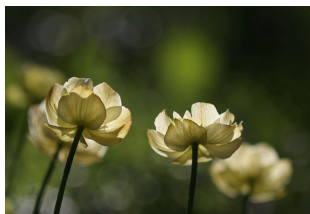




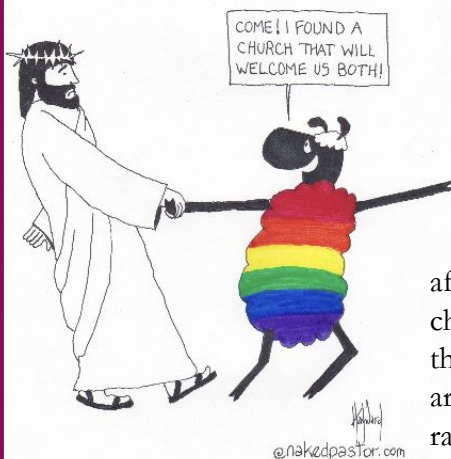
# • Windows •

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



## In this Issue

Minister's Message.....	1
Church Closure.....	2
June Birthdays.....	2
Church Hours.....	2
Toll the Bell.....	3
DVOC Juneteenth	
Concert.....	4
Grounds for	
Sculpture.....	5
First Aid/AED	
training.....	6
Pride Month.....	8
Pentecost.....	10
ICE information.....	11



Beloved,

It is June, the month during which we celebrate LGBTQIA+ Pride. I am delighted that this church lives out her calling to the fullest in being

God's House. We are an open and affirming congregation, welcoming all of God's children to a place in which they can worship and serve the Lord in Freedom and in peace. The temperatures are making this feel like a prolonged mid-spring season rather than getting us thinking about trips to the beach,



riding bikes on sun-dappled trails or staycations with picnics in the many parks around Philadelphia.

Our denomination has resources for those who want to learn more about what God's Word tells us the truth about our whole human family. Christ calls us the love God with all our heart, mind, souls and strength, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40). So we live out the truth of the Gospel in every aspect of our lives.

On June 8th, Pentecost, considered the birthday of the Church, will be feted. It also happens to be the date when the FPCG Choir will be ending their season of worship music. We are grateful to God for the talented voices that have enhanced our praise, prayer and learning about God and our ministry with Christ in this corner of the world. Looking forward to their return in Fall. It is with sadness and also great anticipation that we say farewell to Roxy and Eric Petterson and their beautiful baby girl. Let us hold them up in prayer as Eric begins his medical specialty training.



Additionally, this month we celebrate Juneteenth on the 19th. This date marks the official emancipation of enslaved persons in Texas, and the end of slavery in the United States in 1865. The name of this holiday is a portmanteau, a combination of June and nineteenth. We acknowledge that the day is not only about the abolition of slavery, but also the process of liberation

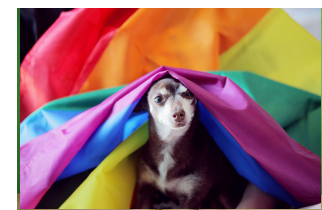
and the ongoing struggle for freedom and equality. The Juneteenth flag is red, white and blue (same colors as the American flag) with a starburst and arc, which symbolize a new beginning and new horizons for our African American siblings. Formerly enslaved people are Americans.

May God bless our festivities and mission work this month and always.

Much love and God Bless,

she/her

*Pastor Cheni*



Items for the July edition of *Windows* are due on June 23, 2025. 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 or email the church office.

### Contributors:

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## Church Closure

FPCG will be closed on June 19th, in honor of Juneteenth

## June Birthdays

Kaleb Gibbs	June 01
Allison Seed	June 05
Gail Hill	June 10
Norma Kilson	June 14
Kit Clever	June 22
Sylvia Clark	June 23
Marriel Jones	June 22
Jason Williams	June 27

## Church Hours

Please note the following clarifications on church building and office hours:

	Building Hours	Office Hours
Sunday	8AM- 5PM	out of office
Monday	8AM- 4PM	out of office
Tuesday	8AM- 4PM	9AM- 1PM
Wednesday	8AM- 4PM	9AM- 1PM
Thursday	8AM- 4PM	9AM- 1PM
Friday	8AM- 4PM	9AM- 1PM
Saturday	8AM- 3PM	out of office



# TOLL THE BELL

FRI, JUN 6 @ 1 PM

**PENNLIVEARTS.ORG/TOLLTHEBELL**  
**#TolltheBell**



Scan the QR code for  
more information.

Presented by Penn Live Arts, Toll the Bell aims to bring greater awareness to the gun violence epidemic and community-based prevention initiatives through a city-wide sound installation. Occurring on Friday, June 6 at 1 PM, simultaneous and sustained bell ringing and other sound making will be heard at 45+ locations across the city and beyond. Now in its second year, Toll the Bell also incorporates performances of two commissioned works by Philadelphia's own jazz vocalist/composer Ruth Naomi Floyd and the West Philly community jam band, Omar's Hat. Toll the Bell is not a profile of tragedy; it is a resounding call to action — a literal ringing of the bell — urging us to work towards transformative change for the future of our city.

## June 6

Interfaith Vigil Service 12:15 PM | Annenberg Center

Reflective Walk

12:55 PM | From the Annenberg Center to Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

Sound Installation

1 PM | City-wide

Marking National Gun Violence Awareness Day, there will be a prolonged period of bell ringing and other sound-making taking place at 45+ locations across the city and beyond. Connect with us and all of Philadelphia while the bells are ringing. Share a video or post and use #tollthebell.

Performance: Ruth Naomi Floyd

1:15 PM | Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 19 S 38th Street

Ruth Naomi Floyd, performs *Echoes: Shattered Flesh and Breathless Souls (Together, We Can Make a Difference for a Safer Tomorrow)*, a commissioned work reflecting on the devastating impact of gun violence.

## June 7

Performance 2 PM | Tindley Temple United Methodist, 750 S Broad Street For this program, there will be an encore of Ruth Naomi Floyd's *Echoes: Shattered Flesh and Breathless Souls* as well as several speakers and a two-part commissioned work by Omar's Hat.



COME CELEBRATE! Please join us on June 21st at 3PM for a Juneteenth Celebration Concert. Delaware Valley Opera Company (DVOC) is presenting a concert highlighting the music of William Grant Still and the poetry of Langston Hughes, two exemplary African American Artists from the 20th Century. We will also be hosting a World Premiere of a new song cycle by our Composer in Residence Misha Dutka with poetry from Langston Hughes - songs created for this celebration event. We have curated a truly inspirational and uplifting program that EVERYONE can enjoy. In addition to our featured artists, we will present songs by Ricky Ian Gordon, Lesile Adams and others. There will also be a special video segment that you will not want to miss. So please come celebrate and learn with us! Discover something new.

**Singers: Chaka Allen, Jessica Lowe, Laurice Kennel, Savannah Whittenberg, and Shaun McGrath**

**Pianist: Margarita Shatilova**

**When: June 21, 2025**

**Time: 3:00 PM**

**Where: The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
35 W. Cheltenham Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19144**

**Admission: Free (\$20 donation appreciated)**

**Runtime: 1hr and 30 minutes**

*This event is also a fundraising concert to support our 2025-2026 season.*



## Grounds For Sculpture



On May 25th, the Congregational Development & Fellowship Committee sponsored an outing, coordinated by Marney Hague, to Grounds for Sculpture. Unfortunately, due to illness, Marney was unable to attend. Anna Hoover and Arlene Grace represented First Church and had a wonderful time!

Keep an eye on the bulletin announcements for future CDFC-sponsored outing information.

*Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) is a year-round 42-acre NJ sculpture park that invites you to unwind, explore, and connect in ever-changing, art-filled gardens.*





## Join Us for a Life-Saving Opportunity: First Aid, CPR, and AED Training

Dear Church Family,

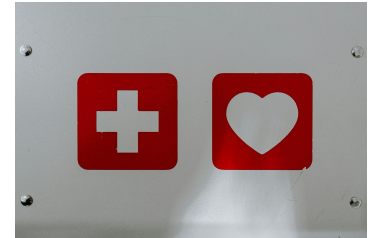
We are excited to announce a wonderful opportunity for our community to learn essential life-saving skills. We invite you to participate in our upcoming First Aid, CPR, and AED training course, certified by the American Red Cross. This training is not only a valuable investment in your personal skills but also a crucial asset in keeping our church and community safe.

### Training Details

Date and Time:

o Sunday, June 8th: 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

- Location: The First Presbyterian Church in Church in Germantown, Room: TBD
- Cost: \$20 per participant (If this cost seems prohibitive, but you want to attend, please let us know)
- Certification: American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and AED Certificate upon completion



### Why You Should Attend

1. Empower Yourself with Life-Saving Skills Accidents and emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. By attending this training, you will be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to respond effectively in critical situations, potentially saving lives.
2. Serve Your Community Our church is built on the foundation of service and care for one another. By learning these vital skills, you are contributing to the safety and well-being of our congregation and the larger community.
3. Comprehensive Training The course will cover essential topics, including how to perform CPR, use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and administer basic first aid. These skills are invaluable in both everyday scenarios and emergency situations.

### Who Should Attend

This training is open to everyone, but we are encouraging Ushers, Deacons, Elders, Parents, Staff, our Youth and any lay person who has a heart to serve to register.

### How to Register

Signing up is easy! Simply sign-up during Coffee Hour with a member of the Safety and Wellness committee or call Sara Greene at (610) 716-1922 to reserve your spot. Space is limited to twelve people per training, so we encourage early registration.

### Invest in Your Skills, Invest in Lives

For just \$20, you can gain critical skills that could make a life-saving difference. Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or new to our community, this training is an excellent opportunity to enhance your abilities and demonstrate your commitment to helping others.

We hope you will join us for this important training session. Together, we can make our church a safer place for everyone.

Yours in service and faith,

Sara Greene

Chair, Safety and Wellness Committee



# Happy Pride Month!

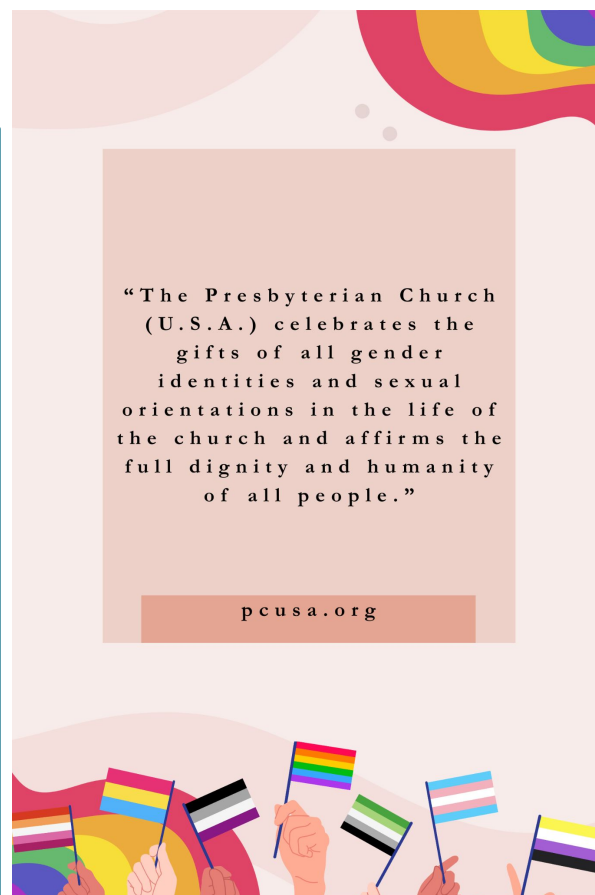


In memory of the 1969 Stonewall Inn Uprising, June was officially declared “Gay and Lesbian Pride Month” by President Clinton, later updated to “LGBT Pride Month” by President Obama, and finally updated to “LGBTQ+ Pride Month” by President Biden. In some countries, pride parades/events are called “Christopher Street Liberation Day”, in honor of the Stonewall Inn, which is located on that street. Much like other recognition months (Black History Month, Women’s History Month, etc.), Pride Month aims to celebrate and recognize the queer community’s history, resiliency, achievements, and ongoing social justice efforts.

Interested in theology? Go to [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) and search for LGBT.

## There didn’t used to be so many queer/trans people, or so many identities. Is this new?

Queer/trans folks have been recorded throughout human history. Some of the terms/labels are more recent, but they are all just descriptors for something that has always existed. Many times, accomplishments of queer/trans people have been erased or reassigned due to discrimination. Some notable people include Dr. Alan Hart, Bayard Rustin, Freddie Mercury, Alan Turing, Audre Lorde, Oscar Wilde, Alexander the Great, Sally Ride, Langston Hughes, Harvey Milk, Leonardo da Vinci, and Emily Dickinson.



## What’s the “+” for?

Sexuality and gender are nuanced, and there are many identities beyond LGBTQ/LGBTQIA. To keep the acronym (relatively) short, the “+” is put on the end to leave space for the rest of the queer community.

## Is it “trans” or “trans\*”?

“Trans\*” was added to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2018. Asterisks are commonly used to reference footnotes. The asterisk is a shorthand way to indicate reference to all folks who identify under the trans\* umbrella. In speech, it isn’t pronounced, and using either “trans” or “trans\*” is acceptable.

## Stonewall Inn Uprising: June 28, 1969

The Stonewall Inn was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City. Due to their illegality, gay bars could not obtain a liquor license, leaving them vulnerable to police raids. Same-sex relationships were illegal until 1980, so gay bars were often the only safe place for LGBT+ people to socialize. “Gay behavior” in public, including dancing with someone of the same sex, was also illegal. Stonewall was unique in that it (unofficially) provided nightly shelter to runaway/homeless gay youth. Stonewall usually received a tip prior to a raid, but they weren’t notified about the raid on the morning of June 28th. Police assaulted patrons, took suspected “cross dressers” into bathrooms to verify their sex, and arrested 13 people. The local community had enough, and the Stonewall Uprising began, lasting a total of six days. The uprising has been an international catalyst and rallying point for queer rights.

“...but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean.” -Acts 10:28



### What's with all of the letters?

**L:** lesbian, romantic and/or sexual attraction between women

**G:** gay, romantic and/or sexual attraction between men

**B:** bisexual, romantic and/or sexual attraction to both men and women

**T:** transgender

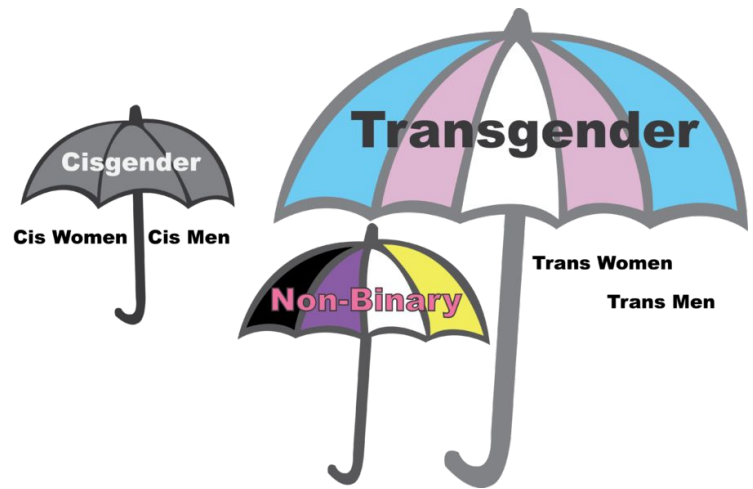
**Q:** queer

**I:** intersex, individuals born with anatomy, hormones, and/or chromosomes that are both male and female

**A:** asexual, not experiencing sexual attraction to any gender, may experience romantic attraction

### What is “trans”?

The prefix “trans” is Latin, meaning “through”, “across”, and “beyond”. In a very literal meaning, trans folks are living beyond the expectations/requirements of gender.



## Gender Terminology

### Gender

Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time. Gender interacts with but is different from sex, which refers to the different biological and physiological characteristics of females, males and intersex persons, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs. Gender and sex are related to but different from gender identity. Gender identity refers to a person's deeply felt, internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the person's physiology or designated sex at birth

*who.org*

### Sex

The biological and physiological characteristics that define humans as female or male. These sets of biological characteristics are not mutually exclusive, as there are individuals who possess both, but these characteristics tend to differentiate humans as females or males.

*European Institute for Gender Equality*

### Cisgender

Of, relating to, or being a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex the person was identified as having at birth.

*Merriam-Webster*

### Transgender

An umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.

*American Psychological Society*

### Trans Women/Trans Men

Trans Man: a man who was identified as female at birth

Trans Woman: a woman who was identified as male at birth.

*Merriam-Webster*

### Non-Binary

Relating to or being a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that is neither entirely male nor entirely female.

*Merriam-Webster*

### The Rainbow Flag

Created for Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco, on June 25, 1978, it originally had eight stripes. Later that year, it was condensed to seven, due to limited availability of pink fabric, and in 1979 it was condensed to the six-color version we have today. In 2018, an artist from Seattle added the pink, white, blue, black, and brown left-oriented triangles (called the Progress Flag). The pink, white, and blue are the colors of the transgender flag, and the black and brown are for racial/ethnic minorities.

### What is Queer?

“Queer” entered the English language in the 1600s. Originally, it meant “strange”, “odd”, or “peculiar”. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was being used to describe same-sex attracted men, often derogatorily, but not always. In the early 1990s, as language evolved, the acronym “LGBT” came in to use. It was in the early 2000s, in an effort to expand the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals, that “queer” began being used as an umbrella term for the LGBTQIA+ community. “Queer” is also part of an effort to take the focus off of stable sexualities/genders, and to broaden the understanding and inclusion to indicate a non-conforming sexuality/gender. The efforts to reclaim “queer” from being a slur have been happening since the late 1980s

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” -Galatians 3:27-28



## Pentecost

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.*

-Acts 2:1-6

Pentecost (which is Greek for “fiftieth”) is held on the fiftieth day after Easter. Pentecost wasn’t new to the people in Jerusalem; it is a long-standing Jewish harvest festival that is also called *Shavuot*, which is celebrated seven weeks and one day after Passover (if you’re looking in Deuteronomy) or seven weeks and one day after the Sabbath (if you’re looking in Leviticus). Jews from “every nation under heaven” were likely in Jerusalem as part of a pilgrimage for this festival. In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, John the Baptist says that the one who is coming after him (Jesus) will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is seen as the fulfillment of that promise. At this time, the idea of Christianity as a separate religion did not yet exist; people were Jewish, with some believing in Jesus and some not. As the church grew, the date of the Christian Pentecost was based off of Easter, and not the Passover (or Sabbath). Pentecost is seen as the birthday of the church because the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to speak the Gospel message, leading to the baptism of thousands of people, which marks the start of large-scale evangelism.

Join us for worship on June 8th as we celebrate Pentecost, and be sure to wear red, yellow, or orange!



*Pentecost, Jen Norton*



***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.*

<b>HOW TO RECORD</b> 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>	<b>HOW TO REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>It's important that we only share verified reports to avoid causing unnecessary anxiety, panic, or fear in our community.</i></li><li>• <u>Contact JUNTOS</u> to report or verify any suspicious ICE activity.</li></ul>
<b>WHAT TO DOCUMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where the raid happened</li><li>• <i>Date and time</i></li><li>• Number of agents</li><li>• <i>Type of vehicle used</i></li><li>• Agents' attire</li><li>• <i>How they identified themselves</i></li></ul>	<b>RESPONSE NETWORK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Telephone: 215-218-9079</li><li>• Instagram: @vamos_juntos_</li><li>• Facebook: Juntos</li></ul> <p><b>JUNTOS</b> </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



## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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