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The newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
June 2024



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From the Pastor

Beloved,
the days are getting warmer, and dusk is happening a little later each day. June presents us with celebrations of graduations, opportunities for fellowship, mission work and a time to say farewell.



The month of June is recognized as Pride month. The Presbyterian Church, USA and this church openly affirm our siblings. We celebrate the full dignity and humanity of people of all gender identities. We welcome, lift up, and fight for the human rights of all people created in God's Image. My stole this month will reflect these sentiments and our hearts will show our love.

It is hard to believe, but the time has come for us to say goodbye to our beloved Rev. Kevin Porter. He is returning to his full-time calling of serving as the Stated Clerk of Philadelphia Presbytery. Rev. Kevin has journeyed faithfully, for 30 years, with this church. He has been present when times were difficult and when there has been great joy in this House of God. Rev. Kevin will preach his last sermon on June 9th.



Also on that Sunday, John Walthausen and the Oratorio Choir will present J. S. Bach's *Cantata 8* and *Magnificat in D*. Please note that the music begins at 3 pm, and a free will donation will admit you to this amazing oratorio.

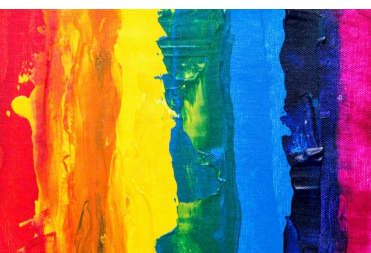
Saturday, the 15th of June, is when we will have our *Tea at FPCG*. Wear your hats and gloves and bring your appetite because there will be scones and clotted cream, traditional tea sandwiches and other delectable delights to eat. Reservations for the afternoon are going fast; please reserve your place for a spot of tea. Tea will be served at two o'clock.

Youth Sunday is fast approaching, and it will be celebrated on Father's Day, June 16. The commissioning of the Puerto Rico Service-Learning mission trip will also take place during worship. The grand finale for that day will be the Juneteenth Fellowship Time that we will enjoy together. Juneteenth, June 19th, commemorates the day in 1895 when freedom finally arrived in Galveston, Texas with 2,000 Union troops. 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free from bondage by executive decree.

Last, but not least, the Presbyterian Church, USA, is holding its biennial General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah. As you may recall, I was in Utah a few of weeks ago to plan and assist with final preparations for the assembly. Church, this is going to be an action-packed month. Let us welcome June with joy.

Much love and God bless,

Pastor Cheni



Items for the July issue of *Windows* are due on June 14, 2024.
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. 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: office@fpcgermantown.org

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Duane Horne
Christian Heyer-Rivera
John Walthausen
Jim Thompson



We want your birthdates!

Please email us at office@fpcgermantown.org with your birthdate so we can celebrate with you.



June Birthdays

June 01 Kaleb Gibbs

June 05 Allison Seed

June 10 Gail Hill

June 14 Norma Kilson

June 22 Kit Clever

June 23 Sylvia Clark

June 23 Mariel Jones

June 24 Alyse Hill

June 26 Bette Young

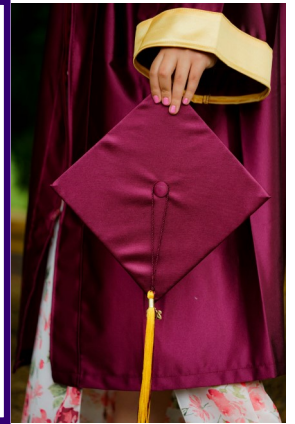
June 27 Jason Williams

Lower Utility Cost Explained

The Property Committee reported that based upon our current consumption it appears that we have saved \$6,500 in heating gas cost during the first quarter 2024, in comparison to the same period in 2023. This savings represents the reduced unit cost of the actual commodity, natural gas. This is attributable to the dual fuel function of our new heating system, which qualified us to terminate the GS (General Service) rate we have been on with PGW and to purchase gas based on the IT-A (Interruptible Tariff) rate from another supplier. Thank you all for your support of our "Keep the Heat Flowing" initiative and for your ongoing prayers for our ministry.

-Duane Horne, property committee

The Scholarship Committee is receiving applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. All post-secondary, trade school and graduate school degree and certification seeking members and friends are invited to request and fill out an application. Applications can be requested and filled out electronically or can be picked up as a hard copy within the church office. All applications are due Sunday, June 16th. Questions can be addressed to Klaas Hoekema, khoekema@gmail.com and/or Christian Heyer-Rivera, cheyer-rivera@fpcgermantown.org.



Starting on Sunday, June 16, our chancel choir is taking a well-deserved break from singing on Sunday mornings- however, we will continue to have beautiful music through the summer months. If you would like to offer a vocal or instrumental solo this summer, please reach out! Musicians of any level of experience, working in any style, are invited to share their gifts.

-John Walthausen



Happy Pride Month,
from all of us at FPCG!



June Challenge Offering

The Challenge Offering for JUNE is PAR Recycle Works whose mission is to recycle electronics while restoring lives. This unique Non-profit model is an employment Social Enterprise with two parts. Electronic Recycling and Workforce Development.



Electronic waste is a massive challenge for the nation's solid e-waste crisis:

E-waste is the fastest growing segment of our waste stream in the U.S. PAR assures clients that their e-waste is recycled in an environmentally responsible way, protecting health & safety and guarding data security, helping its clients accomplish risk management, and environmental and social goals. PAR also supports Re-entry educational and job skills training, and permanent job placement for people returning from prison.

400,000 people in Philadelphia have criminal records which becomes a barrier to mainstream employment. Unemployment is a highly correlated social factor for property crime, violent crime, and gun violence. PAR works directly to attack the problem by providing immediate jobs, training, and re-entry support. PAR's work with returning citizens is productive with a recidivism rate of 5% that is 90% lower than our national average.

Through the June Challenge Offering you can generously support this organization. Also, remember PAR when you need to recycle your e-waste. Contact PAR-Recycle Works, 267-335-5455, or visit <https://home.par-recycleworks.org/>

September Challenge Offering Preview

Once again, this year the September Challenge Offering will provide support to Athletes in Action (CRU). **Carl and Noreen Dambman** have been supported by our congregation in numerous ways for many years. Recently, they sent us an update about their recent activities and some information about their involvement with the 2024 Olympics to be held in Paris in late July and early August.

Spring 2024 Update

AIA Global Events Team 2024 Olympic Project

Since the founding of AIA over 50 years ago, we have had ministry at the Olympics. Carl has been at 18 Olympics (Summer and Winter—a dozen of those as an official chaplain). As part of the AIA Global Events Team



(GET), Our focus has been on getting the right AIA staff and key volunteers to Paris for ministry during the Games. We anticipate over 100 AIA staff, possibly 120-130. We will have two ten-day sessions of about 50-60 each session with a few days of overlap around August 1st for all the staff to interact. Carl will be at the project for 3 weeks, Noreen plans to join for the second session. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Every week I have **WhatsApp and Zoom calls** with the AIA Global Events Team, Bible Study with Russian speaking wrestlers and coaches in Eurasia (Ukraine, Moldova, Russia), Prayer for Ukraine, AIA Russia staff meeting, 1 John Bible Study, chaplains coaching, and calls with ISLS grads we know from 12 years of ministry in South Africa. Thank you for your prayers and support. We hope you had a Joyful celebration of Easter.

In Christ's Love,

Carl and Noreen Dambman

The FPCG Oratorio Choir presents

J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*



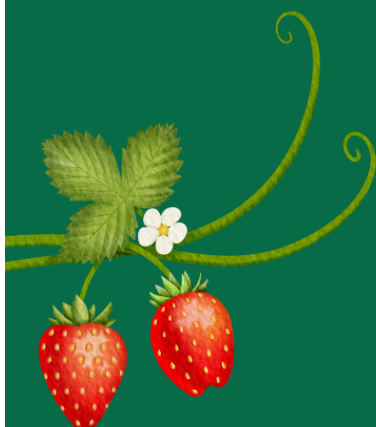
Sunday, June 9, 3pm

Entry by Free will donation

The Oratorio Choir of the The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
35 W. Cheltenham Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19144 | fpcgermantown.org
Overflow parking available at the Germantown Life Enrichment Center

EAST FALLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Strawberry Festival



WEATHER THE WEATHER

*A CABARET OF MUSICAL THEATER, JAZZ, AND
POP MUSICAL NUMBERS PRESENTED BY
EAST FALLS CHANCEL CHOIR*

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

7:00 P.M.

EAST FALLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3800 Vaux St, Philadelphia, PA 19129

FREE ADMISSION

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE ACCEPTED.





THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN GERMANTOWN

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Philadelphia, PA 19144
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