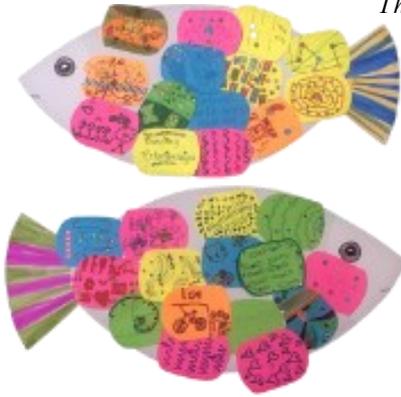




# Windows

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
August 2021



## From the Pastor

Last month, we held our first in-person Faith@5:00 service since the pandemic began. The first time those who choose to worship together in this creative interactive format have gathered. Around 30 masked people met in the Finney Room around a long U-shaped table with craft supplies scattered along it. At the front was a screen with the worship order in a slide show, a couple of blank cardboard fish, and space for the musicians.



We pondered Matthew’s version of the scripture lesson we had heard related by John that morning. The only miracle that occurs in all four gospels: that of the “Feeding of the 5000.” We considered the ways we had become weary and in need of feeding over the past many months. We decorated paper “scales” that were before us with visual images on one side and words on the other, describing the ways in which we had been fed through this challenging time. Then we shared as we felt so called, and all participants had the opportunity to place their “scales” on the two fish at the front of the room.

In pondering how we had been fed, the common theme I heard over and over again was “relationships.” Relationships with God, with nature, with others – family, church members, friends, etc. This resonated deeply with me, because I believe relationship is at the center of being a Christian. While the Doctrine of the Trinity is in many ways a conundrum, the beauty of it is also that God is in relationship with Godself and longs to be in relationship with us.

Unfortunately, this looks like it is going to continue to be a challenging time. With the rise of the delta variant, and the new surge of cases locally and around the country, Philadelphia has put the indoor mask mandate back in place. I’ve spoken with parishioners who have told me they are going to stay away from in-person worship for a while longer, given the potential health consequences of leaving their homes. It’s hard to be in community when you can’t be “in community”!

Yet our Faith@5:00 service gave me hope. Hope in “God our Father, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:6), and whose relational presence sustains us in the midst of challenges, even those that continue long past our wishes. May we continue to love and serve one another and our Triune God in the days ahead, even as we work toward a world in which health and wholeness are the norm for all.

- Rev. Rebecca Segers

### In this Issue

Minister’s Message.....	1
August Birthdays.....	2
GACM News.....	3
Freedom School.....	3
Youth News.....	4
Music News.....	4
Hacking Concerns.....	5
McCullough Grant.....	5
Ushers Update.....	5
Pericles Play Info.....	6
August Challenge Off....	7
Russell Patterson.....	7
Gardenhire Thanks.....	8

Items for the September issue of *Windows* are due on August 16th. Send to

*Communications*  
[@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:@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](http://www.fpcgermantown.org) and click on Special Events web pages for more information.

To learn more, please email [fpcg.germantown@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:communications@fpcgermantown.org)

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# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**Leah Hood**  
AUGUST 04TH

**Richard Liberty**  
AUGUST 08TH

**Lois VanEerden**  
AUGUST 08TH

**Delores Solomon**  
AUGUST 11TH

**Jameson McCord-Amasis**  
AUGUST 11TH

**Siena Williams**  
AUGUST 12TH

**Joseph Leube**  
AUGUST 14TH

**Matthew Lagunsad**  
AUGUST 15TH

**Anthony Ohemeng**  
AUGUST 15TH

**Rev. Rebecca Segers**  
AUGUST 15TH

**DeShaye Carter**  
AUGUST 17TH

**Angel Adams**  
AUGUST 18TH

**Lois Bethea**  
AUGUST 19TH

**Johari Smith**  
AUGUST 20TH

**Helen Brown**  
AUGUST 24TH

**Aleisha Gibbs**  
AUGUST 27TH

**Eileen Jones**  
AUGUST 27TH

**William Lewis**  
AUGUST 29TH

**Zach Hasse**  
AUGUST 30TH

**Khalil Overton**  
AUGUST 31ST

**Shawde Rolle**  
AUGUST 31ST

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

# Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry News

Throughout the pandemic GACM has continued to provide social services including housing and utility assistance along with food distribution each Thursday. In recent months we have noticed an increase in the number of clients needing housing and utility aid as moratoriums are lifted and a greater threat for loss of service or housing exists. Another trend is a decrease in the number of people being served by the Food Cupboard. This trend is not unique to GACM. Many have benefitted from receipt of additional food stamps, food supplements for school aged children and expanded food distribution in community.

A single woman, with no children and a respectable job left a lengthy phone message. She needed help yet everywhere she went she was deemed over income. Once her bills were paid, including a car note and insurance for her vehicle (required for her work) she barely had money left for food. Because of individual donations and partner support, GACM has greater latitude in our ability to assist. We addressed her crisis and shared food. After placing the groceries in her car, she got on her knees and gave thanks for the food and help she received.



Seeing this woman on her knees was a stark reminder that many people continue to struggle during this time and are thankful for the services GACM provides. Your support enables GACM to remain a point of help and hope in the community.

The ministry will close for the summer hiatus August 16 and reopen after Labor Day. Those needing emergency help during this time will be referred to other community resources.

## Freedom School Reunion

Instead of hosting a bustling program in our building, the halls of FPCG have been quiet this summer. Though COVID prevented operation of Freedom School 2021, on Saturday July 31st, the Freedom School family was reunited in a half day of fun and activities. Scholars had the opportunity to reunite with friends, Servant Leader Interns, and other staff. Like traditional Freedom School, there was Harambe, a high energy opening celebration followed by abbreviated club activities - tie dye, dance, drama, and more. Representing our Bible Study component, Rev Rebecca closed out the day.

Keeping children reading during the summer is key to helping prevent summer learning loss and a major reason for converting our traditional day camp to a Freedom School model. A reunion highlight was the visit by the Travelling Tree House, a mobile library that features books by Black authors and other authors of color telling diverse stories so all children can see themselves represented. In addition to leading the day's individual group reading activities, First Church's own Kai Burton drove the Tree House bus. Scholars were able to take books home for their personal library.



# Youth News

## FPCG is going Camping August 26-29th

FPCG is bringing a group of people from all generations up to Ricketts Glen State Park for 4 days and 3 nights of camping, iconic hiking (waterfalls included), and swimming. You can come up on Thursday or Friday, but if you choose to come Friday, your tent will have to travel up on Thursday to be set up for your Friday arrival. Breakfasts will be eaten together, while lunches and dinners will need to be brought by individuals. If you would like to come but don't have a tent or sleeping bag, one can be rented from the church for an additional fee. Available tents and bags are limited and based on a first come first serve basis. Cost is \$20/person, adding tent \$25/night, adding sleeping bag \$5/night. We've even made it possible to bring your pet at a cost of \$50 with pet and owner camping offsite but nearby. Come join us as we rest in the beauty of God's creation together.



## August Youth Group Schedule

Elementary YG -August 6th 6:30-8:30p in the Hood family's backyard (masks are required inside the house)

Middle/Highschool YG -August 13th 6:30-9:30p in the Heyer-Rivera family backyard (masks are required inside the house)

# Music News

As we go into our last month of summer, it is my great pleasure to announce the return of our choir coming up in the fall. Our Gospel Choir and our Chancel choir will be joining together to form one united choir that sings music of diverse traditions, including classical choral music, concert spirituals, and contemporary Gospel. I am so looking forward to welcoming back to the chancel the many faithful members of both of these choirs, as well as folks who may never have sung in a choir at FPCG before. If you love to sing, I really hope you will join us for this great moment of rebirth and renewal. Choir Rehearsals will fall on **Thursday evenings at 7:15pm**. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, **September 16**. For the time being, we will maintain pandemic precaution and sing masked. Please mark your calendars- I can't wait to see you in the choir room!

The final Artcinia concert will take place August 8th at 3:00 p.m. in our church sanctuary. We will be welcoming Pyxis Piano Trio. Pyxis has been a vibrant presence in the mid-Atlantic region since 2009, and is ensemble in residence at the Delaware Art Museum and for Market Street Music Festival Concerts (Wilmington, DE). Pyxis' concert will feature virtuosic trios of Beethoven and Brahms. A brief time of fellowship with cookies and beverages in the East Parking Lot will follow. A free will offering to support the artists will be taken. All are welcome.

**ARTCINIA IN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES PRESENTS**

**MUSIC IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

*Concert Series*

**JOIN US!!!**

Sunday, August 8, 2021 @ 3 pm- Pyxis Piano Trio

*Reception to follow*

**FOR INFORMATION AND FREE TICKETS VISIT [ARTCINIA.COM](http://ARTCINIA.COM)**

## Rev. Rebecca's Email Has Been Hacked – What Can We Do?

We keep getting them. The email to all of us says “Rebecca’s Email Account Has Been Hacked.....” Why does this keep happening and what can the church do?

Here is what is happening. The hacker sees on our website that Rebecca is the pastor. The hacker sets up a fake Gmail account purporting to be Rebecca. The hacker has either gained access to Rebecca’s contacts in her church email rsegers@fpcgermantown.org in outlook through our Office 365 subscription or through the church’s Gmail account at fpcg.germantown@gmail.com. There are approximately 300 email addresses associated with the church Gmail account. There is nothing Rebecca is doing to cause this and there is nothing she can do to stop it other than being vigilant and continually reminding people she would never ask them for money.

Since I was part of setting up the church’s original subscription to Office 365 and have been monitoring the church’s Gmail account, I have been very concerned about this. We have reached out to IT professionals on a number of occasions to see if there is anything more, we can and should do to try to stop this. My understanding is other than educating our members, being vigilant and marking each fake email as spam there is not much we can do to stop it. We are taking steps this week to make the church email addresses of our staff more secure and taking steps to add additional security to the church Gmail account. This will hopefully slow the hackers down in the future, but anything they have already taken, they can and probably will continue to use.

## McCullough Grant Recipient Correction

In the June Windows, the article describing the grant given to Athletes in Action was inaccurate concerning the role of Carl Dambman. Carl has been actively involved with AIA for over 40 years and he is NOT retired. Due to the pandemic travel restrictions, he operates primary from home in Washington state, but he is still connected to the athletes using virtual communications. There is a daily zoom call at a designated time, each day a prerecorded message is sent to the athletes can listen to at their convenience, and he has made himself available 24/7 for athletes to call him if they need to talk.

## Ushers Update

The ministry of ushers on Sunday morning play a vital role in hospitality and welcoming people to First Church. Perhaps you are looking for a way to become more active in the life of First Church or want to meet new people, but are unsure about how to go about it. Ushering maybe exactly what you are looking for. It's a once-a-month commitment that requires you to be helpful and have the spirit of hospitality. If this is you, then you need to speak to Mary Lundy at (215) 927-4648 and learn more about the ministry at First Church.



One IT person said it has happened at his company. Emails show up in staff mailboxes appearing to be from the CEO asking for confidential help and asking for the employee to pay a bill for him (CEO) without talking to anyone. It is easy to find out who the CEO is from the company website. The employee is flattered that the CEO chose him for assistance in a crisis and did exactly as instructed. The employee fell for it, paid the bill and sent **Thousands** of dollars to the hacker.

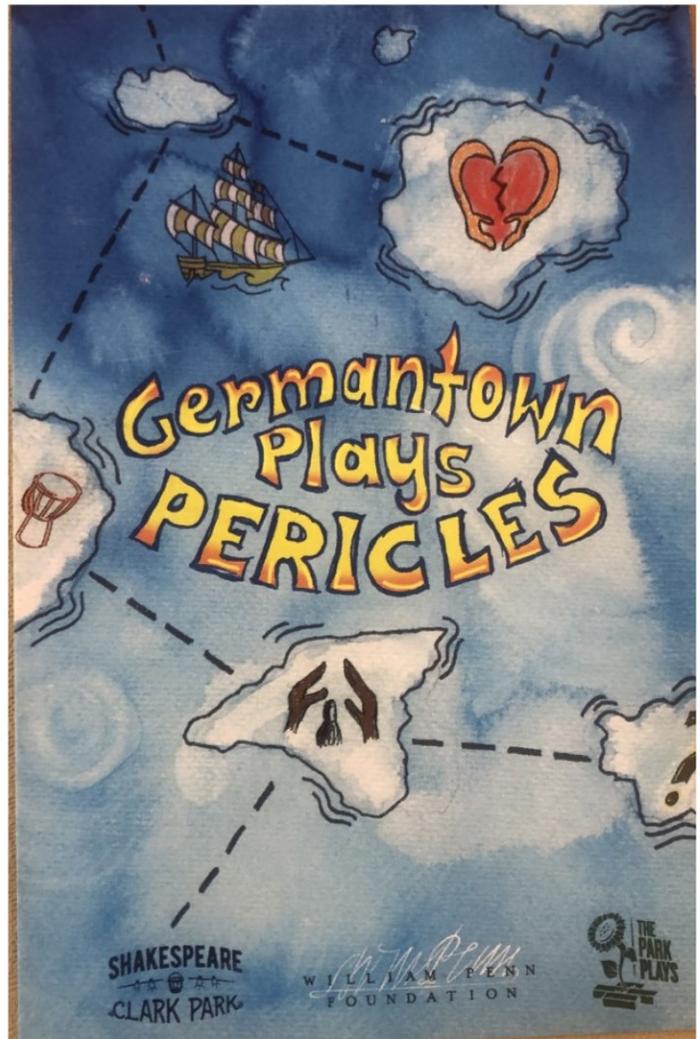
Staying safe and private in today’s electronic world continues to be a challenge. Here is what you can do:

- Have **Zero trust** of any email asking for money or a gift card.
- **Know what is normal.** Be wary of links in emails and verify the sender before clicking.
- **Tap/click on sender** to see the complete address of the actual sender. If it is not from rsegers@fpcgermantown.org it is not from Rebecca. She uses no other email addresses. If is a Gmail address that says it is from Rev. Rebecca – it is not Rev. Rebecca.
- Recognize that we as people are the weakest link. It is the hackers vs us. Let’s win!!

*Submitted by Lois Bethea*

## Germantown Plays Pericles

Shakespeare in Clark Park expands its creative offerings into Germantown this year with an interactive experience based on Shakespeare's play "Pericles." The character Pericles is shipwrecked multiple times and lands on multiple different islands, which will be represented throughout Vernon Park in a wide variety of ways. You are invited to journey through the all-ages fair with interactive art installations, games, music, mutual aid, and resources. The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is literally "getting into the act" with Rev. Rebecca Segers, Rev. Kevin Porter, and Ron Simelaro anchoring the Island of Remembrance, and Eileen Jones and the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry among those who are staffing the Island of Mutual Aid, an area where participants will be invited to give or receive what they need/want to support one another in the community. The event occurs on Saturday, August 28th and Sunday, August 29th with the Fair portion from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and a culminating performance from 7:00-7:30 p.m., in which Rev. Rebecca is one of the actors on Saturday night.



# GERMANTOWN PLAYS PERICLES

August 28th - 29th, 2021

**Vernon Park, 5800 Germantown Ave. (Entrances on Greene St. & Germantown Ave.)**

5:30pm Pre-Show Fair\*

7:00pm Performance

Co-Created By

Sydney Devereoux, Naomi Hirsch, Lawanda Horton Sauter, Victor Jackson, Anthony P. Kamani, Marie-Monique Marthol, Miles Orion Butler, Laura Seeley, Rebecca Segers, Karen Smith, [Crossroads Women's Center](#), [Friends of Vernon Park](#), [Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together \(GREAT\)](#), Joseph E Coleman Regional Library, and [Philadelphia School of Circus Arts](#).

Written by **Ang Bey**

Directed by **Seema Sueko**

Journey through an all-ages fair with interactive art installations, games, music, mutual aid\* and resources, followed by a culminating performance, all playing with Shakespeare's story of Pericles. Some seating available. Please feel free to BYO blanket or chair.

# 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 [mjones@parrecycleworks.org](mailto:mjones@parrecycleworks.org). Donations can be made to the church. Please indicate August Challenge Offering on your check.

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## Farewell, Russell

There’s a saying; “those who sing pray twice.” There is some debate about the originator of the quote, but the meaning is still the same. The lyrics themselves are the first prayer but singing helps us pray more deeply. It puts us in a place to hear the voice of God. Russell Patterson’s gift was teaching people to get to that deeper place. Russell had this saying, “everyone has the capability to sing well.” While you’re reading this, some of you made the same face I did. But Russell held onto that belief as well as many others that included music being a source of healing, comfort, praise, inclusion and life giving. Being part of the FPCG Handbell Choir “Da Belz,” I had the privilege of seeing first-hand Russell’s brilliance at work. During a time where our group felt children were meant to be seen and not heard, Russell taught us otherwise.



Individually he encouraged and motivated us. As a group, he taught and molded us. We were excited about learning music! We were excited about performing together! We were excited to be viewed as equals in the church. We love Russell. Because of his intentionality and commitment to us, we have so many memories and moments of laughter. It wasn’t always perfect, but we now have a life long bond that will always be perfect for us. For gifting me the love of music and for the stories told and untold, thank you Russell. Rest well my friend. **-Christ Scott Jr.**

Russell Patterson  
Former FPCG Director of Music  
Entered the Church Triumphant June 13, 2021

“

With Sincere Thanks and Appreciation for all the Prayers and Cards of Sympathy in the passing of his Mother, Melessie Gardenhire Holt.

”

***From the family of Eugene Gardenhire***



THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN

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