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The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
November 2024



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Items for the December issue of *Windows* are due on November 22, 2024. Send to [office@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:office@fpcgermantown.org)



Beloved,

Thank you for sharing in the Remembrance Table that displayed the pictures of our family and church members who now rest in God. We are grateful for all these saints who now rest from their labor. Speaking about those who work in the church, I am grateful to God for Contina, Eileen, Cari and the crew that helped with fellowship time this past week. Please consider hosting fellowship time.



This coming week, we will have an **interfaith prayer service** at Summit Presbyterian Church on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Our Muslim and Jewish siblings will join us in this brief time of communal prayer. We will pray for a peaceful election season and for the forthcoming decisions regarding the environment, for women's health matters and immigrants.



Preparations and rehearsals for *Messiah* and the Christmas Pageant have begun. It is promising to be an exciting and active Advent season. These are a couple of the ongoing activities in the church; this month we will have planned church outings and the winter coat drive hosted by the Crisis Ministry.

Bread & Cup's fall gathering was a great success, with many folk chiming in with spontaneous and interactive sharing opportunities. The moving stories, challenges to recognize whistled tunes and lovely poetry were all well received by the audience. I invite you to take a moment to see if you can showcase your own talents during the spring

edition of this amazing event. Please contact Tim Robinson to let him know that you wish to be included in the program. Kudos to Mina, Lydia, Dave, Stefanie and Drew for making the evening such a success.

Thanksgiving Day will be here in no time, and as we begin to prepare our own festivities, let us be mindful of those in our church family who might be alone for the first time this season. Are you able to fit one more chair around the table? Please remember to check with the Crisis Ministry on what they might need to fill the meal baskets that will be given to those in need.

I am grateful to God for all of you, and for the love of Christ that you share with others. May your actions and words always be a blessing to everyone you meet. Holding you all close in Christ's Light.

Blessings

*Pastor Cheni*



Photo credit: Farmer's Almanac





## 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](mailto:office@fpcgermantown.org)

### Contributors:

Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje  
Jim Thompson  
Sheila Heyer-Rivera  
Eileen Jones  
John Walhausen

## Church Closed

FPCG will be closed on Monday, November 11th, in observance of Veterans' Day.

# November Birthdays

Liam Gibbs November 02	Elaine Gray November 11	Heidi Mercado Little's November 20
Frank Lundy November 03	Madeline Valentine November 11	Daniel Conner November 26
Antonio Little's November 07	Cari States- Coddington November 15	Frank Lundy II November 27
Richard Jenkins November 09	Adeline Hoekema- Boerman November 19	Pam Ball November 30
Donna Payne November 10	Ruby Camarena November 20	Carolyn Tarver November 30

## **Farewell to a Long-Time Member**

Bill Young, who has belonged to our church for more than 50 years, has recently relocated to South Carolina. He is becoming a member of the Westminster Presbyterian church, in Greenville.

Bill was a loyal and dedicated member of and a servant to our church for many years. Bill was already an active Presbyterian in Philadelphia when his present prior church closed; he chose then to join our congregation.

He and his late wife Bette who were involved in almost anything that happened at our church for many years. They were both involved in many different activities, each one diving into and becoming very active in their respective roles. I hesitate to mention all the roles that Bill filled, but just to name a few he was a trustee, an elder, clerk of session, member of many Pastor nominating committees; one of his most important roles was to lead our annual pledge campaign leader for many years.

In his role as an elder and clerk, Bill was very skilled at making sure things ran smoothly. Probably none of us know all the things he did behind the scenes that enabled our wonderful church experiences here at Germantown.

Bill will be missed but not forgotten; he still has many ties to this area, and we hope to see him whenever he may be available.

We don't have the Hall of Fame here or even a gallery of fame for dedicated servants, but I would certainly think that Bill would be right up there on that list. Thanks, Bill, for all you've done for us here at first church - we miss you!

## **Mission Fair**

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our annual Mission Fair! We are excited to see where our passion and enthusiasm leads us in the upcoming year.



*Photo Credit: Allison Seed*



## Apple Picking Trip

On Sunday, October 13, a group from our congregation traveled to Barnard's Orchard in Kennett Square where we enjoyed the beautiful landscape, picked apples, tasted delicious apple cider and ate amazing apple cider donuts! We invite you to be on the lookout for future trips and gatherings as we continue to get to know each other better by spending time.



## Care Packages for Young Adults

The Christian Education committee would like to thank everyone who contributed towards the 10 care packages for our young adults! Those boxes were packed with snacks, treats and things to get them through the flu season!

We already received a few messages from our YA saying that they received them and they are grateful!





Please bring your donation(s) to the church throughout the month of November 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

*Thanksgiving & Christmas* baskets will be given to families who have requested help and documented their family size and financial need. A \$35 donation can provide a basket for a small family. All donations are appreciated! Checks 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

\$45 can purchase a prepacked **SHARE** holiday box, perfect for a senior or family of 2. Donations should be made payable to "GACM".

★ Basket Distribution : Nov. 22nd & 25th - Dec. 19th & 23rd

★ Donations accepted beginning the week of Nov. 17th

★ Basket Helpers Needed : Nov. 22nd & 25th - Dec. 19th & 23rd

*To volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours,  
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](http://www.crisisministry.org)

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

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

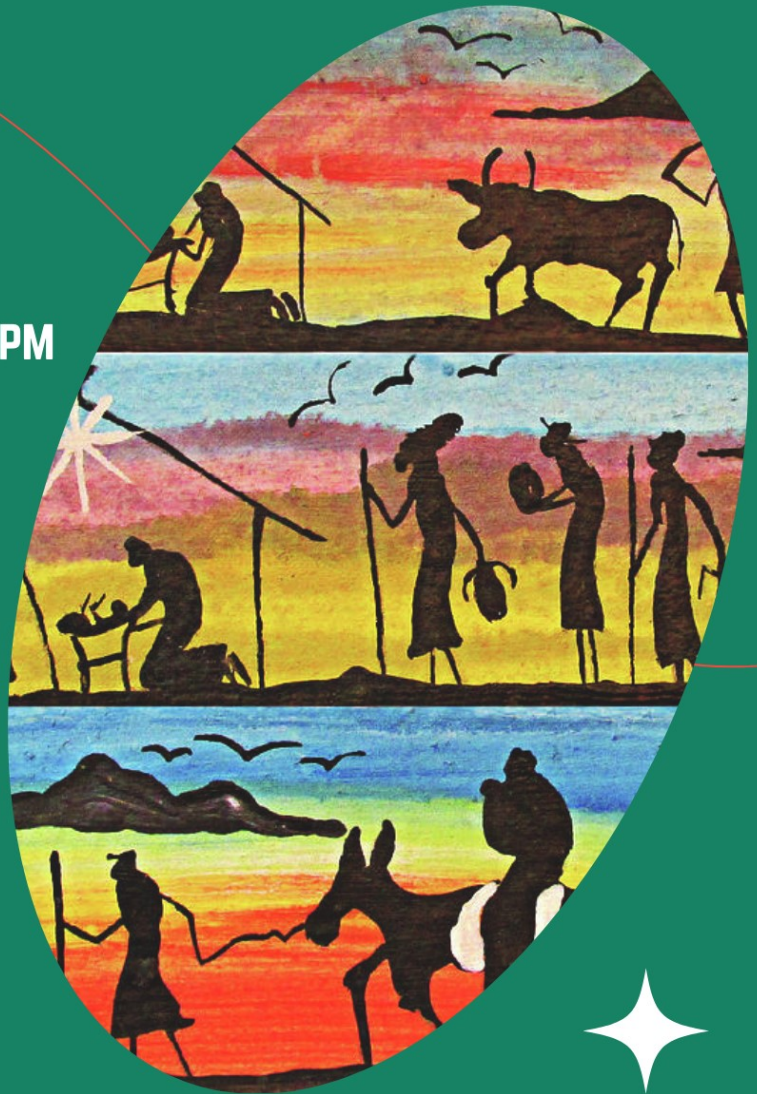
**OPEN TO CHILDREN THROUGH 12TH  
GRADE**

**REHEARSALS: FRIDAY NIGHTS AT 7PM  
STARTING NOVEMBER 1**

**PERFORMANCES:  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14  
AT THE FPCG CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, 10AM-1PM**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15  
IN WORSHIP, 10AM**

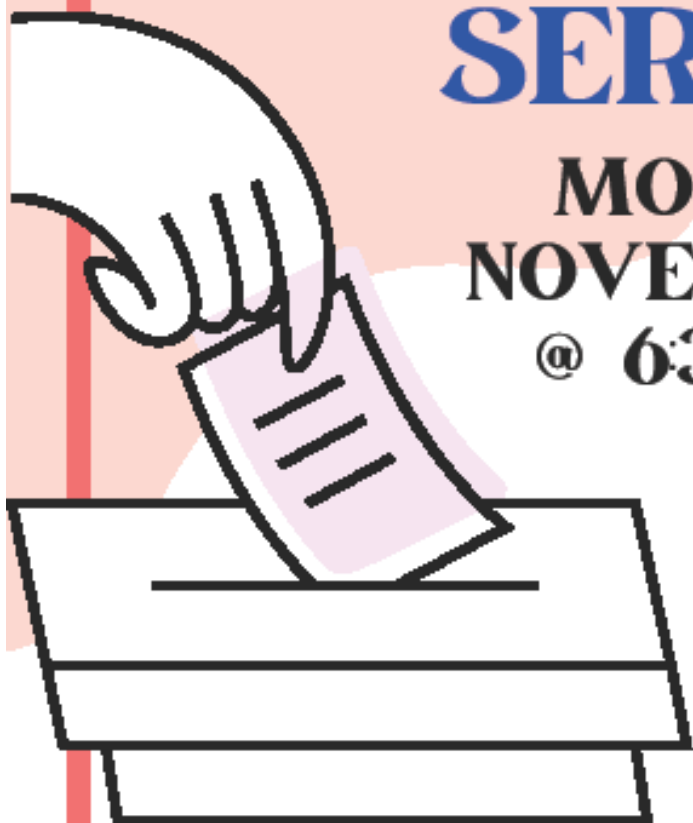
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DIRECTOR OF  
MUSIC MINISTRY JOHN WALTHAUSEN AT  
[JWALTHAUSEN@FPCGERMANTOWN.ORG](mailto:jwalthausen@fpcgermantown.org)**



**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN  
35 W. CHELTEN AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19143**

# **COMMUNITY ELECTION EVE SERVICE**

**MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4  
@ 6:30 p.m.**



**Summit Presbyterian Church  
6757 Greene Street**

Come join with neighbors to share prayers for our city, nation, and world on this election eve. Led by a diverse group of neighborhood clergy.

For questions, call 215-438-2825

[www.summitpres.net](http://www.summitpres.net)



# Come sing with us!

## G.F. HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

Weekly Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 7:15pm  
starting October 29



Concert:  
Sunday, December 1, 3pm

For more information, contact  
Director of Music Ministry, John Walthausen  
at [jwalthausen@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:jwalthausen@fpcgermantown.org)

The Oratorio Choir of the The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
35 W. Cheltenham Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19144 | [fpcgermantown.org](http://fpcgermantown.org)



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