

Weekly Calendar

Sun, Jan 25	11:00am	Communion Sunday Worship - Pastor Alisa preaching
Mon, Jan 26	9:00am	Walking Women
	11:00am	Stop ICE Vigil at 8th St. and Cherry St.
	11:00am	Community Fridge Cooking
	6:30pm	Women's gathering (snow date Jan 28)
Tues, Jan 27	6:00pm	Monthly Mindfulness Meditation
Wed, Jan 28	1:30pm	Bible Study
Thu, Jan 29	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun, Feb 1	9:30am	Adult Academy - Ken Weinstein
	11:00am	Sunday Worship - Pastor Alisa preaching
	12:30pm	Linger Lunch
	12:30pm	New Member Class
	12:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	2:00pm	PA IPL Convocation via Zoom



Social Racial Justice Award

Next week we will present the Social Racial Justice award to our 2026 recipients: Christine Schafer and Ken Weinstein. Afterwards we will have a reception honoring their commitment to assuaging injustices and galvanizing others to do the same. Please join us!

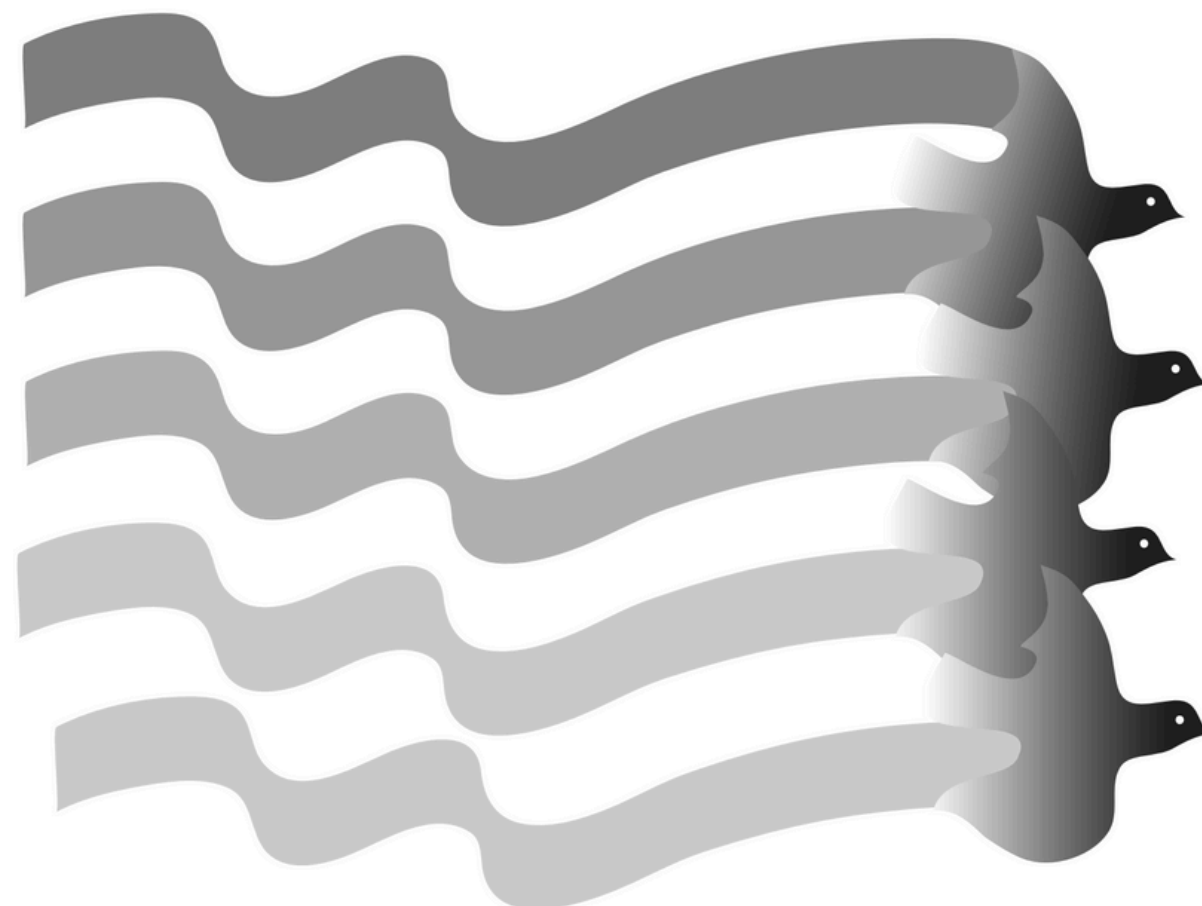
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The First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG) is a diverse, urban community of faith that seeks to experience and worship God through Jesus' message of love and inclusion and the mystery of grace expressed through his life. We affirm our 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 • Director of Music Adrianna Barnett • Organist/Pianist Jodi Acker Bohr
Media Specialists Mandonnah Mahallati & Joey Ward • Exec. Assistant Tamia Walker



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*The wind blows where it chooses
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from
or where it goes.*

So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

- John 3:8

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 • 11 AM

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN**



First United Methodist Church of Germantown

Sunday, January 25, 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

Call to Worship

Standing with body and spirit

One: Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved!

All: May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.

One: So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your fears and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.

All: We come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world, to listen for God’s Word to us, and to renew our calling.

One: Friends of God, let us worship!

All: Amen and Amen!

Opening Hymn

Standing with body and spirit

UMH 369 - “Blessed Assurance”

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.

Contemporary Reading

The Guest House by Rumi
(see insert for full text)

Scripture Reading

(see insert for full text)

John 3:1-21

Hymn

TFWS 2051 -
“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”
verses 1-4 & 7

Sermon

Pastor Alisa Wailoo
BFE - Best Friends Eternally

Offering & Anthem

FUMCOG Choir
“God So Loved the World” by John Stainer

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

Prayer After Communion

Closing Hymn

Standing with body and spirit
UMH 634 - “Now Let Us from This Table Rise”

Benediction

Postlude

Jodi Acker Bohr

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.

Cover design by Bruce McNeel
Geo Andujar, tech



Insert for Sunday, January 25, 2026

New Year, New Study!

This Spring in worship we will be focused on the Gospel of John and his unique way of inviting us into the radical ways of Jesus. If you want to go deeper than just the Sunday morning message, please plan to join us online any/every Wednesday at 1:30pm (tinyurl.com/zoomcog) for Bible Study where we will get the background of the text and wrestle together with how it applies to our lives. In addition to the scripture, we will rely on the Disciple Bible Curriculum Called “An Invitation to John.” If you cannot do daytime and would still like a Bible Study, please also reach out to Pastor Alisa with any interest.

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!

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**



Staff and Office Information

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday from 9:30am-5pm

Pastor Alisawailoo@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

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, Jan 26
New Women’s Group, 6:30pm
- Saturday, Jan 31
We Walk by Faith event, 2pm
Philomusica Concert, 4pm
- Ash Wednesday, February 18
- Wednesday, Mar 11
Lenten Cluster Service at FUMCOG, 7pm



Prayers for FUMCOG Friends and Family

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

For **Willie Little** who spent this past week in the hospital fighting an infection. He is now home recovering.

For all those killed, brutalized, or neglected by ICE.

For **C. Gloria Akers** and her transition to Sunrise Assisted Living in Columbia, MD closer to her daughter, Melanie.

For **Kat Grau’s daughter** as she recovers from ankle and foot surgery

Prayers of healing for **Betty, Joy, Latasha, Kaira, Nate, Kim, Karima & Bridgette.**

Prayers of comfort for **Joy’s family, the Marshall, Redmond, Sameal, & White families.**

Prayers of clarity for **Diane and Skyy.**

For **Thea’s** healing.

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

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 Gibson’s friend. Pete’s health has been getting worse.

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**, who is recuperating from open-heart surgery.

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

For Tim Gibson’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.

New Women’s Group

Non-Violent Direct Action Training at FUMCOG on February 4 at 6 pm. You are invited to this evening of learning of spiritual and mental preparation. We will learn some of the history and theology that roots the wide spectrum of direct action as well as practice some specific skills sets. Please invite others and let contact Pastor Alisa if you can volunteer to welcome others in.

Lenten Morning Apart

Save the date for a Mini spiritual retreat also known as a ‘Lenten Morning Apart’ on Saturday, Feb 21 from 9-12. In this sacred season of connecting with God, Rev. Steph will lead us in embodied prayer practices. Watch for more information to come.”

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.
10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Contemporary Reading

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they’re a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.
Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

- The Guest House by Rumi

The Lord’s Prayer

With Jesus’ words in our ears, we remember that on a different night, under a different set of stars, that same child, now grown and at the other end of his life, gathered his friends and they shared a meal. On THAT night, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to the disciples saying, “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.”

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, O God because we know your story of love. We cling to these tales of our ancestors, of how you showed up in the hard times and how you rejoiced in the good ones. How you moved the waters, quieted the storms, turned the hearts, mended the broken, toppled the unjust, loved the angry, fed the hungry and forgave the wrongs. We give thanks for that moment when you sent yourself here to be with us in the life of Jesus. We give thanks that even all these years later, you keep showing up, born into our hearts and into our world in bold new ways every day. Still. We know that through the Spirit you are at work in us still- still hoping, still healing, still leading the way, and loving us always. We give thanks for the mystery of this thing we call faith and join our voices with believers from every time and place in singing to your glory...

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord’s name. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, we praise you and we offer you our prayers.
Knowing that you hear us, Lord, we share that we are afraid and need your comfort,
we are unsure and seek your confidence,
we are struggling and ask you for strength,
we are hurting, Lord, please heal us.
We are angry, please help us let go.
We are guilty, and beg your forgiveness.
We are empty, Lord. Fill us, now.
Holy God, as we come to this table, to this place where you reveal yourself to us again and again, to this place where we are made one with you and one another, we are reminded of all the divisions in your world. Lord, for those things that separate us from you and from each other, we pray.

Connections & Announcements

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light Annual Convening with Valerie Kaur

Join PA IPL for the Love Your Neighbor, Love Your World: Annual Convening on **January 25th from 2-4pm**. Together we will explore topics related to faith, revolutionary love, and justice. We are very excited to invite Valerie Kaur for a special fireside chat! **Valarie Kaur** is a renowned civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, innovator, and best-selling author of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. After this, we'll hear from a panel fireside chat reflecting on 10 years of *Laudato Si!* Then, Monday January 26th through Thursday January 29th, PA IPL will be hosting workshops on each evening at 7pm! Topics include trees, community organizing skills, pollinators, and love! Learn more and register: <https://qrco.de/ACB25>



POWER Affordability Assembly

Philadelphia's affordability crisis didn't happen by accident. Wealthy corporations do not contribute to the quality of life Philadelphians deserve. This man-made crisis has driven up costs of living and impacted access to essential city services and supports for working families, seniors, and young people are eliminated. Yes, we're angry. Yes, we're tired, but we're doing something about it. Philadelphians are organizing, rising to meet the moment, and demanding that the city they've put blood and sweat into do its job.

On February 1, from 3:00pm -- 6:30pm, we will convene our Philadelphia Affordability Assembly at the historic Mother Bethel AME Church to discuss creating the pathway to affordability with city elected officials. It's time for a city that works for everyone - not just the wealthy.



Connections & Announcements

Help our Immigrant Neighbors

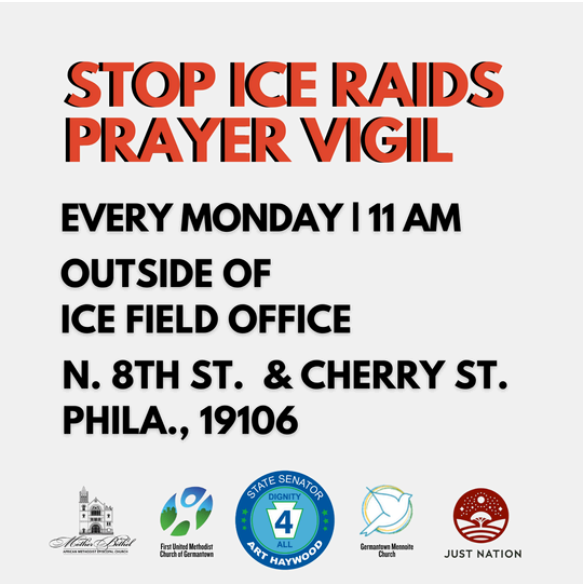
Join us at an Interfaith Vigil every Monday at 11 at the Ice Field Office and/or bring food to FUMCOG for local Latina families who are not safe to go to work currently. Any non-perishables are helpful, especially rice, beans, oil, and corn flour. Thank you for your support!



We Walk by Faith Event

As we move through this season remembering the life and witness of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this gathering offers space to ground ourselves in faith that is both reflective and active. We will meet with other United Methodist churches at Paoli UMC from 2pm-4pm to reconnect, reflect, and discern together how we are being called to respond in this moment. We'll explore why we act as people of faith, where we are being invited to show up in our communities, and how we move forward through mutual aid, organizing, and shared commitment. There will be light refreshments, intentional conversation, and time to strengthen relationships across our churches and justice efforts.

You can register using the link in Hot Topics for this **January 31st** event.



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.



Event Location: Paoli United Methodist Church
81 Devon Rd., Paoli, PA 19301.

Philomusica Chorale
Gayle Wieand, Artistic Director

Coming to America

Presenting the music of immigrant and first-generation American composers.

Saturday, January 31 ★ 4:00 pm

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill
8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia

TICKETS available at
PhilomusicaChorale.org

★ \$35 at the door

★ \$25 in advance

★ Students under 15 free

★ Livestreaming via special ticket at PhilomusicaChorale.org



WINTER 2026
Coming to America

MAY 16, 2026
We Hold These Truths

WINTER 2027
America by the Numbers

SPRING 2027
America at Work

Need in
Deed

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FORUM

EMBRACING COMMUNITY WISDOM

How whole school, classroom, and neighborhood approaches support transformational learning



MONDAY
FEB 9, 2026
7-9 PM

The First United Methodist
Church of Germantown
6001 Germantown Ave, 19144

A CONVERSATION WITH:

DR. PAULINE
CHEUNG

Principal,
Francis Scott Key School



SUZANNE
CILLI

Third grade Teacher,
Albert Greenfield School



MEKIA
ELIZABETH

Community Impact
Manager, Harmony Hill



Register
Here



Forum Moderator:
City Councilmember
Kendra Brooks

