

Weekly Calendar

- Sun, Mar 29** 11:00am **Palm Sunday Worship**
12:30pm **Choir Brunch**
12:45pm **Handbell Rehearsal**
- Mon, Mar 30** 9:00am **Walking Women**
11:00am **Stop ICE Vigil at 8th St. and Cherry St.**
11:00am **Community Fridge Cooking**
- Tue, Mar 31** 5:00pm **BLM Vigil at Unitarian Society of Germantown**
- Wed, Apr 1** 1:30pm **Bible Study**
12:00pm **Come Help Clean Up for Easter!**
- Thu, Apr 2** 5:30pm **Maundy Thursday Dinner at Bickley's New Beginning UMC**
7:00pm **Maundy Thursday Service at Bickley's New Beginning UMC**
7:00pm **Choir Rehearsal**
- Fri, Apr 3** 10:00am **Vigil & Service at 8th St. and Cherry Street**
12:00pm **Seven Last Words Service at Grace UMC**
5:00pm **Ukraine Vigil at Unitarian Society of Germantown**
7:00pm **Tenebrae Service at FUMCOG**
- Sun, Apr 5** 11:00am **Easter Sunday Worship**
-

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



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

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 • 11 AM



First United Methodist Church of Germantown

Palm Sunday, March 29, 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

LEVAS - Life Ev'ry Voice And 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: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: The story of Palm Sunday tells of how people removed their cloaks and spread them out in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

The cloak we wear every day to face the world is both the persona we wish to present, and our defense against the elements.

As we come to worship, may we be willing to lay down our defenses and disguises, at the feet of the One who sees us as we really are.

And then, set free for worship,

may we offer our praises

with open hearts and lives.

All: May it be so in us today.

Opening Hymn *Standing with body and spirit*

“In The Sanctuary”

(see screens for lyrics)

Passing the Peace

Please take a moment to share God's love with one

another be that via handshake, high-five, fist-

bump, peace sign, or bug. All young ones and

young at heart are welcome to come forward

during this time for the children's message:

Stories That We Share.

Stories That We Share

Kristen Pinder

Palm Procession

“Hosanna”

Gathered Prayer

written and offered by Pastor Alisa & children

Sung Response

UMH 277 - “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” v. 1, 3

Scripture Reading

John 12:12-27

(see insert for full text)

Sermon

Rev. Darren Hagood

We Are More

Hymn

Standing with body and spirit

UMH 707 - “Hymn of Promise”

Mission Moment

Anne Toensmeier

Invitation to

& Amina Loder

“Understanding Harm and Healing”

Invitation to Offering

Anthem & Offering

FUMCOG Choir

“I Shall Wear a Crown” by Richard Smallwood

Offering Prayer

Holy God, we enter this holy week bringing our tithes and offerings to your altar and leaving them here in the hope you will send them to make the world a more loving, just and compassionate place. Remind us that your kingdom breaks into the world not as a spectacle for us to witness but as a palm parade where all present laid down their own offering of coats. We pray in the name of the one who comes not just for the parade, but for the cross at the end of it. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Standing with body and spirit

LEVAS 97 - “Ride on, King Jesus” (see insert)

All are invited to bring their palm forward to place on the cross.

Benediction

Postlude

“Were You There”

Jodi Bohr &

Graeme Leighton

Immediately following the postlude, Rev. Steph will move to the baptismal font. If you feel the need for prayer, he will be available to pray with you or for you. Please respect the privacy of those in prayer by maintaining a respectful distance.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Linger lunch is available in Pilling Hall today, for all to catch up with old friends, or make new connections over a meal.

Cover by Lauren Wright Pittman: “Through the Palms”

Celeste Zappala, liturgist

Geo Andujar, tech

Wayne Snover, tech

John Bustard, tech

Dan Ross, tech

Barbara Revere, tech

Jodi Bohr, piano & organ

Graeme Leighton, drums



Insert for Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Upcoming Dates

- Maundy Thursday, Apr 2
 - Bickley's New Beginning UMC, 7pm
- Good Friday, Apr 3
 - Vigil & Service @ ICE HQ, 10am
 - 7 Last Words @ Grace UMC, 12pm
 - Tenebrae service, 7pm
- Easter Sunday, Apr 5
 - Morning Worship, 11am
- Friday & Saturday, Apr 17-18
 - "Understanding Harm & Healing" Weekend Workshop for all, 5pm & 10am
- Sunday, Apr 26
 - Germantown Jazz Festival, 2pm
- Saturday, May 9
 - Roberta Millard's Memorial Service, 2pm
- Saturday, May 23
 - FUMCOG & Voices of Philadelphia concert, 3pm
- Saturday, May 30
 - C. Gloria Akers' Memorial Service, 11am

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

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 *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



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**



Prayers for FUMCOG Friends and Family

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

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 **Harry Morgan**, Laura Stahl's dad.

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

For **Raymond**, the son of Janis Glen.

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

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

Scripture Reading

John 12:12-27

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, your king is coming,

seated on a donkey’s colt.”

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

Maundy Thursday Service

Join the NW Mission Link for one of our final lenten services of the year. Bickley’s New Beginning UMC will host a lovely meal at 5:30pm for all to attend, followed by a holy remembrance of the Last Supper at 7:00pm.

Three Good Friday Services

1. A vigil service in front of the ICE headquarters at **8th and Cherry St** at **10AM**. We need YOUR witness!
2. “*The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross*” with each word given by one of our incredible NW Mission Link Pastors. The **12PM** service will be held at **Grace UMC** (7101 N.20th Street)
3. A somber, reflective Tenebrae service where we take in Jesus’ final acts of love through scripture, song, light, and darkness. Come to the FUMCOG chapel on **April 3 at 7pm**.

Easter Sunday

Invite friends and strangers to celebrate the joy of Easter with a holy and joy-filled worship service on April 5th at 11am!

Troop 1313G Leadership Needed

Ms. Stacey Bryant, long-time Scoutmaster of Troop 1313 (Girls), is stepping aside and handing leadership duties to Steven Reynolds Jr., father of First Class Scout Helena Reynolds. We have been preparing for this transition for several weeks.

If you or someone you know is eager to work with girls ages 11-17, enjoys outdoor activities, and is willing to teach leadership development, please correspond with Beverly Lucas at beverly595@aol.com. The time commitment includes Wednesday nights, 8 weekends per year, and a week of camp during the summer, and it is well worth every minute!

Adult Academy: April 12

Allen Drew, director of the Hunting Park Community Solar Initiative (HPCSI) will discuss the One Hope Solar Project in Adult Academy on **Sunday, April 12**. Pro bono legal teams from Earth Justice and the Columbia Legal Clinic worked to design a revised model of power sharing through virtual net metering that leverages the benefits of solar power generated as revenue in the form of energy-burden alleviation grants. The new model was approved by HPCSI and representatives from the FUMCOG CAC in March 2025 and the array was installed on One Hope in September 2025. The legal team is very excited about the solar revenue sharing model and believes it has the potential to be duplicated in other contexts.

In contributing a majority of the funding to the One Hope project, FUMCOG is a significant partner with HPCSI. Plan on attending the presentation on **April 12 at 9:30am!**

Adult Academy: April 19

Former Philadelphia City Councilmember-at-Large Derek S. Green will join Bill Ewing on **Sunday April 19 at 9:30am**, to lead a discussion of the upcoming primary election. They will focus on the following subjects: (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 occupied by Dwight Evans, who is not running for reelection; and (4) various other Congressional and statewide contests.

Easter Offering for Community Needs



At Easter, we celebrate the hope made possible through Christ's passionate love that could ultimately not be defeated by the violence and injustices around him. At a time when so much of what we treasure is under attack, we invite you to give to our Easter Offering that will benefit four community organizations doing essential work to educate, empower, and raise up our children, youth, and entire community. Every dollar offered will go directly to these partners:

The **Beacon Theatre** is a small Northwest Philadelphia-based theater company that spotlights stories of social justice advocates, activists, people of color, and women. By drawing on critical moments from the past, Beacon illuminates pathways toward a more equitable future. To ensure accessibility, they offer "pay as you can" and low-cost performances so that all may experience the power of live theater. In a time when our governmental and educational agencies are being hindered from telling the whole truth, the church must support those who are!

Need in Deed, led by our own Kyra Atterbury, partners with Philadelphia public school teachers to engage students in grades 3–8. Their programs reach at-risk youth and help students connect classroom learning with real-world issues, elevating student voices and lived experiences while strengthening academic skills and civic awareness. As funding for public schools continues to be cut, Need in Deed embodies Christ's call to let the little children come.

PA Youth Vote is a nonpartisan coalition focused on civics education and engagement among public high school students, especially in marginalized communities. Our support will help fund student-led voter registration drives, public issues education, and meaningful civic participation in Northwest Philadelphia high schools. Christ raised up voices from the margins and PA Youth Vote seeks to do the same.

United Methodist Neighborhood Services (UMNS) is already a partner in our ministry, as we contribute food to their food bank through the efforts of Lucy and David Hill. This Easter Offering will further support UMNS in launching Saturday Pop-up Kids' Clubs, where neighborhood children can grow in faith while learning communication, listening, and conflict resolution skills—turning belief into action.

Please participate by **placing your gift in the offering plate** during worship, **mailing a check to the Church Office** (memo: "Easter Offering for Community Needs") or **giving online** at www.fumcog.org –(click on "Giving," enter your amount, and select "Easter Offering for Community Needs" under "Purpose of Gift"). After the total amount of contributions is known, the committee will prayerfully review the allocation to each of these transformative organizations. Thank you in advance!

-The Community Needs Committee

Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing - 97

Ride on, King Jesus

Ride on, King- Je - sus, No man can-a hin-der me.

Je-sus, ride on, no man can-a 1.
Ride on, King- Je - sus, ride on, no man can-a hin-der me.

2. Fine
hin-der me. 1. King Je - sus rides a milk-white horse, No man works like
2. I know that my re - deem - er lives,

D.C.
Him, 1. De riv - er Jor - d'n He did cross no man works like Him. Oh
2. And of His bless - ing free - ly gives,

Vigils & Immigrant Support

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.



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 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.



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!

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) or (lisanchapman82@gmail.com).

