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*The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
December 2024*



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Items for the January issue of *Windows* are due on December 18, 2024. Send to office@fpcgermantown.org



Beloved,

I pray that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. Does anyone have recipes for leftover turkey to share? Perhaps sharing recipes for Christmas cookie exchanges would be a fun thing to do.

The church has been adorned with poinsettias, wreaths and Christmas trees. We are grateful for the team that decorated the sanctuary, the halls and other gathering places. It looks marvelous. Thank you.

We were treated to Handel's Messiah by the beautiful voices of the Oratorio Choir on December 1st. The excellent leadership of our Director of Music always makes this entry into the season of Advent so majestic!

December 1st is World AIDS Day. We remember the 32 million people worldwide who have died from AIDS-related illnesses. It is also a time for us to galvanize our efforts to eradicating HIV. Our congregation is blessed to have Frank Lundy, who is an exceptional fundraiser for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. His faithfulness to God has given him the ability to show love to so many people through his efforts.

We are hoping to have a new members' class in January. It is my hope that those of you who are new to FPCG will consider joining the church.

There are many opportunities in which you can help our covenant community. One way is in becoming a liturgist on Sunday. Our plan is to have a mini training on leading worship with me and John (Walhausen). Christian and Sheila and others have done so; will you give it a try?

I am grateful to God for all of you who attend the church, both in person and online. May this advent be full of expectant joy as we await the coming of the Christ-child. May the love of Jesus be birthed in our hearts every day from now and forever more.

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.

**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:
office@fpcgermantown.org

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Church Closure

In celebration of Christmas, FPCG will be closed on December 25th and 26th.

December Birthdays

December 06

December 08

December 12

December 13

December 14

December 15

December 17

December 18

December 23

December 27

December 28

Susan Mills MacDonald

Kelsi Scott-Lundy

Lechelle Garnett

Ingrid Harris

Tara Payne-Jones

Jasmine Greene

Victoria Solomon

Taye McCord-Amasis

Christopher Scott

Eugene Gardenhire

Contina Lee Lundy

Betty King

Bernetta Washington



October 18, 2024

The Congregation
First Presbyterian Church of Germantown
35 W. Shelton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Dear Friends,

I would like to acknowledge Frank Lundy's longtime participation in AIDS Walk Philly and thank you the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Germantown for supporting his efforts through your donations. Unfortunately, our records only go back to the 2000 AIDS Walk Philly, but over just the past 25 years, Mr. Lundy has raised over \$24,000 through his hard work and the generosity of his friends at First Presbyterian! We know he was participating before 2000 the amount raised is actually even higher!

The focus of AIDS Fund's programs is to achieve the goal of "Getting to Zero" - zero stigma, zero infections, and zero deaths. Our public awareness and education efforts are designed to combat the stigmas associated with HIV, and to increase awareness about the newest prevention strategies and the advances in the care and treatment of HIV.

Our From All Walks of Life Fund supports people living with HIV through financial assistance grants during times of crisis. Thanks to donors like you, AIDS Fund provides emergency assistance grants to people living with HIV disease, 75% of whom live below the Federal Poverty Level. These recipients have included:

- *a teenage immigrant who escaped abuse in their home country and needed a translator for an asylum hearing;*
- *a person who desperately needed safe housing to escape a domestic violence situation;*
- *a person whose water heater broke in winter, leaving them without hot water;*
- *a family that needed to move due to unsafe black mold in their home.*

Mr. Lundy's efforts and your support help to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community have the basic necessities that can assist them in maintaining their health and keep them in care.

Mr. Lundy has certainly made a difference in the community and the generosity of the congregation is greatly appreciated. I hope you will continue to support Mr. Lundy's and AIDS Fund. You have truly made a difference in the lives of people living with HIV disease in our community.

Sincerely,



Robb Reichard
Executive Director

AIDS Fund is a nonprofit charitable organization and your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. This letter confirms that no goods or services were provided to you by AIDS Fund in consideration for your contribution.

2628 Orthodox Street
Philadelphia, PA 19137

215-731-9255

info@aidsfundphilly.org
www.aidsfundphilly.org

Getting to Zero Together

A Christmas Prayer

Dear God,

You willed your unborn son to be held
in the womb of a teenage peasant mother.

You willed your newborn son to be held
in the sweaty hands of young, poor shepherds; and
in the shaky hands of elderly temple saints at prayer.

You willed your toddler son to be held
in the strange hands of pagan astrologers from afar; and
in the safe hands of Egyptian neighbors, welcoming the latest refugees.

You willed your young adult son to be held
in the savage hands of soldiers who beat him and killed him; and
in the steady hands of two silent, scared disciples who buried him.

You willed your dead son to be held
in your saving, loving hands, even as he prayed,
“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”.

You willed your once-dead son, held in your hands
to receive through your life-giving spirit new and eternal life

You willed that your ever-living son Jesus
will now hold us, your vulnerable and rebellious children,
forever in his hands.

For the hands of loved ones and strangers
and for the hands of Jesus,
I thank you, dear God.

Amen.

Don Carlin
2024

December Challenge Offering

The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, supporting church leaders of the past, present, and future. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Your gift provides critical financial support to church workers, retired ministers, and surviving spouses, many of whom served small churches and communities for their entire working lives. Your gift also continues a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges providing education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. Envelopes are available in pews, or you may mark your check or on-line gift CJO December Challenge Offering.



Please bring your donation(s) to the church throughout the month of and December. They can be left in the black box, next to the literature table, or in the wheelbarrow that is located in the sanctuary. All goods are needed. Items not used in holiday baskets will support the weekly food distribution. Our numbers are up and we have served over 90 households each week in October.

2024 GACM Holiday Basket Collection

Christmas baskets will be given to families who have requested help and documented their family size and financial need. \$45 can purchase a prepacked **SHARE** holiday box, perfect for a senior or family of 2. Donations should be made payable to **"GACM"**.

HOLIDAY BASKET CONTENTS

- Meat:* Turkey, Turkey Breast, Roasting Chicken
- Starch:* Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Yams, Macaroni & Cheese, Corn, Stuffing
- Veggie:* Green Beans, Green Peas
- Bread:* Rolls/Corn Bread Mix
- Dessert:* Cake Mix, Icing, Cookie Mix, Jello, Pie Crust, Pie Filling
- Other:* Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Seasonings, Sugar, Flour, Juice, Iced Tea, Canned Milk

★ Basket Distribution : Dec. 19th & 23rd

★ Basket Helpers Needed : Dec. 19th & 23rd

*Volunteers must register,
contact GACM at 215-843-2340.*

Germantown Ave Crisis Ministry
35 West Cheltenham Ave Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-843-2340 (p), 215-843-6020 (f)
www.crisisministry.org

Donations not used for the holiday basket distribution
will support regular food cupboard operation.



FPCG goes to Cherry Crest Adventure Farm

On Saturday, Nov 2 a group of children and adults spent the day in Cherry Crest! It was a beautiful day and the weather was perfect! We crushed pumpkins, jumped on trampolines, climbed bails of hay, survived the corn maze, and ate delicious apple cider donuts! Thank you all who joined us on this trip! We invite everyone to be on the lookout for more CE events where we will have more opportunities for fellowship and get to know each other better!



Christmas Drive by Caroling

This holiday season, our children and youth will be doing our annual “Drive by Caroling”! If you would like us to stop by your house for a carol or two, be sure to sign up during coffee hour on Sunday!

When? Friday 12/20 night and Sunday 12/15 & 12/22 afternoons

Any questions? Feel free to reach out to Sheila or Christian Heyer-Rivera

Reflections on Advent

Join us this Advent Season as Arlene Grace leads us through the book *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God’s Voice in Advent*, a four-week Advent study by Susan Robb. This study explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. We will explore these special visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel—and other angels—in the Old Testament. The book can be purchased during Fellowship Hour, November 10th and 17th and in class, while supplies last. The cost of the book is \$10.00 and aid is available. The study will take place November 24th; December 8th, 15th and 22nd, at 11:30 in the Jennings Room. So grab your goodies at Fellowship Hour and join us in the Jennings Room!





Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas is just around the corner, and FPCG is continuing the tradition of beautifying the sanctuary with poinsettias. They are \$15, and can be purchased either via a check or on FPCG's website at fpcgermantown.org/giving/. Be sure to put "poinsettias" in the memo. If you would like to provide a poinsettia, either in remembrance of or honoring a loved one, please let the office know, either via email (office@fpcgermantown.org) or via phone (215-843-8811). Checks can be mailed, placed in the offering plate, or placed in the offering slot outside the office. The last day to request a poinsettia is December 16th.

Directory Update

We are hard at work creating an updated directory, but we need your help. If you have not recently talked to Contina or a deacon about updating your contact information, please email your information to Contina Lee Lundy (sessionclerk@fpcgermantown.org). We would like names, addresses, emails, phone numbers, and birthdays, but you are welcome to provide as much (or as little) information as you are comfortable.



WAVERLY ALSTON MUSIC PRESENTS:

24TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

"Advent" REVISITING THE JOY OF *Our Salvation*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2024
OLIVET COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
608 N 22ND ST, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19130



7 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM)

ADVANCE TICKETS \$20

TICKETS PURCHASED AT DOOR \$25

Need Help?



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 10AM-1PM

Join us for...

- a musical performance, with message, at noon
- crafts (ornaments, cards, etc.)
- free lunch
- photos with Santa
- gingerbread house making station
- outdoor nativity scene with live animals



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN
35 W. CHELTEN AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144
OFFICE@FPCGERMANTOWN.ORG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

*Advent and Christmas at
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown*



Sunday, December 1 | Advent I

Worship at 10 am

Handel's *Messiah* at 3pm

Sunday, December 8 | Advent II

Worship at 10 am

Saturday, December 14 | FPCG Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 15 | Advent III

Worship at 10 am with Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22 | Advent IV

Worship at 10am

Tuesday, December 24 | Christmas Eve

Organ Prelude at 6:30pm

Lessons and Carols at 7:00pm

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
35 W. Cheltenham Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19144 | fpcgermantown.org

Thanks be to God, Amen!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving Bulletin Board, and thank you to Maddy Valentine for creating and decorating the board. We have a lot to be thankful for at FPCG.



- 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

well:

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



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