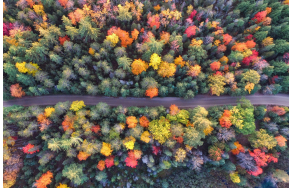




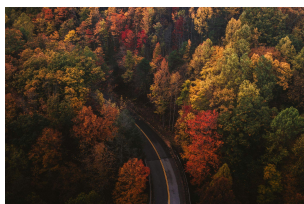
• Windows •

The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
October 2025



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Items for the November edition of *Windows* are due by October 22, 2025. Send to
office@fpcgermantown.org.



Beloved,

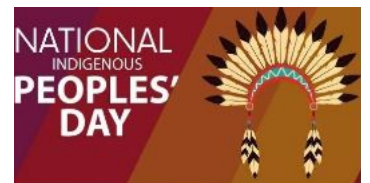
We are about to celebrate World Communion Sunday, and it is always held on the first Sunday in October. This event affords us a way to acknowledge our siblings in Christ around the globe and to pray for them and the unity of Christ's church. The different types of bread in the communion plate help us to see the many ways that the Lord's Supper is experienced by Christians in various nations. We will hear readings and prayers in French, Spanish and German during the service. It is my hope that we will all experience the connection we have with our siblings in Christ in different parts of our global village.

The daily high temperatures are on a cooling trend, and the sun is on its journey to the southern hemisphere. While this means longer periods of darkness, we know that the Holy Spirit continues to bring the Light of Christ into our lives. October is going to be filled with activities such as the mission fair and the First Presbyterian Church's High Tea.



Presbyterians have a long, strong history of mission that is both local and international. Please visit all the tables at the mission fair on October 12th to see where your passion and skills meet the needs both within and beyond the walls of our church. Let's express our thanks to the Mission Committee.

Monday, October 13th, is National Indigenous Peoples' Day; it is always celebrated on the second Monday of October. It is a day when we celebrate and honor Indigenous American Peoples. We also commemorate their histories and cultures.



Beloved, this month I invite you to become familiar with the Shinnecock Nation. The name of their tribe means "people of the stony shore", and they reside on Long Island, New York. They have lived near Southampton for 13,000 years and speak Algonquian. The Shinnecock are known for their fishing, hunting, farming and for being master whalers. After years of petitioning the federal government, they were officially recognized on October 1, 2010.

Beloved, you are loved and prayed for; may God fill our hearts with love as we enter this month with a commitment to following God's leading as we live out our calling in Christ's name.

Blessings and love,

Pastor Cheni



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
 Don Carlin
 John Walhausen
 Contina Lee Lundy

Church Closure

FPCG will be closed on October 13th, in honor of Indigenous People Day

Church Hours

Office Tuesday through Friday, 9AM-1PM

Building Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM
 Saturday, 8AM-3PM
 Sunday, 8AM-5PM

October Birthdays

Jamal Smith	Oct. 02	Tim Robinson	Oct. 14
Sara Greene	Oct. 05	Ernie Freeman	Oct. 17
Dani Howard	Oct. 08	Dhyan Cassie	Oct. 21
Kai Burton	Oct. 09	Marc DiNardo	Oct. 25
Duane Horne		Kyarra Gibbs	
Faith Lewis		Montreall Hayward	
Charlene Hardy	Oct. 10		
Brenda Meline	Oct. 11		

We have a new website!

FPCG's renovated website is live. You can scan the QR code, or go to fpcgermantown.org, to take a look. Many thanks to Tyler Paulson and Cari States-Codding for putting this together, and to everyone who has sent pictures. We want this website to reflect who FPCG is, so please keep sending photos to office@fpcgermantown.org. While this does include photos of our youth, we cannot post photos of children without permission from their adult(s).

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

About Ministries Sermons Events Get to Know Us Online Giving Contact Us



fpcgermantown.org

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

Alive, celebrating, and serving the Living Lord! Join us Sundays @ 10am.

PLAN A VISIT

WATCH ONLINE

The home page.



Sermon Archive

Topics ▾ Series ▾ Books ▾ Speakers ▾ Months ▾

Missed a Sunday? Want to re-watch a sermon? We've organized over a year of sermons, categorized in a variety of ways for ease of searching.



Stained Glass Windows

The twenty-nine stained glass windows in the sanctuary of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown were designed and crafted by some of the country's finest artists: Henry Lee Willet, Nicola D'Ascenzo, and Louis Tiffany. An additional



Violet Oakley Murals

Violet Oakley's Great Women of the Bible If you would like to see the murals, please email us so we can arrange a time. A Brief History In the early 1940s, Mrs. W. Beatty Jennings, widow of the former pastor, approached Violet Oakley about



Banners

In 2024, the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee approached textile artist and longtime friend of the church Cathy Coho to create two hanging banners to decorate the church sanctuary. These works of art depict a stained-glass cross and a tree of life

Stained glass window and mural photos have been updated, and information about our banners has been added.

Events Get to Know

Upcoming Events

Concerts

Congregational Events

Youth Events

Events Calendar

Past Events

Our calendar is now available online. You can view the entire month, or narrow the view through a variety of filters.

Oratorio Choir

In just a couple of weeks, music lovers from FPCG and the larger neighborhood will start preparing for one of our most beloved annual traditions, singing Handel's Messiah in a free concert for the community. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday nights starting October 28 at 7:15 PM and our concert will be on the afternoon of Sunday, December 1. Oratorio Choir is open to singers of all ages and levels of experience. Whether you have never sung this piece before, or have sung it many times, we want to include your voice! The FPCG choir has sung Handel's Messiah almost every year since 1968, and it is an important part of Christmas celebrations across the country, and across the world. The first presentation of Messiah was given in 1742

in Dublin, Ireland as a fundraising concert for the debt relief of imprisoned people. In Dublin, it was a great success, and it continued to be performed throughout the UK, first in theaters like London's Covent Garden, and then later in the great Cathedrals of Britain. As its reputation spread, it was performed across Europe and soon came to the New World, when it was first presented in New York in 1770. During the 19th century, its fame spread worldwide, and it continues to enjoy popularity in many parts of the world including the Americas, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. For several members of FPCG, singing Messiah with Oratorio Choir or coming to hear it in concert was their first introduction to this community. This year, I hope we can continue to use Messiah, and our whole music ministry, as a bridge to the wider city. Consider inviting a friend to come sing with us this year, or bring a friend to the concert on November 30. This music has spoken the message of God's coming into the world for centuries- together let's allow this light to continue to shine for a world that needs it.



THE CLEAR PROJECT

CHILDREN LITURGY ECOLOGY & RENEWAL

As many of you know, our congregation was chosen to participate in a two-year endeavor hosted by Villanova University. This initiative examines how to better engage our members and the wider community in creation stewardship through worship and congregational life, with a particular emphasis on raising the next generation of our faith community as caretakers of creation.

This concert features original musical works designed to integrate these themes into our worship. We understand this is short notice and completely understand if you are unable to attend. However, please consider joining us, as The CLEAR Project offers this resource to help us engage in worship centered on stewardship and praising God as the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all creation.

The free concert will be from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM and will be engaging and kid-friendly. A reception will directly follow the concert. For free tickets, visit https://villanova.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventInfo?ticketCode=GS:NOVA:MC25-26:CPSFC1007:&linkID=villanova&dataAccId=221&locale=en_US&siteId=ev_villanova



Homelessness to Housing



From the website:

“Across the country, communities are grappling with an escalating housing crisis. More than 750,000 people are unhoused, and the United States is underbuilt by nearly four million housing units. From Nov. 3-6, Stony Point Center will host its annual Housing Justice Summit: Homelessness to Housing, a three-day immersive experience bringing together faith leaders, grassroots organizers and housing advocates from across the nation.

“As people of faith, we have a clear mandate to care for those in need,” said summit organizer Brian Frick, program director at Stony Point Center. “This work transcends faith affiliation. It’s about building pathways to stable, affordable housing and reshaping systems that have failed too many of our neighbors.”

The summit is open to all concerned individuals, regardless of faith affiliation. It is particularly designed for faith leaders and congregations, nonprofit professionals, grassroots organizers, housing advocates and policy leaders.

The 2025 Housing Justice Summit will be held in person at Stony Point Center and will also offer online participation for attendees across the country.”

For more information, and to register:

<https://stonypointcenter.org/programs/programs/homelessness-to-housing/>

Check Requests

For the foreseeable future, please email both Cindy Osborne and Cari States-Codding with check requests. Cindy has been diagnosed with cancer. It has been caught early and is treatable, but she will be needing to take on a lighter workload while she recovers. In the interim, Cari will be writing checks and fielding questions. Cindy welcomes cards and emails, but does request limits on phone calls so she can rest and focus on getting better.

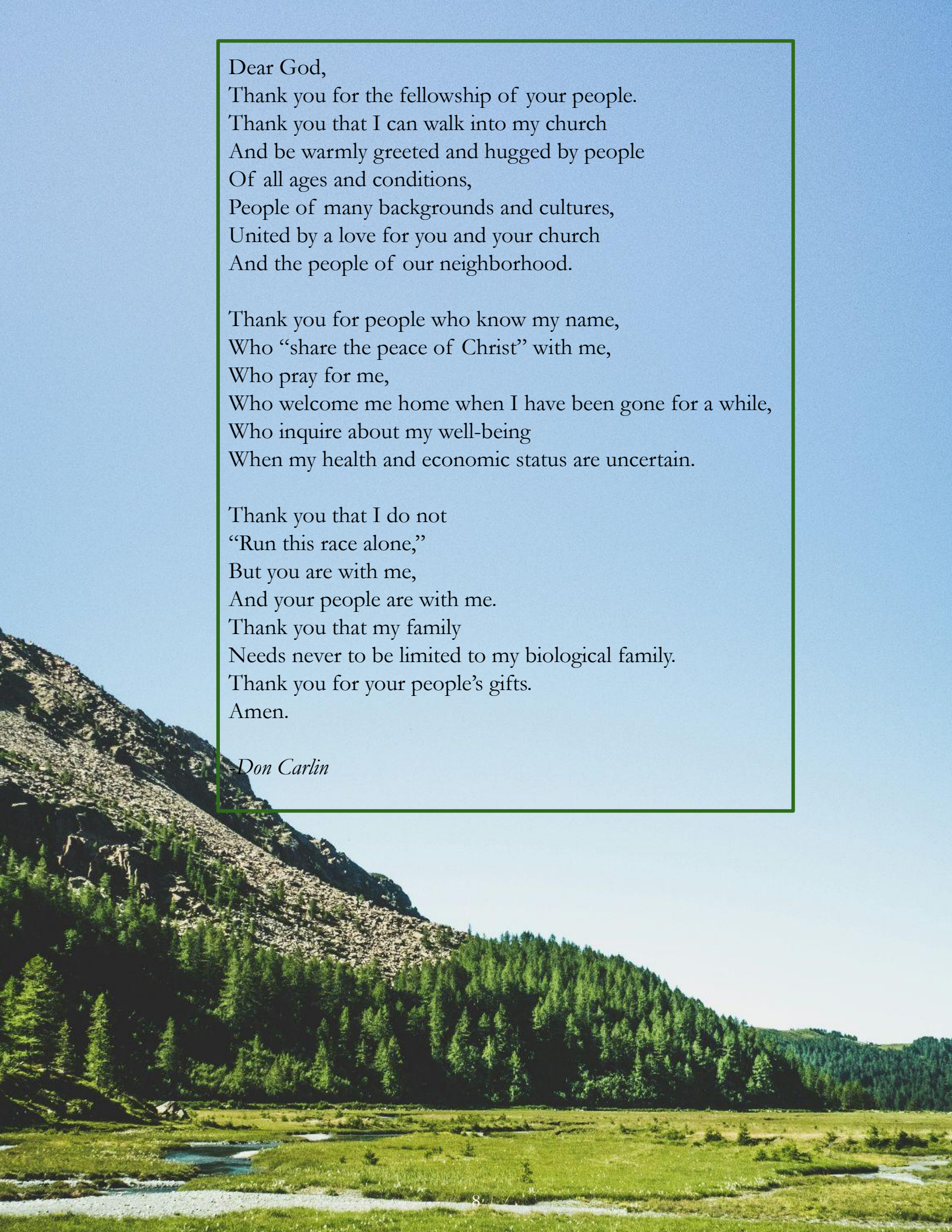
Cindy: cindylosborne@yahoo.com

Cari: office@fpcgermantown.org



Make GACM Your +1

Our church-wide campaign to support the work of Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry is well underway. Each month, "most needed" items are listed in the bulletin and a sign is posted on the literature table. On your way out, grab a brown bag off of the stage in Longstreth. Aside from holding donations, it has a copy of the list of what is currently needed. As you shop, add an item to share! The last Sunday of every month is "collection Sunday." During the first hymn, we will come forward to donate our collected food items. Whether you're able to bring one needed item in your bag or you're able to fill the bag, every donated item is valuable and appreciated. We are excited about keeping our cupboard stocked to bless our neighbors in their season of need.



Dear God,
Thank you for the fellowship of your people.
Thank you that I can walk into my church
And be warmly greeted and hugged by people
Of all ages and conditions,
People of many backgrounds and cultures,
United by a love for you and your church
And the people of our neighborhood.

Thank you for people who know my name,
Who “share the peace of Christ” with me,
Who pray for me,
Who welcome me home when I have been gone for a while,
Who inquire about my well-being
When my health and economic status are uncertain.

Thank you that I do not
“Run this race alone,”
But you are with me,
And your people are with me.
Thank you that my family
Needs never to be limited to my biological family.
Thank you for your people’s gifts.
Amen.

Don Carlin



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Peace *at all Times in all ways.*

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16



This year, World Communion Sunday falls on October 5th. World Communion Sunday is a special day to gather as one body in the name of Jesus Christ all around the world, sharing in God's love together. Please join us for a vibrant, multicultural service where we will hear the word of God in the various languages of God's people, in word and in song. Everyone is invited and encouraged to wear attire from their culture.



Assistance Requested

The Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) needs assistance. They have digitized a collection of photos from the Religious News Service (RNS) as part of a travelling exhibit on the civil rights movement. PHS is creating. The photos from RNS have some of the people photographed identified, but PHS wants to confirm their identities. They have asked for our assistance in confirming the identity of the third gentleman from the right. They have him listed as Rev. Clarence Cave.

What PHS is asking is the following:

- Is this Rev. Cave?
- Are there any more photos of Rev. Cave/the man photographed?
- Does anyone know if he has family members still living? If so, does anyone have their contact information?
- Any other information related to Rev. Cave/the man photographed





An all Presbytery event is happening on Saturday, October 18th from 9:30AM to 3 PM at Doylestown Presbyterian Church. The theme is “Write the vision; make it plain...” from Habakkuk 2:2. The keynote speaker is Rev. Jerry L. Cannon. The cost is \$10.

For more information visit
<https://presbyphl.org/event/fall-fest-2025-a-presbytery-wide-equipping-event-for-all/>

FOUR TIME **GRAMMY** –WINNING CHOIR



The Crossing

Donald Nally, conductor



with pianist
**Dynasty
Battles**

FEATURING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
NINA SHEKHAR'S ***TIC-TALK***

 IN COLLABORATION WITH
Partners for Sacred Places

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
3 PM

 **THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN**
35 W CHELTEN AVE, PHILADELPHIA 19144

SUGGESTED TICKET DONATION

ADULTS \$10, FAMILIES \$15, SENIORS/STUDENTS: \$5

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR AND ONLINE:

WWW.ARTCINIA.COM



Happy Birthday, United Nations

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN). The UN was formed as a result of WWII. As news about the Holocaust reached the world, fifty countries came together in San Francisco, CA from April 25-June 26, 1945 to draft the UN Charter, with the hope that it would prevent another world war. The UN Charter was signed on June 26, 1945 and came into force on October 24, 1945. It was signed before the official end of WWII; while Nazi Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, the war officially ended with the surrender of Imperial Japan on September 2, 1945. The Nuremberg Trials established the concept of “crimes against humanity”, highlighting a need for a universal understanding of what basic human rights were. This led to the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created by a committee that was chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt. The declaration is a list of thirty articles explaining the rights each person is entitled to. It was formally adopted by the UN on December 10, 1948. Since its passing, it has been translated into over five hundred languages and has influenced over seventy peace treaties that are applied at regional and global levels. Currently, the UN is composed of 193 nations, all of which financially contribute to its global peacekeeping efforts and support each other in times of war. The UN deploys tens of thousands of peace workers across eleven countries. Since its founding, the UN has facilitated nearly thirty disarmament treaties, destroyed over fifty-five million landmines, and provides humanitarian relief (food, healthcare, education, and more) to over one hundred million people yearly. More information about the UN, as well as the charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, can be found at un.org



United Nations



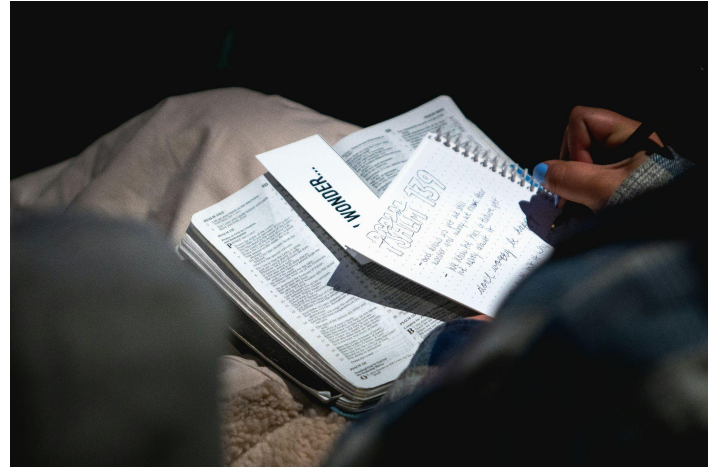
Eleanor Roosevelt with a copy of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights



The UN flag.

Sermons

We're trying something new! Every month, the newsletter will have a sermon from the previous month. All of the sermons are available online at <https://www.fpcgermantown.org/sermon-archive/>. Depending on the newsletter (and sermon) length, the sermon will either be incorporated into the newsletter or be an insert. This month, we're featuring a sermon, titled *God's Help*, by Rev. Cheni.



The privilege of naming a child is a beautiful part of becoming a parent. The rich meaning of the little one's name, or the tradition of passing along names that have been in the family, may be some factors that influence or contribute to this action. In Ghana, the Twi (Akan) naming ceremony is held eight days after the baby's birth; the child then receives a "soul name" or *kradin* based on the day of their birth. If a child is born on a Sunday, a boy would be named Kwasi and the female version of that name is Akosua. My soul name would have been Akua because I was born on a Wednesday.

Many other traditions, including Jewish traditions, consider the circumstances of a child's birth in their naming. The name Lazarus is the Latinized form of the Greek name Lazaros. The Greek version is derived from the Hebrew name Eleazar, which is formed from two words. The first part El means God, and the second Azar is the verb to help. The rich meaning of the name is God's help or God has helped. One might expect that good fortune or a decent life would be experienced by one so named. In this morning's New Testament reading, Jesus illustrates his lesson to those who were listening to him by telling them about a poor man named Lazarus, and a rich man who is un-named in the story. It is a cautionary tale, one that focuses attention on how people treat those who are less fortunate than themselves.

My siblings, peers and I grew up in a nation that had been under British rule. We read all manner of works by authors from the Commonwealth countries. While kids in the United States enjoyed Marvel Comics, we were entertained by *Beano* or *Whizzer and Chips*. There was a comic strip to which we were drawn called *The Toffs and the Toughs*. The tales were centered around the lives of the snobby, wealthy, and badly behaved kids called the Toffs, who always made life miserable for the kids from the wrong side of the tracks, the Toughs. The poor kids were kind and well-mannered. Each story ended with the rich kids learning lessons about treating those who were less fortunate than themselves with kindness and respect. They were neither to ignore them and their needs, nor were the Toffs to expect the Toughs to be their servants at school. The nuns who taught in our parochial school often asked parents not to allow us to read comics, lest they fill our minds with wild ideas. Such comics often gave us glimpses of real life.

The real life about which Jesus was preaching to the crowd of people who had gathered to listen was a life with which they were fully aware. They knew about the gap in the economic circumstances experienced by the town's residents. It would by no means be a stretch of their imaginations to understand the story that the Teacher was using for his lesson.

The rich man in the sermon illustration was consumed by his wealthy lifestyle, including the outfits he wore that were tailored from purple cloth and the lavish dinner parties that he held. He was unbothered by the dire circumstances of the homeless man who was covered in wounds and slept next to his front gate. The Torah taught about caring for the poor and hungry, and about caring for widows and orphans, and yet the rich man remained unmoved by the poor man's plight.

Death is the great equalizer, and it so happened that both men died around the same time. However, the afterlife saw a reversal in their fortunes: Lazarus had an angel escort to Abraham's arms while the rich bloke was relegated to the torments of hell. Seeking relief for his parched tongue, the rich man begs Father Abraham to get Lazarus to quench his thirst. He still has an arrogant attitude to the beggar by not addressing him directly, like an equal.

This pericope raises several matters with which each one of us should contend. The first question that needs an answer is this: how are you living out your call as a follower of Jesus Christ? Will your legacy be shared or will it be remembered as a cautionary tale? What will people say about the manner in which we treated our siblings in Christ? The news reported that Brian Killmeade, an anchor working for Fox News, offered his solution for dealing with mentally ill homeless persons: just kill them. The backlash from critics was swift and so he later issued a weak apology in order to keep his job. The outrage was nothing compared to that unleashed on Karen Attiah who worked for the Washington Post. Attiah wrote an opinion piece on her personal social media blog about Charlie Kirk's life. Kirk had stated that George Floyd deserved the death he suffered because he was a thug. Karen Attiah was fired for speaking the truth.

We all know that nobody deserves the callous ill-treatment that Floyd received, his breathing being shut off by the policeman who knelt on his neck while he begged for

breath. Each one of us will have to stand in judgment before the throne of grace. We will have to account for our actions or lack thereof, as well as our attitudes toward those who are less fortunate than ourselves; we will also have answer for our acceptance of violence instead of God's peace and love.

In an attempt to begin taking inventory of our lives, let us examine both our individual and collective behavior. This text in Luke offers us a moral challenge of seeing and acknowledging those whose lives are made invisible as they suffer in this world. There are advances in the technology that affords us a front row seat to the things that are happening on the global stage. Reporters provide footage of events as they occur, showing us the skirmishes and starvation, the plight of refugees and the pernicious effects of human and drug trafficking and violence that decimate the lives of our siblings in different parts of the world.

Just as Lazarus is named in the Bible, it is time for us to name the people or at least their station in life at this moment in time, so that we may recognize them and act to relieve their suffering.

The people who are often rendered invisible in society include the internally and externally displaced Palestinians who live in Gaza. The greed and entitlement to land that is already occupied, from the river to the sea, is creating situations in which normal life is unsustainable.

Unhoused persons are often under attack by wealthy people and businesses that do not want them to sit or sleep by the doorsteps of their apartment building or places of business. When the crisis that produced the matter of homelessness began in New York City, it was revealed that 75% of unhoused people were those who live with mental illness. People living with AIDS were another group of folk that society ostracized because of a lack of knowledge about the syndrome and the corresponding fear that it produced. The third category to which people's lives are relegated is those who identify as LGBTQIA+. There is a subset of the group who are under attack at the moment. You and I know them as our siblings who identify as transgender or Trans.

The poor make us another group in many societies, and they are often overlooked and ignored because they do not have the financial means to have their opinions heard and legitimate demands for assistance and justice heard.

Finally, the dire situations of those whose immigration status is now in jeopardy, even those who are green card holders in our nation, are being forced to hide from ICE agents who overstep their authority at the behest of those who claim to be Christians yet fail to follow the two greatest commandments: Love God, Love Neighbor.

The list is even longer than that which we have named here today. Returning to the rich man, he implored Father Abraham to send a messenger to speak to his five brothers. Abraham informs him that a heavenly being will not deliver the message of God in a different manner than that which was already being spoken in the land and in the places of worship through the prophets.

Beloved, the same is true today: who are the preachers and modern-day prophets to whom we fail to listen? To whom do we say "I don't want to listen to their preaching or message?" Whose voice do we want to silence? DON'T GET IT TWISTED. What is shared is not Cheni Khonje's message. It is not about me or Rev. Christian. This is the Gospel of Jesus, the one we know as the Christ, the Anointed One of God.
(Pause) Listen to Him.

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>• <i>Contact JUNTOS to report or verify any suspicious ICE activity.</i>
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>

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