



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

Happy September FPCG family and friends!

As a congregation, we have joined together in solidarity around this season of transition. Over the past year, we've mourned, as staff members have either retired, or have been absent from us due to health concerns. Two members of our staff, Terry Boyer and Cari States-Codding, will soon be leaving their positions to begin new chapters of their lives. You can read more about this in the pages of this newsletter. We've also experienced longstanding members, elders, stalwarts of our culture of hospitality and diversity having gone home to be with our Lord. They have left us with their legacy and a compulsion to share with others the love and support they offered us in their life.

In the midst of all this transition, because of God's goodness and faithfulness to us, we have good reason to hope. In this last year we've also been in search of a senior minister. That search has come to a conclusion and on the 15th of September we will welcome the Rev. Dr. Diane Given Moffett to that position of leadership within our congregation. We thank God for the work of our pastoral search committee, and for orchestrating this intersection between the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett and our congregation.

As we embark on a new chapter of our life together, let's thank God for the resilience and vision of our community of faith. With a God who empowers us, with the investment that our ancestors have poured into us, and with the gifts of each of the members God has called into our community, we know God is at work changing lives, extending the love, grace and justice of Jesus Christ in and through us.

We want to invite you all to come and join us as we kick off this new season of life, of faith, hope, and love. On Sunday September 20th we will welcome Rev. Moffett, as she joins us in our pews to worship together. We will have a welcome reception after the worship service in the Jennings room. The following Sunday Rev. Moffett will take to the pulpit to begin her ministry of preaching among us. Rev. Moffett has asked all of us to invite a friend to join us in our worship service that Sunday, September 27th. After our worship service we will host our annual church picnic in celebration of the community God has blessed us with.

Let us continue to offer ourselves to one another in service to God as we uphold and live into the truth that we are a community that is Alive, Celebrating and Serving the Risen Lord!

With much anticipation,
Rev. Christian Heyer-River



@thefirstpresbyterianchurch8143



@FPCGermantown

Happening this Month

Schedule

- Session Meeting, 09/02, 7PM
- Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee Meeting, 09/06, 11:30AM
- Church Closed, 09/07
- Admin and Finance Committee Meeting, 09/08, 7PM
- Homestrong, 09/15, 22, 29, 12PM
- Margaret Ann Reisse funeral, 09/19, 10AM
- Bowerbird Concert, 09/19, 7PM
- Property Committee Meeting, 09/24, 7PM
- All Ages Youth Group, 08/21, 6:30PM
- CDFC Meeting, 09/27, 12PM

Weekly Events

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

Pastor Christian's Office Hours

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



Matthew 18:15-20

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 09/06
Rev. Christian, preaching



Matthew 18:21-35

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 09/13
Cari States-Codding, preaching



Matthew 20:1-16

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, 09/20
Rev. Diane Fitch, preaching



Matthew 21:23-32

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 09/27
Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, preaching

September

Birthdays

Erika Littles	September 01
Dawayne Robinson	September 02
Sheila Heyer-Rivera	September 04
Roger Miller	
Marlene Simmons	September 06
Ruth Cato	September 07
Robert Cato	September 08
Don Carlin	September 09
Michelle Jones	
Kerisha Johnson	September 10
Howard Tyrrell	September 10
Frances Smith	September 12
Rosemary Williams	September 15
Martin Lagunsad	September 18
Debra Gary	September 24
Melissa Miller	September 25
Chip Martin	September 27

*What does the Lord
require of you,
but to do justice,*

...to love kindness

*and to walk
humbly with
your God.*
Micah 6:8

*Reconciling God's
people at the Table
of Grace through
ministries of justice.*



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

Dear Members and Friends of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown,

Grace and peace to you as we stand on the threshold of a new season together!

I am writing to share my deep joy and enthusiasm as I prepare to begin this ministry journey alongside you as your new Senior Pastor. Throughout our conversations, prayerful discernment, and initial connections, I have witnessed the faith, warmth, and commitment that make First Pres such a wonderful community. I am profoundly grateful for the gracious welcome you have already extended to me, and I am eager to walk with you in Christ's service.

Our journey together formally begins in worship on **Sunday, September 27th**. On this special morning, I will be starting a multi-week inaugural sermon series titled: **"The Benefits of Believing."** Grounded in our rich heritage and looking forward with purpose, this series will explore how our faith in God heals, empowers and moves us in ministry and service to the world.

Because a new chapter in the life of a congregation is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others, **I want to encourage each of you to invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member** to join us for worship on September 27th. Whether someone is seeking a spiritual home, curious about God, or simply looking for community, let us open our doors wide and share the hospitality of Christ with all.

Please keep our congregation, our leadership team, and my family in your prayers as we make these final preparations for transition. I am eager to meet each of you, listen to your stories, and discern where the Spirit is leading us next.

See you in worship on September 27th!

With joy and anticipation,

Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

Senior Pastor

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Thankyouforyourprayers,encouragement,andworktokeepFirstPres steady during the last year.

We are excited to announce that after months of prayerful discernment **we have hired a new transitional Senior Pastor!** We believe that Rev. Moffett has the experience and calling to lead us into this next season. During the day we spent with her here in Philadelphia, we were impressed by her insights, the questions she asked us, and her clear calling to church ministry.

We are excited for what God is doing in Germantown!

With Love,
Randy, Andrea, Pete, Leah, and Ingrid

Introducing the Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

A nationally recognized executive leader, author, and ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Dr. Moffett brings over 30 years of denominational leadership, pastoral care, and community empowerment experience to FPCG.

Dr. Moffett comes to us following her transformational service at the national level, including her tenure as President and Executive Director of the former **Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA)** located in Louisville, Kentucky. During her leadership of the PMA, she managed complex global operations, spearheaded the denomination-wide **Matthew 25 initiative**, and established the **Center for Repair of Historical Harm**.

Throughout her career, Dr. Moffett has demonstrated a remarkable ability to revitalize congregations, expand community partnerships, and drive church growth. A few highlights include:

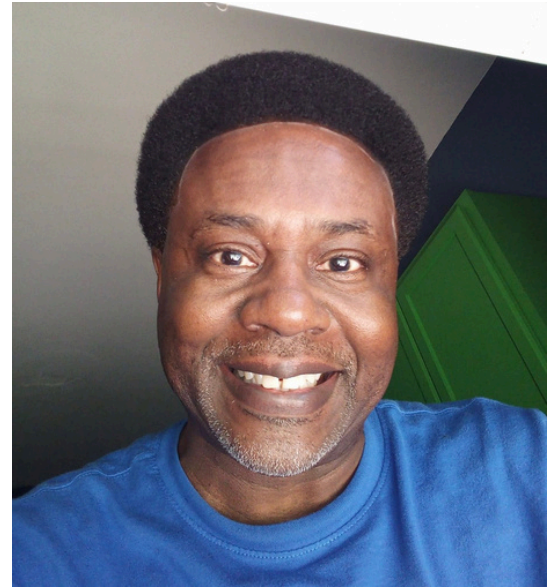


- **Congregational Growth & Community Health:** As Senior Pastor of Saint James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC, she led major facility renovations, created innovative outreach efforts, and increased church revenue.
- **Evangelism & Expansion:** As Associate Pastor at Elmwood Presbyterian Church in East Orange, NJ, she led historic evangelism campaigns and established a thriving second worship campus.
- **Community Leadership:** Early in her ministry in Oakland, CA, Dr. Moffett served as Executive Director of Harbor House Ministries, launched urban community services, and organized Oakland's first citywide Martin Luther King Jr. parade.

“I am thrilled and humbled to answer the call to serve The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, a community with a rich legacy of faith and community action. I look forward to walking alongside this congregation as we deepen our discipleship, engage in restorative ministry, and share the transformative love and justice of Jesus Christ throughout Philadelphia”

- Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

We are excited to announce the hiring of Clayton Holloman, our newest sexton. Clayton has been worshipping with us for a little while, and has now joined the staff.
Welcome, Clayton!



Tony Nixon experienced a mild stroke on August 8th. He has been released from the hospital and is currently completing rehab, and he is making good progress. Tony is still employed by FPCG, but he does not have a return date just yet. He appreciates your continued prayers and well-wishes.

Please note that Terry Boyer will be retiring on October 09th (for the third time). We wish Terry well and Godspeed on his next chapter, and we thank him for his decades of ministry at FPCG.

Cindy Osborne, FPCG's long-time bookkeeper, is still recovering from cancer. Treatment isn't progressing as quickly as she'd like, but nothing has spread or metastasized. Please continue to hold Cindy, her family, and her medical team in prayer as she continues treatment.

When I started at FPCG way back in the day (November 2021), I thought I'd be here no more than two years. I just kind of appeared one day, two weeks before Rev. Rebecca took a new call, and I was never formally introduced. The newsletter had just been discontinued and there wasn't an announcement put in the bulletin. More than one person dropped into the office during my first few months and were rather surprised to see me behind the desk. I had met approximately one Presbyterian before working at FPCG, so I found myself reading the Book of Order as I tried to sift through what was Presbyterian, what was unique to FPCG, and what was unique to Philadelphia (where Dwayne and I had just moved to in August of 2019). While I felt welcomed from the start, it was still a surprise one July morning in 2024 when service started and I was behind the pulpit. I'd been background worship support, contributing a hymn suggestion here and there, providing occasional feedback on prayers, and now I was preaching. (As of this month, I've preached 25 times at FPCG.) Not the typical trajectory for a church admin but, in true FPCG fashion, everyone embraced the weird and we made it work.

When I think of my time at FPCG, the first thing that comes to mind is gratitude. Gratitude for the community, the support, the friendships, the trust. You put out a call for a church administrator and ended up with an oddly liturgical, slightly offbeat, Lutheran. As I take my leave of FPCG, I am excited for what is on her horizon and for her new chapter, under the continuing pastoral leadership of Rev. Christian and the new leadership of Rev. Moffett.

Where I'm off to, and when, is still up in the air, but it is to complete a 12 month pastoral internship so I can (finally) be ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There had been the hope to complete the internship at FPCG but, due to denominational requirements and budgetary restraints, this has unfortunately not been possible. Some of you have asked if you'd be allowed to keep in contact with me. I'm technically not a minister, so there is no required period of no-contact.

I'll be sure to let folks know when my last day is as soon as I know (although I much prefer to slip out the back door). Thank you for an incredible five years, and for all of the support and love you've shown me (and Dwayne).

-Cari States-Coddling

Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

-Habakkuk 2:2-4



With the back to school Season comes the return of the chancel choir and a flurry of activity getting ready for the program year. Last week, our mail carrier delivered two heavy boxes of scores for the choir including anthems from diverse and exciting composers from around the country. Nationwide, we are in a golden age of choral music, and I am excited to share some of the fruits of this with the choir and with you this season. The first rehearsal for the choir this season is Thursday September 10 at 7:15pm in the choir room- newcomers of all skill levels are welcome to come lift their voices with us!

This season will also see the return of cherished traditions- Messiah rehearsals will begin October 27, and our concert will be November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. Messiah is a key event for bringing the neighborhood together, and inviting neighbors to sing and attend the performance is a great way to build community!

We will also welcome several partners into the congregation for performances this year. On September 19, we will welcome Germantown star pianist Dynasty Battles for a solo recital in the church at 7pm, hosted by Bowerbird. Artcinia will also be presenting several concerts in the church including a performance on September 27 at 3pm by Marshall Allen, legendary jazz saxophonist, leader of the Sun Ra Arkestra for over 30 years, and Germantown neighbor. Maestro Allen is approaching his one-hundredth birthday, a wonderful occasion to celebrate one of Philadelphia's musical legends and a trail-blazing artist.

-John Walthausen

Thank you to everyone who attended our reader training!



Fall 2026 Season



Artcinia Music in YOUR Neighborhood

Center City

Saint Luke & The Epiphany
330 S 13th St
Fridays at 7 PM

9.25 Suzzette Ortiz Latin Jazz Ensemble

10.23 Autumnal Airs w/ Megnot, Gabe, and Sira

11.20 Josh Lawrence Quintet "Philly Twisted"

Chinese Christian Church
225 N 10th St
Sundays at 5 PM

11.22 The Songs That Raised Me, w/ Helen Zhibing Huang & Ting Ting Wong

Crane Community Center
1001 Vine St
Sunday at 5 PM

9.27 Philly Pops- Hits from the Broadway Stage

Settlement Music School
Queen Village
416 Queen St
Friday at 7 PM

10.9 Trio Casals: The Russian Reflection

Tickets at the door or at Artcinia.com

Adults: \$10 Families: \$15
Students + Seniors: \$5

West Philly

Calvary-St. Augustine Episcopal Church
814 N 41st St
Saturdays at 2 PM

9.19 Suzzette Ortiz Latin Jazz Ensemble
10.17 Sankofa Chamber Collective
11.14 Bassist Lee W. Smith and Friends

Settlement Music School
Wynnefield
4910 Wynnefield Ave
Thursday at 7 PM

10.29 Neil Podgurski Jazz Trio

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Sundays at 3 PM

9.20 Tim Warfield Quartet

Northeast Philly

Resurrection of Our Lord
2000 Shelmire Ave
Sunday at 4 PM

12.20 Philly Pops- Sounds of the Season

St. Cecilia Church
535 Rhawn St
Sunday at 2 PM

10.11 Wister Quartet An American Program -- Celebrating 250 Years!

Germantown

The First Presbyterian Church
35 W Cheltenham Ave
Sundays at 3 PM

9.27 Maestro Marshall Allen
11.1 Philly Pops Jazz Combo w/ Chelsea Reed

Settlement Music School
Germantown
6128 Germantown Ave
Saturday at 12 PM

9.26 Life in Color - Najwa Parkins Reimagines Jazz Standards

North Philly

Esperanza Art Center
4261 N 5th St
Saturday at 7 PM

11.7 Philly Rumba Film & Timbalona Collective

Support provided by the
Philadelphia Cultural Fund



THE PRESSER
FOUNDATION



Creative
Philadelphia

Connelly
Foundation



Artcinia
www.artcinia.com

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.



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. September's item is family style recipe goodies. A sign-up sheet will be at the CDFC bulletin board...we thank you in advance.



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.



September Challenge Offering

September's Challenge Offering recipient is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

Acting Head of Staff

Rev. Christian Heyer-Rivera

Director of Music Ministry

John Walthausen

Church Administrator

Cari States-Codding

Building Manager

Terry Boyer

Bookkeeper

Cindy Osborne

Sextons

Tony Nixon, Robert Patterson,
JR Pasture, Clayton Holloman

Prayer Requests

Special Needs

Angel Adams
Mandy Adams
Karen Bowens and Family
Todd Cameron
Alexa Casimir
David Cassie
Robin Caroline Clark
Sylvia Clark
Randy Clever
David Corbin
Denise Cowey
Ian Cameron
The Cameron Family
Yvonne and Von Curry
Lagunsad Family
Stephanie Garrett
Debra Gary
Todd Gasper
Veda Gibbs & Family
Arlene Grace
Marney Hague

Robin Hansen
Jane Heyer
Lee Hurst
Matt Hurst
Laverne Kitchen
Evadney and Peter Miller
Tatiana Mitchel
Beverly Prunty
Frannie Smith
Bogdan Suiunbaiev
Alice 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
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

ALIVE,
CELEBRATING.
& SERVING
THE LIVING LORD!

August Sermons

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

08/02: *A God Who Works With Little To Nothing*, Matthew 14:13-21

Rev. Christian Heyer-Rivera

08/09: *Falling For You*, Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
 Cari States-Codding

08/16: *Release the Hounds!*, Isaiah 56:1, 6-8;
 Matthew 15: 21-28
 Cari States-Codding

08/23: *Testimonies from FPCG's 2026 Puerto Rico Service-Learning Team*, Matthew 16:13-20

08/30: *A Little LOVE Goes A Long Way*, Romans 12:9-21
 Arlene Grace



<https://www.fpcgermantown.org/sermons/2026/08/>

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

35 West Chelten Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19144