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The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
March 2024



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

Send to

Communications
@fpcgermantown.org

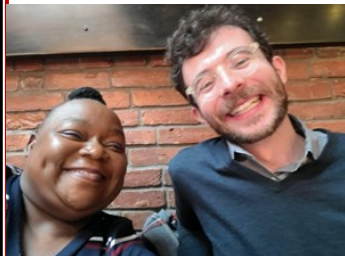


From the Pastor

Beloved,

We are ending our second week of the journey to Good Friday and Easter. Our approaches to the fast, during these 40 days of Lent, vary from an actual fast from certain foods to incorporating new attitudes in our daily living. One of the new ways of being present in the world that I would like to adopt is expressing my gratitude to God for you, the members of this church, and for the fantastic staff the faithfully serve our congregation.

The sextons, Crisis Ministry staff, Administrative, Communications, and Finance manager, Associate for Pastoral Care, Youth and Children's Ministry and Music Director are God's gift to First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. They are innovative with their program initiatives, and responsive to the requests they receive to enhance people's experiences of the love of Jesus Christ through our ministries.



This Lent, may people notice our commitment to Christ through

- our fasting from angry words to sharing encouragement.
- our fasting from selfishness to joyful giving.
- our fasting from busyness to participating in Bible study and introspection.
- our fasting from doubt to seeking God and joy in believing.

March is the month during which we celebrate the gifts of Women. We thank God for our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, cousins, teachers and those whose loving guidance and leadership we experience in the church. Do you know about Dr. Mae Jemison, Dr. Patricia Bath, Gladys West, and Fanny Crosby?

May the Lord bless you and keep you and you loved ones safe in the Everlasting Arms, and may the Holy Spirit bind us together as a faith family with the love of Christ.

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 and click on Special Events web pages for more information.

To learn more, please email 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

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MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

Duane Horne

MARCH 3RD

Francina Carroll

MARCH 4TH

C. Wesley Reisse

MARCH 7TH

Rosemary Walkenhorst

MARCH 7TH

Sally McCord-Amasis

MARCH 10TH

Ida Wiggins-White

MARCH 11TH

Ted Walkenhorst

MARCH 14TH

Randolph Clever

MARCH 17TH

Emmanuel Heyer-Rivera

MARCH 19TH

Leslie Burton

MARCH 20TH

Alexandra Deas

MARCH 20TH

Mark McCord-Amasis

MARCH 21ST

Zara Gibbs

MARCH 21ST

Tyrone Burton

MARCH 26TH

Soren Hood

MARCH 27TH

Justin Garner

MARCH 29TH

Things To Remember!

PA Primary Election Date is on April 23, 2024!

You must be registered to vote by 04/08/2024. If you have any questions, call 1-877-VotesPA



Prefer to vote from home?

Absentee or mail-in-ballot applications must be returned by 04/16/2024. To request an application visit pavoterservices.pa.gov.

Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry News

GACM does many things including providing information and application assistance for programs including LIHEAP and the PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate. LIHEAP offers up to \$1000 for heating assistance to income eligible households. The program is slated to close March 29 so there is still time to apply. Another great resource is The PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Homeowners and renters with a household income of \$45,000 or less may be eligible to receive up to \$1000 through a standard rebate. This is \$350 more than the rebate last year and the income guidelines have increased. You must be 65 and older, widow and widowers 50 and older or be 18 and older with a permanent disability. There is plenty of time to apply. Rebate checks are mailed beginning July 1. For more information visit GACM's web site, www.crisisministry.org or call the office, 215-843-2340.

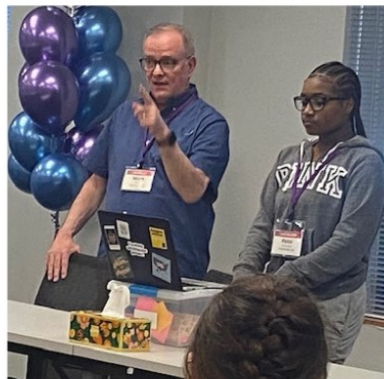
Freedom School Update!

Despite weather reports that include freezing temperatures and snow, summer is coming and plans for a return to a fully operating Freedom School have begun. Tentative dates for the program are June 24 through Aug 9. If you would like to participate in the Freedom School Planning Team or have ideas about activities and field trips, speak to Contina Lee Lundy or Eileen Jones. Or, call the church office, 215-843-8811 and leave your contact information for a return call.



Preparing for Triennium

This past week, Mimi Ohemeng and Kelsi Scott Lundy joined 40 youth and adults, along with the Coordinating Team in Louisville Kentucky to begin the planning of the Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025. The majority of the work took place in The Presbyterian Center at 100 E Witherspoon Street. The 40 youth and young adult were placed in 4 Leadership Teams that will continue working via Zoom until they meet again in person next February. The teams were Worship, Community Life, Recreation and Groups. Mimi and Kelsi both were selected to work on the Recreation Team. They will help plan all the recreation events for the 4,000 people that will attend Triennium in July 2025. Triennium is a youth event that happens every 3 years and usually takes place on Purdue University campus. Next year, it will take place in Louisville KY on July 28-31, 2025 at the Presbyterian Center, Kentucky International Convention Center and surrounding hotels.



Music News

After a full month celebrating the contributions to sacred music of musicians from the African Diaspora, the month of March will highlight music by women. FPCG has a long history supporting the work of female artists, including the monumental murals of Violet Oakley in the Jennings Room, all of which depict stories of women from the Bible.

Over the course of the month of March, the FPCG choir will sing music by female composers familiar and brand new to us. Composers such as the distinguished Alice Parker, a longtime favorite at FPCG, and Amy Beach, one of 19th century America's most original voices, will appear alongside living composers like Sarah MacDonald and Eleanor Daley. Other composers like Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel and Clara Schumann, who were overshadowed during their lives by their brother and husband will be heard as exciting composers in their own right.

Dovetailing with this celebration, we are also happy to feature a distinguished soloist, Amanda Renee Mole, as part of the Philadelphia Organ Festival on Saturday, March 16 at 7pm. The Philadelphia Organ Festival will take place at churches all across the city, showcasing the organ in collaboration with other musicians. For Amanda Mole's concert at FPCG, we will hear Steve Reich's monumental Music for Mallet Instruments, Voices, and Organ together with an ensemble of percussionists and singers from Grammy award winning ensemble The Crossing.

Church Finances

As you may recall, the 2024 church budget, as approved by Session, was presented to the congregation in December. It was then noted that there would be two things that may cause revisions to this version in the New Year (2024). These two items relate to the actual expenses for 2023 as well as any refined income projections for 2024.

At this point in the new year, we are still in the reconciliation phase for the finances, but we can provide some guidance using the actual 2023 expenses and some estimates for the possible income for 2024.

A brief review shows us that the 2023 budget showed a **\$59,096** deficit based on the budgeted expenses which included many items pertaining to a new minister coming on board. The budgeted expenses were \$799,082 however that actual expenses were \$714,073. **This is a difference of \$85,009 and is a greater offset than the budgeted deficit!**

This is encouraging as our 2024 expense projections seem to be in line with the results from 2023. Our income is dependent somewhat on the results of our stewardship program which is progressing but still needs everyone to participate to meet the goal.

March Challenge Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope. Received during the season of Lent to Palm Sunday, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

Support this offering that provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.



SOUP SUPPER

GOOD SOUP



NEW FRIENDS

East Falls Presbyterian Church
3800 Vaux St
efpcoffice@gmail.com

Wednesday March 6, 6:30pm

Are you familiar with these Christian symbols?



Chi Rho. The letter P within an X. This symbol is an ancient monogram of Christ that has been in use for almost 1700 years. Emperor Constantine had the monogram placed on the shields of his legions throughout the Roman Empire.

What does it mean? It is an abbreviation of Christ.

The symbol is derived from the first two letters of the Greek word $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\varsigma$ (CHRISTOS).



The Alpha and Omega. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. But it's more than that: The Alpha and the Omega stand for Jesus Christ, "the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13), "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb 13:8).

Both of these symbols can be found in FPCG's sanctuary. Can you find them?

Hint: Check out the baptismal font or the parament hanging from the pulpit.

Submitted by Bob Seed



THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN GERMANTOWN

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