



Windows

The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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Newsletter submissions are due the 22nd of each month.

Church Hours

Office:
Tuesday through Friday
9AM-1PM

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



www.fpcgermantown.org

Dear FPCG Family (both Members and Friends),

As our nation celebrates 250 years of existence, I think I'm most optimistic about our nation when I remember the words of our founders in The Declaration of Independence: "in order to form a more perfect union." Not a "perfect" union, but a "more perfect union." No nation is perfect, but each is in need of reform. Built into our constitution was, and is an understanding that we would need change, to be perfected.

This is the affirmation of our faith, that every person, every community, church, and nation is in need of God's work of sanctification. A founding principal and mantra of the Presbyterian Church USA is that we are a "church reformed and always reforming." God is at work perfecting our thoughts and actions, transforming us more perfectly throughout the course of our lives, our history into the image of Jesus Christ.

As the month of July begins, the 2026 General Assembly of the PCUSA is meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to consider the will of God for the common life and ministry of our churches. Overtures considering how we as a collective body will respond to important issues such as our world mission strategy, how we can help to end the genocide of the Palestinian people, support for gender affirming healthcare for transgendered youth, for nuclear disarmament and global peace, and considerations for a faithful response to the rise of the idolatry of Christian nationalism will go before the Assembly. Our own Zaria Cuffee, a deacon of this church, is representing our congregation, as well as the Presbytery of Philadelphia at this General Assembly as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate. Keep Zaria and our churches in prayer.

And let us also consider the ways in which God is calling us to reform in our own lives. Let this summer season be one in which we listen with open ears and hearts to God's transformational work of love, to form a more perfect union between ourselves and the Spirit of God who leads and guides us to deeper faith, hope, and love in Christ's name.

-Rev. Christian Heyer-Rivera



@thefirstpresbyterianchurch8143



@FPCGermantown

Happening this Month

Schedule

- Church closed in celebration of Independence Day, 07/03 and 07/04
- Hoagie Sales, 07/12, 11:30AM
- Admin and Finance Committee meeting, 07/14, 7 PM
- Intergenerational Game Night with Whosoever Gospel Mission, 07/17, 6:30PM
- Deacons' Meeting, 07/19, 11:30AM
- Property Committee Meeting, 07/23, 7PM
- Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee Meeting, 07/26, 12PM

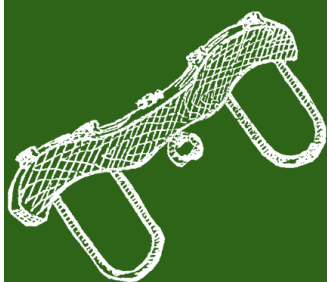
Weekly Events

- Sunday Worship, 10AM
- GACM Food Pantry, 10AM Thursdays

Pastor Christian's Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30AM-1:30 PM

Preaching this Month



Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, 07/05

Rev. Christian, preaching



Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 07/19

Cari States-Codding, preaching

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 07/12

Rev. Christian, preaching



Romans 8:26-39

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 07/26

Don Carlin, preaching

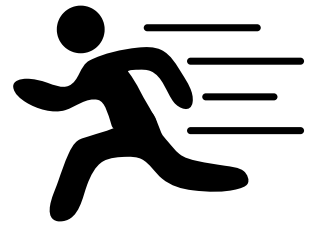


July Birthdays

Samuel Whyte	July 03	Rossie Gardenhire	July 13	Lydia Cooper	July 26
Mina Hoekema-Boerman	July 04	Charles Bethea	July 14	Gloria Bethea	July 28
Marney Hague	July 06	Emery Hood	July 15	Stuart Ditzen	July 30
Veda Gibbs	July 07	Zaria Cuffee	July 18	Michelle Lewis	July 31
		Arlene Grace		Linda Swift	
Delores Adams	July 08	Peter Smith	July 19		
Sherry Archer	July 12	Stephanie Garrett	July 23		

Admin Away

Please note that Cari will be out of office from June 29-July 17. In their absence, any urgent questions may be directed to Rev. Christian.



Summer Plans

What are your plans for this summer? Vacation, Freedom School, time with family, staying home? We want to know! Please email us what you're up to this summer, with a couple of photos, so we can share your adventures with everyone. We would like to publish your stories in the September newsletter.

July Challenge Offering

July's Challenge Offering recipient is Freedom School. For more information, or to register, go to <https://www.fpcgermantown.org/freedom-school/>

FPCG and Whosoever Gospel Game Night

The Christian Education committee would like to invite you to our Game Night! We will have different board games for you to choose from and enjoy along with other members from our church community and Whosoever Gospel Game Night! Dinner provided!

When? Friday, July 17 @ 6:30-8:30pm

Where? Longstreth auditorium

For Ages: 0-120



Hosting/Sponsoring Coffee Hour

The CDFC is in need of volunteers to host or sponsor coffee hour. If you'd like to sponsor, please write a check for \$35 to FPCG, with "fellowship time" written in the subject line. If you'd like to host, the usual categories purchased are cookies, danishes, fruit, and something else (snack bag varieties, etc.). The CDFC provides the juice and gluten-free choices. The sign-up sheet is on the CDFC bulletin board, located by the kitchen window. Please remember to include your contact number. Thank you for considering hosting/sponsoring, and please feel free to ask any CDFC member any questions.



Refrigerator Maintenance

The CDFC requests anyone putting food or drink in the church's two kitchen refrigerators to write their (own) name and date on each item. A roll of refrigerator tape and a grease pencil will be attached to the small stainless-steel fridge for your usage. A seven-day (one week) limit is allotted each item. Any remaining marked, unmarked, undated, and/or outdated food/drink items will be discarded after the seven-day limit. This request will go into effect every Sunday beginning Sunday, June 7, 2026. Expiration dates instead of the one-week time limit will be used for condiments - ketchup, mustard, salad dressings, butter, etc. Thanks for adhering to these necessary food safety guidelines



Congregational Coffee Hour

The CDFC is doing a new thing on the 4th Sunday of each month. The 4th Sunday will be Congregational Coffee Hour. The CDFC is asking the church to bring one item on the 4th Sunday. The item for each month will be announced in the worship bulletin and monthly newsletter. July's item is cookies. A sign-up sheet will be at the CDFC bulletin board...we thank you in advance.





Service/Learning trip to PR

On August 8-15 a group of 16 members of FPCG and 5 members of Overbrook Presbyterian Church are going to Puerto Rico for a week of working alongside Techos Pa' Mi Gente and learning more about the island. During the next few months we will be having different fundraising events in our community, such as hoagie sales, plant sales, and more! We are currently selling delicious Puerto Rican coffee! 8oz bags for \$10 each. Please let us know if you want some. We will be selling them during coffee hour after worship service and also around the neighborhood. Help us spread the word!

-Sheila Heyer-Rivera

Hoagie Sale for Puerto Rico Service/Learning Trip

On July 12, during coffee hour we will have hoagies for sale. You can pre order them and we will have them ready for you! \$10 for hoagie and chips. Please find Sheila or any trip participant to place your order.



Piña Coladas For Sale

On July 5 and July 26, during coffee hour, we will be making piña coladas for sale! On these hot summer months, nothing cools you down more than a nice cold piña colada!

Make GACM Your +1

"Make GACM Your +1" is our church-wide campaign to support the work of Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry. Each month, "most needed" items are listed in the bulletin, and bags are provided to bring in contributions for the food pantry. 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. Most needed this month: cold cereal, pasta, mac & cheese, tomato sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, pancake mix & syrup, toilet paper



Transitional Pastor Search Committee

The Session has appointed a team to search for a new Transitional Pastor. The team consists of 2 representatives from Session (Peter Smith and Randy Clever), 2 representatives from the Personnel Committee (Leah Hood and Ingrid Harris), and 1 representative from the Deacons (Andrea Overton). Interviews are currently taking place. If you have any questions please feel free to contact any member of the team.

The in-between time: Interim ministry as sacred space

published in *The Presbyterian Outlook*, written by Jeri-Lynne Bouterse

<https://pres-outlook.org/2019/06/the-in-between-time-interim-ministry-as-sacred-space/>

This article provides an overview of the purpose of interim ministers. It also addresses the benefits and challenges, for both minister and congregation, as well as the unexpected blessings that can come from this type of ministry.

Church Officers

Elders

2026

Sheila Heyer-Rivera
Andrew Hood
Peter Smith

2027

Arlene Grace
Randy Clever
Contina Lee Lundy, Clerk of Session

2028

Anthony Webb
Sara Greene
Klass Hoekema

Deacons

2026

Zaria Cuffee, Moderator
Garth Herrick
Madeline Valentine

2027

Lydia Cooper
Matthew Grewe
William Lewis

2028

Faith Lewis
Andrea Overon-Horne
Rosemary Williams

Committees and Chairs

Administration and Finance

Klaas Hoekema-Boerman

Christian Education

Sheila Heyer-Rivera

Congregational Development and Fellowship

A. Webb

Mission and Outreach

Drew Hood

Personnel

Ingrid Harris and Randy Clever

Property

Pete Smith

Safety and Wellness

Sara Greene

Worship, Music, and the Arts

Arlene Grace

Staff

Acting Head of Staff

Rev. Christian Heyer-Rivera

Director of Music Ministry

John Walhausen

Building Manager

Terry Boyer

Church Administrator

Cari States-Codding

Bookkeeper

Cindy Osborne

Sextons

Tony Nixon, Robert Patterson, JR Pasture

Prayer Requests

Special Needs

Angel Adams
Mandy Adams
Todd Cameron
Alexa Casimir
Robin Caroline Clark
Sylvia Clark
Randy Clever
David Corbin
Denise Cowey
Ian Cameron
The Cameron family
Lagunsad Family
Debra Gary
Todd Gasper
Stephanie Garrett

Veda Gibbs & Family

Marney Hague
Jane Heyer
Lee Hurst
Matt Hurst
Laverne Kitchen
Frank Lundy
Evadney and Peter Miller
Tatiana Mitchell
Cindy Osborne
Edna Solomon
Bogdan Suiunbaiev
Alice & David Wootson

Members & Friends in Military Service

Brittany Carroll
Michael D. Davis
Chip Martin
Dawayne Robinson

Homebound

Charlene Hardy & Family

Nursing Home & Retirement Community Residents

Diane Hinman-Guggolz
Hortense Kennedy
Betty King
Margaret Ann Reisse
Lois VanEerden

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



Please check our website if you'd like to catch up on (or re-watch) any of June's sermons.

06/07: *People Over Policy*, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Rev. Christian Heyer-Rivera

06/14: *Unencumbered*
Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7; Matthew 9:35-10:23
Cari States-Coddling

06/21: *Truth, Freedom and Legacy*, Matthew 10:24-39
Elder Arlene E. Grace

06/28: *Welcoming The Ordinary*, Matthew 10:40-42
Elder Drew Hood

June Sermons

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

35 West Cheltenham Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144