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



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Items for the September edition of *Windows* are due by August 21, 2025. Send to [office@fpcgermantown.org](mailto:office@fpcgermantown.org).



Beloved,

I trust that this summer is a pleasant and restful one for you and your loved ones. Even in your frolicking in the waves or biking, it is my prayer that you will be renewed in spirit for the beginning of the church

year in September. Our Homecoming Sunday will be on September 14th. We hope to welcome you back to church, and if you know folk who have been absent from church or friends who have not yet been to worship here, please invite them to join us. There will be games and a BBQ, and please bring a side dish to share.

We have had new experiences in worship, such as the special services for Juneteenth and Pride Sunday. Our souls were revived as we gave glory to God, and the musical offering from both the choir and congregation (learning new songs) were outstanding. I'm looking forward to our return to exciting new worship and social engagements. What can we expect during the World Communion Sunday service, the FPCG High Tea in October, and All Saints' Day?

God rested on the seventh day when Creation was completed, and we know that Jesus took time for naps and time away from ministry with the Disciples. Rest is good, and yet I want you to know that while we are apart you will not be far from my heart.



Sending loving prayers and warm thoughts to you all. See you in September!

Much love and God bless,

*Pastor Cheni*



*"There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his." ~ Hebrews*

**4:9-10**



## 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.

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## Church Closure

FPCG will be closed on September 1st, in honor of Labor Day.

## August Birthdays

Leah Hood	August 04
Dick Liberty	August 08
Lois VanEerden	August 08
Delores Solomon	August 11
Anthony Ohemeng	August 15
DeShaye Carter	August 17
Angel Adams	August 18
Lois Bethea	August 19
Johari Smith	August 20
Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje	August 26
Aleisha Gibbs	August 27
William Lewis	August 29
Zack Hasse	August 30
Khalil Overton	August 31
Shawdee Rolle	August 31





## Triennium 2025 Commissioning

On July 27, a commissioning was held for FPCG's delegation to the 2025 Youth Triennium.



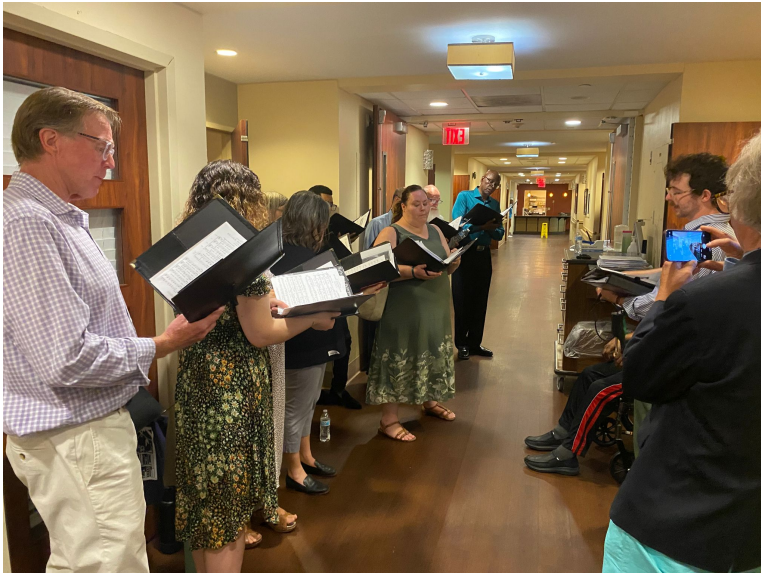
*Photo credit: Delores Solomon*



## Stapeley Visit

Thank you to our choir and everyone who came out to support them!

*Photo credit: Sheila Heyer-Rivera and Garth Herrick*





## July 27 Congregational Meeting

At our Congregational Meeting, we elected new elders and deacons.

Andrea Overton Horne was newly elected as a deacon, and Klaas Hoekema and Anthony Webb were newly elected as elders.

Our new at-large members are Members At-Large: Lisa Grewe, Annie Kotto, and Naomi Davis. Thank you for answering the call to serve FPCG!

Thank you to Ernie Freeman, Susan Mills MacDonald, Ruth Cato, and Krista Hoekema-Boerman for your service!

### What do our officers do?

Deacons: “Deacons embody acts of care, compassion, and service. While they often undertake ministries of feeding, visitation, prayer, and hospitality, they can also fulfill other acts of service within the church and its surrounding community.” *pcusa.org*

Elders/Ruling Elders: fulfill “...responsibilities in leadership, governance, and worship. They discern God’s calling for the life of a congregation and measure its faithfulness to that call.” *pcusa.org*

Teaching Elders: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (like Revs. Cheni and Christian)

Session: governing body of the church, composed of the church elders (ruling and teaching)

Nominating Committee: committee responsible for nominating elders and deacons

At-Large Members: elected officers who are not part of session, who are elected to serve/vote on special session committees

# FPCG Homecoming 2025

**Sunday, September 14, 10AM**

**Join us for our annual homecoming service, followed by a BBQ! You are invited to join us for worship, food, and games to celebrate the kickoff of a new church year. If you can, please bring a side dish to share.**

**We can't wait to see you - bring a friend!**

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*

*-Psalm 122:1*

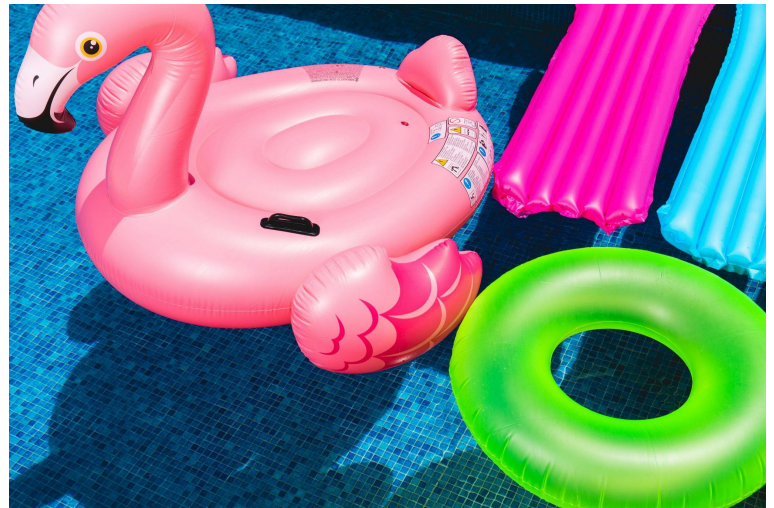


## **Middle/High School Pool Party**

The Christian Ed committee and the Davis family invite our Middle and High School students to a pool party:

**When:** Aug. 8 @ 6:30pm

**Where:** Rebekah and Mike Davis' home (for address contact Christian, Rebekah, or Mike)



## **Young Adult Cookout**

The Christian Ed committee and the Heyer-Rivera family want to invite our young adults to an end of the summer cookout! Whether you are working, or starting a new job. Whether you are going away for school or staying in Philly to study....come celebrate with us!

**When:** Aug 16 @ 6:00pm

**Where:** Heyer-Rivera house

Any questions? Feel free to ask Sheila or Rev. Christian

## **Challenge Offerings**

Please note that the Challenge Offering recipient for July was Freedom School. The recipient for August is Lingelbach Elementary School. When donating, please specify which month you are donating for, or if you are donating to both.



## Perseids Meteor Shower

The Perseids Meteor Shower is active from July 17-August 23, with the peak night on August 12/13. The Perseids are one of the most plentiful meteor showers, averaging 50-100 meteors/hour. These meteors are known for their fireballs, and are best viewed in the northern hemisphere. They originate from Comet Swift-Tuttle, which takes 133 years to orbit the sun. To get the best view of the meteors, you need to be in a place with minimal light pollution. Wharton State Forest in NJ is a nearby location that works well for viewing. For further astronomical curiosities, the Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers has organized two (unrelated) star parties at the model airplane field at Valley Forge National Park, in Wayne, PA on 08/02 and 08/30. They will have telescopes and binoculars for the public to use, and the parties will run from 8PM-11PM.

Meteor Color	Composition/Cause
Green	magnesium and nickel
Yellow/Orange	sodium and iron
Blue/Purple	ionized calcium and magnesium
Red/Orange	nitrogen and oxygen in the atmosphere
White	intense heat

comet: large objects made of dust and ice that orbit the Sun. Best known for their long, streaming tails, these ancient objects are leftovers from the formation of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago; meteors are often fragments of comets

*nasa.gov*



*Pueblo, CO*



## August Vacations



### **Rev. Cheni**

Rev. Cheni will be away during the month of August. For emergency needs, please contact Rev. Christian or, in his absence, Rev. Peter Ahn (215-232-2019).

### **Cindy**

Cindy will be away from August 8-16. If you will need checks during that time, please notify her by noon on August 7th.

### **Cari**

Please note that Cari will be away from August 7-19. Please let them know by end of day on August 4th if you will need announcements in the bulletin on either 08/10 or 08/17, or if there is anything else they can help you with. Regular building hours are still in effect.



When you do your shopping this month, add an item to your cart for GACM! Donations to the food cupboard support families in our community in their seasons of hardship. Items are collected the last Sunday of every month.

**What we need most this month (AUGUST):**

Cereal	Jelly
Mac & cheese.	Fruit cups, canned fruit
Ramen noodles	Apple sauce

In addition, we can always use the following (or other items you enjoy!):

Beans (dry) • Biscuit/Muffin Mix • Cake Mix & Icing • Canned/Boxed Fish • Fruit • Juice • Meats • Pasta • Soup • Stew • Tuna • Vegetables • Cereal (cold or hot i.e. grits) • Cream of Wheat • Oatmeal • Coffee • Condiments Ketchup • Pickles • Mayonnaise • Mustard • Relish Cookies • Crackers • Jell-o Jelly • Lunch Snacks • Nuts • Pasta • Peanut Butter • Ramen Noodles Rice • Sugar • Tea • Tomato Sauce • Trail Mix • Meats • Hotdogs • Bread • Pop Top Items • Tear Open Pouches • Microwavable Products • Toothbrush, Paste, Floss Soap, Lotions (full or Travel size items ) Razors, Shaving Cream, Sanitary Pads Wash Cloths Laundry Detergent • Dishwashing Liquid • Household Cleaning Products

Questions: [info@crisisministry.org](mailto:info@crisisministry.org) (215) 843-2340



***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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