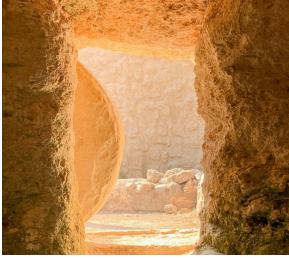




Windows

The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
April 2025



In this Issue

- Minister's Message.....1
- Church Closure.....2
- April Birthdays.....2
- Jesus and Possessions*.....3
- April Challenge
- Offering.....3
- Easter Festival.....4
- Earth Day.....5
- King David*.....6
- First Aid/AED training.....7
- Church Outings.....8
- Lent 2025.....9
- Holy Week 2025.....10
- ICE information.....11



Beloved,
Spring has sprung and the forsythia bushes, cherry trees and blossoms of all kinds are beginning to “show off” the handiwork of God. What a beautiful way for us to transition from the cold, dreary days of winter to the promise of longer days and warmer temperatures. It’s time to dust off the garden gnomes and decorations in our yards or on our balconies as the tulips, daffodils and other bulbs that we planted in fall send their green shoots toward the sun.

This time of year is not without its challenges for those who suffer from seasonal allergies. However, God’s colorful creation still fills our hearts with awe and wonder. We are still walking through Lent with our Bible study *Jesus and Possessions*, drawing closer to Calvary. This period affords us the opportunity to continue examining the issues and things that threaten to occupy primary positions in our lives. We are invited to focus our attention on the Lord who promises the presence of the Holy Spirit now and always.



The Oratorio Choir has been diligently preparing to present Honegger’s *King David*. Fabulous singing and formidable negotiation of this composition by the musicians, with John Walhausen conducting, will elevate the telling of this biblical tale. You won’t want to miss it.

Easter is a few weeks away, bringing reflective interlude to an end with the Easter Festival and service that is ushered in with music and fanfare. Have you planned your Easter dinner yet? Will you be serving leg of lamb or spiral-cut ham? The celebrations underscore our sure hope that on the last day we, too, will rise to be with our Triune God.

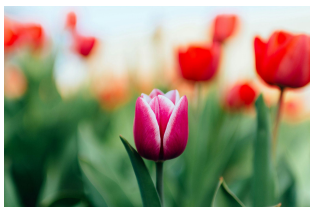


In Genesis 1:28, God invites humankind to become co-creators and stewards of the world that the Lord has made. Earth Day, April 22nd, is when we focus our efforts and awareness of the needs of this planet and all the living things that call it home. Earth Day practices should become our everyday prayerful care of the world, and all who dwell in it. This is the way that we can ensure that our children and children’s children will inherit this awesome gift.

May your April be filled with awe and wonder.

Blessings and love,

Pastor Cheni



Items for the April edition of *Windows* are due on April 22, 2025. Send to office@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.

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 or email the church office.

Contributors:

Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje
 John Walhausen
 Cari States-Codding
 Sara Greene
 Marney Hague
 Sheila Heyer-Rivera

Church Closure

FPCG will be closed on April 21st, in honor of Easter Monday.



April Birthdays

Todd Gasper
April 02

Peter Ahn
April 03

Joy Ahn
April 03

Linda Farlow
April 04

Pernell Jackson
April 05

Brittany Jones
April 08

Robert Seed
April 09

Dolores Shanks
April 10

Ver Harrison
April 11

Denise Cowie
April 13

Roberta Robinson
April 13

Elisa Heyer-Rivera
April 15

Fay Tomlinson
April 20

Mandy Adams-Henderson
April 25

Jason II Greene
April 25

Anthony Webb
April 26

Phyl Bryan
April 27

Valient Solomon
April 30



Lenten Bible Study: Jesus and Possessions

Jesus and Possessions is a six-week Lenten Bible study that challenges us to better understand God's provision for our needs. Together we will ponder our attachment to what we have, wrestle with the question "how much is enough?", and explore the risks and consequences of being too attached to possessions. We will also reflect on the act of giving and how it impacts our lives.



April Challenge Offering

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has partnered with Techos Pa' Mi Gente for many years. PDA helps them fulfill their purpose on the island by providing them with groups of volunteers. Techos Pa' Mi Gente works with families all over the island that need their roof fixed or rebuilt, as well as working on any other work needed in their house. They also provide education to the community. Our April challenge offering will go towards both aiding our FPCG group while we work in Puerto Rico as well as a donation towards Techos Pa' Mi Gente ongoing work of rebuilding. Thank you for joining us in this work through your generosity!



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
GERMANTOWN INVITES YOU TO:

OUR ANNUAL EASTER FESTIVAL

**WHEN: SATURDAY,
4/19/2023**

FROM 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

WHERE: 35 W.CHELLEN AVE

**THERE WILL BE CRAFTS, SIDEWALK CHALK, FREE
LUNCH PROVIDED , A VISIT FROM THE EASTER
BUNNY AND AN**

EGG HUNT AT 12:45PM IN VERNON PARK

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

The History of Earth Day

1962

"Silent Spring", by Rachel Carson, is published. It sells over 500,000 copies in 24 countries, raising awareness of environmental issues.



1969

In January, there was a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Sen. Gaylord Nelson (WI) announced to the media that he wanted to host teach-ins on college campuses. Activist Dennis Hayes and Congressman Pete McCloskey (CA) helped with organization.



1970

The first Earth Day was held, and it led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



1990

Earth Day went international, organizing over 200 million people in 141 countries.



2016

World leaders signed the Paris Agreement. The overall goal is to reduce the increase in the planet's temperature.



2020

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day mobilized more than one billion people online in various climate-related activities.



2025

This year marks Earth Day's 55th anniversary, and 192 countries are participating. This year's theme is "Our Power, Our Planet".

www.earthday.org

Earth Day 2025, April 22nd

"The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) believes that caring for the earth is an integral part of our faith. Through education and advocacy efforts across various ministries, and the policymaking of the General Assembly, we support economic, environmental, and missional decisions that reflect our values."

- pcusa.org/environment

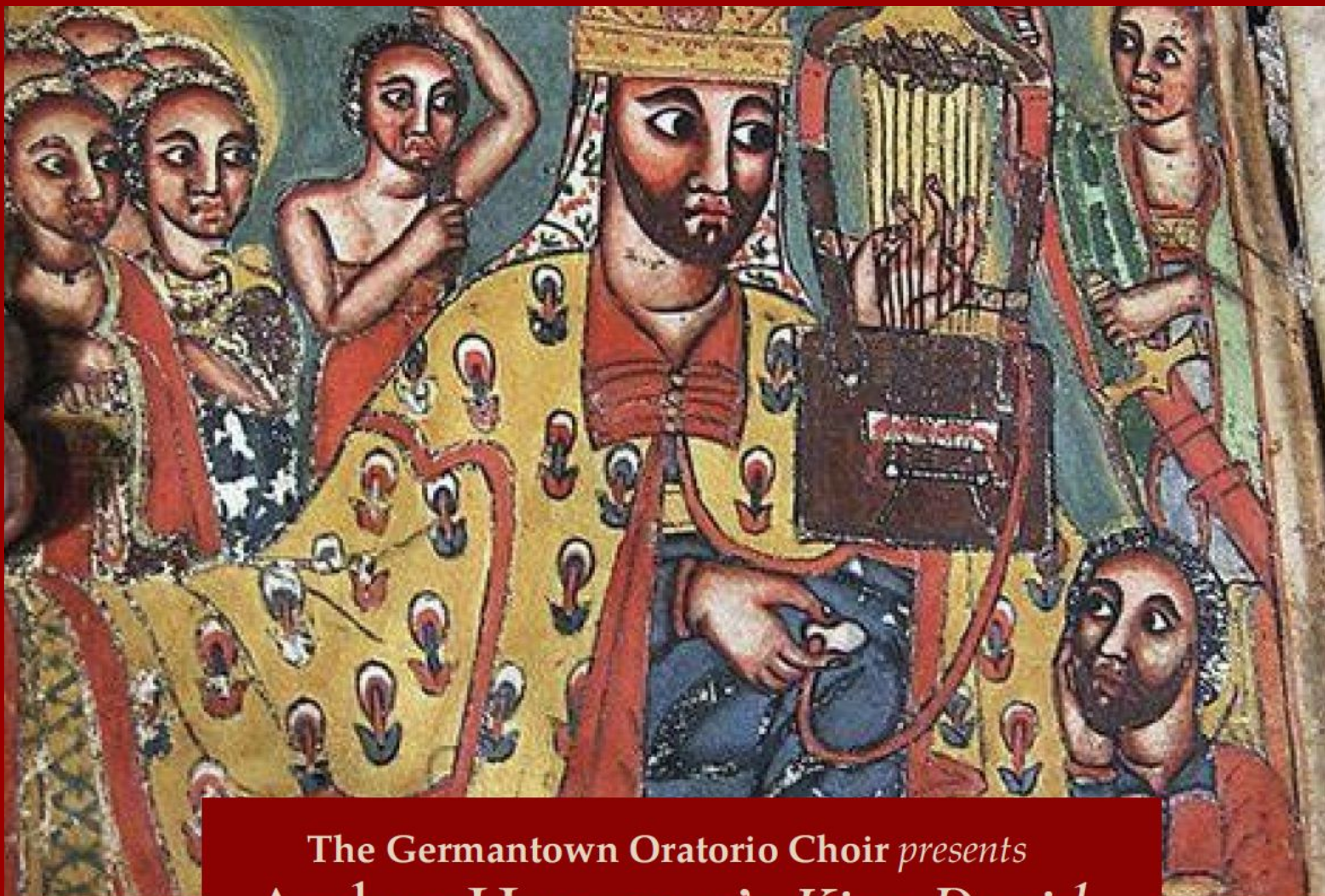
In addition to having internal programs focused on creation care, PC(USA) partners with two organizations in order to care for God's creation and to be good stewards of the earth. These organizations include Creation Justice Ministries (creationjustice.org) and Presbyterians for Earth Care (presbyearthcare.org).

Did you know?

The Bible has over 1,000 references to the earth.

"As Jesus' power is found in the cross, we are led to ask, what role does suffering and sacrifice have in our quest for more forms of energy? And as Jesus' death gives way to resurrection, how is our faith renewed as we trust in God for what is beyond our control?"

-*The Power of God: From Extractive Theology to Transformative Faith*, Creation Justice Ministry's 2025 Earth Day resource booklet



The Germantown Oratorio Choir *presents*
Arthur Honegger's *King David*
a symphonic psalm for choir, chamber orchestra, and soloists

Featuring

Rachael Lipson and
Laurice Simmons Kennel, sopranos
Tanisha Anderson, mezzo soprano
Shaun McGrath, tenor
Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje, narrator
John Walthausen, director

Performance

The First Presbyterian
Church in Germantown
Sunday, April 6, 3 PM

Entry is free, donations gratefully accepted

Join Us for a Life-Saving Opportunity: First Aid, CPR, and AED Training

Dear Church Family,

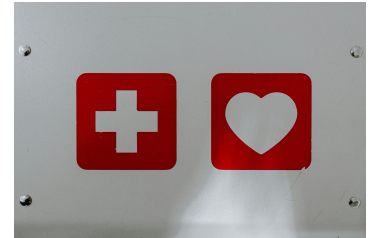
We are excited to announce a wonderful opportunity for our community to learn essential life-saving skills. We invite you to participate in our upcoming First Aid, CPR, and AED training course, certified by the American Red Cross. This training is not only a valuable investment in your personal skills but also a crucial asset in keeping our church and community safe.

Training Details

Dates and Times:

- o Saturday, May 17th: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- o Sunday, June 8th: 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

- Location: The First Presbyterian Church in Church in Germantown, Room: TBD
- Cost: \$20 per participant (If this cost seems prohibitive, but you want to attend, please let us know)
- Certification: American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and AED Certificate upon completion



Why You Should Attend

1. Empower Yourself with Life-Saving Skills Accidents and emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. By attending this training, you will be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to respond effectively in critical situations, potentially saving lives.
2. Serve Your Community Our church is built on the foundation of service and care for one another. By learning these vital skills, you are contributing to the safety and well-being of our congregation and the larger community.
3. Comprehensive Training The course will cover essential topics, including how to perform CPR, use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and administer basic first aid. These skills are invaluable in both everyday scenarios and emergency situations.

Who Should Attend

This training is open to everyone, but we are encouraging Ushers, Deacons, Elders, Parents, Staff, our Youth and any lay person who has a heart to serve to register.

How to Register

Signing up is easy! Simply sign-up during Coffee Hour with a member of the Safety and Wellness committee or call Sara Greene at (610) 716-1922 to reserve your spot. Space is limited to twelve people per training, so we encourage early registration.

Invest in Your Skills, Invest in Lives

For just \$20, you can gain critical skills that could make a life-saving difference. Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or new to our community, this training is an excellent opportunity to enhance your abilities and demonstrate your commitment to helping others.

We hope you will join us for this important training session. Together, we can make our church a safer place for everyone.

Yours in service and faith,

Sara Greene

Chair, Safety and Wellness Committee

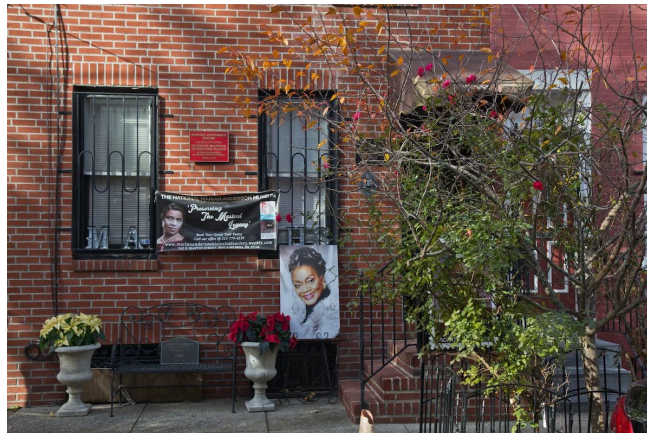
Church Outings

The Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee is planning a series of outings for church members and friends over the next several months. We'll start with an outing on Saturday, April 26th, from 10AM-4PM, to the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum, located near the Philadelphia airport. The automotive museum has over 75 historically significant racing sports cars, including Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Corvette, Mercedes, Jaguar, Bentley, Porsche, Aston Martin, Ford, and more. This is one of the world's greatest collections of racing sports cars with premier racing records. On April 26th, one of the museum's "Demo Days", several cars from the collection are featured, with racing on the on-site demo track, and the close examination of racing car engines. Cost is \$15/person (plus booking fee of \$2.85 for online reservations). Demo hours are 11:15AM-2PM. If you have advanced reservations and need a ride, call Marney Hague (215-843-0886) to arrange church bus carpooling. You may also sign up during coffee hour.



Future Planned Outings:

- ❖ May: Grounds for Sculpture, located in suburban NJ (one hour away)
- ❖ June/July: Wheaton Arts and Glass Museum, located in Millville, NJ
- ❖ September: Long's Park Fine Arts and Crafts Weekend, Labor Day weekend, whole day outing with carpools
- ❖ Date TBD: Marian Anderson House and Museum, located in Philadelphia





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

35 W. CHELTEN AVE.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
office@fpcgermantown.org

JOIN US THIS LENT

MARCH 4 FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Family friendly event
Youth fundraiser
Longstreth Auditorium 5:30 - 7:30 PM

MARCH 5 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Soup Supper 6 PM **Longstreth Auditorium**
Worship begins 7 PM

MARCH 9 - APRIL 13 LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

“Jesus and Possessions” by Rev. Cheni Khonje
Every Sunday in Lent (March 9 - April 13)
11:30 AM **Jennings Room**

APRIL 6 ARTHUR HONNEGER’S *KING DAVID*

Concert by Germantown Oratorio Choir
Open to all. A free will offering will be collected
3 PM **Sanctuary**

APRIL 13 PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship 10 AM
Including a procession of palms and reading of the Passion



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

35 W. CHELTEN AVE.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
office@fpcgermantown.org

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 13

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship 10 AM
with procession of palms and reading of the Passion

APRIL 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Dinner for all 6 PM in **Longstreth Auditorium**
Suggested donation \$10 adults, \$5 children
Worship begins 7 PM

APRIL 18

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Worship begins 12 PM - 3 PM
Northwest Philadelphia Presbyterian Churches
**Oxford Presbyterian Church - 8501 Stenton Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA**

APRIL 19

EASTER FESTIVAL

10 AM - 1 PM
Fun for the whole family: crafts, Easter bunny, egg hunt,
and a free lunch

APRIL 20

EASTER SUNDAY

Join us as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection
Festive Prelude 9:40 AM
Worship with Choir, organ, and brass 10 AM

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ~ Luke 10:27

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has revoked the previous administration's guidance for immigration enforcement. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents can now enter schools, hospitals and churches. ICE can enter public areas without permission which include parking lots, lobbies and other waiting areas. They cannot, however stop, question and arrest anyone who is in a public area. What this means for us is that ICE may enter the church and our fellowship halls, Longstreth, Jennings and Finney. They are not permitted to go into our church offices unless they have a judicial warrant with a specific person's name on it or expressed permission from the pastor and senior staff. Churches may identify the sanctuary and fellowship rooms as private on the six other days of the week and thus deny access to these areas. Below, please find a graphic advising us on how we be document and be witnesses to interactions that are contrary to our Christian mandate of loving our neighbors and caring for those who seek refuge in our country.

Leviticus 19:33-34: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong."

Zechariah 7:9-10: "Do not oppress the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."

HOW TO DOCUMENT AND REPORT ICE ARRESTS

Let's not let fear divide us. An organized community is a secure community.

HOW TO RECORD
Record or take photos:
You have the right under the First Amendment to document ICE and the police. Do so from a safe distance.

HOW TO REPORT

- *It's important that we only share verified reports to avoid causing unnecessary anxiety, panic, or fear in our community.*
- *Contact JUNTOS to report or verify any suspicious ICE activity.*

WHAT TO DOCUMENT

- Where the raid happened
- *Date and time*
- Number of agents
- *Type of vehicle used*
- Agents' attire
- *How they identified themselves*

RESPONSE NETWORK

- Telephone: 215-218-9079
- Instagram: @vamos_juntos_
- Facebook: Juntos

JUNTOS

- We will reflect the loving presence of Christ – Matthew 28:19-20
- We will serve others faithfully – Mark 10:43-45
- We will worship God joyfully – Colossians 3:16
- We will share life together – Acts 2:42-47
- We will be a diverse community – 1 Corinthians 12:15-19
- We will be a generous community – 1 Timothy 6:18-19

The mission of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is to reflect the loving presence of Christ as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully, and share life together in a diverse and generous community. While much could be added to this statement, we believe that this captures the most essential elements of our mission today as revealed through the words, thoughts and actions of the congregation. This mission statement is not only rooted in the life of the congregation; we believe that each promise this statement makes is rooted in Scripture as well:



The First Presbyterian Church in
Germantown

35 W. Chelton Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-843-8811
office@fpcgermantown.org
www.fpcgermantown.org