

# Weekly Calendar

Sun, Dec 7	11:00 am	Sunday Worship - Pastor Alisa preaching
	12 :30 am	Linger Lunch
	12:45 pm	Handbells
	4:00 pm	Candlelight Concert
Mon, Dec 8	9:00 am	Walking Women
	11:00 am	Stop ICE Raids Vigil
Wed, Dec 10	1:30 pm	Bible Study - online via <a href="https://tinyurl.com/zoomcog">tinyurl.com/zoomcog</a>
Thu, Dec 11	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat, Dec 13	11:30 am	Youth Holiday Party
Sun, Dec 14	9:30 am	Adult Academy -
	11:00 am	Sunday Worship - Pastor Alisa preaching
	12:30 pm	Potluck Linger Lunch
	12:45 pm	Handbells

## Guest Preacher Darren Hagood

Today we have the honor of hearing from Darren Lavell Hagood from HealYourLovePeriod in the FUMCOG pulpit. Darren Hagood is a wellness practitioner, author of The Christ Breath: Rediscovering the Power of Breath in Christian Faith, and co-founder of HealYourLovePeriod, alongside his wife Gloria. Together, they lead breathwork and sound healing experiences that calm the body, clear the mind, and expand emotional and self-awareness. Darren weaves scripture, history, and embodied practice to invite people into deeper connection with God, themselves, and one another. We are also excited to share that Darren and Gloria are officially FUMCOG building partners as of Dec. 1 and HealYourLovePeriod’s new home is the Curry Forum Room!



*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 • Director of Music Adrianna Barnett • Organist/Pianist Jodi Acker Bohr  
Media Specialists Mandonnah Mahallati & Joey Ward • Exec. Assistant Tamia Walker



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DECEMBER 7, 2025 • 11 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN





# First United Methodist Church of Germantown

Sunday, December 7, 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

FUMCOG Bell Choir

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*  
PICARDY, 17th century French carol

## Call to Worship

*Standing with body and spirit*

One: Prepare the way!

**All: Deck the hall and light the candles.**

One: Prepare the way!

**All: Open the doors and see what God is bringing.**

One: Prepare the way!

**All: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.**

One: Christ is coming.

**All: Prepare the way!**

## Opening Hymn

*Standing with body and spirit*

UMH 213 - "Lift Up Your Heads" v. 1-3

## Invitation to Passing the Peace & Announcements

*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.*

## Offering & Anthem

Michael Yancey

*"A Change of Heart"* lyrics by Jan Pinborough, music by Michael F. Moody

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:1-5  
(see insert for full text)

## Sermon

Pastor Darren Hagood  
*Peace-FULL*

## Advent Wreath Lighting

## Sung Response

*"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"*

## 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 Receiving

## Closing Hymn

*Standing with body and spirit*

UMH 431 - "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

## Benediction

## Postlude

Jodi Acker Bohr

*The First Noel/Coventry Carol*, arr. by Mark Hayes

*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 on Sunday, virtually through our website, or send your check to the church office with "Communion Offering" in the memo.*

*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. You are also invited to Pilling Hall immediately following the postlude for Linger Lunch.*

Faye Ross, liturgist

Wayne Snover, tech

Geo Andujar, tech

Ann Perrone, tech

John Bustard, tech

Barbara Revere, tech

Rev. Stephen Heilakka, communion

Jodi Bohr, piano & organ



Insert for Sunday, December 7, 2025

### 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!**

### 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**



### Staff and Office Information

**Office Hours**  
**Tuesday-Friday from 9:30am-5pm**

**Pastor Alisa** .....[wailoo@fumcog.org](mailto:wailoo@fumcog.org)  
**Rev. Stephen Heilakka**.....*info coming soon*  
**Dwight Woolford**.....[info@dwcleaningco.com](mailto:info@dwcleaningco.com)  
**Joey Ward**.....[vga.collective@gmail.com](mailto:vga.collective@gmail.com)  
**Mandonnah Mahallati**...[fumcogtech@gmail.com](mailto:fumcogtech@gmail.com)  
**Adrianna Barnett**.....[music@fumcog.org](mailto:music@fumcog.org)  
**Jodi Bohr**.....[organ@fumcog.org](mailto:organ@fumcog.org)  
**Michael Yancey**.....[office@fumcog.org](mailto:office@fumcog.org)  
**Tamia Walker**.....[assistant@fumcog.org](mailto: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  
Voices of Philadelphia Concert, 3pm
- Wednesday, Dec 24  
Kid-friendly Christmas service, 11am  
Candlelit Chapel service, 4pm
- Sunday, Dec 28  
Worship with Germantown Mennonites, 11am



### Prayers for FUMCOG Friends and Family

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

For the family of **Ernest Chang** who passed away on November 26. We especially pray for his wife, Mabel, his daughter, Theodora, and son-in-law Russ. Theo and Russ are regular worshippers with FUMCOG online.

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

Prayers of comfort for the **Marshall family**, the **Byrd family**, **Isaac & the Carlton family**.

Prayer of clarity for **Sky & Diane**.

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.

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.

### Neighborhood Services Gift Drive

Dear FUMCOGers,  
United Women of Faith are collecting unwrapped gifts again this year for the toy drive at United Methodist Services. The toys will go to children in foster care and children in low income families. Suggested gifts are: legos, books, puzzles, games, stuffed animals and dolls for children between the ages of 10 and thirteen. You can bring the gifts to church on 12/7, 12/14, or 12/21 and leave them under the tree in Pilling Hall. Lucy and David Hill will collect them and take them to United Methodist Services. Many thanks for your generosity and support.

Blessings, Lucy and David Hill





Reading & Announcements

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:1-5

“Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged. You’ll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. Why do you see the splinter that’s in your brother’s or sister’s eye, but don’t notice the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother or sister, ‘Let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ when there’s a log in your eye? You deceive yourself! First take the log out of your eye, and then you’ll see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother’s or sister’s eye.

Potluck Linger Lunch

Our December Potluck Linger Lunch will be on **December 14th** after worship service. Please bring a dish to share. Cara and Celeste are thankful to all of the cooks, servers, helpers, and clean-up help who have made Linger Lunch such a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing over the course of the year! Reminder, there will be no linger lunch on December 28th.

Blue Christmas Service

The Holiday Season carries a particular ache for those experiencing loss, illness or emotional exhaustion. While the world sparkles with celebration, many among us are grieving quietly while bearing the weight of an empty chair, a diagnosis, an unraveling relationship or an uncertain future.

If this is you, you are not alone. Join us for the “Blue Christmas” service on **December, 17** at 7:00 pm in the chapel where you’ll find a gentle, contemplative service that honors grief, welcomes lament, and makes space for all that is on your heart.

If this is not you, please invite someone you know who may be in this place. Christ comes to meet all of us right where we are. Thanks be!

FUMCOG Youth - Winter Holiday Party

Join us in Pilling Hall on **Saturday, December 13th** at 11:30 am as we celebrate the winter season with crafts, games, food, and fun for the young and young-at-heart from our church and surrounding community. All are welcome!

Volunteers needed!

Before the event:

- Christmas tree set-up and decorating
  - December 4th & 5th: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
  - December 7th: post worship-service 12:00 pm
- Invitations to the event: Volunteers to send personal e-mails or texts to previous participants
- Party setup
  - December 13 @ 10:0 am

At the event:

- Registration table
- Activities tables
- Food servers

Please contact Amina Loder [aminaloder@gmail.com](mailto:aminaloder@gmail.com) if you’re available to help!

Annual Pre-Holiday Book Review

All Book-Lovers: Plan to attend our perennially-popular Pre-Holiday Book Review on Sunday, **December 14th**, in Adult Academy. Be ready to share one or two books you would enjoy telling us about in time for holiday gift-giving. Open to everyone who enjoys a congenial discussion and a good book. Questions? Contact Faye Ross, 215-984-8968 or [fayezross@verizon.net](mailto:fayezross@verizon.net)

*Sponsored by the United Women in Faith.*

The Great Thanksgiving

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.  
**Many: And may you see the God of hope with you.**  
One: Open wide our anxious hearts!  
**Many: We open them to God’s peace.**  
One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.  
**Many: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.**

The dawn of hope rests on the horizon  
And beams of love reach our doubting hearts.  
We celebrate the newness of this season-  
Waiting to see how the Christ will appear in our world.  
Even in our despair, a glimmer of hope reaches into our twilight  
Beckoning us to breathe and wait...  
We hear far off and familiar hymns  
and join in with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven saying:

**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.**

Together we remember our story that tells us  
that the Christ child whose birth we anticipate  
Will one day sit at tables with strangers and friends,  
Building relationships filled with love and grace.

We see this as he fed the multitude,  
Turned water into wine,  
And ate with dear ones the night before his death.  
He took the bread, blessed it, and broke it.  
He gave it to his disciples and said,  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

He took the cup, and in his blessing  
Reminded them  
"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so we do remember who him.  
Jesus. The Christ. Emmanuel – God with us.  
Light of the World. The Word of Life.  
No matter how we know him  
Or what name we call him,  
He is our hope, our peace, our joy, and our love.  
And in praise and thanks for all he has done,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us 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 we feast together 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.**

And with the confidence of the children of God, we pray together...

**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.**