

Weekly Calendar

Sun, Nov 30	11:00am	Sunday Worship - Pastor Alisa preaching
	12 :30am	Handbells
	5:30pm	Voices of Philadelphia Fundraiser
Mon, Dec 1	9:00am	Walking Women
	11:00am	Stop ICE Raids Vigil
Wed, Dec 3	1:30pm	Bible Study - online via tinyurl.com/zoomcog
Thu, Dec 4	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat, Dec 6		Scouts First Aid Training
Sun, Dec 7	9:30am	Adult Academy - “The Art of Being Present” with Rev. Heilakka
	4:00pm	Sunday Worship - Pastor Alisa preaching
	12:30pm	Linger Lunch
	12:45pm	Handbells
	4:00pm	Candlelight Concert

Jamaica Update from the Thompson Family

The Thompson family recently traveled to Jamaica to deliver gift bags of donated aid items. They witnessed severe devastation—destroyed homes, bodies in the streets, overcrowded hospitals, and widespread shortages of basic needs. They plan to return for a nine-day trip in December and are preparing to ship five barrels of donated supplies to people receiving little or no aid.

If you want ot help, here are Oneita’s suggestions: Monetary contributions for shipping and travel, Small generator, Flip-flops/shower shoes, Matches or lighters, Flashlights, Kids’ book bags, & Small lightweight toys, stuffed animals, and books. The Thompsons live in Fox Chase, near Marion and Dave Brown, who can deliver donated items. They have also launched a GoFundMe page, please visit <https://bit.ly/44bMfFm> to donate. As Oneita shares: “A few years ago, when we had no place to go and nothing to eat, FUMCOG took us in. Now it’s our turn to pay it forward.”

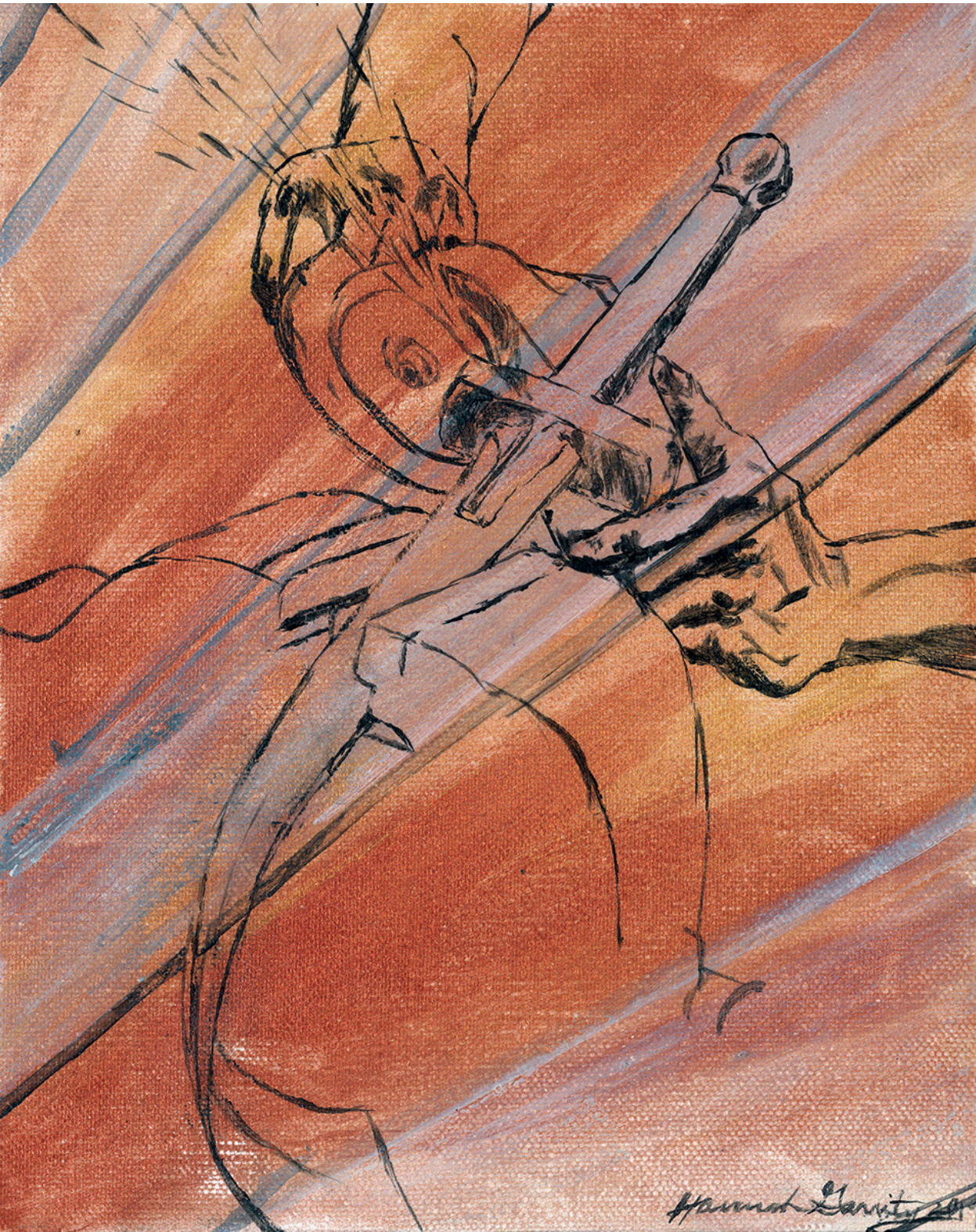
Permission to podcast or stream the music in this service was obtained from CCLI via License #2983492.

The First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG) is a diverse, urban community of faith that seeks to experience and worship God through Jesus’ message of love and inclusion and the mystery of grace expressed through his life. We affirm our commitment by working together, taking risks for social justice and peace in our community, our city, our nation, and our world.

Lead Pastor Rev. Alisa Lasater Wailoo • Office Administrator Michael Yancey
Director of Music Adrianna Barnett • Organist/Pianist Jodi Acker Bohr
Media Specialists Mandonnah Mahallati & Joey Ward • Exec. Assistant Tamia Walker



First United Methodist Church of Germantown
6001 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144
215.438.3677 • fumcog1@gmail.com • www.fumcog.org



NOVEMBER 30, 2025 • 11 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN



First United Methodist Church of Germantown

Sunday, November 30, 2025 11:00AM

Welcome To All Coming To Worship!

All people of all ages are invited to full participation in the engaging worship and outreaching mission and ministry of the church. We strongly encourage all persons to sing the gender nouns and pronouns they prefer in referring to God.

Congregational responses are in bold type.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

Welcome & Acknowledgements

As a faith congregation, we acknowledge that this is a pivotal moment in American history and that our mission is clearly laid out in the Gospel of Jesus.

We acknowledge our mission to:

- seek justice for black and brown people of all genders and orientations
- dismantle systems of bias and racism
- call out those who protect the power of state-sponsored violence against black and brown bodies,
- and re-center the voices of the marginalized of our community and society.

We acknowledge our part in perpetuating white norms of language, style, worship, behavior, and culture, and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge the truth that Black Lives Matter.

We acknowledge that this service of worship is being held on the traditional lands of the Lenape people, and we pay respect to elders past and present.

We affirm the sacredness of Native people, their languages, their cultures and their gifts to the church and the world.

Prelude

Voices of Philadelphia

“Keep Your Lamps” arr. Andre J. Thomas

Call to Worship

Standing with body and spirit

One: What can’t wait?

All: Hope for a better day.

One: What can’t wait?

All: Peace and repentance, among and within us.

One: What can’t wait?

All: Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.

One: What can’t wait?

All: Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.

One: God is waiting, and God is ready.

All: Starting here and now—let us worship Holy God. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Standing with body and spirit

UMH 428 - For the Healing of the Nations

Blessing of Rev. Stephen Heilakka

Passing the Peace

All young ones and young at heart are welcome to come forward during this time for the children’s message.

Connections and Announcements

Children’s Message

Sung Response

UMH 211 - “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” v.1

Gathered Prayer

Rev. Stephen Heilakka

Contemporary Reading

God’s Promised Day Can’t Wait by Sarah Arc
(see insert for full text)

Scripture Reading

(see insert for full text)

Isaiah 2:1-5

Song of Preparation

Voices of Philadelphia

“O Come All Ye Faithful” arr. Michael Frazier

Sermon

Pastor Alisa Wailoo

The Waiting Game

Congregational Reflection

What does God’s promised day look and feel like to you?

Advent Wreath Lighting

Sung Response

Adrianna Barnett

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

Connections and Offering

Offertory Anthem

Voices of Philadelphia

“City Called Heaven” arr. Josephine Poelinitz

Doxology

Standing with body and spirit

UMH 94 - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Offering Prayer

Generous God, we thank you for not waiting for us to get it right, but rather offering your son to us as we are. Come, Lord Jesus, come again into our hearts! Take these gifts and our lives that we may be honest, accountable, faithful, gracious instruments of repair in our broken world.

Closing Hymn

Standing with body and spirit

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

*He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the big, round world in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands.*

They’ve got the wind and the rain in Their hands...

*She’s got you and me, brother, in her hands.
She’s got you and me, sister, in her hands.
She’s got you and me, sibling, in her hands.
She’s got the whole world in her hands.*

He’s got everybody here in His hands...

Benediction

Postlude

Jodi Bohr

*Thank you for joining in worship today. You are invited to remain in your pew during the postlude to quietly reflect during this final movement of worship or to move peacefully into your afternoon.
There is no Linger Lunch this week*

Cover: *Swords into Plowshares* by Hannah Garrity

Marion Brown, liturgist

Rev. Stephen Heilakka, gathered prayer

John Bustard, tech

Ken & Titus Espejo, tech

Geo Andujar, tech

Barbara Revere, tech

Jodi Bohr, piano & organ



Staff Gift

Every year the SPRC (Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee) collects donations from the Congregation to present to our very wonderful staff who assist our clergy. It is a token from us to acknowledge the hard work of our dedicated staff. Our music, our publications, our bookkeeping and office and building administration are in their capable hands. The SPRC and Pastor Alisa encourage you to thank them for all they do every day to make FUMCOG thrive! If you wish to contribute, please send a check to FUMCOG clearly marked STAFF GIFT in the memo line, to the church office, FUMCOG/sprc 6001 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia , Pa 19144-2111. Or you can place cash or checks in the specially marked basket after the services in the Sanctuary. We will distribute to the staff shortly after Christmas. Thank you for your wonderful generosity!

KIDS AT FUMCOG

All children are beloved and welcomed here. We offer three ways for your child(ren) to engage:

- * Join in the new “Nursery Ministry.” All kids 6 and under are invited to join Ms. Lanette in Pilling Hall immediately following the Children’s Message.
- * Enjoy a “Kid Activity Bag”. Just ask an usher.
- * Play in the “Children’s Space” in the Sanctuary’s back corner.

We are so glad you and your family are here!

Staff and Office Information

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday from 9:30am-5pm

Pastor Alisawailoo@fumcog.org
Rev. Stephen Heilakka.....info coming soon
Dwight Woolford.....info@dwcleaningco.com
Joey Ward.....vga.collective@gmail.com
Mandonnah Mahallati...fumcogtech@gmail.com
Adrianna Barnett.....music@fumcog.org
Jodi Bohr.....organ@fumcog.org
Michael Yancey.....office@fumcog.org
Tamia Walker.....assistant@fumcog.org

Upcoming Dates

- Sunday, Dec 7
“Sounds of Peace” Candlelight Service, 4pm
- Saturday, Dec 13
Community Christmas Party, 12pm
- Wednesday, Dec 17
Blue Christmas Service, 7pm
- Saturday, Dec 20
Christmas Neighbors Table, 12pm
- Wednesday, Dec 24
Kid-friendly Christmas service, 11am
Candlelit Chapel service, 4pm
- Sunday, Dec 28
Worship with Germantown Mennonites, 11am

Want to Connect?

Use this QR code to access our link tree. From there, you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube, fill out an online connect card or easily reach our website: www.fumcog.org

If you’re looking to do any of that while you’re here, you can connect to wifi using the following: **WIFI: Fumcogsanc** **PW: FUMg3rm2020**



Please know that we are thinking about and praying with you.

- For **Paul T.**, friend of the Stahls, following the death of his wife, Linda.

For **Pete Sullivan**, assistant Pastor of Christ Haven Church and Tim’s friend. Pete’s health has been getting worse.

For the family of **Rebecca Tagart Kilmer**, who passed away. Rebecca is the mother of Christina Young, mother-in-law of Larry and grandmother of Macy and Mercury.

For the family of **David E. Loder**, who passed away on Oct. 21st.

For family of **Alison Isenberg** who passed away last month. Alison is Chris’s and Alisa’s sister-n-law, and Anthony and Andrew’s aunt. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11am on December 6 at Princeton University Chapel.

For **Donald Knotts**, who is healing from cancer.

For the birth of **Wallace Freedom** who was born October 22 to Carrie & Freedom Horton. Everyone is doing well!
- Prayers of healing for **C. Gloria Akers** as she continues her cancer treatments.

For Barbara Mitchell’s and Ruth Thornton’s niece, **Elaine Crooks**, as she recovers from heart surgery.

For **children, youth, educators and parents** traumatized by ongoing school violence. As community members, may we work to change US laws to limit access to guns of war.

For **Katreise Ruffin**, a scout parent who is recuperating from open-heart surgery.

For **Wayne Varnadore** who is improving each day.

For Tim’s aunt **Selma Cooper** who is sick.

For **Jean Young**, Barb Revere’s longtime friend, from Omaha, Nebraska, as she’s receiving treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

For **Ken Espejo**, who is recovering after his open-heart surgery.

Fumcog Welcomes Rev. Stephan M. Heilakka

Rev. Stephan M. Heilakka heard his call in the halls of FUMCOG many years ago. After graduating from Duke Divinity and serving powerfully as a pastor for over a decade, the church tragically and wrongfully stripped him of his ordination simply for being his true self as God created him. But the Spirit always saw Steph’s gifts. Retrained as a therapist, he ministered to others in several different capacities - as a therapist, a director of a half-way house, an educational consultant to troubled young people, and as the founding pastor of Sacred Paths Community; a gathering for people of all faiths who had been wounded by their faith community. He still has a full clinical practice specializing in post-traumatic-stress-disorder. His ordination was reinstated by the Conference last May. Now, he joins the FUMCOG Staff as the Interim Pastor of Spiritual Connection, spending 5-10 hours a week supporting Sunday worship, small group work, communal prayer, and other ways Spirit connects us with God and one another. **To get to know him better, join him at Adult Academy on December 7th where he’ll be talking about “The Art of Being Present.”**



Readings for Sunday, November 30, 2025

Scripture Reading

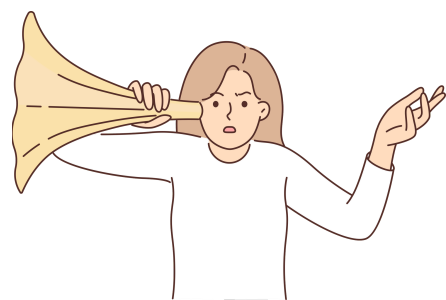
Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.



REMINDER

There are hearing assistance devices located in the back of the church near our tech crew. If you need one, please ask an usher and they will be more than happy to help you receive one.

Contemporary Reading

Someone once told me that hope was naive—
A foolish game that children play
When they pray that summer won't end,
And bedtime won't come.

Someone once told me that hope was naive as they
Cradled pessimism in their lap like a sleeping cat,
Stroking their ego while they stoked a fire within me.

Unfortunately for them, I'm allergic to cats.
And unfortunately for them, those who deny hope
Will never know vulnerability;
For hope requires us to believe in a better day—
Even when this one is falling apart.

Hope looks the 24-hour news cycle in the face,
Hope looks our broken relationships in the face,
Hope looks our low self-esteem in the face,
And declares at low tide that the water will return.

Hope is exhaling, trusting that your body will
inhale again. Hope is watching the sunset and setting an
alarm. Hope is planting seeds in the winter, assuming
summer will come.

I never said it would be easy. The ground is frozen, you are
thirsty, and the night is long.
But I will say this—
I have found hope to be the rhythm of love and
the fiber of faith;
For to hope is to believe in God's ability to bring
about a better day,
And like a child with an Advent calendar,
I will always be counting down the days.

So to those who cradle pessimism and fear,
You can find me outside—with the kids—wishing
on stars, praying to the God of today
That tomorrow will be just as beautiful.
Set your alarm. We'd like for you to join us.
The sunrise won't wait.

God's Promised Day Can't Wait
by Sarah Arc

Connections & Announcements

Potluck Linger Lunch

Our December Pot Luck Linger Lunch will be on **December 14** after worship service. Please bring a dish to share. Cara and Celeste are thankful to all the cooks, servers, helpers and cleaner uppers who have made Linger Lunch such a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing through the year! Reminder there will not be linger lunch Sunday, November 30 or December 28.

FUMCOG Youth - Winter Holiday Party

Join us on December 13th as we celebrate the winter season with crafts, games, food and fun for our kids, youth and young at heart from our church and surrounding community. All are welcome!

Date: December 13

Time: 11:30am - 1pm

Location: Pilling Hall

Volunteers needed!

Before the event:

- Christmas tree setup and decoration
 - December 4th & 5th: 10am - 12 pm
 - December 7: after worship service (12 pm)
- Invitations to the event: volunteers to send personal emails or texts to previous participants
- Party setup
 - December 13 @ 10am

At the event:

- Registration table
- Activities tables
- Food servers

Please contact Amina Loder (aminaloder@gmail.com) if you're available to help!

Weekly Vigils

The prayer vigils to stop ICE raids is still going strong! Join Pastor Alisa, other clergy, and community leaders at the ICE office on Mondays at **11 am**. Pastor Alisa is glad to help with rides to ICE Philadelphia Field Office, 114 North 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Call her for more information (267-405-1383).

The Black Lives Matter vigil on Tuesdays and the Stand with Ukraine vigil on Fridays will **stop for the winter**. We will resume in the new year, when the weather warms. Many thanks to everyone who has attended the events on Lincoln Drive, and stood together over these years.

STOP ICE RAIDS PRAYER VIGIL

EVERY MONDAY | 11 AM

**OUTSIDE OF
ICE FIELD OFFICE**

**N. 8TH ST. & CHERRY ST.
PHILA., 19106**



ICE Raid Hotline

Juntos, a Latine community organizing group, has a community-run rapid response hotline for folks who witness an ICE raid. Please share widely with your friends and neighbors: (814) 205-3293.