



## Lent

**L**ent is the oldest liturgical "season" in the Christian year, one going back to the early years of the church. The origins of a "season" of preparation before the observances of Holy Week were as a special time set apart for study and reflection on the part of those who were to be baptized at Easter. As such, it was modeled on the time spent in the wilderness by Jesus at the beginning of his ministry (though *after* his baptism, not before), thus 40 days. Eventually, all Christians were urged to observe a time of preparation leading up to Easter, just as Advent would later be a special time set apart leading up to the church's observance of Christmas.

We have observed Lent in a variety of ways here at First Church over the years. About twenty years ago we began marking the start of Lent with

an Ash Wednesday service, offering the imposition of ashes to those attending the service who so desired, a practice fairly new at the time to most Presbyterians. It proved to be very meaningful for many, and it has been a regular part of our observance of Lent since. For many years we also set aside an evening each week during Lent for a special time of study, reflection and prayer, but we are not planning to have such a Lenten study series this year. Why? I simply think it's time to take a break, and re-think how best to achieve what we want to accomplish in Lent.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue of the Messenger, we will be offering a special Lenten time of prayer and reflection with a guided experience of spiritual direction that will be led by Rev. Barbara Chaapel in the Whitefield Room (lower level) each

Sunday during Lent following the 11:00 AM worship service. We have also planned a similar time of prayer and reflection prior to our Ash Wednesday service on February 14. Beginning at 5:00 PM that evening, you're invited to a time of reflection in the sanctuary. If you cannot be there by 5:00, you are welcome to come whenever you can. There will also be a light supper in Old Buttonwood Hall at 6:15 prior to worship.

The choir will lead our worship on Ash Wednesday with a service of choral evensong for the occasion. It will be an especially meaningful way for us to enter into Lent, this "season" of preparation that will lead us to Easter.

—Jesse Garner

### Annual Meeting Feb. 11

The Session has set Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, as the date of our Annual Meeting which will be held in Old Buttonwood Hall at noon, following the 11:00 AM worship service. A light lunch will be served. The congregation will receive the 2017 Annual Report and hear and act on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to elect officers and members of the church's Nominating Committee for 2018. All members are urged to attend this important meeting.



### Ash Wednesday February 14

Guided Spiritual Direction - 5 p.m.

Simple Supper - 6:15 p.m.

Choral Evensong Service - 7 p.m.  
with the imposition of ashes



**FEBRUARY 4**  
Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

**FEBRUARY 11**  
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

**FEBRUARY 18**  
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

**FEBRUARY 25**  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

## February 2018 at a Glance

### Thursday, February 1

- 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting  
6:45 pm Deacons Meeting

### Saturday, February 3

- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (Cafe @ DiBruno's)

### Sunday, February 4

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Christian Education  
▸ Adults: Lectionary Study (MacColl Room)  
▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
12:15 pm Young Adult "First Sunday" Brunch (Irish Pub)  
12:30 pm PNC Meeting

### Monday, February 5

- 10:00 am Reading Buddies  
11:00 am Congregational Care Team

### Tuesday, February 6

- 6:30 pm PNC Meeting  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 7

- 2:00 pm Women of Wit & Wisdom (MacColl Room)  
7:30 pm Young Adult Group

### Thursday, February 8

- 6:30 pm Session Meeting

### Sunday, February 11

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast  
9:45 am Christian Education  
▸ Adults: Lectionary Study (MacColl Room)  
▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Annual Meeting of the Congregation

### Monday, February 12

- 10:00 am Reading Buddies

### Tuesday, February 13

- 6:30 pm PNC Meeting  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 14

- 5:00 pm Entry into Lent - Ash Wednesday Guided Reflection (sanctuary)  
6:15 pm Simple supper (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Choral Evensong Service *with the imposition of ashes*

### Thursday, February 15

- 5:30 pm Membership & Evangelism

### Saturday, February 17

- 8:00 am UCHC Casserole Blitz

### Sunday, February 18

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Christian Education  
▸ Adults: Lectionary Study (MacColl Room)  
▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
12:15 pm Guided Spiritual Direction (Whitefield Room)

### Monday, February 19

- Church office closed (Presidents' Day)

### Tuesday, February 20

- 9:30 am WiseRetirees  
6:30 pm PNC Meeting  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 21

- 10:00 am Worship Committee  
7:30 pm Young Adult Group

### Sunday, February 25

- 9:00 am Celebration! Worship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
9:45 am Christian Education  
▸ Adults: Lectionary Study (MacColl Room)  
▸ Children & Youth (Cochran Room)  
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15 pm Fellowship (Old Buttonwood Hall)  
12:15 pm Guided Spiritual Direction (Whitefield Room)

### Monday, February 26

- 10:00 am Reading Buddies  
6:30 pm Missions Committee

### Tuesday, February 27

- 6:30 pm PNC Meeting  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 28

- 7:30 pm Young Adult Group

## Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch

Join us after the Celebration! service on February 11 for a "Shrove Sunday" Pancake Brunch, as we mark the last Sunday before Lent with a new take on an old tradition. All are welcome! We'll start around 9:45 A.M.



# EVENSONG:

## *A Universal and Transcending Service*

**E**vensong dates back to the time of the Reformation, using elements of the ancient monastic Offices of Vespers and Compline. The liturgy (a fixed set of words and ceremonial features) that the church uses to this day was laid out in Archbishop Cranmer's *Book of Common Prayer*, the first version of which appeared in 1549.

The music took shape a few decades later, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, with great composers like William Byrd and Thomas Tallis developing exquisite polyphonic choral music specifically for this new service, and in each subsequent generation new composers have continued to add great music to the repertoire of Evensong. This has inspired a unique 500-year-old unbroken tradition of glorious music and liturgy that resonates with many people, especially those who may find themselves at odds with the doctrine of the church.

The fact that Evensong has had such a long evolution means that one has a powerful sense of connecting present with past, of tapping into something much greater than oneself. As we come together in a church at the end of the day we join a vast community through time and space, worshipping in the same way as countless people have done before us.

Cranmer's Evensong starts with the chanting of the Old Testament Psalms. Their mantra-like repetition often helps create a peaceful atmosphere, but one that is soon interrupted by the exuberant burst of the Magnificat—the song of a young woman, Mary, rejoicing at the prospect of the birth of her child,

Jesus—and then made solemn by the New Testament's Nunc Dimittis—the song of an old man, Simeon, gently facing his death, now his life has been fulfilled by meeting Jesus. Part of the genius of the service is the balance between female and male, young and old, and Old and New Testament in these Canticles. An anthem follows that fits the mood of the day.

The music for Ash Wednesday comes from the Tudor composers—the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis from Adrian Batten's Fourth Service. and the anthem "Behold, Thou Hast Made My Days" (Psalm 39) by Orlando Gibbons. The choir will also sing Psalm 51, the psalm appointed for the day, in its entirety.

The interspersing of these musical forms among passages of beautiful spoken liturgy and moments of contemplative silence lends a balance and completeness to the form of the service.

The high proportion of music sung by the choir in Evensong is arguably what distinguishes it from other church services. Those experiencing Evensong for the first time might feel as though the choir is singing too much, or "performing." In fact, the opposite is true. The music is prayer, the singers drawing attention not to themselves, but to God. In the contemplative nature of the service, the choir sings the Canticles and prayers on *behalf* of the congregation, allowing the music to lead into deeper reflection. The congregation joins in the singing of the hymns, and in the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

Music is the language that carries us beyond the limitations of human words toward those things we cannot

articulate. The Magnificat is a joyful song, the Nunc Dimittis a sung plea, the Psalms pure praise. Music's communication of these feelings is immediate.

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This deep context of prayer was what the choir experienced last summer in Truro when they sang Evensong every day for a week in Truro Cathedral. They have looked forward to introducing the profound experience of Evensong to members of First Presbyterian Church, first on Ash Wednesday, and also at other times during the year such as Earth Day in April.

—Andrew Senn and Barbara Chaapel

## PNC UPDATE

*A Day in My Life as a PNC member*

I wake up at 5:30 AM and send an email to the PNC group, a follow-up from our weekly meeting the night before. By 6:30 AM, I am on the Market-Frankford train, listening to the latest sermon downloaded to my phone. As the man beside me nods to the rhythm of the latest popular song, a reading from the Old Testament flows through my ear buds. I listened to a sermon yesterday from a different candidate on the same scripture; I like to hear different perspectives on the same scripture. By 7:00 AM, I put down the PNC work and pick up a stethoscope; I work full-time as a Nurse Practitioner. At 12:00 PM, I eat last night's leftovers while I do a quick email check and find that we have received three more Pastor Information Forms (PIF). I quickly print the new PIFs and place in my PNC folder (ever present in my work bag). Around 6:00 PM, I am on the bus heading home, reading (critiquing) the PIFs I printed earlier today. What type of experience does she have? Is he involved in The Presbytery? Are her answers to the essay questions interesting? Do I want to know more? By 8:30 PM: gym, dinner, shower—done; I am on the couch, headphones now attached to my laptop, watching another sermon. Watching the sermons, sometimes the entire church service, provides a wealth of information on a candidate. With the aid of technology, I have been able to watch or listen to 2-3 sermons from each candidate. At 9:30 PM, I go to bed, so I can start another PNC day tomorrow.

The day above, was circa November 2017; now, January 2018 looks different. My days are “back to normal” and my nights are filled with online interviews of the pastoral candidates. We have a great group of candidates, who we “meet” online for questions and conversation while we get to know the person “off the page.” In February, my days change again, as we will have completed the online interviews, and resumed our weekly PNC meetings to discuss, discern, and make tough decisions about selecting the candidates we want to meet in person. All of this is for the day that our new Head of Staff will take the reins (and Jesse finally gets to fish as much as he wants). That day is swiftly approaching. Please keep the PNC and our future pastor in your prayers, every day.

—Courtney Russ-Friedman

## A Note from Margaret Somerville

Dear Church Family,

*My heart is full. The love and support that I have received from you as I have made my journey through discerning God's call to ministry has been a constant source of strength. One of the most difficult parts of this journey was leaving First Presbyterian to do my internship work at Gladwyne Presbyterian while I was in seminary. I had sat in these pews and worshipped in this community literally since my birth, and I could not imagine leaving the place where both I and Douglas, Colin, and Annie were raised. To stand before you all, however, for my ordination, to have so many of you come forward to lay hands on me was a profound confirmation that you have sent me. I will go forward now in my ministry, always with First Presbyterian as my home and the ground beneath my feet as we all continue to do God's work in this world together.*

*I am so deeply touched and grateful for the beautiful gifts presented to me—a painting of the sanctuary of Iona Abbey and a gorgeous silver pendant of carvings from the abbey. Thank you so much! These will be treasures for me and constant reminders of everything First Presbyterian has given me to prepare me for this moment.*

*Until our paths cross in worship or in work, my abiding love and thanks,*

Margaret Somerville

## Women of Wit & Wisdom

### February Event:

Women of Wit and Wisdom will enjoy a time of sharing on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM, in the MacColl Room. The topic is FOOD! Bring your favorite recipes, choice restaurants, and thoughts on food for the body and food for the soul. Don't miss this event—both fun and inspiring!

### Upcoming in March:

Mark Wednesday, March 7, on your calendars for a time of food, fun, and fellowship. Watch the church bulletin and website for details closer to the date. Whenever and wherever we meet, it's always a time of pure JOY!

—Ginnie Mesibov



# Walking in the Wilderness:

## *A Lenten Journey*

The season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for six weeks until Easter, is a time for reflection, repentance, and soul-searching in the Christian life. It invites us to ask questions like these:

- What can I offer to God and to others?
- What do I want to release, to let go of?
- For whom or what am I called to pray?
- To what is God calling me in my life of discipleship?

This Ash Wednesday, February 14, we invite members and friends of the congregation to a special time of silence,



guided reflection, a simple meal, and worship in the service of evensong. Beginning at 5:00 in the sanctuary, we will share a time of silence and guided meditation, and our parish associate

Barbara Chaapel will lead a reflection on spirituality in the desert and will introduce the practice of a spiritual discipline for the period of Lent. Then at 6:15 we will gather in Old Buttonwood Hall for a simple meal of soup, bread, and fruit shared in silence, interspersed with readings and prayer. At 7:00 p.m. we will return to the sanctuary for a service of Evensong that will include the imposition of ashes. (See article on Evensong on page three.)

Some people who want to be part of this experience may not be able to arrive at the church by 5:00. You may join at whatever time you arrive; ushers at the sanctuary doors will have printed instructions to help latecomers enter the experience when they arrive.

After we begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, there will be opportunity for guided spiritual direction each Sunday morning during Lent after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will meet from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. in the Whitefield Room, where Barbara Chaapel will guide a group Lenten experience that will include silence and shared reflection and an exercise that individuals can use daily during Lent. This contemplative offering for Lent will take place on Sundays February 18, February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25.

At a time when, for many, the world feels overwhelming, unsettling, and even dangerous, turning toward God with others in our community of faith is both an obligation of Christian discipleship, and a deep gift. We encourage you to participate in these contemplative opportunities during Lent as a way to make your own journey through the desert to the cross and the joy of Easter more meaningful.

—Rev. Barbara Chaapel

*"We must cross the desert and spend time in it to receive the grace of God as we should. It is there that one empties oneself, that one drives away from oneself everything that is not God and that one empties completely the small house of one's soul so as to leave all the room free for God alone. It is indispensable: the soul needs the silence of it, the inward retirement, this oblivion of all created things."*

Charles de Foucault  
*A Book of Silence*

## Mother of former Associate Pastor Campbell has died

**Sue Plyler Huffstetler**, mother of former Associate Pastor Mindy Huffstetler Campbell, died peacefully on January 16, 2018, in Charlotte, NC, where she had moved in 2010. One of 10 children herself, Sue is survived by her children Tom, Jim, and Mindy, as well as a brother and three sisters, a sister-in-law, four grandchildren, and three generations of beloved nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte on Saturday, January 27.



*Sue Huffstetler with her children Jim, Mindy, and Tom.*

## First Church Electronic Use Policy Approved

In January, the Session approved an Electronic Use Policy, as had been suggested by the Board of Trustees. That policy is now on the FPCP website and applies to electronic use and communications with the church, such as email, as well as for use of the Wi-Fi that is now available in areas of the church.

The reason for adopting this policy is to protect the church from having its electronic systems used inappropriately and to ensure that users (including those who send emails) are aware of their

responsibilities, as well as the fact that FPCP cannot and does not guarantee privacy and confidentiality. As a practical matter, it is suggested that communications that are intended to be confidential be marked as such and that especially sensitive communications be done in person or by phone.

Among other things, the policy prohibits use that endangers the systems (such as computer viruses), downloading new software without permission from the IT Committee, and use that incurs significant costs to

the church, such as downloading or otherwise using software or programs, when not related to a legitimate church purpose. Also, there are provisions about being mindful of network security, the implications of using an FPCP email address, and noting that FPCP is not responsible for maintaining, recovering, transferring or any other action, regarding any personal files, applications, software or data that users install on the systems.

—Andrea Bowman

## Renewable Energy at First Church

First Presbyterian now is all-renewable, electrically at least. As of January 16<sup>th</sup> all electricity consumed in the church buildings is purchased only from suppliers offering power generated by wind, solar, or hydroelectric sources. The Trustees and the Session made the decision to go all-renewable in response to several requests to more actively consider our obligations as stewards of the planet.

All-renewable power options (at a modestly higher cost) are offered both to institutions and to individual consumers through PAPowerSwitch.com, a website of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

—Craig Boddorff



## Time for Our Quarterly Casserole Blitz!

On Saturday, February 17, we will again be making casseroles for the University City Hospitality Coalition (UCHC) to serve to those who are hungry in West Philadelphia. FPCP has sponsored these blitzes since 2013, made well over 500 casseroles—serving 8-10 people each—and engaged over 30 volunteers from our members and visitors, many for multiple blitzes. Folks come multiple times because it's a fun, gratifying way to spend a Saturday morning (and we have coffee and very good donuts).

Whether you're an old hand or just want to give this a try, please contact Beverly Cowart ([missions@fpcphila.org](mailto:missions@fpcphila.org)) if you can come. We start at 8:30 and are typically finished by 10:00. You'll have the rest of your day free, having already accomplished something good for your community.

—Beverly Cowart

## Young Adult News

Greetings from the young adults! I am Eleanor, I've been attending First for about three years now. I'm a research assistant working on my PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Drexel. One of the main things that attracted me to First was the Young Adults group. We meet weekly on Wednesday nights and have several additional gatherings each month. My favorite thing about Young Adults is not the free brunches, or the fun outings, or even the nostalgia of watching Charlie Brown holiday specials. It's the sense of community. I grew up in a small town in Xenia, Ohio and one of the most drastic changes to living in Philadelphia was the lack of that feeling of belonging. Young Adults at First offers that. Young Adults also provides much needed balance to my life, by way of Bible study, movie night discussions, service activities and socials. It helps me keep my life rooted in faith. Want to get involved with Young Adults? Join us the first Sunday of each month for lunch following church. For more information, contact [youngadults@fpcphila.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcphila.org). We'd love to get to know you.

### COUPON UPDATE

The Young Adults are still clipping coupons to mail to organizations that send them to military bases around the world. Coupons can be used for up to six months past the expiration date at the stores on base, and they help tremendously. Thank you to all who have been bringing in coupons. We continue to cut them and have sent in 5 very full boxes of coupons. Please continue to bring them in.

—Annie LeCluyse ([youngadults@fpcphila.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcphila.org))



## UPENN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION HURRICANE RELIEF SPRING BREAK TRIP

A small group from the Christian Association at University of Pennsylvania will be traveling to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, over Penn's spring break to work with *All Hands and Hearts*. We will be helping with clean up from hurricanes Irma and Maria—removing debris and downed trees, mucking out buildings, etc. One hundred percent of the inhabitants of the island were impacted by the storms. The students have been fundraising, but we could use some extra support! If you want to contribute to our work, you can do so online (<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/spring-break-hurricane-relief-volunteer-trip>), or talk to Megan LeCluyse. All Hands and Hearts has an Amazon Wishlist, so any money raised beyond our expenses will be used to help get the tools they need!

—Megan LeCluyse



## PENN'S VILLAGE PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY

### OCTAVIUS CATTO

February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 2 pm  
Philadelphia Institute branch of the Free Library  
1905 Locust Street

In September, 2017 a statue of Octavius Catto was unveiled on the south side of City Hall. Here's an opportunity to learn more about the activist, orator and baseball player with Daniel R. Biddle and Murray Dubin, the authors of *Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America*.

### THE FUTURE OF NEWSPAPERS

February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2 pm at the Athenaeum  
219 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street

John Gillespie, former reporter and editor for the *Philadelphia Evening and Sunday Bulletin*, discusses the topic.

### WORDS INTO PICTURES: SEEING WHAT WE READ

February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 am  
McColl Room of the First Presbyterian Church  
201 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street

Independent publisher Paul Dry seeks to awaken, delight and educate with an assortment of fiction, non-fiction, new writing and reprints of out of print books.

### RSVP NEEDED FOR ALL PROGRAMS!

Please RSVP by emailing [info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org). If emailing is inconvenient you may also call 215.925.7333. There is no charge for Penn's Village members and volunteers. We would appreciate a \$5 donation from other guests. Other guests are welcome to attend three programs before joining and/or volunteering.

[www.pennsvillage.org](http://www.pennsvillage.org)

## Men's Bible Study

Not sure about this whole Bible study thing? Haven't cracked the Bible open as much as you should have recently? Come enjoy a custom-made omlette, your favorite hot beverage and hang out with the guys who are all trying to understand God's Word. Hey, it's not easy! We meet the first Saturday of the month. Join us next Saturday, February 3, at 9:00 AM at Di Bruno Brothers, 1730 Chestnut Street. Even if the time or place does not work for you, contact Mac McLarin ([mac.mclarin@fpcphila.org](mailto:mac.mclarin@fpcphila.org)) and we can discuss options.

—Mac McLarin



# The First Presbyterian Church

IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

201 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-567-0532 fax: 215-567-7697 • fpcphila.org

## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Jesse B. Garner, Minister**

**The Rev. Megan LeClyuse, Celebration Team Leader**

**Mr. Andrew Senn, Director of Music & Organist**

**The Rev. Jerry K. Foote, Director of  
Congregational Care**

**Ms. Sue Riemann, Church Administrator**

**Mrs. Patti Sassoli, Director of Communications**

**Ms. Annie LeClyuse, Young Adult Leader**

**The Rev. Barbara A. Chaapel, Parish Associate**

**The Rev. Kenneth J. Ross, Parish Associate**

**The Rev. Herbert D. Valentine, Parish Associate**

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### ELDERS

#### Class of 2018

Jen Johnson, Rebecca Melley,  
Allan Schimmel, George Schneider

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Beverly Cowart, Karen Marston,  
Philip McMunigal, Emily Roan, Patricia Sassoli

#### Class of 2020

Susy Christensen, Heather Coyne,  
Cynthia Decrucq

### DEACONS

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#### Class of 2019

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Jennifer Gay, Robert Romano

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Rebekah Horowitz, Robert Linck,  
Cade Massey

## THE MESSENGER

Patti Sassoli, Executive Editor  
Owen Robbins, Layout and Design

Please submit all information for the  
March issue of The Messenger to  
communications@fpcphila.org by  
Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.



## Volunteer Opportunities

**The University City Hospitality Coalition (UCHC)** provides hot meals to anyone in need on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and, during the academic year, Sundays, at sites in the University City area. Volunteers to serve meals are needed during the summer and academic breaks, when students are not available. In addition, First Church sponsors quarterly casserole "blitzes," in which we prepare 30-40 casseroles to be served at UCHC meals.

**Girls' Leadership Camp** program at Bartram's Garden is to help build a new community garden and farm while learning about the environmental impact of growing our own food. Volunteer days are every month on second Saturdays starting in October.

**MANNA**, an organization founded by First Church, needs volunteers to help prepare or deliver meals for people battling life-threatening illnesses. Contact Manna's Volunteer Services at 215-496-2662 or volunteers@mannapha.org.

**Urban Tree Connection (UTC)** is a nonprofit organization that engages children and adults from some of Philadelphia's most disadvantaged neighborhoods in community-based, urban-greening projects.

**Habitat for Humanity's West Philadelphia Repair Initiative (WPRI)** is an urban ministry that assists homeowners in West Philadelphia with repairs to their homes. The organization needs volunteers. Work can involve painting, installing sheetrock, windows, flooring, carpentry, etc. Volunteers do not need any experience.

**Norris Square** promotes change through youth education, community leadership, green spaces, the arts and the celebration of Latinx cultures.

**Hosts for Hospitals** provides families in need of lodging when coming from out-of-town to the city for medical care the option of staying at a locally administered volunteer host-home or group facility.

**The Arc of Philadelphia** advocates with and for all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, to promote active citizenship, self-determination, and full inclusion.

**FOR INFORMATION ON  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
CONTACT  
missions@fpcphila.org.**



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