THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

November 2026

WINDOWS

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Newsletter



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Upcoming

Schedule

- *Messiah* rehearsal, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24; 7:15PM
- Church Closed in recognition of Veterans' Day, 11/11
- GACM's Winter Warmth Drive distribution, 11/14, 10AM-1PM
- Deacons' Meeting, 11/15, 11:30AM
- Administration and Finance Committee meeting, 11/18, 6PM
- Fall Gathering, 11/22, 11:45AM
- GACM Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway, 11/23, 11/24, 8AM-5PM *(prior registration required)*
- Church Closed for Thanksgiving, 11/26, 11/27
- *Messiah* Concert, 11/29, 3PM
- Session Meeting, 12/02, 7PM
- Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee meeting
- Christmas Festival, 12/12, 10AM

Weekly Events

- Sunday Worship, 10AM
- GACM Food Pantry, 10AM Thursdays
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:15PM, Thursdays
- Elementary School Youth Group, 1st and 3rd Fridays, 6:30PM
- Middle and High School Youth Group, 2nd and 4th Fridays, 6:30PM

Birthdays

Richard Jenkins	**November 09**
Donna Payne	**November 10**
Elaine Gray **Madeline Valentine**	**November 11**
Adeline Hoekema-Boerman	**November 19**
Ruby Camarena **Heidi Mercado Littles** **Serafim Santos**	**November 20**
Daniel Conner	**November 26**
Frank Lundy II	**November 27**
Rhonda Highsmith	**November 29**
Pam Ball **Carolyn Tarver**	**November 30**
Susan Mills MacDonald	**December 06**
Kelsi Scott-Lundy	**December 08**
Lechelle Garnett	**December 12**
Ingrid Harris **Tara Payne-Jones** **Flossie Smith**	**December 13**

Upcoming Preachers

Matthew 25:1-13
23rd Sunday after Pentecost, 11/08
Rev. Christian, preaching





Matthew 25:14-39
24th Sunday after Pentecost, 11/15
Rev. Christian, preaching

Matthew 25: 31-46
Christ the King Sunday, 11/22
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, preaching





Romans 12:9-12a
First Sunday in Advent, 11/29
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, preaching

Mark 1:1-8
Second Sunday in Advent, 12/06
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, preaching



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

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

As November brings crisp autumn air, I am looking back on a fast-paced October—my first full month with you as your pastor. I celebrate the steady progress we are making together, and my heart is filled with gratitude for the dynamic ways God's grace is bearing fruit in our congregation.

If you look and listen around our church home, you can see and feel the Holy Spirit moving in so many ways:

- Sacred Music & Rising Voices: Have you noticed the joyful energy in our choir loft? We are deeply blessed by John's work with our choral scholars—young high school students whose presence and voices bring such richness to our choir and worship.
- Tending God's Creation (CLEAR Grant): Our grounds are blooming! Thanks to our work with the CLEAR grant, our new pollinator garden is taking root as a living symbol of creation care. Be sure to check out the photos in this issue and join us in celebrating the exciting news of an additional grant awarded to expand this ministry.
- Nurturing Young Minds: We continue to give thanks for our partners, School House Lane School, who rent space in our building. They are doing extraordinary work with children who benefit from a strong academic environment paired with a supportive, relaxed atmosphere.
- Faith in Action: Our hands remain open to our neighbors. Inside this newsletter, you will find information for the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry (GACM) Thanksgiving Basket and Winter Warmth Drive, as well as details on our November Challenge Offering.

A special thanks to the 52 persons who participated in our Fall Gathering on October 18th! Your feedback and evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, and you have given Session and church leadership a wonderful wealth of insight as we plan for 2027. If you were unable to attend, please plan to join us on Sunday, November 22nd, for a repeat of this gathering immediately following worship.

I ask for your continued prayers for my family as we anticipate the birth of our 7th grandchild in Greensboro, North Carolina. I will be working remotely for a period this month to assist my daughter and welcome this new life. During my time away, Rev. Christian will preach on **November 8th and 15th**. I am deeply grateful for his leadership, pastoral heart, and the rich gifts he brings to our FPCG community.

Please also pray for our family's search for a permanent home, and for those in our congregation who are grieving and facing this holiday season without their loved ones. These weeks can be bittersweet, yet we trust in God, who is able to keep us from falling and surround us with peace.

Thank you for your warmth, your prayers, and your faithful witness.

With love and gratitude,
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett
Senior Pastor
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Have you noticed some new young faces in the choir loft this fall? Meet our Choral Scholars!

In October, we were proud to welcome to the choir loft three new high school choral scholars: Michael (baritone and sophomore at Germantown Friends School), Carson (tenor and sophomore at St. Joe's Prep) and Elisa (alto, sophomore at CAPA, and already familiar face at FPCG!). These singers are joining returning scholar, baritone, and recent CAPA grad Sahj.

Each of these singers receives one-on-one voice instruction from FPCG section leaders Laurice Kennel and Fran Laucerica as well small group instruction in sight singing and musicianship. The whole team of choral scholars sings with the choir every week; each scholar brings a beautiful voice and love of learning to our ensemble. This program was made possible by generous bequests from long time members Anna Reimann and Randy Rosensteel, both of whom loved music and encouraging young people.



Advent Events

On the Horizon: Slow Down and Prepare Your Heart for Christmas

The season of Advent often arrives in a rush—filled with crowded calendars, endless to-do lists, and the noise of a busy world. Yet beneath the flurry of activity is a quiet, steady invitation: to pause, breathe, and make room in our hearts for the promise of Christ's coming.

Beginning **Wednesday, December 2**, all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in Germantown are invited to gather for a four-week Pastor's Advent Bible Study centered on the Gospel of Luke.

Together, we will journey through Luke's vibrant narrative to uncover how God's ancient promises unfolded over generations, why the good news of great joy reached those on the margins first, and how the kingdom of God transforms our world quietly, from the ground up. Our study will culminate where Advent ultimately leads us—resting in the profound peace born in Bethlehem.

What You Can Expect

- **Fresh Insights & Rich Conversation:** Unpack Luke's Gospel alongside fellow travelers, discovering timeless hope for our modern daily lives.
- **A Community for Everyone:** Whether you have studied Luke for decades or are opening the Scriptures for the very first time, your perspective and presence are warmly welcomed.
- **A Midweek Oasis:** Set aside one hour each week to refocus your mind and carry a deeper sense of peace and joy throughout the season.

Come as you are, bring your curiosity, and join us as we prepare our hearts together to welcome the newborn King.

Gathering Details at a Glance:

- **Study**: Pastor's Advent Bible Study: Journeying Through Luke's Gospel
- **When**: Wednesdays — December 2, 9, 16, & 23, 2026 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- **Where**: The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown



Come sing with us!

HANDEL'S

MESSIAH

Weekly rehearsals: Tuesdays at 7:15 PM
beginning October 27
Concert: Sunday, November 29th at 3 PM

For more information, contact Director of Music, John Walthausen, at jwalthausen@fpcgermantown.org

School House Lane Photos















Our Building Partners' Ministry: School House Lane

School House Lane: Learning and Growing at FPCG

by: Melissa Church, Director

School House Lane is a literature-rich microschool for homeschoolers in grades 5–8. Our programs combine engaging academics and arts in a small, nurturing community, with personalized support and no grades or tests. We believe middle schoolers thrive when they are challenged intellectually, supported emotionally, and trusted as valued members of a learning community. Learning should be meaningful, connected, and joyful.

We love our new home at the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown and are grateful for the space to learn, create, and connect!

Our Programs & Openings

- Core Academic Program: Two days per week, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., with one opening in our Tuesday/Friday group.
- Studio/Study Day: An optional third day for self-directed projects and homework support.
- Virtual ELA: One opening in the Tuesday 11 a.m./Thursday 9:15 a.m. class; two openings in the Tuesday/Friday 9:15 a.m. class.
- SHL Arts: Tuesdays, 3:30–5:30 p.m. for both homeschoolers and students who attend school. Spring enrollment opens in December. Come see our fall performance December 15 at 6 p.m.!

Here's a glimpse of what we're learning this fall:

- ELA: Students are reading Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart, discussing culture, gender, power, colonization, and change while developing their analytical writing. We even held our own "Feast of the New Yam," with dishes prepared by students and families!
- U.S. History: Our study of the Harlem Renaissance explores Black art, music, literature, and ideas. Students are collaborating with art teacher Aaron Birk on a research-based art installation for our walls.
- World History: We're exploring 1880–1930, examining industrialization, migration, expanding empires, and resistance—and asking how people respond to and shape a changing world.
- Science: Environmental and Earth Science combines hands-on experiments, reading, and research. Recent investigations have included rocks, weathering and erosion, plate tectonics, and earthquakes.

Beyond academics, student committees plan events, provide community leadership, and publish student art and writing. We take field trips exploring the city's cultural offerings. Our after-school SHL Arts program brings together music, acting, and visual art in an original ensemble project inspired by students' ideas.

To learn more or schedule an introductory call with director Melissa Church, visit schoolhouselanephilly.com or email schoolhouselanephilly@gmail.com. Please share with families who might appreciate our learning community!



The Christian Education Committee had its annual Cherry Crest Adventure Farm trip!





CLEAR PROJECT EXPANSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Our congregation was recently awarded an additional $5000 to expand our CLEAR Project initiatives. We now have the opportunity to establish additional micro gardens throughout the Northwest region of Philadelphia. We also will be expanding our own native and pollinating plant garden in the front of our property as well as giving away pollinating gardens to our neighbors in Germantown. If the CLEAR Project sounds unfamiliar at this point to you. Please see the foam free standing CLEAR Project sign on our literature table and scan the QR code to learn more about the Lily Endowment funded project out of Villanova University. Our congregation is one of 13 religious institutions chosen to be recipients of educational and financial funding designed to better engage Children, Liturgy, Ecology And inspiring Renewal within the Church.







The Lundy Family would like to thank the First Church community for all the love and support we have received since Frank's passing.

Thank you to everyone who helped make his homegoing celebration a meaningful and memorable day. We would love to acknowledge each of you by name, but we are afraid of unintentionally leaving someone out. Please know that each of you holds a special place in our hearts.

With heartfelt gratitude and love,
The Lundy Family

Our non-pictorial 2026 Church Directory is now available!

It can be picked up at the literature table outside the sanctuary. We invite everyone to review their listing to help us keep our records accurate and up to date.

How You Can Help:
1. Check Your Information: Please take a moment to review your entry in the current directory. If any updates or corrections are needed—such as changes to your address, phone number, or email—please submit your edits so we can ensure everyone has accurate contact details. You can find a form in your directory to make your changes.
2. New Members & Friends: If you are a member or regular friend of the congregation and are not currently listed in the directory, we would love to include you! Please pick up and complete a directory form located at the literature table outside the sanctuary.

Thank you for helping us stay connected as a congregation! If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to the church office (office@fpcgermantown.org).

Congregational Coffee Hour

November's Congregational Coffee Hour item is any seasonal specialty. We look forward to sampling your contributions on 11/22!

You are invited to

Alive, Celebrating, and Serving – Fall Gathering 2026

Hosted by The Session of
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Date: **Sunday, November 22**

Time: **11:45 AM**

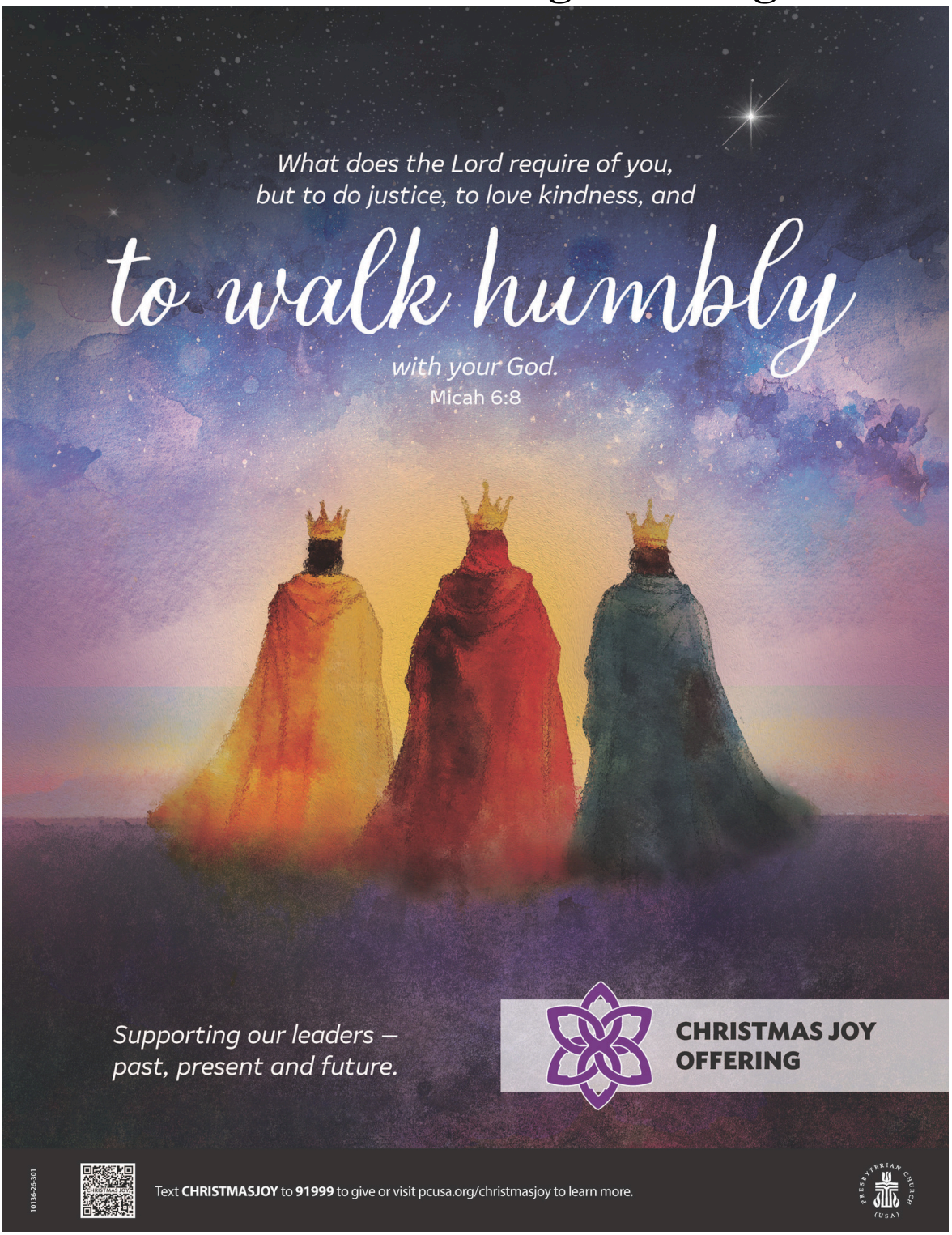
Location: **FPC Germantown**

scan the QR code to register

November Challenge Offering

November's Challenge Offering Recipient is Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels.

December Challenge Offering





GACM is pleased to host our annual Winter Warmth Drive

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Help us collect new and gently used items for warmth.
Coats, Hats, Scarves, Blankets, Gloves, etc.

- Donation Drop off Day: Nov 13th
  (If you need GACM to pick up items, please ask)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Volunteers are needed:

- Sorting Day: Nov 13th (10am - 1pm)
- Event Day Setup: Nov 14th (8:30am - 10am)
- Event Day Distribution: Nov 14th (10am - 1pm)
- Event Day Clean Up: Nov 14th (12:30pm - 1:30pm)

If you're interested in volunteering call our office at (215)-843-2340

www.Crisisministry.org | FB: @GermantownAvenueCrisisMinistry | Insta: @GACMPhilly

Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry 35 W Chelten Ave Phila. PA, 19144 | 215-843-2340

2026 GACM Holiday Basket Collection

Thanksgiving baskets will be given to families who have requested help and documented their family size and financial need. A $50 donation can provide a basket for a family. All donations are appreciated! Checks should be made payable to "GACM". You can also donate here: www.crisisministry.com

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, Reusable Grocery Bags

★ Volunteers are needed :
Nov. 21st & 23rd 8:30am - 5pm

★ Volunteers must plan to provide a minimum of 2 hours sorting, packing, and/distributing baskets

Donate

Call the GACM office or email (info@crisisministry.org) to schedule your service

Germantown Ave Crisis Ministry
35 West Chelten Ave Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-843-2340 (p), 215-843-6020 (f)
www.crisisministry.org

Insta: @GACMPhilly
FB: @GermantownAvenueCrisisMinistry

All donations make a difference.

While holiday basket items are being collected, please remeber non-holiday items are also essential and will be shared during our weekly food distributions.

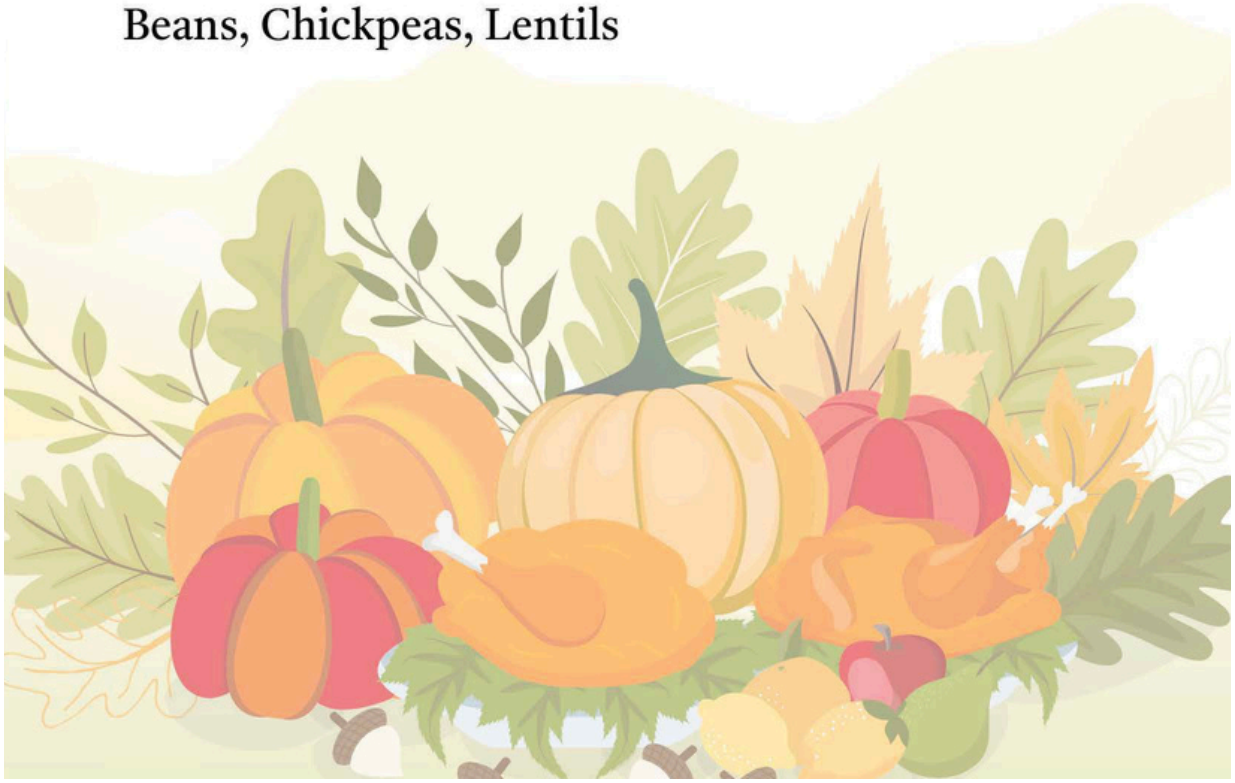
Most Needed Items This Season:

🍲 Hearty Soups

🐟 Canned Fish: Tuna, Salmon, Sardines, Mackerel

🍗 Canned Meats: Chicken, Turkey, Beef, Pork, Spam, Corned Beef

🌱 Canned Beans & Legumes: Black Beans, Kidney Beans, Chickpeas, Lentils



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!

October Sermons

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

10/04: *The Benefits of Belief: Transcendence*
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett

10/11: *The Benefits of Belief: Revelation*
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett

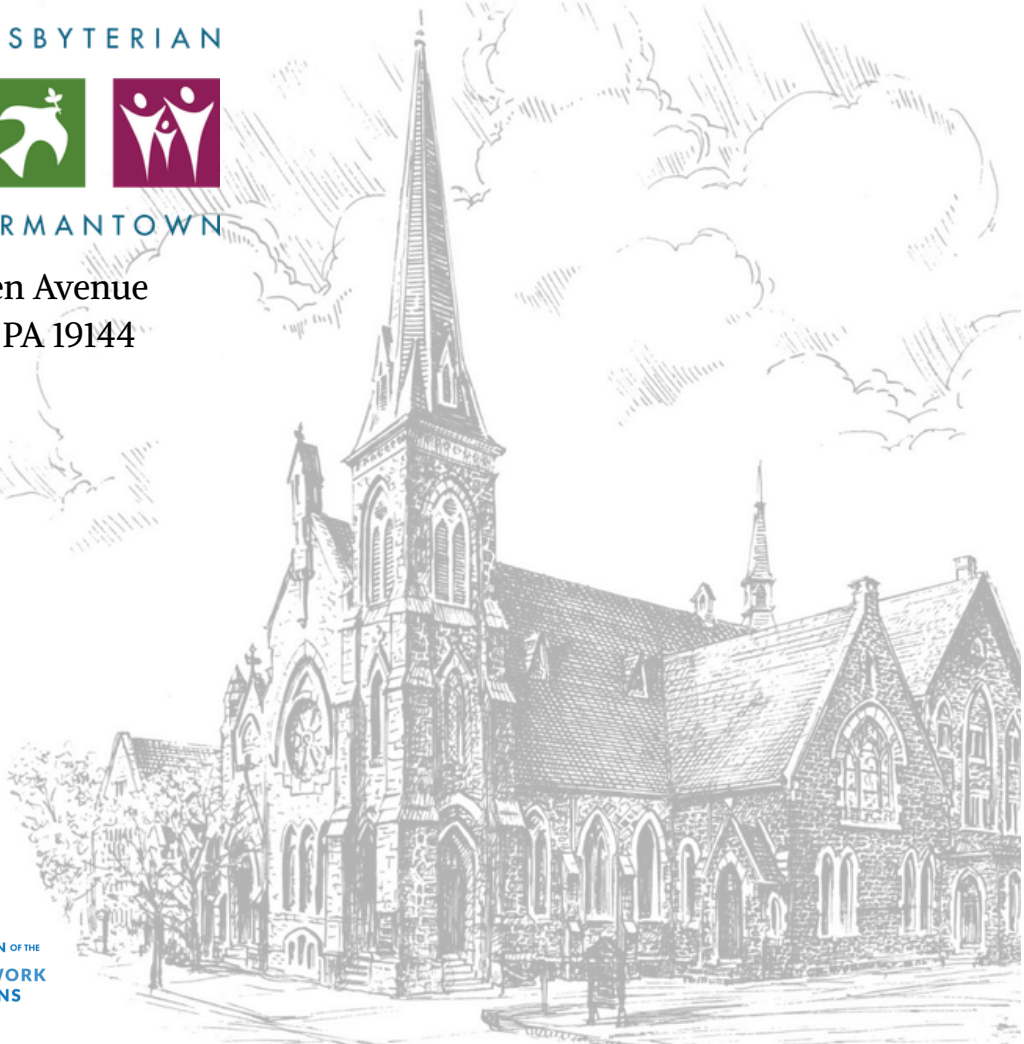
10/18: *Lift Up Your Voice!*
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett

10/25: *Stay Tuned*
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett

https://www.fpcgermantown.org/sermons/2026/07/

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35 West Chelten Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144



AN LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)