



Windows

The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
March 2025



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Beloved,

It is time for revelry and a good nosh! Mardi gras or Fat Tuesday. New Orleans hosts a world-famous parade while many other people celebrate Shrove Tuesday, the event marked by consuming pancakes. This is the last day of consuming fatty, rich food before one begins the Christian practice of fasting



for the 40 days of Lent. During the 40-day fast, folk reflect on their spiritual journeys and engage in Bible study. Beginning on March 9th, our church will have the opportunity to discuss what Jesus, and the Bible have to say about possessions and our attitudes towards the things we own. *Jesus and Possessions* Bible study will see us through Lent.

The all-Youth Group ice skating outing was a lot of fun. There were a few first-time skaters and folk who had been crafting their skills on the ice for quite some time. The time together as 'penguins for the day' ended with nachos and funnel cakes, icy pants and pictures posing in the ginormous Eagles' helmets on the way back to the church bus and the Hoods' van. Yes, I was out with the crew, shivering away, but I stayed off the ice. I can't stop myself on rollerblades without crashing into a wall. Why would "Kruise Kontrol Khonje" try the same on ice skates? LOL. I will get on the ice next time...driving the Zamboni!

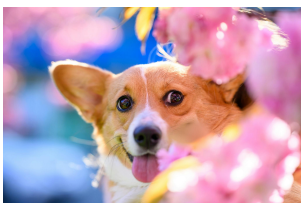


March is the month during which the gifts of women are highlighted and celebrated. We are grateful to God for the insights and loving care of women in our lives and in society. Pioneers like Dr. Patricia Bath, whose invention significantly improved cataract removal, Marie Curie's invention of mobile x-ray machines, the mother of Wi-Fi Hedy Lamarr and Jeanne Villepreux-Power who created the first glass aquarium, continue to impact our lives.

This month we are also gearing up for March Madness as we head to the end of basketball season. Whether one is a fan of a particular NCAA or college team or a National Basketball Association team, I pray that you will enjoy the waning days of winter and look forward to the beautiful blossoms of Spring.

Blessings and love,

Pastor Cheni



Items for the April edition of *Windows* are due on March 19, 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:

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Cari States-Codding
Sheila Heyer-Rivera
Christian Heyer-Rivera

March Birthdays

March 04

Francina Carroll

March 07

Micah Ahn

Wes Reisse

Rosy Walkenhorst

March 10

Sally McCord-Amasis

March 11

Ida Wiggins-White

March 14

Ted Walkenhorst

March 17

Randy Clever

March 19

Emanuel Heyer-Rivera

March 20

Leslie Burton

Alexander Deas

March 21

Zara Gibbs

Mark McCord-Amasis

March 22

Joshua Cameron

March 26

Tyrone Burton

March 27

Soren Hood

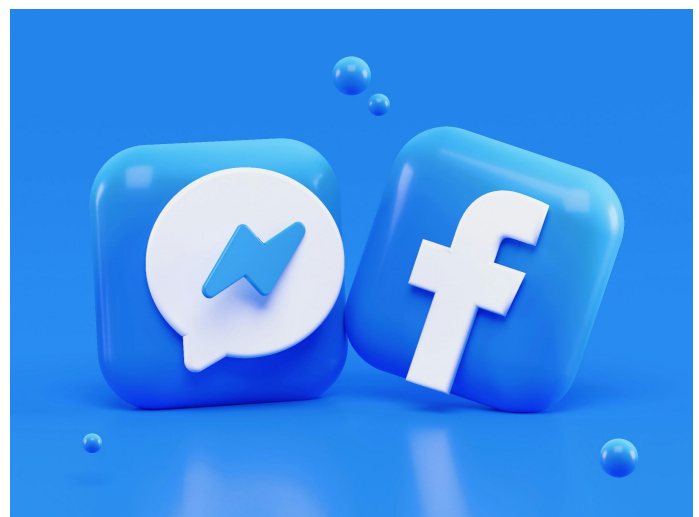


Lenten Bible Study: Jesus and Possessions

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.

Facebook Update

FPCG is transitioning to only using the public-facing Facebook page. Ability to post has been disabled and, effective April 03, the church will stop posting information on that page. Until then there will be a reminder and a link posted each Sunday, directing livestream viewers to the public-facing page. If there are events you want to share with the congregation, contact the office by the end of business day Wednesday to get an announcement placed in the bulletin.



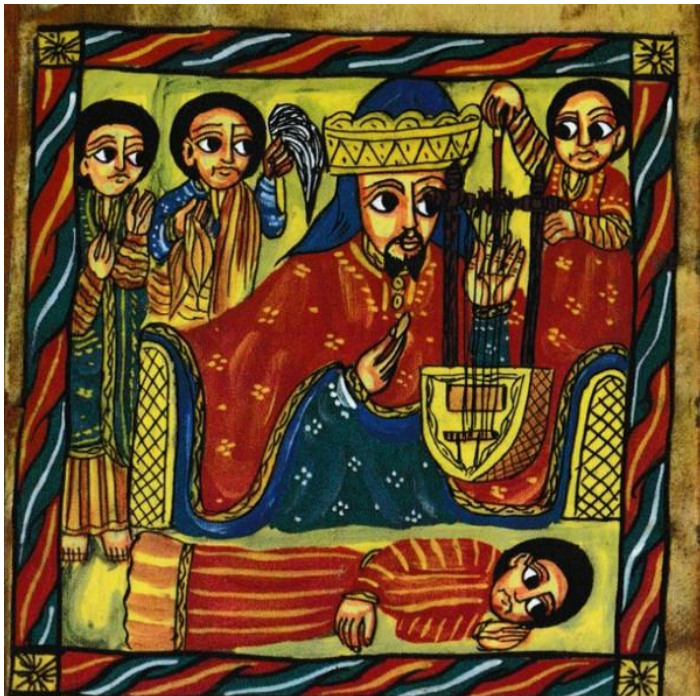


Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time starts on March ninth. Don't forget to spring your clocks forward an hour!

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 Walthausen, 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.



Oratorio Choir Rehearsals

The Oratorio Choir is holding rehearsals for Arthur Honegger's *King David*. This composition details the calling, life, and death of King David in a fun and challenging score. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings at 7:15 PM, beginning on February 25, and the concert will be held on Sunday, April 6th. All singers are welcome to join for this project- no audition is required!



FPCG Choral Scholars Initiative

This Spring, the FPCG music department is pleased to debut an important new program: the FPCG Choral Scholars Initiative. This program, which was made possible by generous bequests from Anna Reimann and J. Randall Rosensteel, is allowing us to bring into the choir up to three high school aged singers to lend their voices and build ensemble singing skills.

Our first scholar, Sahj S. is a senior at Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) and is joining us in the bass section. Sahj is passionate about music and theater and is pleased to be singing for worship. We look forward to welcoming more young musicians soon.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is on March 5th, and it marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection, repentance and turning to God as we acknowledge our mortality. “Dying to our old self”, we begin the journey to being raised with Christ Jesus, and it is symbolized by the imposition of ashes on our foreheads. We will hear the phrase “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Receiving the ashes during the service is a communal act of repentance, turning from sin and moving towards God. Our service will begin at 7 pm in the sanctuary. A soup supper will be served before the service starting at 6 pm. Please plan on attending this meaningful time of worship as we prepare for Lent.



March Challenge Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent to Palm Sunday, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. Please support this offering that provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.



Repairing the breach

ISAIAH 58

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

After over 20 years of ministering to families, children, and youth in The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Christian Heyer-Rivera will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Come celebrate and praise God with us on this special occasion. Ordination will be held on March 16, at 2:00PM. A reception will follow in Longstreth Auditorium.



Women's History Month

From the first settlers that came to our shores, from the first American Indian families that befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well. -President Jimmy Carter

Women's History Month began in 1978 as a week-long celebration in Santa Rosa, CA, and was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1987. The original week was centered around March 8, which is International Women's Day. In 1980, President Carter issued a proclamation declaring March 8 as Women's History Week. In 1981, Congress established the week and, in 1987, Congress passed a resolution officially designating March as Women's History Month. This month honors the achievements and contributions that women have made in all aspects of United States history.



Eleanor Roosevelt

A noted diplomat, politician, humanitarian, activist, and first lady. She was a member of the United Nations General Assembly, and was the chair of the committee who wrote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout her life, she was appointed to a variety of governmental positions by several different presidents.



Senator Tammy Duckworth, PhD

Born in Bangkok and raised in Honolulu, she is the senator from Illinois and a retired Army National Guard lieutenant colonel. She is a double amputee due to a war injury, and she was the first senator to give birth while holding office.



Rev. Katie Canon

A theologian and ethicist who focused on womanist and black theology, she was the first African-American women ordained in PC(USA).



Alice Walker

A writer and social justice advocate, she is best known for writing *The Color Purple*.



Deb Haaland

A member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, she was the first indigenous American to serve as a cabinet secretary.



Marsha P. Johnson

She was a leader in the Stonewall Uprisings, an AIDS activist, and the founder of North America's first LGBTQ+ youth shelter.



Mary McLeod Bethune

A Presbyterian, she is credited with creating Sunday School. She advocated for women's rights and for desegregation, and held leadership positions under presidents Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, and Truman.

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

In Support of on-going
efforts in Puerto Rico,
FPCG is hosting:



Fat Tuesday PANCAKE *Dinner*

Crafts for
kids and
young at
heart



Adults
\$10
Children 12
and under
\$5

TUESDAY 3/4/25
5:30-7:30PM

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN GERMANTOWN**
35 W. Chelton Ave 19144

Tickets include

**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES (GF INCLUDED),
TURKEY/PORK SAUSAGE, COFFEE, JUICE**



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.
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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

SINGERS WANTED



The Germantown Oratorio Choir *presents*

Arthur Honegger'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



A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2025

Each day at or after a meal time, gather around this map activity. Consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill (a "gift") in your fish coin bank or a jar.

March 9-14
Sunday: God, open our eyes to your face in every person. Let us see the ways we are all connected with all of Creation. May we as your Church, together, seek love, justice and peace with all. Amen.
Monday: Using the online map, find a PDA partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for those recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.
Tuesday: In a natural disaster, people are often unable to access their normal sources of drinking water. Sharing a gift in your fish box will help water reach people who need it.
Wednesday: Climate change is affecting growing seasons and forcing families to leave their homes. Make a gift to OGHs to help people working to address climate change.
Thursday: When situations are difficult, whom do you call upon? Give a gift to honor someone in your life for the specific way that they support you.
Friday: Self-Development of People (SDOP) Sunday is in two days! Visit pousa.org/sdop to learn about their community partnerships. Make a gift to honor our partners around the world.

March 16-21
Sunday: Gather us all around your banquet table, O God, with all who hunger and thirst. May we join, together, to share the abundance you've intended for all. Amen.
Monday: Using the online map, find an SDOP partnership near where you live. Read about the need being addressed and say a prayer for the people involved in that ministry.
Tuesday: Social barriers can be like locked doors that hold people back and keep them from thriving as Jesus intended. Make a gift to help open doors so all people can grow and learn freely.
Wednesday: Clean water is a necessity for every living thing. Using the online map, find three projects related to water. Give a gift for each faucet in your house.
Thursday: What are you thankful for in yourself? God offers gifts and talents to each of us. Make a short list of yours and make them part of a "Thank you, God" prayer.
Friday: Millions of Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy fresh food. Make a gift for each grocery store near your home.

March 23-28
Sunday: Encourage us, Creator, when things get difficult. May we draw creativity and hope from your Spirit, and from our partners along the way. Amen.
Monday: Using the online map, find a project or partnership near a location you have wanted to visit, but have never been. Say a prayer for all neighbors whom you have never met.
Tuesday: People who care for others also need care. Do something special for the caretakers in your life to say, "Thank you."
Wednesday: Wiggly worms and buzzing bees are essential to healthy soils and plants. Give a gift of thanks for all the little things that help the world grow.
Thursday: The right supplies make all the difference, whether you are growing crops or learning at school. Remember the last time you had the right tool for a project and make a gift as part of remembering.
Friday: Make up a mealtime prayer and use it during meals this weekend. Give a gift in thanks for the food you have.

March 30-April 4
Sunday: God, you say, "Come to the waters" and "Buy wine without money and bread without price." Let us learn by your generosity. Let the gift of giving what we have to share. Amen.
Monday: Using the online map, find a Presbyterian Hunger Program partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for the people involved in the ministry there.
Tuesday: When rain is scarce, special collection systems are built to catch the water so it can be used for growing plants. Give a gift to help bring water to people when it doesn't rain.
Wednesday: Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost in a storm. Can you identify a favorite Bible verse about light? Make a gift in honor of the verse.
Thursday: Social support and connection are important parts of being healthy. Give a gift of gratitude for one person or place that offers welcome to you.
Friday: Teaching healthy food choices and food safety can change the health of an entire community! Make a gift for the healthy foods you had today.

April 6-11
Sunday: Loving God, help us to learn from what others have seen, so that we might grow in understanding across lines of difference. Amen.
Monday: Using the online map, locate a ministry in a country far away from you. What needs are being addressed there? Say a prayer for the people involved in these ministries.
Tuesday: Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Make a gift to help ensure healthy food for infants.
Wednesday: The vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Visit pousa.org/GOHalts and ask your church to assemble kits for such emergencies.
Thursday: Think of all the things people share with you. Write a thank you note to one of those people and give a gift of thanks for their care.
Friday: Learn about the indigenous peoples who inhabited the land where you live. Learn the name they used for the land when they lived there.

April 13-18
Passion/Palm Sunday: Guide us through the paths that feel lonely, assured that you are always with us. Be with us in the darkness as we walk by faith and not by sight. Amen.
Monday: Immunizations give us hope for a day when certain diseases will no longer cause sickness and pain. Give a gift for each immunization you have received.
Tuesday: It is estimated that nearly 1 in 11 people around the world will go to bed hungry each night. Make a gift to eliminate hunger.
Wednesday: Education helps lift people out of poverty. OGHs helps kids world wide attend school. Make a gift and consider donating books to a local reading program.
Thursday: Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by war and disasters. Give a gift for each blanket on your bed.
Friday: Communication can be incredibly difficult after a disaster, especially if the internet isn't working. Give a gift for every phone your family has.

April 20
Sunday - Resurrection/Easter/ One Great Hour of Sharing: Present the gifts in your coin box to your congregation. Say a prayer for all those who will receive help from your generosity.
For more locations and ministries, go to pousa.org/oghsmap or scan this code.




ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

- 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

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