



# • Windows •

The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
August 2024



Beloved,

Freedom School is in full swing, and I am privileged to be one of the people who gets to read to the kids.

It's summer! The record high temperatures are causing us to slow down so that we don't get overheated. Many of us are opting to stay indoors to enjoy the much-needed air conditioning, while others are splashing about in pools or jumping around in the waves by the sea. My siblings and I love to swim; we're all set to spend time at the beach, swimming and collecting shells. Visiting the shops, restaurants and amusement venues on the boardwalk is also in the plans. While I visit our family home, I plan to do some "supervisory gardening." This means that I will be on the deck, pointing to the places where new shrubs can be planted, or the placement of birdbaths and mini light displays. Why choose this form of "master gardening"? It keeps me a safe distance from worms!



Summer vacations to see family and friends are well underway. Friday night traffic builds up as folk make their getaway from our fair city. Those who have chosen to relish in a staycation can watch the Phillies win against opposing teams or picnic in the park before they shelter from the heat in one of the many museums that are in Philly. It is delightful to see tourists challenge themselves to re-enact Rocky's run to the top of the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Wherever we may find ourselves, God has gone before us, Christ journeys with us and the Holy Spirit hems us in to keep us safe. I pray for travel mercies for all who are voyaging, and for reinvigorating rest for everyone who is staying home. May cool and calming breezes waft over you, may God's richest blessings be on you and your loved ones and may we reunite as a church family in September.

Much love and God bless,

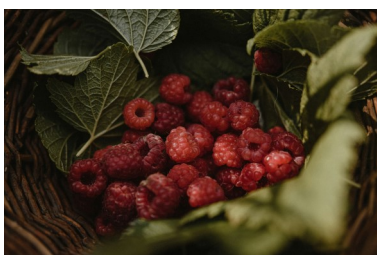
*Pastor Cheni*

***P. S. Please read Psalm 121 this August.***



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Items for the September issue of *Windows* are due on August 16, 2024.

Send to  
[office@fpcgermantown.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 the church office at 215-843-8811 or email: [office@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:office@fpcgermantown.org)

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- Christian Heyer-Rivera
- Eileen Jones
- Dani Howard
- Sheila Heyer-Rivera
- Christian Heyer-Rivera
- Leah Hood



**Save the date!**

Our annual church homecoming barbeque is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>. FPCG will provide the grilled items and beverages, and we ask that you bring a side or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet next to the fellowship hour sign-up sheet, on the corkboard next to the kitchen. We will also have games for kids. Please contact the CDFC if you have any questions.

# August Birthdays

**Leah Hood  
August 04**

**Matthew Johns  
August 05**

**Evan Black  
August 06**

**Dick Liberty  
August 08**

**Lois VanEerden  
August 08**

**Jameson  
McCord-Amasis  
August 11**

**Delores Solomon  
August 11**

**Siena Williams  
August 12**

**Matthew Lagunsad  
August 15**

**Anthony Ohemeng  
August 15**

**DeShaye Carter  
August 17**

**Makaylah Fitzgerald  
August 17**

**Angel Adams  
August 18**

**Lois Bethea  
August 19**

**Paige Kears  
August 19**

**Johari Smith  
August 20**

**Trinity Caldwell  
August 25**

**Kristopher Payne  
August 26**

**Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje  
August 26**

**Aleisha Gibbs  
August 27**

**Eileen Jones  
August 27**

**Chiaka Akutah  
August 29**

**William Lewis  
August 29**

**Ann Stauffer  
August 29**

**Zack Hasse  
August 30**

**Khalil Overton  
August 31**

**Shawdee Rolle  
August 31**



## GACM Update

The hazy hot days of summer have been anything but lazy for the wonderful Crisis Ministry Food Cupboard volunteers. The hot temperatures have not stopped their service as weekly they go out to pickup donations, stock shelves, pack bags, and setup for outdoor food distribution. In July, despite the heat, we've served over 90 households weekly. These numbers are unusually high for this time of year. As you can imagine, it's been a challenge keeping food on the shelves.

GACM's last day of summer food service is August 8. We will reopen after Labor Day.



FPCG Family, let us celebrate Dani Howard's work promotion after one (1) year and five (5) months ago joining Trickle Up Programs (TU), a nonprofit organization globally dedicated in helping Ultra-Poor Women out of Poverty. She has dedicated her 25+ nonprofit career to helping nonprofit organizations across the country, managing their financial resources. She has finally been recognized in title and compensation for a long earned and well-deserved dedication to nonprofit public service and now the needful global community. Her service dedication includes time working with the Philadelphia Presbytery Stated Clerk, Kevin Porter and administrative assistance to Interim Executive Presbytery Director, Lucy Rupe. She also served as Treasurer on the GACM Board of Directors with Eileen Jones.

Dani Howard was promoted to the role of Senior Director of Global Finance this passed June. Her position has been expanded to recognize the global function in the responsibilities this position plays, where Dani provides both oversight and capacity building to support and supervise internal financial, organizational, accounting activities, and strategic planning across all of TU. She is in daily contact with the financial and operational staff in our two regional offices navigating communications within different time zones (India 11.5 hours ahead, and Latin America 2 hours behind EST) as well our scattered USA TU Program Staff with grant reporting. Over this past year, she has worked tirelessly to help automate many of the transactions carried out in our Regional Offices as part of our monthly accounting close and added finance and operational capacity to our Global locations each month as we grow. She has reduced the time for month end closing from 45 days to less than 20 days and eliminated our need for help from a long-lasting relationship with an outside accounting firm.



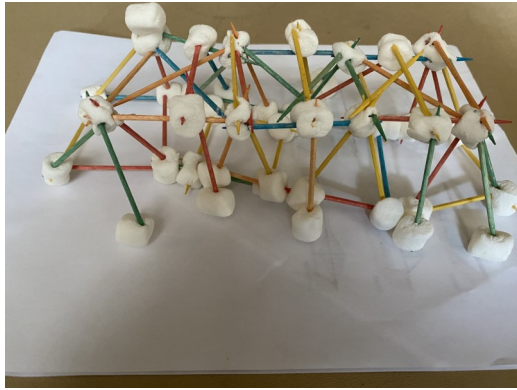
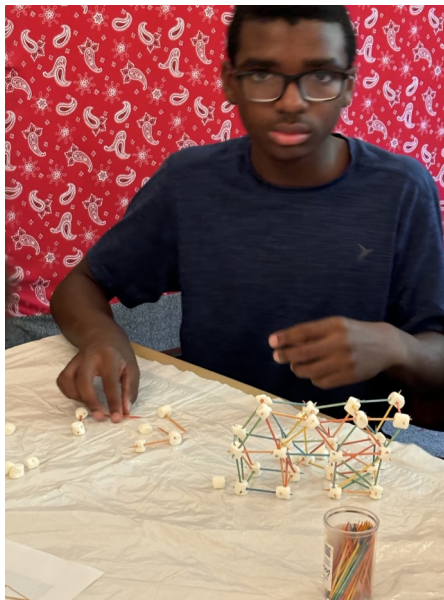


### FPCG Service Learning trip to Puerto Rico

A group of 15 members of our congregation dedicated their time and energy to work alongside Puerto Rican grassroots organization, Techos Pa' Mi Gente. From June 22 to June 29 the team was divided into two groups: One worked on Mrs. Beatriz's roof, while the other group worked on organizing and cleaning out their headquarters. It was a week full of hard work, new friendships, a lot of learning and new experiences. We want to thank our church community for your support both monetary and in prayer. We invite you to approach any of our team members and ask them about their experience....I'm sure they will love to share with you!





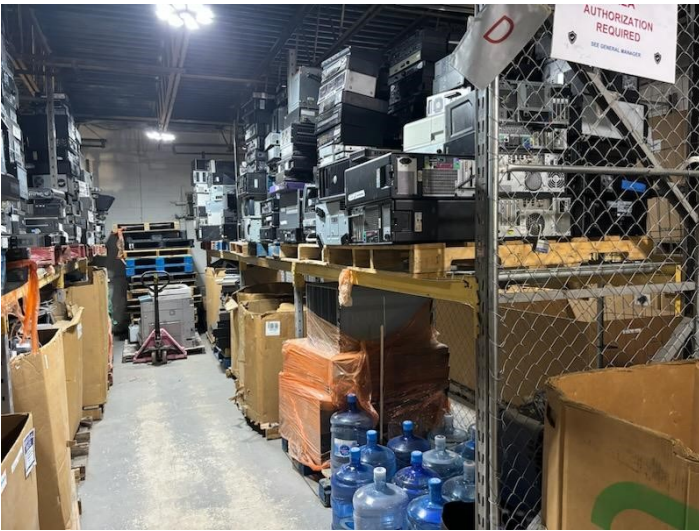


### Freedom School

We are mid-way through Freedom School 2024. The children are having a wonderful time learning and having fun. One of many highlights included Science time with Andrea Overton. The lesson was on physics and architecture. The time concluded with scholars' making bridges out of mini marshmallows and toothpicks. Many were quite interesting to look at and a few were structurally sound. Freedom School will end Friday August 9.







### PAR- People Advancing Reintegration-Recycle Works

PAR-Recycle Works is a non-profit electronics recycler that provides transitional employment to people returning from prison. PAR received the June Challenge Offering. During July, we collected electronics for them to recycle. Three Freedom School Scholars, Allen Oglesby, David Daniel and Mahkai Hobson delivered the recyclables and toured the PAR facility. They met some of the men and women working there and learned about the steps used to break down the electronics components. One worker told the youth that in prison he earned \$28 a month. At PAR he is paid \$15.50 per hour; money he needs to get back on his feet following incarceration. The scholars were encouraged to be wise in decision making as they gain greater independence in high school so they will never need to participate in the program. Thank you to all who supported the offering and brought in electronics. They are located at 2024 W Hunting Park Ave. Monday through Friday



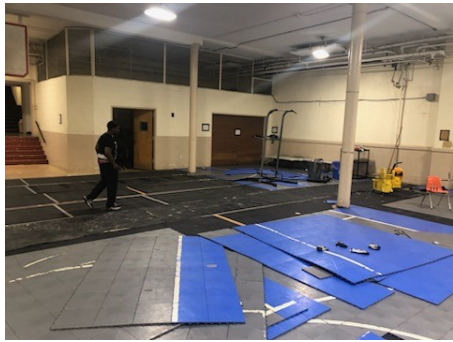


## An update on our church gymnasium



One can only imagine, that from the beginning when our church built its gymnasium down in the basement, the problem of flooding has plagued that area of our facilities. That wing of our church was built over a creek that flows through our property. Keeping water out of our basement has therefore been an ongoing struggle, which has been and will continue to be

exacerbated due to increased precipitation and rising water tables due to global warming.

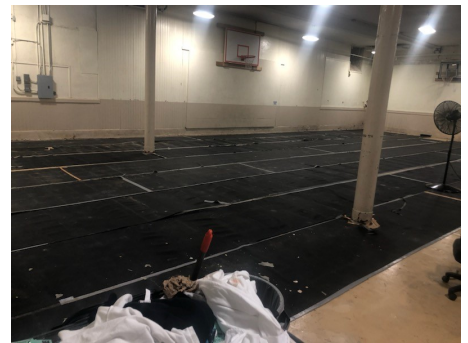


A number of years ago, in response to a major flooding that saw our basement under 12 inches of water, our property committee wisely committed to a major renovation by installing a multi stage dewatering pump station that stopped the infiltration of water in the SW corner of our basement. This was done in addition to updating our youth lounge. This renovation has served to stop water from entering the SW corner of our basement. To date we have yet to experience flooding in that

portion of the basement, deeming the project a major success.

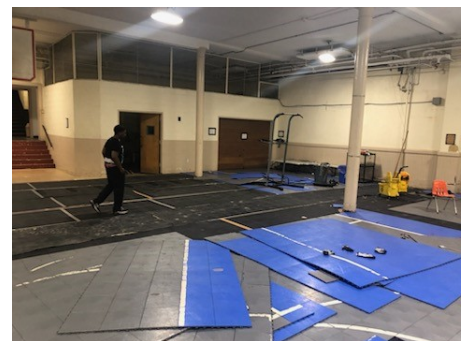
Ministries such as our youth groups, our drop-in center, our open gym program, our summer Freedom School as well as our community partners depend upon this space to run programming to our congregation's youth as well as children throughout the NW region of Philadelphia.

This year we were hit with significant spring rains that forced water into the NW corner of the basement. This is not uncommon each spring. It frequently has caused interruptions in our programming due to the gymnasium flooding. This year the problem came to a head as the flooding lasted for almost two weeks straight. The water spread to the entire north (Vernon Park) and east walls (small parking lot) of the gym causing the entire gym to become completely unusable. Our property committee, seeing the need, has responded by creating a plan with engineers and contractors to protect the remaining vulnerable area of the basement. By establishing an interlinking system of French (trench) Drains throughout the basement and water pumps to remove water from those drains, the entire basement area would be fully protected from future flooding.



This is truly a legacy project as it will finally solve a problem that generations before us grappled with, and that has plagued our present ministries.

As with any larger project, funding is a major hurdle to overcome. In the coming months, more information will be shared with our congregation about the steps this project will undergo, and we as a congregation will be invited to join the effort by our giving. We will be given the opportunity to be a part of an effort that will keep our basement and gymnasium open to be used to minister for generations to come. Please pray for this effort and when the time comes, consider giving generously.





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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN GERMANTOWN

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