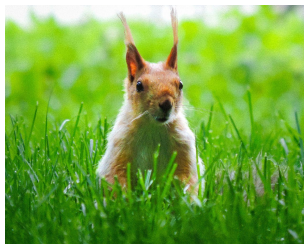




• Windows •

*The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
May 2025*



In this Issue

Minister's Message.....	1
Church Closure.....	2
April Birthdays.....	2
Meals on Wheels.....	3
Enon Tabernacle Joint Event.....	3
CLEAR Project.....	4
May Challenge	
Offering.....	5
Easter.....	6
Sanctuary Banners.....	7
Mental Health	
Awareness Month.....	8
Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast.....	9
First Aid/AED training.....	10
Church Outings.....	11
ICE information.....	12



Beloved,

We are enjoying the beautiful May flowers as we thank God for the wonderful weather that will permit us to plan summer vacations and barbecues. There are some Star Wars fans that are also looking forward to May 4th...yes, your pastor may be one of those people who love the fact

that George Lucas created the celebration of this series of movies. You might want to check my attire this Sunday!

On Monday, we can join in the Cinco de Mayo fest with our Mexican siblings. The holiday is often mistaken as Mexican Independence Day (which is actually on September 16th). May 5th is when Mexico was victorious over the Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.



The month's activities at church promise us opportunities for fellowship and learning. Warming temperatures will permit us to put into practice the spiritual practice of taking prayer walks around the church; some of the new members have experienced such activities in other churches. It is good for us to cover our neighborhood with prayer, even as we care for our neighbors through programs offered through the church, the Crisis Ministry and other programs to which the Christian Education committee will introduce us.

While the spaces for camping with the church family have already filled up, there is still an opportunity for us to gather with the crew on Saturday.



Experiencing some of the activities will still allow us to enjoy each other's company and to share meaningful devotions that help us develop better stewardship strategies for the earth.



Finally, dear siblings in Christ, our foray through this month closes with our remembrance, both honoring and mourning, of all the U. S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. May God bless you with wisdom, compassion and love for the living of these days.

Much love always,

Pastor Cheni



Items for the June edition of *Windows* are due on May 20, 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:

Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje
 Cari States-Codding
 Sheila Heyer-Rivera
 Carey Davis
 Liz Drum
 Sara Greene
 Contina Lee Lundy
 John Walthausen

Church Closure

FPCG will be closed on May 26th, in honor of Memorial Day.

May Birthdays

Mary Lundy May 01

Rose Slater May 07

Taneisha Gibbs May 08

Danielle Ohemeng May 09

James Thompson May 12

Nathan Ahn May 14

Douglas Payne May 15

Christopher Torrence May 22

Kristina Ohemeng May 23

Glenna Hazeltine May 24

Aaron Bass May 26

Madison Lundy May 27

Jerelyn Lagunsad May 31

Bakers Needed

Do you enjoy baking? Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels sends homemade baked goods to senior neighbors in every lunch. We need bakers to prepare simple, individually wrapped desserts. Visit our SignUp Genius to learn more or call Joanna at 215-233-5555.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4BACAB2EA2FD0-55759817-chestnut#/>



Service learning opportunity with Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels

In partnership with the Jr. Missionaries of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
Sunday, May 25, 11:45 to 1:30.

Immediately following worship, kids and youth of FPCG (ages 6-18) are invited to a fun and creative way to support the seniors of our community while making new friends at Enon! Location: 2800 W Cheltenham Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19150.
Contact: Sheila Heyer-Rivera

FPCG and The CLEAR Project

I am writing to share some exciting news about the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown's (FPCG) participation in a unique program. Last year, FPCG was selected as one of thirteen institutions to join Villanova University's CLEAR Project. This initiative, which stands for "Children, Liturgy, Ecology and Renewal," is being represented by Reverend Christian Heyer Rivera and myself, Elder Contina Lee Lundy.

Over the past year, Christian and I have been meeting virtually to delve into readings and learn from experts in the relevant fields. The CLEAR Project, offered by Villanova University's College of Professional Studies, gathers faith leaders from various Christian institutions in our region. Through lectures, discussions, and immersive experiences, we have gained a deeper understanding of the experiences children face today and how these connect with their prayer life, faith, and relationship with the environment. A key component of this program is the development of projects tailored to the children within our own communities.

The CLEAR Project is supported by a generous four-year grant of \$1.25 million from the Lilly Endowment, focusing on the intersection of children, worship, and ecology. This initiative will bring together scholars, including Christian and me, to contribute to these important topics through writing and the commissioning of new music. Furthermore, through classes, site visits, and discussions, the project aims to equip 26 representatives from 13 Philadelphia-area churches and schools to lead new initiatives within their own communities.

This is where Christian and I would greatly appreciate your valuable insights. We are enthusiastic about developing a project that will be truly meaningful and impactful for the young people of FPCG. If you are interested in learning more about the CLEAR Project or have any ideas on how you might be able to contribute to this endeavor, please feel free to reach out to either Christian or myself.



May Challenge Offering

Anesthesiology Training program within Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons

It is well-documented that 5 out of 7 billion people in the world lack access to safe, affordable, and timely surgical care. In addition, the greatest areas of unmet need include Sub-Saharan Africa where 9 out of 10 people do not have access to safe surgery and anesthesia. The rate limiting step in providing surgery is often the availability of anesthesia providers and safe anesthesia care.

Anesthesiologists are physicians that care directly for patients during surgery and ensure their safety during surgery and other life-threatening illnesses. In ten countries in Africa, there are currently NO physician anesthesiology training programs.

Beginning in July 2018, a group of anesthesiologists from around the world worked to investigate the possibility of starting anesthesiology training under the auspices of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS). PAACS was started in 1996 as a rural-based surgical training program in African Christian hospitals, directed by experienced board-certified surgeons. PAACS partners with established mission and faith-based hospitals to provide training in surgery to African physicians.

I led the Anesthesiology Investigative Task Force which culminated in a presentation at the PAACS Annual Commission meeting outlining the rationale for anesthesiology training within PAACS. The commission voted to accept the proposal and the first group of physician anesthesiologists began training through PAACS in Kijabe Kenya in January 2022. The primary goal is to prepare physicians to practice at the highest level of evidence-based medicine in anesthesiology and to return to their home country to work as anesthesiologists. Additional training is provided in spiritual and leadership development. There are currently 6 African physicians in training from Kenya, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo and additional physicians will be added in 2025. The training program takes 4 years and costs approximately \$25,000 USD per physician per year. The ultimate goal is to have graduates of the program assume leadership roles in the training program and to expand this training to other hospitals in Africa.

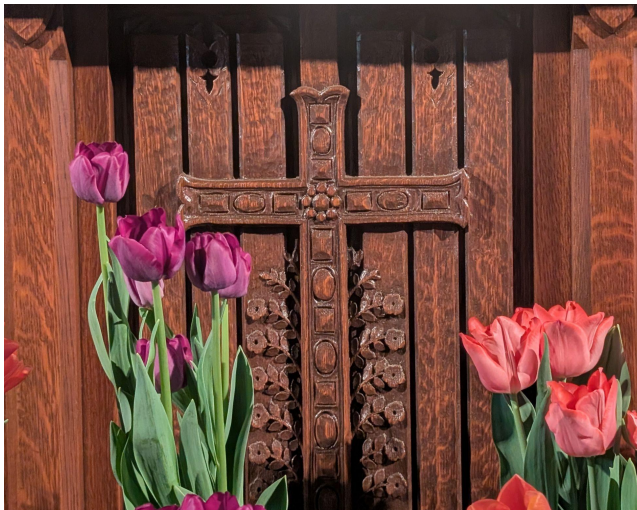
Additional information about PAACS is available here: <https://paacs.net/welcome.html>

PAACS Anesthesiology program: www.paacs.net/anesthesiology.html.



Easter 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped bring Easter together! We especially appreciate John and the choir for another fantastic service, Ruth Cato for decorating the church, Marc DiNardo for setting up the sound system, the Davis family for running the livestream, the ushers for keeping everyone in line, our sextons for keeping FPCG immaculate and welcoming, and everyone who donated tulips.



But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. -Matthew 28:5-6



On Easter Sunday, FPCG unveiled to the congregation two new banners hanging in the sanctuary made by Cathy Coho and commissioned by the Worship, Music and Arts Committee. These handcrafted banners represent a cross (on the West side) and a tree of life (on the East side) and are made from a patchwork of fabrics donated by members and friends of the congregation. We are so grateful to Cathy for lending her vision and her skilled artistry creating these two one-of-a-kind pieces of art which so beautifully complement our historic interior while elegantly representing the church's community today. Special thanks to all who contributed fabric and to Marc DiNardo for diligently completing the installation of these banners in time Easter. I hope that many will continue to find inspiration in these works of art for many years to come.





MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



350:1

Ratio of individuals in a state to available mental health care professionals



46%

Percentage of Americans that will meet the criteria for at least one mental health condition in their life.

Half will develop a condition by the age of 14.

1.5 MILLION

Number of American adults who have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year.



59.3 million

Number of US adults living with mental illness.

Substance abuse among adults is increasing, and there are



46.5 million

American adults with an addiction/substance abuse disorder



Number of US teens with an addiction/substance use disorder.

2.1 million



144%

Increase in the suicide rate of black youth ages 10-17 from 2007 to 2020

28.2%

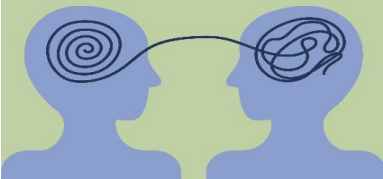
Percentage of adults who are unable to access mental health care

Percentage of adults with mental illness who received no treatment

54.7%

59.8%

Percentage of youth with depression that do not receive treatment



Percentage of youth with private insurance that does not cover mental or emotional problems

10%

BY RACE

19.7% African American

21.4% Latinx/Hispanic

35.2% Multiracial

24.6% White

Percentages of diagnosed mental illness in different races

CRISIS PHONE NUMBERS

NAME	SERVICE	NUMBER	NAME	SERVICE	NUMBER
Philadelphia Crisis Line	24/7 crisis line	988	Veterans' Crisis Line	24/7 crisis care for veterans and their families, enrollment in VA benefits not required	dial 988, then press 1
National Domestic Abuse Hotline	24/7 support for those impacted by relationship abuse	(800) 799-7233	Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline	24/7 support for victims of child abuse and resource information	800-422-4453
National Grad Crisis Line	24/7 crisis support for college students	877-GRAD-HLP	National Sexual Assault Hotline	24/7 hotline for survivors of sexual assault/sexual violence	800-656-HOPE
The Trevor Project	24/7 LGBTQ+ suicide prevention crisis line	1-866-488-7386	Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio	24/7 prevención del suicidio y crisis	marque 988 y presione 2

Here are some of the men who made our congregation's Palm Sunday's Pancake breakfast! Thank you all for your hard work...everything was delicious!



Join Us for a Life-Saving Opportunity: First Aid, CPR, and AED Training

Dear Church Family,

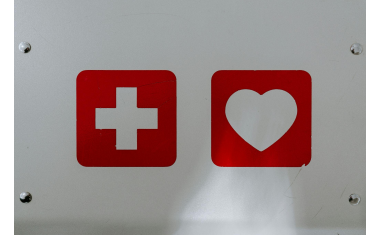
We are excited to announce a wonderful opportunity for our community to learn essential life-saving skills. We invite you to participate in our upcoming First Aid, CPR, and AED training course, certified by the American Red Cross. This training is not only a valuable investment in your personal skills but also a crucial asset in keeping our church and community safe.

Training Details

Dates and Times:

- o Saturday, May 17th: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- o Sunday, June 8th: 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

- Location: The First Presbyterian Church in Church in Germantown, Room: TBD
- Cost: \$20 per participant (If this cost seems prohibitive, but you want to attend, please let us know)
- Certification: American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and AED Certificate upon completion



Why You Should Attend

1. Empower Yourself with Life-Saving Skills Accidents and emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. By attending this training, you will be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to respond effectively in critical situations, potentially saving lives.
2. Serve Your Community Our church is built on the foundation of service and care for one another. By learning these vital skills, you are contributing to the safety and well-being of our congregation and the larger community.
3. Comprehensive Training The course will cover essential topics, including how to perform CPR, use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and administer basic first aid. These skills are invaluable in both everyday scenarios and emergency situations.

Who Should Attend

This training is open to everyone, but we are encouraging Ushers, Deacons, Elders, Parents, Staff, our Youth and any lay person who has a heart to serve to register.

How to Register

Signing up is easy! Simply sign-up during Coffee Hour with a member of the Safety and Wellness committee or call Sara Greene at (610) 716-1922 to reserve your spot. Space is limited to twelve people per training, so we encourage early registration.

Invest in Your Skills, Invest in Lives

For just \$20, you can gain critical skills that could make a life-saving difference. Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or new to our community, this training is an excellent opportunity to enhance your abilities and demonstrate your commitment to helping others.

We hope you will join us for this important training session. Together, we can make our church a safer place for everyone.

Yours in service and faith,

Sara Greene

Chair, Safety and Wellness Committee

Join the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee for these upcoming outings!

- ❖ May: Grounds for Sculpture, located in suburban NJ (one hour away)
- ❖ June/July: Wheaton Arts and Glass Museum, located in Millville, NJ
- ❖ September: Long's Park Fine Arts and Crafts Weekend, Labor Day weekend, whole day outing with carpools
- ❖ Date TBD: Marian Anderson House and Museum, located in Philadelphia



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: <u>You have the right under the First Amendment to document ICE and the police. Do so from a safe distance.</u>	HOW TO REPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>It's important that we only share verified reports to avoid causing unnecessary anxiety, panic, or fear in our community.</i>• <u>Contact JUNTOS</u> to report or verify any suspicious ICE activity.
WHAT TO DOCUMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the raid happened• <i>Date and time</i>• Number of agents• <i>Type of vehicle used</i>• Agents' attire• <i>How they identified themselves</i>	RESPONSE NETWORK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telephone: 215-218-9079• Instagram: @vamos_juntos_• Facebook: Juntos <p>JUNTOS </p>

Feed My Sheep

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 21:15-19



W Z A D S E L W S A I D R C P
A O P X F E Q J A D N J K I E
E C C S I K B N V E D I E R F
P M U P R S Y Q D A T R U T H
J S G G L O R I F Y A T Z F R
E A N G B K J Z D C R D A E K
E A M X A E A T I N G S C E G
T T H I N G S J E S U S N D U
P E J R H U R T S R I U Q D B
Y E Y J L D N L O N F P R R L
B P T H A S N B A O E I A T E
M T N E X H L A H M H N Y W L
R O D L R E D O F T B X Q P W
V F R D E E P B V G S S N B J
T U I E F P E U T E A R O W R

EATING
SAID
SHEEP

JESUS
PETER
THINGS

TRUTH
HURT
LOVE

CARE
GLORIFY
THIRD

MORE
FEED
LAMBS

Feed My Sheep

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



When they had finished _____, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly _____ me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you _____ that I love you."

Jesus said, "_____ my lambs."

Again _____ said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "_____, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take _____ of my sheep."

The _____ time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was _____ because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my _____."

John 21:15-17 (NIV)

care	feed	jesus	love	third
eating	hurt	know	sheep	yes

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 Germantown

35 W. Chelten Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-843-8811
office@fpcgermantown.org
www.fpcgermantown.org