



• Windows •

The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
September 2024



Beloved,

Summer hols (holidays) are coming to an end, and life is ramping up to our busy time. Kids are back to school, and the older ones are heading to college, some of them for the first time.

We're starting the church year with our Homecoming Sunday Barbecue on September 8th. The "Gospel

According to..." 6-week sermon series also begins as we return to church. Experiencing the interpretive moves of several saints in the church will afford us new lenses with which we can view the biblical stories with which we are familiar.

This new season in the church year promises to challenge and encourage us to act in ways that will broadly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Opportunities for service, some of which began this summer with members playing their instruments in the service, and Christian education will continue our spiritual growth here in God's House.

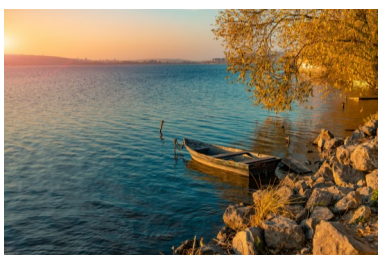
I am thrilled to come back to church after a time of rest. Restored and refreshed, I missed you all and look forward to seeing your smiles, exchanging hugs and loving greetings as we begin this new chapter in FPC Germantown's ministry together.

Much love and God Bless,

Pastor Cheni

In this Issue

Minister's Message.....	1
September Birthdays....	2
Johnsonburg Camp.....	3
Church Barbeque.....	3
Young Adult Cookout...4	
WMA community project.....	4
In Memoriam.....	5
Scholarship Recipients..	6
September Challenge Offering.....	6
Fall Sermon Series.....	7
World Communion Sunday.....	7



Items for the October issue of *Windows* are due on September 20, 2024. Send to 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 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

Contributors:

Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje
Mina Hoekema
Sheila Heyer-Rivera
John Walhausen
Christian Heyer-Rivera
Eileen Jones
Jim Thompson

September Birthdays

Erika Littles
September 01

Wayne Swift
September 01

Dawayne Robinson
September 02

Sheila Heyer-Rivera
September 04

Roger Miller
September 04

Stephanie Haynes
September 05

Amir Jones
September 06

Marlene Simmons
September 06

Ruth Cato
September 07

India Jones
September 07

Robert Cato
September 08

Don Carlin
September 09, 1955

Michelle Jones
September 09

Hortense Kennedy
September 09

Kerisha Johnson
September 10

Howard Tyrrell
September 10

Aria Ahn
September 11

Frances Smith
September 12

Evelyn Hasse
September 13

Jade Bass
September 14

Ann Reisse
September 14

Warren Leibowitz
September 15

Rosemary Williams
September 15

Christian Wilson
September 16

Zady Hasse
September 17

Martin Lagunsad
September 18

Filomena Santos
September 19

Sol Williams
September 19

Autumn Jones
September 22

Debra Gary
September 24

Brian Harris
September 25

Melissa Miller
September 25

Chip Martin
September 27

Johnsonburg Camp, summer 2024

This summer, some of our Elementary school kids spent a week in Johnsonburg camp. Here are some thoughts from Mina Hoekema on her experience (pictured are our very own Mina, Lily, and a frog they found. ☺

A few weeks ago, me and a few other church friends went to Camp Johnsonburg, and I liked it! There were many fun activities to choose from, like; zipline, night pool-party, extreme spoons, and SOOO many more! I found that all of the counselors and LT's, (leadership training) were really nice and welcoming. I had a really good time hanging out with my friends (and new friends!) at Johnsonburg, and will definitely be going back.

-Mina Hoekema, age 11



Save the date!

Our annual church homecoming barbeque is scheduled for September 8th. 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.

IMPORTANT:

Rev. Cheni has a variety of food allergies. Watermelon, bananas, bell peppers, spinach, fish, and shellfish are not permitted. She also has other allergies, but we can serve those items as long as the item is noted on a piece of paper when delivered. Please check her allergy list, posted by the sign-up sheet, before committing to a dish.



FPCG Young Adults Cookout

On Thursday, August 15, some of our church's young adults gathered to catch up with each other, hear what they're up to and share what they hope to do in the near future.

We ate, we prayed for each other and made plans for future events! Please keep each and every one of our young adults in prayer as they adventure out following their own journey: some going away for college, others working full time, while others are working and going to school.

May they know that God is with them in this walk, that they are loved unconditionally in Christ, and may they always remember that their home church congregation is holding them up in prayer!



The Worship, Music, and Arts Committee needs your help!

We are proudly commissioning two banners for our church sanctuary from FPCG textile artist Cathy Coho, and we are looking for donations of fabric for Cathy to use as part of her design. Both banners will feature a patchwork design: one will look like a stained glass window in the form of a cross, and the other like leaves on a vine. The photo to the left is a rough mock-up of one of the designs.

From September 8-October 6, you are invited to bring to the church any small piece of fabric (just a few inches is enough!) that is meaningful to you and your family, including scraps of old clothes, curtains, or any piece of textile that speaks to you or your life at First Church. If you don't have any fabric to bring, Cathy will bring some samples to church that you can choose from to represent you. Please give any fabrics you would like to submit to be used in these works of art to Cathy Coho, Contina Lundy, or John Walhausen.



In memoriam: Kathy Charlesworth

Kathy Charlesworth was a longtime staff member at first church. For over 20 years she was more than a financial secretary. She knew the heart of the congregation and in many ways provided emotional and spiritual support to members.

She worked at a time when the building was open five days each week. Everyday she was in her office and available. At times she knew more about some members than the ministers. You see, everyone who sent in a donation or called the church to ask a question or came in the building to volunteer or drop something off, interacted with her.

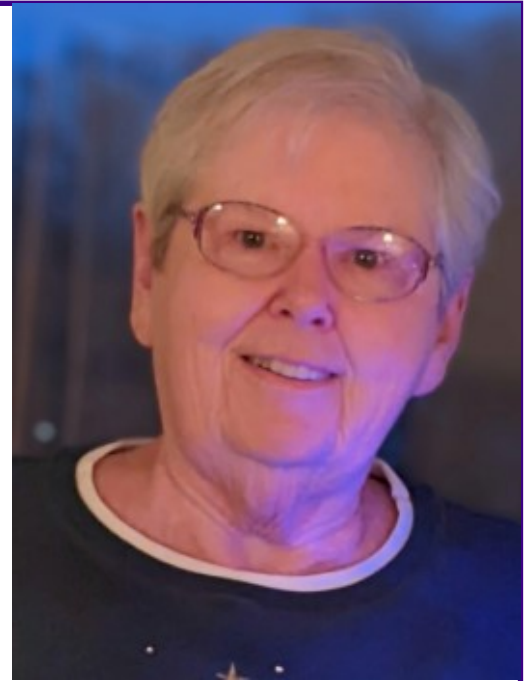
She listened, laughed, and provided wisdom and direction. This included sharing with the ministers what she learned, which at times prompted them to make a visit or call.

Kathy was warm and caring as well as skilled at managing the often complicated church financial records. She loved the ministry of FPCG.

We recently learned of her passing, that happened on June 15th. We trust that she is in the hands of our loving God and we remember and celebrate her life and service here at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

Donations in her memory may be made to:

Kitty Cottage
317 W. Johnson Highway
Norristown, PA 19401



Scholarship Recipients

Every year, The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown distributes scholarship awards to our members and friends seeking the post secondary and graduate certifications and degrees. The funds for these awards come from designated funds within our endowment. This year's awards have been given to Kai Burton, Zaria Cuffee, Naomi Davis, Emanuel Heyer-Rivera, Danielle Ohemeng, Kristina Ohemeng, and Josh Overton.

Kia Burton is a first-year law student at Temple University's law school. Zaria Cuffee is a second-year student at Philadelphia Community College. Naomi Davis starts her undergraduate studies at Temple University. Emanuel Heyer-Rivera begins his undergrad studies at Dickinson College. Danielle Ohemeng is a third-year student at Boston University with a declared major in Psychology and is working toward a minor in African American and Black Diaspora Studies. Kristina Ohemeng is in her second year at Columbia University's law school and Joshua Overton is a second-year student attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Please keep each of those young adults in your prayers that they might be disciplined in their studies as they equip themselves for the future.

A special thanks to Contina Lundy, Klaas Hoekema, and Cindy Osborne for their work in getting these awards out to our students. If you'd like to know more about the scholarship committee or to be apart of it in the future, please contact Klaas Hoekema, Contina Lundy, or Christian Heyer-Rivera.



September Challenge Offering: Athletes in Action (CRU)

The September Challenge Offering is our opportunity to continue our long history of supporting the work of the Carl and Noreen Dambman as members on the staff of Athletes in Action (the sports ministry of CRU). They have served in this ministry for more than 40 years and our church have been a faithful supporter for most of that time.

Path to Paris: the Athletes In Action Olympic Project

During the 19 days of the Paris 2024 Olympics, AIA had 75 staff and volunteers from 24 countries, serving in France. AIA's vision is to seek multiplying disciples in the world of sport and athletes using their platform to share the gospel with teammates, their communities and nations.

Carl was in Paris July 24-August 15 as part of the AIA Global Events and Project Programming Team. Noreen joined the Project August 1st. Carl has been involved with the Olympics since trying out for the USA Wrestling Team in 1972. This was his 20th Games (including Winter Olympics).

Each morning the AIA staff had a time together to worship and hear from the Word. Carl was the main Emcee each of the mornings. His role this year was to encourage and mentor the AIA global staff as they serve the Olympic athletes.

Please be graciously generous in giving to this international ministry. Although we all may not be able to worship together on Sundays, you can also contribute online or by mail to the church office. Mark your gifts for the September Challenge Offering.

Fall Sermon Series

We will be having a sermon series this fall. The topics are:

September 8th: The Gospel According to Eileen

September 15th: The Gospel According to John

September 22nd: The Gospel According to Christian

September 29th: The Gospel According to Kevin

October 6th: The Gospel According to the Prophets

October 13th: The Gospel According to You



World Communion Sunday



October 6th is World Communion Sunday. Instead of our usual communion bread, we will be receiving several different (gluten-free) breads from around the world, to represent the expansiveness of God's family. During fellowship hour, we will have additional breads from around the world. You are welcome and invited to wear national dress or clothing from your cultural heritage.



THE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN GERMANTOWN

35 West Cheltenham Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-843-8811
www.fpcgermantown.org