



• Windows •

The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
February 2025



BLACK HISTORY
24/7/365



February is here and we can look forward to enjoying six more weeks of winter, according to groundhog Punxsutawney Phil. Please be safe as you go about getting to school and work during the icy winter storms.

This is Black History month and while we highlight the inventions and innovations of our black siblings, the contributions they make to society that influence our lives are experienced every day. Some of the things that we may not acknowledge on a daily basis are blood transfusions, traffic lights, washing machines and the lights that we turn on in our homes at dusk. We are grateful to God for these things and so much more.

The Session (comprised of the elders and pastor) have been in discussion about formulating our church's policy concerning immigration. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have been acting in ways that go against normal law enforcement duties by acting in or close to sensitive areas. These sensitive areas used to be schools, hospitals and churches. The current Administration has removed protection from these places, including domestic violence shelters. We are concerned that raids can now be performed in churches during worship, schools and hospitals. In this newsletter, preliminary information is shared with you about how to act if you witness such an operation. We know, as Christian siblings, you care about those whose lives may be affected by such actions.

This month also presents a special day on which we celebrate love. Valentine's Day is often marked as a celebration of love that is set apart for marriage proposals, romantic date nights with one's partner, and chocolates and candy hearts shared with a particular person or friends.



Valentine's Day was originally a Christian feast day that honored Valentine who was a martyr. St. Valentine was a third century clergyman, either a priest or bishop, and is the patron saint of Terni, Italy, epilepsy and beekeepers. He martyred and his body was burned on February 14th. This day has been celebrated as the Feast of Saint Valentine since at least the eighth century.

Speaking of feasting, are you ready for some football? While my fan loyalty has not



Speaking of feasting, are you ready for some football? While my fan loyalty has not changed from the NY Giants and SF 49ers, I am excited for all you Eagles fans. It has been a while since I was in New Orleans for a semester during graduate school at LSU at the Superdome. It was strange having the only blue, red and white jersey with Mark Bavaro's number 89 in a sea of black and gold. New Orleans fans are no joke. Coach Bill Parcells noticed me (yes, I had a great seat behind the Giants' bench) and asked what I was doing there on my own. Sunday the 9th we will be cheering loudly for the Philadelphia Eagles as we watch the Superbowl and have a good nosh of all the delectable goodies.

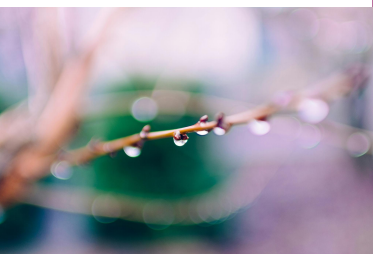
Blessings and love,

Pastor Cheni



In this Issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Church Closure..... | 2 |
| February Birthdays..... | 2 |
| Triennium 2025..... | 3 |
| Game Night..... | 3 |
| Hymnody 101..... | 3 |
| ICE information..... | 4 |
| Black History through Music..... | 5 |
| Black Excellence..... | 6 |
| King David..... | 7 |
| Artcinia..... | 8 |



Items for the March edition of *Windows* are due on February 18, 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.

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Church Closed

FPCG will be closed on Monday, February 17th, in honor of Presidents' Day.

February Birthdays

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 01 | Liz Drum |
| February 03 | Andrea Overton |
| February 08 | Herb Henze Arlene Ricketts |
| February 10 | Evadney Miller |
| February 13 | Pamela Murray |
| February 14 | Deborah Thompson Marlene Young |
| February 17 | Ian Cameron |
| February 23 | Regina Carter |
| February 24 | Carolyn Ballard-Freeman |
| February 25 | Shanise Gladden |
| February 26 | Earl Ball David Corbin |
| February 27 | Rena Cameron |

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025

The Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school age youth, young adults, and adult advisors to Louisville, Kentucky for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025. For four days (July 28th-July 31st), we will gather for worship, recreation, Bible study, outreach, and faith formation all centered around the theme of “As If We Were Dreaming”. Most programming and meals will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center with all participants housed at nearby Triennium hotels. Contina Lee Lundy, Mimi Ohemeng, and Kelsi Scott Lundy will be traveling to Louisville later this month to meet with the rest of the planning team to finalize the event.

Please keep them in your prayers. If you are a young adult or a high schooler and wish to learn more about Triennium 2025, please speak to Christian Heyer-Rivera or Contina Lee Lundy.



Game Night

The Christian Education committee is hosting a church wide Game Night on Friday, February 28, 2025 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. We will share a meal together and then there will be several choices of board games for you to play with other members of our community! This is an event for everyone ages 0 to 120! Come with your family and invite any friends and neighbors for a night of fun and fellowship!

Hymnody 101

Why do we sing in church? What does the Bible have to say about song? How can I find more meaning and enjoyment in singing for worship? In this three part class (Feb 2, Feb 16, and March 2) led by John Walhausen, we examine the rich story of the Church's hymnody, or its tradition of writing and singing songs together. Together, we will learn about the history of congregational song from the Old Testament through the present day, learn techniques to sing our hymns more confidently, and discover how singing together can bring us closer to God and to each other.



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

Black History Month through Music

This February, it is a joy to once again celebrate Black History in worship with music by a diverse array of black composers. On February 9, the choir will sing the familiar Spiritual “There is a Balm in Gilead” arranged by William Dawson, one of the 20th century’s most prominent black composers. Dawson’s *Negro Folk Symphony* was premiered by the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1934, and he taught at the Tuskegee Institute and directed choral ensembles around the world. On February 16, we will have another Spiritual arranged by Dawson, “Soon I will be Done with the Troubles of the World” alongside a more contemporary arrangement by Marques Garrett of the Spiritual “Sit Down, Servant”. Garrett, who teaches at the University of North Texas, leads a multi-faceted career composing, directing, and teaching. These two spirituals both offer touching commentary on Christ’s Sermon on the Mount, which will be one of that day’s readings.

On February 9, the choir will also sing a contemporary Gospel tune by Keith Hampton “Praise His Holy Name”. This anthem quotes “Amazing Grace” and might make you want to dance in church! This month, we also hear from African American Composers working in a classical tradition. On February 2, we heard an anthem from Rosephanye Powell, a favorite of the choir’s. Her setting of the latin prayer “Non Nobis Domine” is based on a simple repeating motive that gets layered in complex ways, building energy all the way to a dramatic conclusion. At the end of the month, we also hear “Love Bade me Welcome”, a touching setting of a 17th century poem by George Herbert set by prolific and acclaimed African American composer David Hurd. Hurd currently serves as music director at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City.

Preludes and Postludes this month will also reflect some of the richness of the African American Composition for the organ - I hope you enjoy special selections by composers Florence Price, Calvin Fuller, William Cooper (uncle of our own member Lydia Cooper), George Walker, and Fela Sowande.



William Dawson



Keith Hampton

Black Excellence

“...seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

-President Gerald Ford



Jesse Moorland

The story of Black History Month stretches back to 1915, fifty years after the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the US. Carter G. Woodson, a historian, and Minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The ASNLH was dedicated to researching and promoting the achievements of black Americans and people of descent. The



Carter Woodson

ASNLH (now renamed as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) sponsored a “Negro History Week” in 1926. It was on the second month of February in order to coincide with the birthdates of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. It was federally recognized and switched from a week to a month in 1976 by President Gerald Ford.



Fritz Pollard

First black coach in the National Football League.

Althea Gibson

Her desegregation of tennis is considered to have been tougher than what Jackie Robinson did for baseball. She won 11 Grand Slam titles in her career.

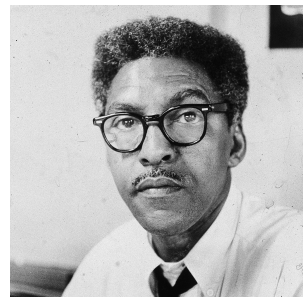


Frederick Jones

Inventor of mobile refrigeration technology, which he received 40 patents for (and 21 patents for other inventions).

Bayard Rustin

Right hand man of MLK and the organizer of the March on Washington. He introduced non-violence to MLK after traveling to India to learn from Gandhi. Due to his sexuality, he was intentionally kept in the background.

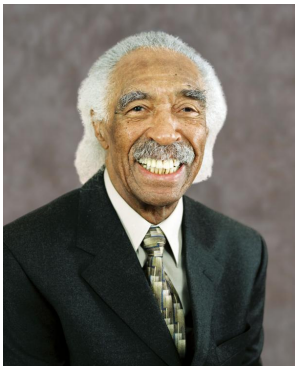


Jane Bolin

First black woman to graduate from Yale Law School, and the first black woman to serve as a judge in the United States.

Charles R. Drew

Pioneer in the fields of blood transfusions and blood storage, and the inventor of the “bloodmobile”, a mobile refrigeration unit for the collecting of blood donations.



Gerald Wilson

An innovator in jazz music, known for composing and arranging music for artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, and Ray Charles.

Sojourner Truth

A former slave, she chose her name because she heard God calling her to speak the truth. She was a preacher, and an advocate for black rights and for women's rights. Truth also helped recruit black soldiers for the Union army. She copyrighted her own image and used the proceeds of photo sales to fund her speaking tours. Truth spoke with a Dutch accent.



SINGERS WANTED



The Germantown Oratorio Choir *presents*

Arthur Honneger's *King David*

a symphonic psalm for choir, chamber orchestra, and soloists

Weekly Rehearsals
Tuesdays at 7:15
starting February 25

Performance
Sunday, April 6, 3 PM

For more information, contact Director of Music, John Walthausen
at jwalthausen@fpcgermantown.org

MUSIC IN YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

Pyxis Piano Trio & Friends

An Afternoon of Dvorak, Hailstork
and Price



Luigi
Mazzocchi
Violin



Natasha
Colkett
Violin



Nina
Cottman
Viola



Jie
Jin
Cello



Hiroko
Yamazaki
Piano

March 23
3 PM

The First Presbyterian Church
in Germantown
35 West Cheltenham Ave



Tickets available at the door and online: www.artcinia.com

Suggested Ticket Donation:

Adults \$10, Families \$15, Students/Seniors \$5



IN COLLABORATION WITH

Partners for Sacred Places



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:

- 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 First Presbyterian Church in
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