



• Windows •

*The newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
July 2025*



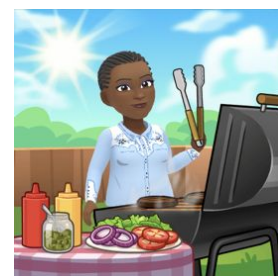
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Beloved,

Independence Day is a couple of days away. Happy 4th of July to you! No matter whether you are attending a parade, planning a barbecue with friends and family, traveling to the park to watch fireworks or exercising your First Amendment rights through protests, may your celebration of the day be peaceful and blessed.



The dog days of summer are here after a long, cool spring. My hope is that a shady spot in the garden, a sun-dappled grove in a nearby park, or a quiet, air-conditioned nook in your home or local public library will provide a retreat for relaxation and refreshment.



It is such a joy to have Lydia Cooper and Matt Grewe begin our “Pray with Me” ministry. They will offer to prayer over a concern that you share with them. Printed prayers for different concerns will also be available if you would like to take one for yourself or offer it to a friend or neighbor. Lydia and Matt will be available to pray with you immediately following the service. Those offering prayer will be identified by the short, white stoles that they will be wearing on Sunday.

Much love and God bless,
Pastor Cheni

*It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.
Psalm 74:17*



Items for the August edition of *Windows* are due by July 21, 2025. 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 or email the church office.

Contributors:

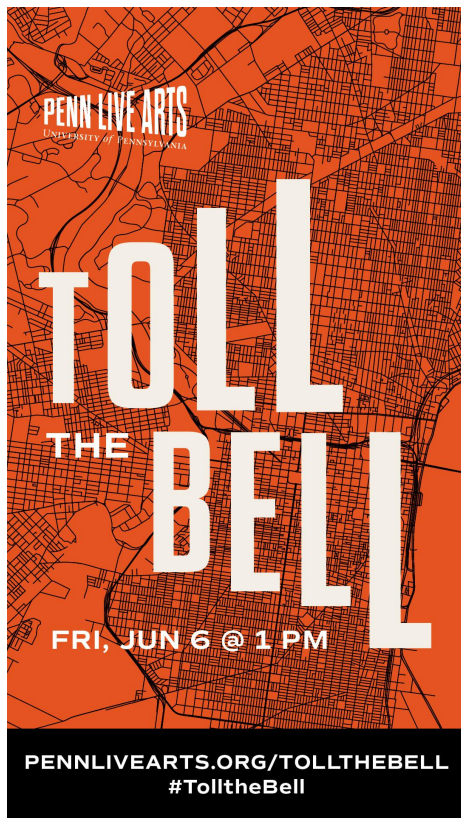
Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje
Cari States-Codding
John Walhausen
Eileen Jones
Dhyan Cassie

Church Closure

FPCG will be closed on Friday 4th, in honor of the Fourth of July.

July Birthdays

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Samuel Whyte July 03 | Mina Hoekema-Boerman July 04 | Marney Hague July 06 |
| Veda Gibbs July 07 | Delores Adams July 08 | Rossie Gardenhire July 13 |
| Charles Bethea July 14 | Emery Hood July 15 | Zaria Cuffee July 18 |
| Arlene Grace July 18 | Peter Smith July 19 | Stephanie Garrett July 23 |
| Lydia Cooper July 26 | Gloria Bethea July 28 | Kenney Gibbs July 29 |
| Stuart Ditzen July 30 | Michelle Lewis July 31 | |



Thank you to everyone who turned out for Toll the Bell!



Juneteenth at FPCG

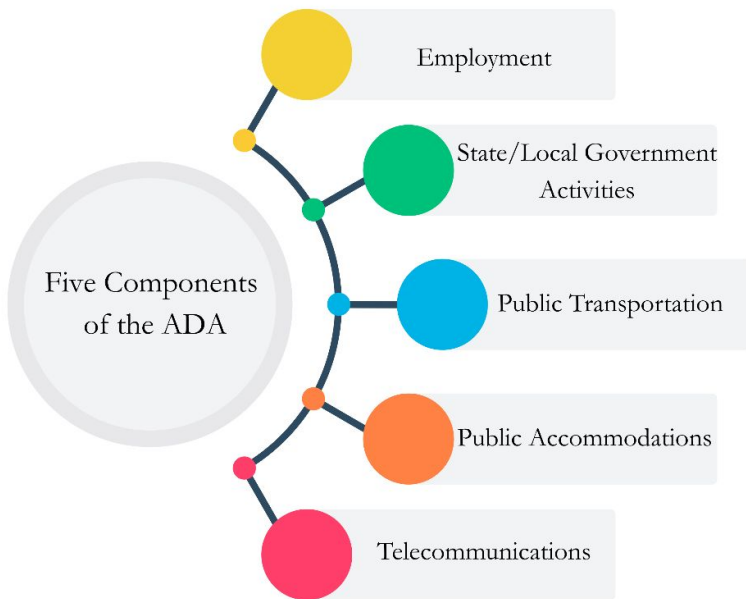


On June 22nd, FPCG held her annual Juneteenth worship service. Sheila Booker and Gabriel Bey led the congregation in song, teaching both traditional spirituals and the history behind them. Afterwards, a delicious, festive fellowship hour was held in Longstreth. A special thanks to Daniel Conner and his friends for cooking, and to Delores Solomon for decorating.



Anniversary of the Signing of the ADA

July 26th marks the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA prohibits discrimination based on disability. Four months prior to the signing, over 1,000 disability rights activists marched from the capitol to the White House to demand that President H.W. Bush sign the law. Once at the capitol, roughly 60 people (including an eight year old) put aside their wheelchairs and other mobility aids and crawled up the White House steps. The “Capitol Crawl”, as it became known, highlighted the barriers people with disabilities face with inaccessible buildings and architecture. The day after the Capitol Crawl, 104 people were arrested in a follow-up protest in the capitol rotunda. Disability rights groups have existed in the United States since the 1800s and they had advocated for various laws, but this was the first, comprehensive law that protected multiple facets of life for people with both physical and intellectual disabilities.



Signing of the ADA.
whitehouse.gov



The Capitol Crawl



GACM +1

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.

Thank you for all of the GACM +1 support! GACM shares food with our neighbors every Thursday from 10-noon.

McCullough Fund

The McCullough Fund is a result of bequests by Mary and Sarah Mansfield for "support the Missionary Department at the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown". Two thirds of the fund is set aside for international missions and one third for domestic missions. The Mission Committee will be distributing these funds over a period of ten years. We are selecting organizations to receive 2025 grants of up to \$5,000. Please contact Drew Hood if you would like a grant proposal form or if you have any questions. Drew Hood's email is andrew7hood@gmail.com



He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ~ Luke 10:27

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has revoked the previous administration's guidance for immigration enforcement. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents can now enter schools, hospitals and churches. ICE can enter public areas without permission which include parking lots, lobbies and other waiting areas. They cannot, however stop, question and arrest anyone who is in a public area. What this means for us is that ICE may enter the church and our fellowship halls, Longstreth, Jennings and Finney. They are not permitted to go into our church offices unless they have a judicial warrant with a specific person's name on it or expressed permission from the pastor and senior staff. Churches may identify the sanctuary and fellowship rooms as private on the six other days of the week and thus deny access to these areas. Below, please find a graphic advising us on how we be document and be witnesses to interactions that are contrary to our Christian mandate of loving our neighbors and caring for those who seek refuge in our country.

Leviticus 19:33-34: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong."

Zechariah 7:9-10: "Do not oppress the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."

HOW TO DOCUMENT AND REPORT ICE ARRESTS

Let's not let fear divide us. An organized community is a secure community.

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|--|--|
| <h3>HOW TO RECORD</h3> <p>Record or take photos: <u>You have the right under the First Amendment to document ICE and the police. Do so from a safe distance.</u></p> | <h3>HOW TO REPORT</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>It's important that we only share verified reports to avoid causing unnecessary anxiety, panic, or fear in our community.</i>• <u>Contact JUNTOS to report or verify any suspicious ICE activity.</u> |
| <h3>WHAT TO DOCUMENT</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the raid happened• <i>Date and time</i>• Number of agents• <i>Type of vehicle used</i>• Agents' attire• <i>How they identified themselves</i> | <h3>RESPONSE NETWORK</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telephone: 215-218-9079• Instagram: @vamos_juntos_• Facebook: Juntos <p>JUNTOS </p> |

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



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