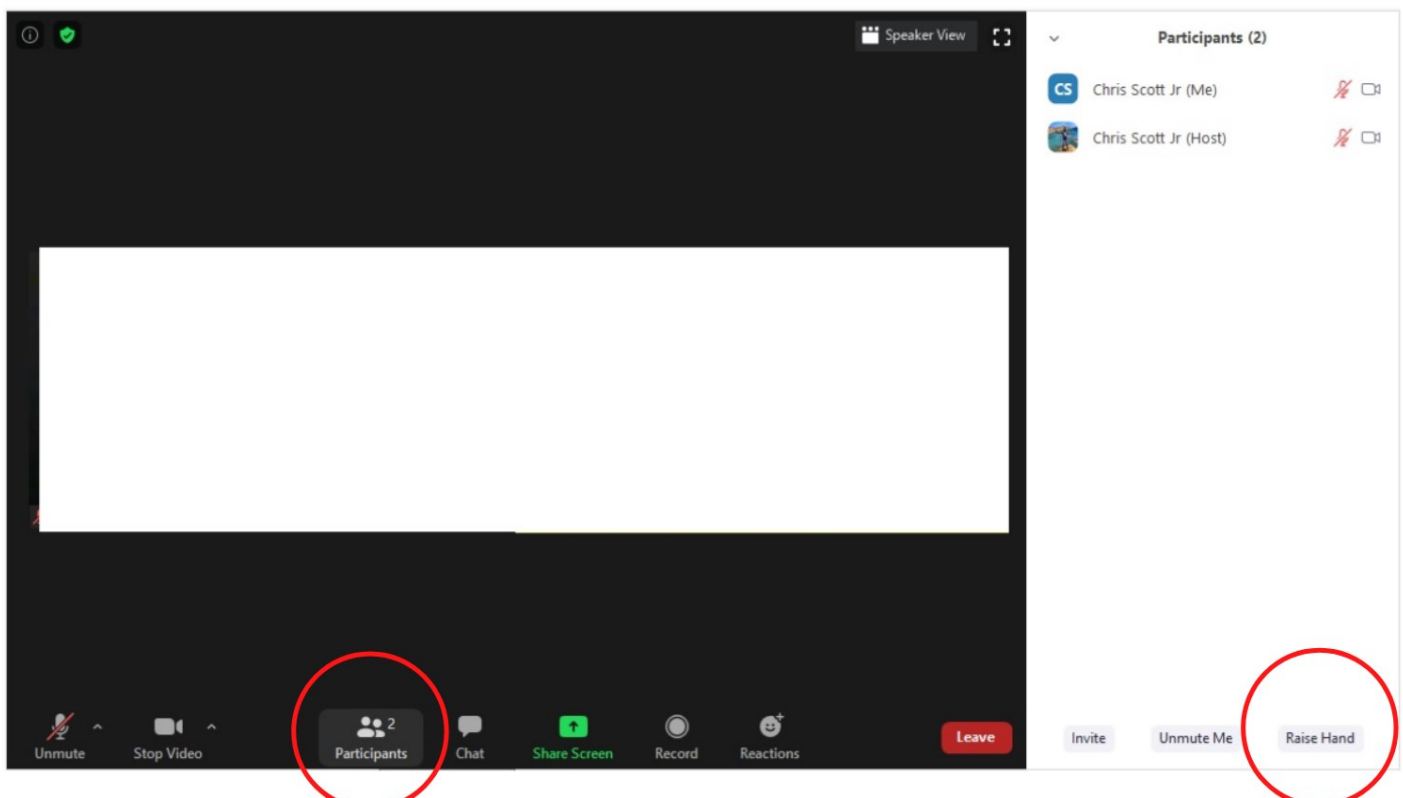
4. REACTION ICONS

To use the “clapping” or “Thumbs up” reaction, click on the reaction icon . If you are using a computer, the icons will be at the bottom of the zoom screen. On a tablet, you’ll see a “More” icon in the upper right corner, click that to access the reaction icons



5. RAISE HAND OPTION

To raise your hand on a computer, click on the Participants button located at the bottom of the zoom screen. A popup of all the participants of the zoom call will appear on the right side of the screen. In the lower right corner, you’ll have the option to click “raise hand.” If you are using a tablet, click the “more” icon in the upper right corner, click “raise hand” to raise your hand. If you have called in by phone, you can raise your hand with *9 on your dialpad.



For any questions about operating zoom or to get a personal training on Zoom, please contact Chris Scott Jr. at cscottjr76@gmail.com or 267-979-4761.

Grief, Loss, and Bereavement: Some Basics

Although all of us go through grief and loss at some point, the COVID pandemic has thrust the reality of this fact of life into the forefront of our individual and collective experience – whether we have realized it or not. This is true whether we, or those we know and love, have been affected by the disease or not. All of us may be finding ourselves coming to terms with the various degrees of loss of routine, ways of socializing, means of independence, sense of physical safety, or economic security among other things.

Regardless of the type or severity of loss we might be facing, there are insights we may find helpful to our particular situation by familiarizing ourselves with the stages of grief described by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in her book *On Death and Dying*. In short, Kubler-Ross describes grieving as a process which takes us through the stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

She acknowledges that everyone grieves differently and that the journey is not a straight line or sequential progression. We may find ourselves bouncing between the different stages on any given week, day or even hour! But even knowing these various emotions might be a part of grieving can help us understand why we – or those grieving alongside us – may be feeling or behaving in a particular way.

For example, the two siblings arguing over who gets Mom's mixing bowl may be acting out their anger that Mom has passed away. Likewise, a child who is experiencing the loss of being able to visit friends and family in this time of physical distancing may be feeling anger or depression. When these not-always-apparent grief reactions are experienced in normal times it can be difficult to know what is going on.

Now imagine how fraught this understanding can be when *everyone* is experiencing multiple losses at the same time!

Grief, Loss, and Bereavement Support Group

Over this past month, Rev. Kevin Porter has been hosting Grief, Loss, and Bereavement group via zoom on Monday mornings. **Beginning Monday, August 10th and continuing through Monday September 7th he will be holding this group in the evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm for FPCG members, family, and friends who might want to support and share with others experiencing grief and loss.**

If you have any questions about whether this group might be for you, please contact Kevin by texting or calling 215-518-1675, or Heidi Mercado-Littles at 215-888-7723. Or, feel free to join us via zoom on those Monday evenings at 7:00 pm either visually by going to <https://zoom.us/j/7217841109> or by conference call by dialing 1-301-715-8592 and entering Meeting ID: 721 784 1109# when prompted to do so.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Congregational Meeting, Part I, of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, in the County of Philadelphia, PA, will be held on Sunday, August 09, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.

The following will be presented:

- Hearing Report of Nominating Committee
- Election of Church Officers Class of 2022 and 2023
- Nominating Committee Class of 2021

Any other business which properly comes before the Congregation may be transacted at this meeting.

Attest: Robert Seed, Clerk of Session

Rev. Rebecca L. Segers, Moderator

You may access the Congregational Meeting via Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/7217841109>
Via phone and voice only: dial 1 301 715 8592 and enter Meeting ID: 721 784 1109# when prompted



THE FIRST
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