



# • Windows •

The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
February 2024

**CELEBRATING**  
**BLACK**  
**HISTORY**  
**MONTH**  
**FEBRUARY**

### In this Issue

Minister's Message.....1  
Feb Challenge Offering 2  
Thank You.....2  
Mission Update.....2  
GACM News.....3  
Music News.....3  
Stewardship Update....4  
Black History Highlight..4

Items for the March issue of *Windows* are due on March 15, 2024.

Send to

*Communications*  
*@fpcgermantown.org*

## From the Pastor

Dearly Beloved,

We're back on track! It is exciting to re-launch the newsletter, returning to sharing church and outreach news and events with our friends and one another. It is my joy and privilege to serve this church as pastor.

The temperature outside dipped to the teens, and snow blanketed the lawns and roadways. This sent a clear message to Germantown, and greater Philadelphia, that winter is here. However, one can barely remember that it is the chilly season once one enters the doors of the sanctuary. The warmth and love that one feels from the members and all who worship here is wonderful.

Adding to the welcome and greetings, one also gets to experience the heat generated by the new boilers. We are grateful to all who contributed to the Keep the Heat Flowing Capital campaign and to the Hock Family and Foundation for making the replacement of old heating units possible.

In the words of the Prophet Isaiah, 'God is doing a new thing: do you not perceive it?' God is working the purpose of the Kingdom out through you and me. How is God calling you to serve this church? Is God calling you to share the love of Christ in a new way this year? I am looking forward to experiencing the multitude of ways in which the Holy Spirit will move and lead our congregation in response to Christ's call.

Much love and God Bless,

*Pastor Cheni*





## 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 [office@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:office@fpcgermantown.org) 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)

### Contributors:

Cherese Akers  
Christian Heyer-Rivera  
Eileen Jones  
Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje  
Contina Lee Lundy  
Rev. Kevin Porter  
Allison Seed  
Jim Thompson  
John Walthausen  
Bill Young

## February Challenge Offering: Deacons

The February Challenge Offering supports the FPCG Deacons Fund. Through this resource, our deacons are able to provide financial assistance to members and friends of FPCG in times of crisis or emergency situations.

Under the stewardship of the ministers and a sub-committee of the deacons, the Deacons' Fund enables us to respond quickly and confidentially when those in our community turn to their church for support. Even though we can't always make those experiencing crises financially whole, your contributions can show them in concrete, meaningful ways that God knows and cares about what they are going through, and that we stand with them in Christ's name.

The Deacons' Fund also enables us to provide gifts on behalf of the congregation to our community partner ministries. It also supports the cards, visits, flower deliveries and various other ways the deacons bring a touch of church to members who are not able to join us in worship. On behalf of the many recipients of this ministry of compassion, thank you for your support of the Deacons Fund!

## Thank You from Eugene Gardenhire!

Eugene Gardenhire would like to express his thanks and appreciation for all the get well and holiday card, calls, and visits. He is so grateful and thanks everyone and looks forward to being back in church.

## MISSION UPDATE

Allison Seed attended a consultation sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy on January 21-25, 2024, in Rome. The conference centered on internally and externally displaced persons and migrant and refugee justice. This program included panel presentations and small group activities for future work together. It was held at a hotel run by the Waldensian Church, which is the original Protestant/Reformed church in Italy, dating from the sixteenth century. Allison is transitioning into serving as co-moderator of the Southern Europe Partnership Network, a collection of networks of volunteers with support from PC(USA) mission personnel.

---

## GERMANTOWN AVENUE CRISIS MINISTRY NEWS

It pleases me to share good news about the ministry. GACM has launched a newly designed website. It tells our story and shares useful information for people who need help or who want to help. Please check it out at [www.crisisministry.org](http://www.crisisministry.org) and follow us on Facebook: @GACMPhilly  
Instagram: @GermantownAvenueCrisisMinistry  
Ask your friends to follow us too.

More good news: GACM blessed many this holiday season. 239 Thanksgiving and 40 Christmas baskets were distributed, and 116 children received Christmas gifts. While addressing basic needs is most important, what joy it is to bring smiles and help during the holiday season.

Whether a turkey, ham, canned goods, gifts etc. Thank you to everyone who donated to these efforts.



---

## MUSIC NEWS

This month, the FPCG Music Ministry is moving with two seasons: Black History Month (for the whole month of February) and the Season of Lent (starting on February 14). In acknowledgement of Black History Month, the chancel choir will be giving pride of place to Black Composers in its musical offerings, highlighting composers familiar and less familiar, older and contemporary. We will also show a variety of styles including arrangements of spirituals, gospel music, and classical works. Stay tuned for notes in your bulletin with biographical details on some of these artists.

On February 25 at 2pm, we look forward to welcoming Ruth Naomi Floyd, sacred jazz artist, along with her band into the sanctuary for what promises to be a very special concert. This performance is sponsored by Artcinia and is free and open to the public. Please mark your calendar and bring a friend to this event that is not to be missed.

For the Season of Lent, worship will move to a more reflective mode including quieter anthems and service music. In place of the Gloria Patri which we normally sing after the Assurance of Pardon, we will sing a response from the Taizé tradition, a meditative practice from a French monastic community that brings together Protestants and Catholics. Songs from the Taizé Community often involve improvisation and the layering of different texts and melodies. Each week during Lent will be a little bit different.



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

*"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9.7*

Our Stewardship Campaign to support our 2024 Mission continues, and our gratitude never ends! We have so much to be thankful for!

To date the results are encouraging as 48 units have made 2024 commitments for \$210,052 which is 70% of our goal of \$300,000. If the balance of our prior supporters were to at least continue their prior gifts, we should be well on our way to meeting our goal!

If you haven't had the opportunity to submit your pledge, you can make use of the pledge cards on the literature table or contact Cindy Osborne at [cindylosborne@yahoo.com](mailto:cindylosborne@yahoo.com) or (610) 308-5898. Thank you for your participation.

## PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH AND TRIENNIUM UPDATE

The Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium celebrates, provides opportunities and advocates for Presbyterian youth in the church and the world. Triennium takes place every 3 years and the next event will take place in Louisville, KY in 2025.

Contina Lee Lundy is currently the Production Team Coordinator. Joining her this month as a part of the Production Team is FPCG's own Mimi Ohemeng and Kelsi Scott Lundy. They will be traveling this month to meet the rest of the team, start planning for the 2025 event and see the Presbyterian Center.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEATURE:

### *African American Leader, Shelton Bishop Waters*



Born in 1918 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Episcopalian parents, Waters grew up on the north side of the Allegheny. The family attended the Church of the Holy Cross in Homewood, some 10 miles away. His parents named him after the priest at Holy Cross, Shelton Bishop. The young Shelton joined Bidwell Presbyterian Church as a teenager, "to get mixed up with the kids of the community, and the girls." Recommended for ministry at a young age, he attended Lincoln University and Johnson C. Smith University—his transfer from the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad to trains headed south for the latter was his first experience sitting in a segregated train car. It was in Charlotte, North Carolina, that Waters got in touch with the century-long legacy of Presbyterian educational work among African Americans in the South, meeting students from the "feeder schools," Presbyterian-run elementary and secondary schools training young people for ministry, industrial, and professional careers. It was his first taste of an all-Black presbytery, and an all-Black synod, and his first time studying under Black faculty.

From 1947 to 1969, he was pastor of First African Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, leading it into a new church building on Girard Avenue in the Parkside neighborhood, where the congregation hosted Martin Luther King Jr. during his visit to the Presbytery of Philadelphia. During his time at First African, Waters was moderator of the presbytery and the synod. In his telling, his role in the presbytery was simply to make clear that it was not a white fraternity: "Now and then in presbytery, somebody would go up and make some kind of a joke that didn't sound just right. And the time came when I was able to get up and tell them, 'That's not the kind of thing you say here.' You know, we had darky jokes and things like that would come up from time to time. And the time came when they realized they couldn't get away with that anymore—within the presbytery."

In support of on-going efforts in Puerto Rico, FPCG is hosting,

**FAT TUESDAY**



# PANCAKE

*Supper*

**CRAFTS  
FOR  
KIDS**



**\$10 Adults  
\$5 Children  
(12 & under)**

**• TUESDAY, 02.13.2024 •**

**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
35 West Chelton Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144**

**Tickets include:**

**PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, COFFEE, ORANGE & APPLE JUICE**



THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN

---

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