



# Windows

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
November 2021



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## From the Pastor

Dear Family and Friends of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown,

As you probably know by now, I am leaving the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. On Sunday, October 24, 2021, after preaching at their morning worship service, I was elected and accepted the call to become the Head Pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY. To that end, the First Church Session has called for a meeting of the congregation to dissolve (the official language) our pastoral relationship on Sunday, November 21, 2021 following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. That will be my last Sunday with you, and I look forward to celebrating our ministry together after the service and congregational meeting. My last official day in the office will be Wednesday, November 24, 2021 and I will begin serving Third Church in January 2022.



For four years, I have had the honor of serving as your pastor. I will remain forever grateful for the opportunity you have given me to be the pastor of this congregation. Whatever I may have contributed, by God's grace, I have received far, far more. As sad as I am to leave you, First Church helped to grow me as a human being and a person of faith in such a way that I would be ready for God's next call.

In addition to serving you, I have been deeply privileged to work with a gifted and committed staff, some of whom have served for many years before I arrived, some of whom I have been blessed to bring on board at FPCG. I, along with the Personnel Committee, have also been in a search process for a Church Administrator for several months. We have been through several rounds of interviews and even hired or come close to hiring, but then lost candidates. I am so grateful for the volunteer work that Lois Bethea did to develop this position, and hope that we will have someone in place before I leave. No matter what, I am grateful to have worked alongside Rev. Kevin Porter, Eileen Jones, Christian Heyer-Rivera, John Walthausen, Cherese Akers, Bill Cleary, Robert Patterson, Tony Nixon, and Kevin Gregory, and trust them to continue to give their particular love and care to the people of First Church.

The Session is already considering transitional plans, working closely with the presbytery to do so, plans I will have no role in developing. I am fully convinced that your ministry will continue to unfold faithfully as you move through this challenging time. Keep the Session and staff in your prayers.  
Peace and blessings,

- Rev. Rebecca Segers

Items for the December issue of *Windows* are due on November 15th. 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.

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To learn more, please email [fpcg.germantown@gmail.com](mailto:fpcg.germantown@gmail.com) or call the church office at 215-843-8811.

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*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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Lisa Grewe  
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Eileen Jones  
Rev. Kevin Porter  
Rev. Rebecca Segers  
Jim Thompson  
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# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

**LIAM GIBBS**

**NOVEMBER 2ND**

**FRANK LUNDY**

**NOVEMBER 3RD**

**ANTONIO LITTLES**

**NOVEMBER 7TH**

**MADELINE VALENTINE**

**NOVEMBER 11TH**

**NANCY SMITH**

**NOVEMBER 16TH**

**ADELINE HOEKEMA-BOERMAN**

**NOVEMBER 19TH**

**RUBY CAMARENA**

**NOVEMBER 20TH**

**HEIDI MERCADO-LITTLES**

**NOVEMBER 20TH**

**DANIEL CONNER**

**NOVEMBER 26TH**

**FRANK LUNDY II**

**NOVEMBER 27TH**

**RHONDA HIGHSMITH**

**NOVEMBER 29TH**

**PAMIE BALL**

**NOVEMBER 30TH**

**CAROLYN TARVER**

**NOVEMBER 30TH**

## Youth News



Emery Hood, Elijah Grewe and Emanuel Heyer-Rivera enjoyed a day up at Johnsonburg. They participated in a shared meal, group building games, and worship with churches from PA and NJ.

### **Highschool Johnsonburg Retreat**

Our highschool members and youth group members are invited to spend the weekend up at Johnsonburg. November 19 through the 21st we will be traveling to the camp and spending two nights there engaged in learning and fun. The cost is \$55/person. Talk to Christian Heyer-Rivera to sign up or for more details.

### **Special Youth Group for Elementary, Middle and Highschool Students Friday November 12th**

All our youth are invited to join us on this Friday to spend one last time with Rev. Rebecca before her departure. We will share a meal, pray, play some groups games and reflect upon the scriptures to find meaning in this time of transition. Join us from 6:30-9:00pm.

### **FPCG Mentoring Program**

November 14th kicks off our post confirmation/new members mentoring program. Students and their mentors will meet in the Jennings room for a brunch and time to connect. Throughout the year mentors and mentees will meet to support one another and discuss matters of life, faith and participation within the community of faith. Pray for our mentees (Amir Staten, Emanuel Heyer-Rivera, Henry Hunsicker, Mimi Ohemeng and Siena Williams) as well as their mentors (Peter Smith, Marc Dinardo, Klaas Hoekema, Contina Lundy and Sara Greene) in this journey together.

## MusicNews

In this last week of October, it has been such a pleasure starting rehearsals for the Germantown Oratorio Society's annual presentation of Handel's Messiah. Even in our first 90 minutes together, the enthusiasm has been palpable in singers' voices as we launch once again into this most beloved of masterworks. To better get to know our team, I asked everyone how many times they had "done" Messiah (by my calculation, this is my eighth time doing it in one form or another). The responses showed a magnificent range- from one soprano who has sung it forty times, to an alto who will singing it the very first time this year. What a brilliant reminder of the power of music to accompany us through all the twists and turns of our lives!

All are still welcome to join us as we take this music journey together. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7:15pm in the choir room. Whether you have sung Messiah dozens of times, or whether this will be your very first, please know that you are welcome for this beautiful celebration of faith and music.

# Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry News

## Food Cupboard

GACM encourages healthy eating. Our partnership with Einstein's Better Start program provides monthly food facts and healthy eating tips.

## What's in Season?

The leaves are falling and the days are cooler – it's FALL! The time of year when we start to think of soups, pumpkin and cider. Produce tastes the best and usually costs the least when in season. Lots of things grow in the Fall. Among them—

- Apples – they're picked in the fall and then stored so you can get them all year. Eat the skin to get all the vitamins, minerals and fiber they have.
- Beets – Eat both roots and the leaves. Roots provides Vitamin C and Iron and the greens provide Vitamin K and Calcium.
- Brussels sprouts – Roast to out its sweetness.
- Cranberries – Add to muffins, oatmeal, or make your own sauce. Freeze them, they'll keep until next year.
- Parsnips – look like white carrots but have a nutty flavor. Mashed or roasted they're delicious.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving – Please bring donations for Thanksgiving Baskets to worship. Items should be placed in the wheel barrel in the front of the church.

### Food Contents Desired:

Meats: Turkey, turkey breast, and roasted chicken

Starches: Rice, mashed potatoes, yams macaroni and cheese, corn, and stuffing

Vegetables: Green beans, green peas

Breads: Rolls or corn bread mix

Desserts: Cake mix, icing, cookie mix, jello, pie crust, pie filling

Other: Gravy, cranberry sauce, seasonings, sugar, flour, juice, iced tea, and canned milk

**Baskets distribution Fri. 11/19 & Mon. 11/22 Volunteers are needed both days. 8:30am – 6pm**

**To volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours, contact GACM at 215-843-2340. Need a basket? Call GACM**



The LIHEAP program has opened and can provide up to 1200 for heating assistance. You do not need to be behind on your bill. The Crisis Program offers additional funds if your service has been or is in jeopardy of termination. Help for fuel oil and heater repair or replacement is also available. Call the GACM 215-843-2340 if you or someone you know may benefit from these resources. Many programs are income based and GACM private funds may also assist you.

## Winter Warmth Drive

Our giveaway will take place Friday, November 12, 11am – 3pm, in the church parking lot. We need your support. Share new or lightly used, clean, coats, jackets, blankets and other items for warmth. Volunteers are needed to help sort and prepare items and assist during the event. Call the GACM office to volunteer.

A BIGGER THAN EVER, OUTDOOR EVENT

## WINTER WARMTH DRIVE

GACM is pleased to host our annual winter warmth drive to help our neighbors with limited resources stay warm this winter.

For success, we'll need enthusiastic volunteers and donations of new and gently used, clean items.

(Coats, Hats, Socks, Scarves, Gloves, Blankets)

**Donations accepted the week of the event**  
11/8 - 11/10  
9am - 2pm

**Volunteers Are Needed**  
Mon- Wed, 11/8 - 11/10 12 - 2pm  
Thursday 11/11 9-12pm

**Event Day Volunteers Needed 11/12 8am - 4pm**

**For larger donations or alternative volunteer hours please contact the ministry.**

EVENT DATE:  
NOVEMBER 12TH, 2021  
11AM - 3PM  
GERMANTOWN AVE CRISIS MINISTRY  
35 W CHELTEN AVE  
215-843-2340  
INFO@CRISISMINISTRY.ORG

# Stewardship 2022

***BUT AS YOU EXCEL IN EVERYTHING – SEE THAT YOU EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING.  
- 2 Corinthian 8.7***

This is our theme for the 2021 Stewardship campaign. It says a lot about both excelling and the grace of giving.

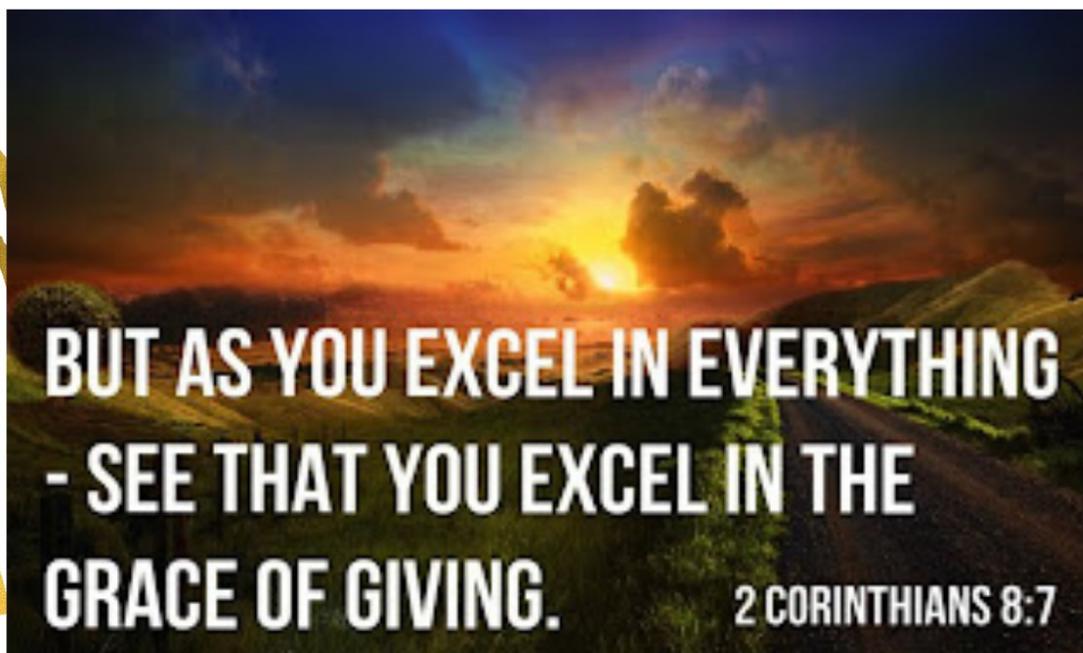
There are many reasons for us to be excited for the near-term future, especially considering what we have been through. But things are returning to the way they were before even though with added precautions. We have been worshipping in our sanctuary since the spring and some other activities have been restored into the building this fall. We have also added new equipment so those who prefer to continue to worship at home can experience a better version of the live services.

With regard to financial results, we have been blessed in the past two years. Although church expenses have been reduced slightly due to the limited building use, our support, especially from this group of givers has continued. We will experience a larger budget in 2022 as we continue to ramp up to full time activities. We only can hope that you faithful givers can continue your generous support.

The largest group of funding for our ministry is from the pledges and offerings from the members and friends of our congregation which provide over 45% of the total amount required to support our church's ministry. That is why your commitment is vital for the church to plan and commit for the activities in 2022.

We know you are committed to our church, and that God is committed to us as we do God's work. Please consider continuing your support of our church as you are able and make your pledge commitment for 2022. All pledges will be dedicated during our worship service on November 21, 2021.

**- The Stewardship/Generosity Team**



# Open Call for Local and International Grant Requests: McCullough Fund Update

Calling all grant requests! In the June Windows newsletter, there was an update on the grant funds available via the McCullough fund. To date, we have disbursed \$15,000 to 5 international grantees (see the June newsletter for details on the recipients). If you have any ideas for local grants, we will be disbursing \$6,000 by the end of the year. If you have any ideas for international recipients, we will make decisions this year for disbursement in the first quarter of 2022. Please complete this grant request for either local or international recipients and email it to [missiongrants@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:missiongrants@fpcgermantown.org) by November 15th.

Here is the link for the grant application:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14KwQwHYFzjmvAJofCidWsd\\_mzs5\\_GuS1/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14KwQwHYFzjmvAJofCidWsd_mzs5_GuS1/view?usp=sharing)

## NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Congregational Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, in the County of Philadelphia, PA, will be held on Sunday, November 21, 2021, in the sanctuary following the worship service at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of:

The following will be presented:

- Dissolving the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Rebecca Lynne Segers and the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown effective Tuesday, November 30, 2021

No other business shall be transacted at this meeting.

Attest: Andrea Overton, Clerk of Session  
Rev. Kevin Porter, Moderator pro Tem



THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN

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**35 West Cheltenham Ave.**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19144**  
**215-843-8811**  
**[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)**