

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sun, Apr 12</b>	11:00am	<b>Sunday Morning Worship &amp; Communion</b>
	12:15pm	<b>Linger Lunch</b>
	1:00pm	<b>Handbell Rehearsal</b>
<b>Mon, Apr 13</b>	9:00am	<b>Walking Women</b>
	11:00am	<b>Stop ICE Vigil at 8th St. and Cherry St.</b>
	11:00am	<b>Community Fridge Cooking</b>
<b>Tue, Apr 14</b>	5:00pm	<b>BLM Vigil at Unitarian Society of Germantown</b>
<b>Wed, Apr 15</b>	1:30pm	<b>Bible Study</b>
	6:30pm	<b>Women's Group</b>
<b>Thu, Apr 16</b>	6:30pm	<i>Merely A Dumb Show</i> by the Germantown Drama Group
	7:00pm	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri, Apr 17</b>	5:00pm	<i>Understanding Harm &amp; Healing</i> with Niyonu Spann
	6:30pm	<i>Merely A Dumb Show</i> by the Germantown Drama Group
	7:00pm	<b>Ukraine Vigil at Unitarian Society of Germantown</b>
<b>Sat, Apr 18</b>	10:00pm	<i>Understanding Harm &amp; Healing</i> with Niyonu Spann
	12:00pm	<b>Neighbors Table</b>
	6:30pm	<i>Merely A Dumb Show</i> by the Germantown Drama Group
<b>Sun, Apr 19</b>	9:30am	<b>Adult Academy with Derek S. Green on <i>May Primary Elections</i></b>
	11:00pm	<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>
	12:15pm	<b>Potluck Linger Lunch</b>
	12:30pm	<b>New Member Class</b>
	1:00pm	<b>Handbell Rehearsal</b>

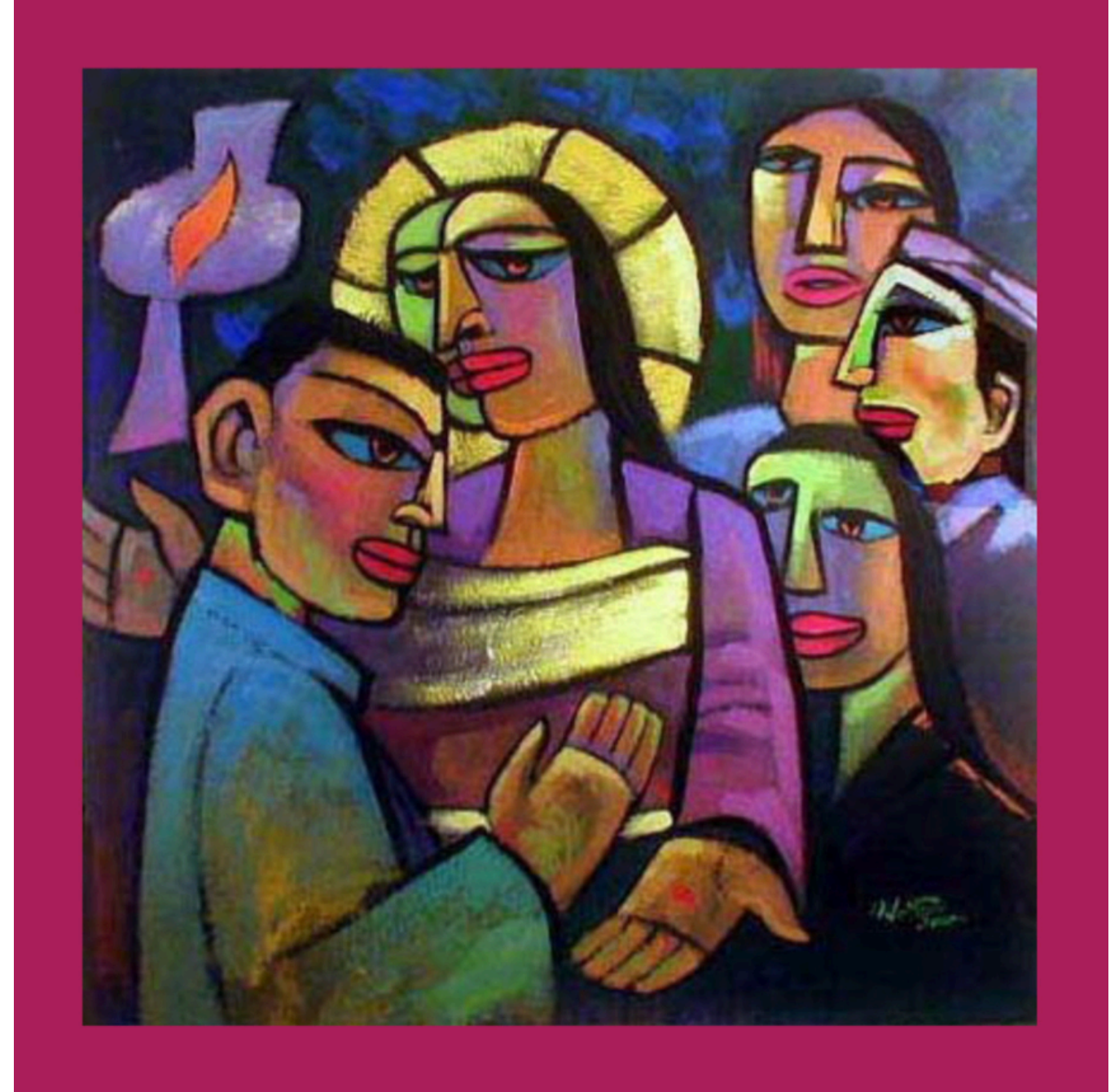
*Permission to podcast or stream the music in this service was obtained from CCLI via License #2983492.*

*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 • **Interim Pastor of Spiritual Connection** Rev. Stephen Heilakka  
**Office Administrator** Michael Yancey • **Exec. Assistant** Tamia Walker  
**Director of Music** Adrianna Barnett • **Organist/Pianist** Jodi Acker Bohr  
**Media Specialists** Mandonnah Mahallati & Joey Ward • **Tech Specialist** Geovanni Andujar



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



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 • 11 AM**



# First United Methodist Church of Germantown

Sunday, April 12, 2026 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

TFWS - The Faith We Sing

## 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 Jodi Bohr

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ,*  
Jamaican Folk Song, adapted by Doreen Potter,  
arr. John A. Behnke

## Call to Worship *Standing with body and spirit*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We have not seen the risen Christ,  
**But we see him in the lives  
of those transformed by grace.**

We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,  
**But we have seen him in the faces  
of everyone whose love encourages us.**

We have not touched the wounds from the  
cross,  
**But we have been called  
to bring healing to the scarred of the world.**

God, we ask that you open the eyes of our hearts,  
**So, like Thomas, we too can encounter you,  
and your immortal, invisible love made real in  
us. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn *Standing with body and spirit*

UMH 103 - "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

## Invitation to Passing the Peace

*On Communion Sundays, we do not have a  
children's message. In lieu of a children's message,  
the children are invited to join us during holy  
communion later in the service.*

## Mission Moment

Allen Drew from *One Hope Solar Project*

## Sung Response

UMH 657 - "This is the Day"

## Contemporary Reading

*Invitation* by Father Philip Chircop SJ  
(see insert for full text)

## Scripture Reading John 20:19-31

(see insert for full text)

## Hymn

UMH 317 - "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

## Sermon

Rev. Stephen Heilakka  
*The Eyes of the Soul*

## Offertory and Offering FUMCOG Choir

"Gloria" from *Mass in G* by Franz Schubert

## The Great Thanksgiving (see insert)

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Mother-Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive  
us our trespasses as we forgive those who  
trespass against us. Lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For  
thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glory forever. Amen.**

## Receiving the Bread and the Cup

*All are invited to come forward to join in Holy  
Communion. Simply follow the direction of the  
ushers and the pastors. The bread is NOT gluten-  
free and the cup is grape juice. If you prefer  
gluten-free, simply ask the server to provide a  
gluten-free cracker. If you prefer not to receive the  
elements but would simply like to come forward  
for a blessing, please share that with the Pastor as  
you approach. We are honored to join in this  
sacred meal with you.*

## Prayer After Communion

**Closing Hymn** *Standing with body and spirit*  
TFWS 2196 - "We Walk By Faith"

## Benediction

**Postlude** Jodi Bohr  
*Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain,*  
by Arthur S. Sullivan, arr. Mary McDonald

*This Sunday is Communion Sunday. If you are  
worshiping virtually, don't forget your elements! The  
Communion Offering is otherwise known as the  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund. It is designed for the  
pastor to help individuals on a case-by-case basis who  
are in crisis and immediate need. You can give in-  
person throughout the week, virtually through our  
website, or send your check to the church office with  
"Communion Offering" in the memo.*

*The flowers on the altar today are given in loving  
memory of Anne Ewing Zettek from her brother and  
nieces Bill, Sus and Becca.*

Cover design by He Qi "*The Doubt of Thomas*"  
Celeste Zappala, liturgist  
Geo Andujar, tech  
Wayne Snover, tech  
Ken & titue Espejo, tech  
Barbara Revere, tech



### Upcoming Dates

- Friday & Saturday, Apr 17-18
  - “Understanding Harm & Healing” Weekend Workshop for all, 5pm & 10am
- Sunday, Apr 26
  - Germantown Jazz Festival, 2pm
- Friday, May 1
  - Beacon Theatre: *The Bookstore*, 7:30pm
- Saturday, May 9
  - Roberta Millard’s Memorial Service, 2pm
- Saturday, May 23
  - FUMCOG & Voices of Philadelphia *Music for All of America concert*, 3pm
- Saturday, May 30
  - C. Gloria Akers’ Memorial Service, 11am

### Scouting at FUMCOG

Join Scouting at FUMCOG Scouts BSA offers families a way to help their children, male, female, and non- binary, from Kindergarten to age 17 to grow up to be skilled and confident young adults through adventure, enrichment and family fun. Join the diverse Cub Pack and Scout Troops here at FUMCOG serving children and youth in Germantown and throughout the city. Contact Ann Perone (abperrone.1719@gmail.com) for more information.

### Staff and Office Information

#### Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday from 9:30am-5pm

- Pastor Alisa .....wailoo@fumcog.org
- Rev. Stephen Heilakka.....heilakka@fumcog.org
- 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

### KIDS AT FUMCOG

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

- \* Join in our “Nursery Ministry.” All kids 6 and under are invited to join Ms. Lanette in Pilling Hall immediately following the *Stories That We Share*.
- \* 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!

### 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](http://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 the family of **Harry Morgan**, father of Laura Stahl, who passed away on March 29.

For **Elizabeth Ellis**, friend of Ruth Thornton & Barbara Mitchell at Simpson House. She recently broke her ankle, but can heal with PT and TLC.

For **Chanelle Spearman and her son Kyle**. Thanksgiving that they survived a house fire, and prayers for them in this time of transition.

For **Jean Walker** who will have knee replacement surgery on May 11, and is facing other health issues making it difficult to come to church.

For **Rob Lasater**, father and grandfather to Alisa, Chris, Anthony, & Andrew.

For **Susan Kensill** who is battling metastatic breast cancer. Susan grew up in Mid-town Parrish UMC and now lives in Kansas.

For **Krista Hansen** and her treatment of new health concerns.

For **Mira**, Jordanian daughter of Laura & Dale Stahl, **and her family** who have been impacted by the attack on Iran. The whole Middle East is suffering.

For **Willie Little** as he continues to heal.

For **Betty, Joy, Karima, Kim, Robin, Nate, Allen, Bridgette, Michelle, Latasha, Thea, Buleuh, Carmettea, & Camela’s** healing.

For the **Marshall, White, Carlton, & Redmond Samuel families’ & Joy’s family’s** comfort.

For **Diane and Skyy’s** clarity of mind.

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

For **Wayne Varnadore** as he continues to recover.

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


THE DRAMA GROUP OF GERMANTOWN PRESENTS

**MERELY A DUMB SHOW**  
NEW PLAY BY BRANDON BACORN  
DIRECTED BY BECCA BEGNAUD

APRIL 16-18 8PM PAY WHAT YOU WISH  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN

**THE CAST**

Beatrix	Britt Fauzer
Valencia	Ally Batot
Leonard	Michael Murphy
Evelyn	Christine Sangco
Skyler	Sam Fineman
Petra	Francine Odri
Wyatt	Mikel Wright
Sebastian	Sam Fernandez
Cal	Ryan Mattox
Derrick	Brandon Bowden
Fenton	Jacob Ryan
Maeve	Maria Riillo
Glenn	Ryan Walter



### Drama Group Presents: *Merely A Dumb Show*

What happens when a writer’s strike stops production on a major motion picture? The actors and crew are forced to take refuge in a luxurious Mediterranean hotel, of course! How distressing! Whatever will they do? And how will the local staff manage to keep their sanity? Find out in *Merely A Dumb Show*! This new play, written by Brandon Bacorn and inspired by Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*, will have its premiere reading by the Drama Group of Germantown, under the direction of DGG’s Technical Director, Becca Begnaud. There will be a talkback with the playwright following the April 16th performance!

April 16-18 at 8PM

## Readings for Sunday, April 12

### Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

#### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

#### Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### The Purpose of John's Gospel

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### Contemporary Reading

#### Invitation

Stand in our midst  
again, today  
enter the circle of our fears  
penetrate the darkness of our doubts  
meet us where we are

May we listen your sung Shalom:  
'Peace be with you ... Peace be with you'.  
May we see your hands and your side.  
May we feel the warmth  
of your holy breath  
softening the hardened clay  
from whence we come.

Invited,  
curious like a little child,  
we place our trembling hands  
not only your wounds  
but on ours too,  
and on the lovely  
brokenness of others\

breathing in, forgiveness  
breathing out, forgiveness

wounds becoming the sacred place  
of mutual compassion,  
and the springboard to an intimate song  
of communion and possibility  
crafted in the heart:  
'our Lord, and our God.'

by Father Philip Chircop SJ

## The Great Thanksgiving

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,  
you are beyond our complete knowledge,  
above our ability to describe.  
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,  
you are creative and self-giving, generously moving  
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.  
Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights  
when the powers of death have done their worst,  
your love has never deserted us.  
Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;  
your presence never fails us,  
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,  
risen to life, eternal as your love.  
With the women at the tomb,  
we raise the strain of gladness.  
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!  
The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear  
and gloom. And so we rejoice with all your people  
of every time and place, and with angels and  
archangels to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

It is Jesus, God in the flesh, the Risen Christ,  
who joins us together as a community of broken but  
hopeful believers:  
loving what he loved, living what he taught,  
and striving to follow his ways in our time and  
place.

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,  
what he said, what he did, and what it cost him.

On the night before Jesus died,  
he took a loaf of bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
"Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember  
me."  
After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured it,  
saying,  
"This is the new covenant, remember me."

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his  
teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our  
faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come  
again!**

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,  
we call on you to transform these familiar things,  
as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape,  
the farmer and the harvest,  
the seed and the sower.  
So that in the sharing of these simple elements in  
community we may taste and see your goodness,  
be transformed by your grace,  
connected with this beloved community,  
and leave here to live differently.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen**

## Education at FUMCOG

### Adult Academy

Every Sunday morning at 9:30am we gather to learn from one another and leaders in the community about a wonderfully diverse set of subjects, from ways to work for justice to how to move through the aging process. We would love for you to join us any week in the parlor or online at [tinyurl.com/zoomcog](https://tinyurl.com/zoomcog). Here is April's line-up:

**April 19:** Former Philadelphia City Councilmember-at-Large Derek S. Green will join Bill Ewing to lead a discussion of the upcoming primary election. We know we are called to serve God in all aspects of our lives including being informed citizens. Together we will learn about: (1) the election of the committee members who will decide the leadership of Democratic and Republican parties at the City and State levels for the next 4 years; (2) the contested race for State Representative for the 200th District in Mt. Airy (incumbent Chris Rabb having decided to run for Congress instead); (3) the hotly contested race for the Congressional Seat presently currently occupied by Dwight Evans; and (4) various other Congressional and statewide contests.



**April 26:** Novella Lyons, founder and executive director of Women of Hope and Faith, will join us to share about the lessons learned of two decades of leading this important ministry. Created to educate, support and advocate for women with breast cancer, especially of Women of Color, WOFAH was housed at FUMCOG for over a decade. The organization officially retired this month with its founder, but Ms Lyons still has hopes and plans for how we can continue the mission. Come learn more and make sure to invite any one who has survived or is facing the unknown of cancer.

### Monthly Christian Mindfulness

*Need a time to re-center your heart, mind, and soul?  
Do you ever struggle to pray alone?  
Want to expand your prayer and meditation practices?*

If you answered "yes" to any of these, please join us on April 28th at 6:00pm for an hour of Christian Mindfulness; there is no need to RSVP or come to every session. Just drop in when your soul needs it or you feel led to pray with and for our beloved community. Questions? Ask Pastor Alisa at [wailoo@fumcog.org](mailto:wailoo@fumcog.org) or 267-405-1383.



## All-Church Weekend Workshop

### Understanding Harm & Healing

All FUMCOGers are cordially invited to an **interactive weekend (April 17-18) designed to support the building of a liberatory church community.** Guided by Niyonu Spann, our current beloved antiracism consultant, we will explore frameworks and tools to help us navigate difficult conversations, recognize patterns that create barriers, and practice deep listening across differences. Grounded in practices that honor body, mind, and spirit, the workshop will also invite us to reflect on where FUMCOG is now and to envision a future in which it more fully embodies liberation for all.

Niyonu Spann began leading diversity workshops in about 1990. Her work has evolved, and she now refers to it as "social justice with a focus on liberation," moving beyond the too-familiar cycle of "either encourag[ing] traditionally oppressed groups to tell their story of victimization or [bringing] the groups who have been the primary oppressors to the brink of tears and shame." She says, "for training to be most effective, we must seek to include the whole of who we are. Therefore, my approach includes not only the intellect or mind but also the body and spiritual aspects."

The sessions will take place at FUMCOG on **Friday, April 17 from 5:00pm - 9:00pm and Saturday, April 18 from 10:00am - 4:00pm.** It is important to attend both sessions. Dinner will be served on Friday evening. Lunch will be provided on Saturday, along with beverages and snacks for the day.

**This is an opportunity you will not want to miss!** Please register using the registration link found in Hot Topics. The deadline for registration is Monday, April 13. If you have any questions, please email Lisa Chapman at ([lisanchapman@comcast.net](mailto:lisanchapman@comcast.net)) or ([lisanchapman82@gmail.com](mailto:lisanchapman82@gmail.com)).



## Connection Opportunities

### Women's Group

Join us for our next Women's Group gathering on **April 15 at 6:30 PM**. We meet once a month for fellowship, encouragement, and faith-filled conversation over a scrumptious meal. All women are welcome, and anyone who would like to come is invited. We hope to see you in the FUMCOG Parlor!



### Community Fridge Cooking

Germantown Community Fridges are a 24/7 mutual aid resource that helps combat food insecurity and food waste in Philadelphia. FUMCOG is blessed to host a fridge under our High St. porch and cook together. All are welcome - with or without culinary expertise, so come on **Mondays at 11 am** to help us make delicious meals for our neighbors!



### Newish to FUMCOG?

We joyfully invite you to attend our **New Members Class**. This three session class meets on Sundays from 12:30-1:30pm beginning April 19. It provides an opportunity to connect with fellow FUMCOGers and explore ways to grow in faith and service here. Whether you are new or simply looking to become more engaged, we encourage you to come and share in this meaningful time of fellowship, learning, and growth. Contact Pastor Alisa with questions or to RSVP at [wailoo@fumcg.org](mailto:wailoo@fumcg.org)



## Work and Witness for Social and Racial Justice



### URDC April Work Days

How can YOU immediately help neighbors in Germantown? Join us for a series of URDC (Urban Resources Development Corporation) work days throughout the month of April.

Each work day runs from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with supplies provided and lunch if necessary. There is a way for volunteers to help out every day **between now and May 1**. Whether you are well-versed in laying floors, or think yourself completely unskilled, your hands can be invaluable help toward getting a single mom of 4 back into her home after a house fire. RSVP to Karen at [schoenewaldt@gmail.com](mailto:schoenewaldt@gmail.com) to sign up!



### 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.

### Weekly Vigils

The weekly BlackLivesMatter and Stand with Ukraine vigils will meet as usual in front of the Unitarian Church on Lincoln Drive. Both begin at **4 pm** with BLM being on Tuesdays and Ukraine support on Fridays.

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).



*Good Friday Vigil where we retraced empty shoes representing those left behind by individuals who have died in ICE detention this year*

### Help our Immigrant Neighbors

We are still collecting food for members of a local Latina church who are not safe to go to work currently. Pastor Alisa coordinates with their pastor for food delivery. There is a box in the entryway, sanctuary as well as Pilling Hall. Any non-perishables are helpful: especially rice, beans, oil, and corn flour. Thank you for your support!