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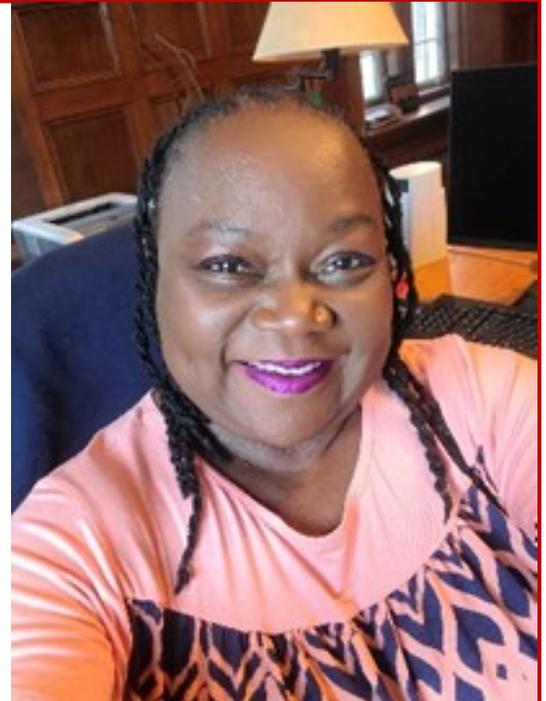
The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
April 2024



From the Pastor

Beloved,

I am praying am praying for you this blessed Easter Season. We rejoice with affirmation our belief that Jesus Christ is risen! Our time of celebration is also dotted with pauses to commend to God beloved members who have passed away. Yet we remember that the Bible tells us in Psalm 30:5 that “weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.”



Spring is here, and with the blooming tulips and daffodils and chirping birds comes the reminder that we need to clean up our place here in Germantown. The Mission and Outreach Committee have set a date for the Spring Clean Up, providing us with safety vests and gloves. All we need to do is bring our energy and love for our neighbors so that we can demonstrate our stewardship of the earth.

Please mark your calendars: there will be opportunities for church field trips this month, and on May 5th our church will be joined by the Executive Presbyter Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace, Stated Clerk Rev. Kevin L. Porter and members of the Philadelphia Presbytery for my installation. More news to come!

Much love and God bless,

Pastor Cheni

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

Send to

Communications
@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 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
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APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

Todd Gasper

APRIL 2ND

Pernell Jackson

APRIL 5TH

Robert Seed

APRIL 9TH

Vera Harrison

APRIL 11TH

Roberta Robinson

APRIL 13TH

Lydia Overton

APRIL 20TH

Delores Adams-Henderson

APRIL 25TH

Phyl Bryan

APRIL 27TH

Linda Farlow

APRIL 4TH

Brittany Jones

APRIL 8TH

Dolores Shanks

APRIL 10TH

Denise Cowie

APRIL 13TH

Elisa Heyer-Rivera

APRIL 15TH

Fay Tomlinson

APRIL 20TH

Jason Greene II

APRIL 25TH

Valient Solomon

APRIL 30TH

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.

YOUTH NEWS

Open Gym has resumed at First Church

Our longstanding ministry of opening up our gymnasium for pick up basketball games for our broader Germantown community has resumed as of Saturday, February 24th. Every Saturday from 10-1p players form teams of 4 and compete in games. If you know of anyone 15 years of older who is looking for an opportunity to play some 4v4 basketball games in a safe and structured place, please have them call Christian Heyer-Rivera at 267.972.5662 to have their names put on the Open Gym participant list. Please pray for this ministry as well that the relationships built among players, volunteer leaders, and FPCG staff would be used by God to encourage, support and build one another up in love.

FPCG Weight Room

Did you know that beyond a gymnasium, that our church building is the home to a small yet effective weight room. We have machines and weights to be able to do a full body workout. In addition we also have medicine balls to help anyone 15 years or older build muscle and work toward strength and greater physical health. Please set up a time with Christian Heyer-Rivera to be trained on each machine so that you might lift during church hours.

Lenten Study Thanks

Thanks to all those who led and participated in our Lenten Study on Why Palestine Matters. We thank God for the opportunity to gather together during this Lenten season to explore issues of justice, equity, advocacy, the biblical witness and our PCUSA response to the ongoing conflict in the regions of Palestine and Israel. The Christian Education committee would like to extend a special thank you to Rev. David Cassie for his leadership in organizing each week's teaching. Thank you to Alison Glick for your powerful first hand account of the conditions of inequity that exist in the region as well as the complicated history. Thank you as well Rev. Allison Seed, Rev. Kevin L. Porter, and our senior minister Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje for your time, energy, and knowledge concerning this topical study and the importance of our advocacy for creating a more just and equitable response to the violence and oppression.

All Youth Group Testimony time with Rev. Cheni

On February 23rd, all ages of our youth at FPCG gathered to listen to Rev. Cheni share her testimony of God's grace, provision, and her discerning God's call for her life. Parents were encouraged to come as well to listen and learn more about Rev. Cheni and the work of God building her up in faith, hope and love. The night included a time of play in the gym, Rev. Cheni's testimony, and concluded with a build your own ice cream sundae bar. Thank you Rev. Cheni for taking the time to lift up the name of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and ministry. We were blessed and challenged through your witness!



“Participants enjoying the ice cream sundae bar at the event”

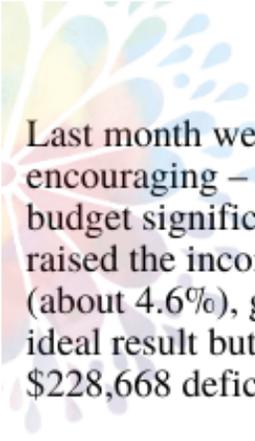
YOUTH NEWS CONTINUED

Summer Puerto Rico Service-Learning Trip

On June 22nd-30th, a team of 15 people from FPCG will be traveling and working in Puerto Rico with the organization: Techos Pa' Mi Gente (Roofs for my People). For the last couple years, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been partnering with this organization providing them with groups of volunteers as they fulfill their purpose on the island. Techos Pa' Mi Gente works with families all over the island that need their roof fixed or rebuilt as well as any other work needed in their house. They also work with the community teaching homeowners how to do minor repairs and how to plant and maintain family gardens. The FPCG team has already started a campaign for fundraising. We are presently selling Puerto Rican coffee shipped straight from the farm where it is grown, roasted and ground. 8oz bags of ground coffee can be purchased by contacting Christian Heyer-Rivera by text at 267.972.5662 or by email at cheyer-rivera@fpcgermantown.org. Look for our team's fundraising campaign in upcoming coffee hour fellowship times after worship services. We will also be hiring ourselves out for small home improvement projects (light painting, landscaping, fence construction, etc). We want to thank FPCG in advance for joining this ministry through your generosity in our fundraising and through your continued prayers!



"Summer 2023 group photo"



Church Finances

Last month we reported the results as of the end of the year 2023 which were encouraging – simply that we ended 2023 with an actual surplus and underspent the 2023 budget significantly! Adding that surplus, \$51,872, to our projected income for 2024 raised the income by 8.4% to \$665,289. Also, by allocating some lowering of expenses (about 4.6%), gives us a forecasted budget shortfall of \$138,128. Certainly, this is not an ideal result but somewhat less than our prior 2024 forecast last December which was a \$228,668 deficit.

The Session is addressing this issue through several approaches – how do we generate more income as well as how can we utilize our resources in the most effective manner. While the Session is doing this work, we ask everyone to continue your loyal and excellent support! It would make the planning better, if anyone who has not made a 2024 stewardship commitment yet, help us out by confirming your support.

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 or (610) 308-5898.

Thank you for your participation!



COMMUNITY SPRING Cleanup

This intergenerational activity will be fun for all! There will be something to do for every level of mobility. Bring a positive attitude, a willingness to show love to our community and work gloves if you have them. Trash bags, latex gloves, rakes and shovels will be provided. Refreshments too!



April 20, 2024



9 AM - 12 PM



**35 W. Chelten Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144**

Join us as we do our part to clean up Chelten Avenue. You can be a visible witness to Germantown, that FPCG members and friends care about our community.

Sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee

The heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth has been given to all humanity. - Psalm 115:16

IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY! LET'S DO THIS!



THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN GERMANTOWN

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