

LOVING.
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LEARNING.



SERVING + SHARING @ PCFS

The Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring

December 2024

Pastor's Pen & Page

It is with feelings of excitement and regret that I write this article. I have been blessed to be your Pastor for over nine years. Those years were marked with good memories, going through some very difficult times as a church and as a nation, and the blessings of developing so many rewarding relationships. I thank you for those years.



However, I have accepted a call to be the Chaplain for Wilson College starting in early January. My backgrounds in academia as well as chaplaincy are areas in my life I will be able to reengage with. I am excited to be part of a college, to minister to students and faculty, and to be able to teach. My position will also afford me the opportunity to research and write, which I have missed.

The nudge to this move was reinforced by an emerging sense that the church needs new leadership to move forward into the plan that God has for it. And I know that God has something great for PCFS already laid out.

Let me address some details covering the next few weeks. Session has called a congregational meeting for December 8 to vote on the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between PCFS and I. That meeting will be moderated by Kristal Smith from the Presbytery. I will then continue to be your Pastor until December 29th. Since I am staying in Chambersburg, I need to be crystal clear about my presence. The Presbytery has comprehensive guidelines for pastors who remain in a community after they have left the church for whatever reason. These guidelines state that I am not to regularly attend this church on Sundays, come to events like Fall Kickoff, or discuss church matters when we encounter each other in the community. While we can be friends, eat together, etc., there will need to be a firm boundary where church business is not discussed. This policy helps the interim do the work he/she is called to as well as the new pastor.

Thank you very much for 9 years of ministry together. May God bless you.

~Andy

Views From a Hill



An Unlikely Crew

If you happened upon them, it would seem like an unlikely crew. On an cold December evening, four middle school boys and their leader, met a father and his daughter in a McDonald's parking lot.

The two groups didn't know one another, but something profoundly connected them that evening. The boys and their leader were participating in Falling Spring Youth's Generosity Conspiracy, where they raised money and gave it away all in an evening. This group knew of a family who lost their son after a long, difficult battle with illness. The family was dealing with heavy grief and hefty medical bills, and the boys thought a few hundred dollars might help. The family was immensely blessed by this act of generosity. As they prepared to depart, the father asked to shake the boys' hands, and as he reached out his hand, one of the boys opened his arms wide, smiled, and said, "bring it in!" As they hugged, a profound realization came to the leader. The father was hugging a boy the same age as his deceased son, but it gets even more profound. Earlier that year, the boy lost his father. So a father who lost his son, and a son who lost his father, were hugging in a McDonald's parking lot. What an incredible moment of grace!

Many years earlier, another unlikely crew gathered in a barn. A young couple, their newborn Son, some farm animals, lots of sheep, and a few shepherds. The groups didn't know one another, but something profoundly connected them that evening. This was no ordinary Baby, this was God in the flesh - the Savior of the world. The One who would invite outcasts to the party, touch lepers, heal the blind, raise the dead, challenge empty authority, and usher in a new covenant of grace. The kind of Savior who brings together middle school boys and a grieving father in a McDonald's parking lot. The kind of Savior who knows what brings you joy and what keeps you awake at night, and invites you to have peace in Him. The kind of Savior who invites unlikely crews like us into eternal love.

This Christmas, may you find yourself moving closer and closer to the Savior.

Much love,
Brad



FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

December Update:

Jesus is the Reason

With December being a busy month with many holiday happenings we try not to overload with many youth events this month. But we are intentional to make what we do in December to be of high value. Jesus is the reason for celebration this season and He is the reason for everything that we do within the youth ministry. Starting with our annual Generosity Conspiracy on December 4th. This is a night where students and leaders collect money from friends, family & church attendees and find a way to bless others in the community that night. Last year groups raised over \$1,500 and generously paid for groceries, filled blessing boxes and gave to families in need. If you would like to contribute to this night of giving talk with a student or youth ministry volunteer! This is a great opportunity to show God's love to those who might never step foot inside our church building.

Starting in January our youth will be going through the youth version of the Alpha course. We are looking forward to digging into honest conversations about faith in God. Be praying for our students and their friends who will walk through these building blocks and questions of faith possibly for the first time.

Upcoming:

December 4
GENEROSITY CONSPIRACY

December 11
CHRISTMAS PARTY

January 8
YOUTH GROUP
*START OF YOUTH ALPHA



WWW.FALLINGSRINGYOUTH.COM

****Winter Slam Registration
open until January 1st****



Merry
Christmas

May the God of hope fill
you with all joy and
peace.

-Romans 15:13

A Note from Miss Jenn:

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Christmas season is upon us. The excitement and anticipation of Christmas morning will be bubbling over in each of our kids this month. Hopefully the excitement and anticipation is bubbling over in the adults also as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. My prayer for each of us is that we don't become so wrapped up in the to-dos and business of the season that we lose sight of what Christmas is really about. Family, friends, and the birth of our Lord and Savior. May He fill us with love, joy, hope, and peace this season and always.

Kids' Sunday school and midweek classes are for age 4-grade 5. Additional opportunities are available for those older and younger.



Upcoming Events:

Sunday Mornings: 9-9:50, Sunday School in room 101

**12/4, 12/11: 6:30-7:30, Regular mid-week activities
Rm 101 J-Walkers (age 4-grade 2) Rm 103 Tweens
(grade 3-grade 5)**

12/4, 12/11: 7:30-8 Joyful Voices Kids' Choir Rm 101

12/15: 10am, sanctuary, Christmas Celebration Service

12/18: 6:30-8 Churchwide Christmas caroling. (Family event)

Food Pantry News

Your Food Pantry and Power Pack invite our congregation to visit our Food Pantry and Power Pack space in the rear basement of the Chapel on Sunday, December 8th anytime between 9 am to Noon. Please stop in with your family to enjoy homemade Christmas cookies and coffee, tea, and hot chocolate..... see our place and admire the Christmas decor.

Our volunteers are eager to show everyone where & how we help our community households and school students with their food needs. And, we wish to thank our congregation for its support of our missions.

For Thanksgiving we gave our householders vouchers for a turkey or a turkey breast from Weis Market and each household is receiving a Thanksgiving bag with stuffing & mashed potatoes mix, gravy, a can of green beans, corn, cranberry relish, pumpkin filling and Martin's Famous Pastry dinner rolls compliments of Martin's. A big thank you to all in our congregation who donated in kind items and cash to make this possible.

We look forward to seeing you on December 8th!

**Sue Bodner, Power Pack
coordinator,
Marty Walker, Food Pantry
coordinator**



News from Presbyterian Women



Soup sale fundraiser a success!

Thank you for helping us with our new fundraiser—Happy Valley Soups. At the time of this submission, we are finalizing local orders. We hope to have the soups the week after Thanksgiving. The person with whom you placed your order will contact you. If you ordered online, we hope you received your soups in a timely manner and are enjoying them. Please give our Coordinating Team members your feedback about the product and/or process. This was an initial project and we hope to improve in any way we can. We have been pleased with the company thus far and hope to offer this again in the future.

December Mission Project



Mission is at the heart of what PW is all about.

Again this year we plan to **bake cookies** for the Franklin County Prison Ministry's Christmas Party. Cookies are baked at home and gathered at church to then be taken to the designated location for distribution.



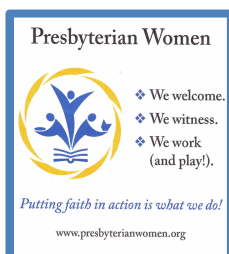
Collection date for the cookies has not yet been established.

Watch for more details in the church bulletin. Please let Linda Fisher know if you are planning to bake cookies. (717)263-0310 Thanks for your help.

We regret to report that the local organization of Church Women United has dissolved, and so we will not have the usual Christmas projects in which to participate. If you know of any that could use our help, please let a member of the Coordinating Team know.



Prayer Shawl Ministry is always in need of crafters' hands and donations to help us purchase the yarn. During the winter months many find time to knit or crochet. If you would like to know more about the requested sizes for our prayer shawls and lap robes, contact Karen Stover for information. This is a year-round ministry and donations to buy yarn are always appreciated.



Coordinating Team Members

Linda Fisher, Sue Mummert, Karen Stover, Marilyn Griffin, Lynne Peters, Becky Fritz, Patricia Phenicie-Grandel, Vicki Kaye, Wanda Hutchings, Judy George, and Lorraine Schwartz. All women of our church are encouraged to participate in any and all of our events.

Welcome New Members!
Beth & Carl Francisco



We (the Franciscos) have a good many close friends that have been worshiping at PCFS for decades or even generations. They are a big part of what initially drew us here to attend special worship services & Bible Studies. We enjoyed repeated & very warm interactions with Dr. Harter at community events when he would always ask about Cricket's participation with the Chambersburg Ballet School & the High School's Drama & Glee Club performances. We were never quite sure how or why he knew who we were & that we were family. We both enjoy PCFS's small group interactions at the womens' & mens' Bible Study groups. Beth really loves performing with the Bell Choir & Carl is often found at the controls for the Facebook Livestream of the Traditional Worship service.

2025 Women's Bible Study Update

The Tuesday evening and Thursday morning women's Bible studies held in the FLC room 203 will be discussing **The Chosen**, season 4 starting on January 7 and 9 respectively. The class will run through May. We invite ladies who are interested in digging deeper into this series to join us. In addition to discussing the episodes, we will also explore the Biblical Roundtables the week after we view the episodes.

Exploring the culture, theology, and content, the participants include a Jewish priest who follows Jesus, a Catholic priest, and an evangelical Bible teacher. Please note that if you have not watched seasons 1-3, it would be helpful to watch those before we begin. To watch seasons 1-3, download **The Chosen** app or view the series on Peacock, Prime, Netflix, or the CW network.

If you have any questions, please contact Renee Sharpe 717-360-4100.

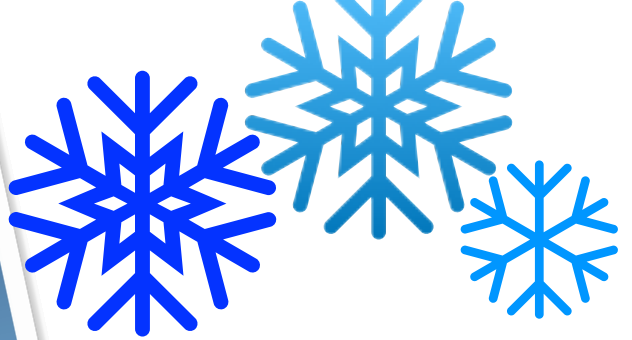
Christmas CAROLING

DECEMBER 18

6:30-8PM



LET'S SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER! MEET IN THE FLC BY 6:30. WE WILL ALL CAROL TOGETHER DOWNTOWN, ENJOY SOME COOKIES AND HOT CHOCOLATE, THEN BREAK INTO SMALLER GROUPS TO CONTINUE SPREADING CHRISTMAS JOY.



Caroling Fun!



Have you signed up for Alpha yet?

Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone's welcome and invited, no matter your background or beliefs. We will meet Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 PM, Jan. 8 to March 26 for a meal, a video, and small group conversations. Registration is now open at pcfallingspring.org or through the QR code below. Please share this invitation with others - all are welcome!



Alpha



POWER PACK - YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Power Pack is a program that helps feed children in the school district on the weekends and holidays. These are children who may not have food at home. Again this year we're hoping to gather food to cover the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Our biggest needs are cans of soup, boxes of oatmeal, and individually packaged fruits. If you would like to donate, drop offs can be made at the church office, at my home (3350 Carnoustie Dr), or contact me (717-729-2017) for a porch pick up. You may also make a monetary donation to PCFS (Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring) by indicating "Power Pack" in the memo. At this time we're packing for 115 kids. The deadline for donations is Friday, December 13. Thanks for your help!!!

Sue Bodner, Power Pack Coordinator



Calling for Additional Greeters and Readers

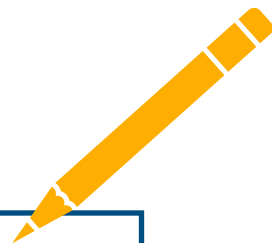
Consider this note to be your invitation! I am asking you or a member of your family to consider being a new Greeter/Usher in one of our three regular services of worship for one or more Sundays in 2025. Training is available for you (It's easy-mostly; you need to be your friendly self.) I am also seeking scripture readers (lectors) for the Family Life Center 10am worship hour. Instruction is also available to help you be comfortable in completing this task.

Our worship experience is made more complete when a greater number of our members take part in service to the Lord. It also allows us to be more familiar with members and visitors that we do not regularly have a chance to greet. A theme that our worship leaders and Session have been emphasizing this year is *connecting*. Please consider doing your part to connect with our friends and neighbors by sharing the Word of God and showing the love of Christ in these positions. As a greeter, you can be *the person* remembered by a visitor that made a warm first impression causing a return visit to our church. To "sign-up" or ask questions, simply email me at dmartzluf@comcast.net or call the church office to let Kory know of your desire. Thank you!

Doug Martzluf, Worship Chair



Congregational Meeting - December 8th



A Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, December 8th 2024 following the 10:00 am services. This meeting will be held in the Family Life Center Gym. Please add this to your calendar and plan to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Elders and Deacons and to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Rev. Dr. Andy Hart.

Thoughts On Safety and Security

We are fortunate to have three services on Sunday, activities on Wednesday, and many other events. We are blessed to have a dedicated team of Safety Shepherds who watch over the events, making sure we are safe. I want to personally thank all of them for their work and dedication.

Let me be frank with you. As we continue to grow, as new programs are proposed, as we desire new ministries, we will need to make sure there are Shepherds in place. I would be sad if we could not have a program because there is not a Shepherd. Please give some serious thought to volunteering. I know that the ministry will work with you to accommodate your busy schedule. Also, know there is general liability coverage as well as specific security operations coverage if something were to happen. We are also checking with Presbytery to see if there are training programs to help our efforts.

We would love to have you! Feel free to talk with one of our volunteers.

~Andy

PCFS SAFETY & SECURITY TEAM

The safety and security team is looking for members that have training in medical areas so that we may build a database of these persons in the event of a medical emergency on our church campus. If you are trained in First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Paramedic, Nurse or Medical Doctor we are very interested in knowing if we can call on you in the event of a medical emergency. This would be **while you are on our campus** and we would not contact you otherwise. If you have these skills and are willing to be added to this database, please contact Jim Albrecht (717) 830-1581 or via email at jalbrecht671@gmail.com with your contact information and your area of training and/or medical expertise.

We are also looking for volunteers that would be willing to become shepherds and there is an additional need for volunteers that are willing to assist our shepherds during emergency situations, like building evacuations, searching for lost members/children, directing people to evacuation meeting areas, and for directing emergency responders to specific locations. If you are interested and willing to support these endeavors, please call or email Jim Albrecht at the contact info above. Thanks!



Help Wanted



THANK YOU to all who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive. This year, we packed a total of 325 shoeboxes. This is our second largest shoebox count on record (336 in 2016). None of this would be possible without you! Thank you to all who packed shoeboxes, donated items to be packed, participated in the t-shirt drive, braided jump ropes, and donated toward the cost of shipping the boxes packed at the packing party. Our Shoeboxes are so much more than just boxes full of toys, hygiene products, clothes, and school supplies. They are boxes full of hope, joy, love, prayers, and Gospel opportunities given as gifts, just as God gave us the gift of his Son, Jesus.



This year's Shoebox Packing Party on October 23rd was a huge success. We packed a record number of boxes, 244. The FLC gym was overflowing with smiling faces, laughter, music, food, fellowship, and shoebox packing. All this would not have been possible without YOU!

Please continue to pray for the shoeboxes and the individuals that will prepare the boxes for their journey. Pray for the individuals that will distribute the boxes to the children and the children who will receive these shoeboxes. May the light of Jesus shine through our shoeboxes, to help a child in need and give them hope, joy and Jesus. Amen

"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' Matthew 25:21

Pam Bucher,
Mission and Outreach Committee

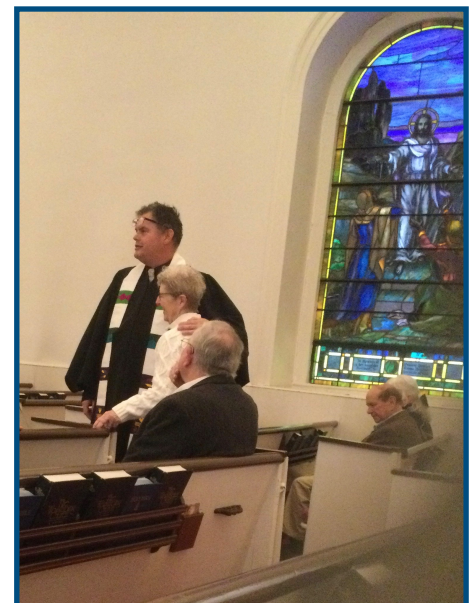


For many years, Barbie Jones guided, directed, and worked tirelessly for the Bell Choir at PCFS. Practices were held on Wednesday Afternoons, we participated in Bellfest, and enhanced worship at the Traditional Service.

Thank you Barbie Jones!

On November 24 at the 10:00 Service, Barbie was honored for her dedication and service. The Ecumenical Bell Choir played three pieces and there was a presentation of a gift. Please join me in thanking her for using her God given talents for the church.

Thank You Barbie for sharing your love of music with us!





SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP 2025



For the full job description & to apply:
www.fallingspringyouth.com/intern

Are you looking for a way to use your gifts this summer while serving God while gaining leadership experience and having tons of fun?



Details:

Dates: June 2nd- August 9th 2025

Hours: 30 hours/week (more the week of camp)

Qualifications: Believe & trust in Jesus , at least 1 year out of high school, Desire to make a difference in the lives of youth & their families, a self-starter, be able to think creatively.

Responsibilities: Regular prayer & planning meetings with the Youth Ministry Director, engage in relational ministry, youth event planning (Sunday school, youth group & other fun events), assist in the planning and running of Camp Falling Spring.

Salary: Stipened of \$3,500 for the summer.

Sign up today!



FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025
Laurelville Retreat Center: Mount Pleasant PA

Do you want a weekend to disconnect so you can connect with God? Do you want to build friendships? If that sounds like something you need in your life and you are in 6th-12th grade we would love to have you join us for this winter retreat!

WORSHIP, FUN & GAMES
MESSAGES FROM MARK VINCENTI

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.fallingspringyouth.com/winter

Immanuel - God with Us

A Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 15, 10 AM in the Sanctuary

We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, as children, youth, adults, brass, praise team, choir, and soloists help us remember the miraculous arrival of the Savior of the world.

Please note: there will be one worship service in the Sanctuary on December 15. The Christmas Celebration service will be followed by a luncheon (ticket required for the luncheon). Read on for more details.



FALLING SPRING CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, FOLLOWING THE
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE.

As we celebrate Jesus, the Savior of the world, get ready to warm up and enjoy homemade soups and breads from around the world.

Share your favorite holiday dessert

Just as the Magi brought gifts to Jesus, you are invited to bring your favorite holiday dessert to share with your church family. You are welcome to add your delicacy to the dessert table in the Family Life Center, anytime after 8:45 AM.

Tickets required

Tickets are required for the luncheon (not for the service). They are \$7 for adults, and \$3 for children 11 and under, and will be available Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings in the Family Life Center Lobby; and in the church office.