

LOVING.
LIVING.
LEARNING.



The Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring

January / February 2025

SERVING + SHARING @ PCFS



When Brad, Erin, Doug, and I envisioned the congregation coming together to celebrate Jesus' birth, we felt excitement at the idea. This would be a way for all of us to be together in our beautiful sanctuary engaging all age groups in worship, praise, prayer, and drama. As the director, I could not have hoped for a better outcome. What a moving worship service leading us to understand God's perfect gift for us, Jesus, our Savior.

Of course, a service of this magnitude cannot be accomplished without the talents and giftedness of people willing to serve. Thank you, Erin Bayko for putting together a truly celebratory collection of music to lift us to the throne of God. The brass, organ, piano, and choir of children, youth, and adults filled our hearts with praise and gratitude. Thanks to the actors who recreated the roles of Magi, Angels, Shepherds, and Mary and Joseph forming a tableau focusing us on the baby Jesus, fully human, born that night. I am thankful for the children leading us in worship singing, "O What a Glorious Night." And a special thank you to Emma Wetherald for not only narrating the story but also conveying the emotions of her words.

Thanks also to our wonderful staff for their hours of labor. I am grateful for Brad's coordination of all the pieces of this service in addition to the navigation of the luncheon afterward and for Bryan and his team creating a delicious meal. Thanks goes to James who put together a beautifully flexible stage which can now be used for other purposes and for Kory who labored with all the office details. I am so grateful for Jenn and Julia who are teaching our children how to worship, and for the beautiful array of costumes created by Lorraine Schwartz.

Surely the Lord's blessing is upon us!

Renee Sharpe

Thank You!



Views From a Hill

Be Refreshed. Refresh the World!

Falling Spring is a beautiful community, with a beautiful campus, a beautiful history, and a beautiful name! Our name, Falling Spring, directs my thoughts to water, but not just any water. LIVING water. In John 7:37-39, Jesus says “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

Be Refreshed. Recently, during prayers in the Chapel, this idea of living water was swirling around in my brain, and it led to two predominant thoughts: 1. Drink deeply, and 2. Stay in the flow.

We drink deeply by enjoying personal time in prayer, worship, and God’s Word. We drink deeply when we join others for worship, Bible studies, small groups, J-Walkers, Tweens, Youth Group, and so on. This time in God’s presence helps us live in the flow of the Holy Spirit and prevents us from trying to create our own current, swim against the current, or leave the current altogether.

Refresh the World. As we drink deeply the living water God offers, we are refreshed to the point of overflowing, and this leads to a natural response: God refreshes others through us! We get to share this living water with others, inviting them into the flow of God’s love. What a beautiful privilege to see this happen again and again in our faith community at Falling Spring!

We may be in a season of change and waiting at Falling Spring, but it is also a season of refreshment! So let’s lift our metaphorical glasses and say “cheers!” to the wonderful year ahead, where we will be refreshed by God so that we can refresh the world!

Much love,
Brad

P.S. During this season of change, please know that the staff, Session, Deacons, and other leaders are diligently praying and working to discern and follow God’s beautiful plan at Falling Spring. We are working to provide excellent consistency in all of our worship services. We hope to see the church grow and thrive as we prepare to welcome a new pastor in the future. The best is yet to come!



FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

January Update:

Alpha Youth Course

On January 8th we kicked off a new year in the youth ministry by starting the Youth Alpha Course. Similar to the adult version of Alpha the youth course walks students through conversations about life, faith and God. We had 22 students that first night and are excited to watch the group continue to grow. Our students are asking deep questions about life and faith. It is great to see the desire that so many of them have to dig beyond the surface level. Over the next month we will talk about Jesus, the Cross, faith and prayer.

Please be praying for our students, and their friends, as we continue to walk through the Alpha course. Feb. 7-9th, 13 of our students and 5 adults will join together with 8 other churches for the Winter Slam retreat. Here is a list of things to be praying for the weekend retreat:

- Speaker Mark Vincenti
- The Band Attaboy
- Safe travels & activities while there
- For God to work in and through lives in ways that we can't even imagine!

Upcoming:

January 22
YOUTH GROUP

January 29
YOUTH GROUP

February 5
YOUTH GROUP

February 7-9
WINTER SLAM

February 12
YOUTH GROUP





SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming to PCFS **June 16-20** from 9am-noon each day!

Open to kids age 3-grade 5. Adults and youth are needed to help throughout the week.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!
-Isaiah 43:18-19

A Note from Miss Jenn:

Happy 2025! A new year has begun. A year full of possibilities. A year full of closing doors and new beginnings. A year that can be whatever we make of it. Our attitude and daily decisions will determine whether 2025 becomes a year of joy and giving or a year of disappointment and regret.

As we start the new year I encourage each of you to spend time with your families discussing what 2025 can look like. What are your family goals and priorities? How do you plan to serve others? What activities are important for your family to be involved in? When we share common goals we can work together to make a big impact on the world around us.

See you soon!

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

2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26: 6:30-7:30, Regular mid-week activities Rm 101 J-Walkers (age 4-grade 2) Rm 103 Tweens (grade 3-grade 5)

2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26: 7:30-8 Joyful Voices Kids' Choir Rm 101

2/16 - Joyful Voices sing at 10am FLC service

3/16 - Tweens Sunday 10am FLC

Adult Discipleship Alpha at Falling Spring

Welcome to life's biggest questions. What a wonderful opportunity to gather together, exploring what the Bible has to say about how our lives and the life of Jesus meet at the beautiful intersection of faith. We have a dedicated team of leaders, who are prayerfully providing food, hospitality, and warm greetings; who are praying fervently and faithfully for Alpha; and who are leading transformational conversations in small groups. Alpha is open, so if you or someone you know would still like to join, you can register at pcfallingspring.org.

Alpha is designed to introduce people to Jesus Christ. Whether hearing about Jesus for the first time, gaining new insights, or re-learning the basics of our faith, you will find a wonderful opportunity at Alpha to grow and take steps of faith. Alpha will continue to be our Wednesday night Adult Ministry offering through March.



Adult Discipleship Opportunities at Falling Spring:

- **Sunday mornings:** Adult studies, 9-9:50. Classes open to anyone.
- **Wednesday nights:** Currently offering Alpha.
- **Small groups** throughout the week.
- Visit pcfallingspring.org/adults for full details.



News from Presbyterian Women



Planning for a New Year

In January, the Coordinating Team met to select events and establish dates for the year. There never seems to be a lack of ideas, but we are challenged in seeking participants. Our special events and designated mission projects must be funded through our own efforts since we do not receive funding from the church budget. We will be evaluating all our activities and planning for changes in 2025. Please consider your participation in PW this year.

Events already on the 2025 calendar:

August 16th Gathering of PW of Carlisle Presbytery at Green Ridge Village

June 6 and 7th PW Synod Regional Gathering in State College

Second Annual Fall fundraiser of Happy Valley Soups

Horizons Bible Study continues the 3rd Monday at 9 AM in Room 205

Providing lunch to House of Grace bimonthly

The Coordinating Team meets the 2nd Friday monthly at 10:30 in Room 208

We will keep you informed of all our events through this monthly publication and the Sunday bulletins, social media, and/or our new Church Center.

Many thanks to all who helped during the year.

Your help was appreciated for...

- dining out with us to support Camp Krislund
- taking lunch to House of Grace
- being "good neighbors" to The Tower residents at an ice cream social
- knitting or crocheting prayer shawls and lap robes
- helping with memorial receptions
- participating in our first fundraiser with Happy Valley Soup Company
- baking Christmas cookies for Prison Ministry Party
- attending Horizons Bible study
- attending PW of Carlisle Presbytery Gathering
- attending the PW of the Synod of the Trinity Gathering in State College.



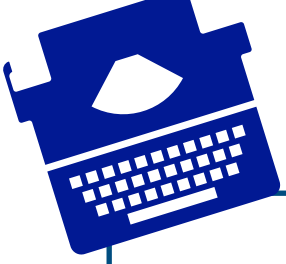
Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes



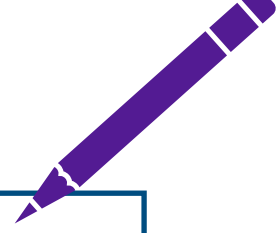
With winter upon us, you may find that you have some time to knit or crochet. We are in need of helpers to make prayer shawls and/or lap robes. We will supply you with the yarn and can give help with the instructions as to the requested size. If you do not knit or crochet, you can still be part of this ministry by donating money to buy the yarn to supply others who do knit. Give Karen Stover, Pat Grandel or Lorraine Schwartz a call for more information and to learn about the prayer shawl ministry.

Please consider joining us in any of our many ventures.

Presbyterian Women is for all women of the church. There are no age limits, no membership requirements. Come and join us; you are part of PW who serves God by ministering within our own congregation and by reaching out to our community, presbytery, and synod, and into the world. Please call or talk to any of the Coordinating Team members: Linda Fisher, Moderator; Sue Mummert, Vice Moderator; Marilyn Griffin, Treasurer; Karen Stover; Pat Phenicie-Grandel; Becky Fritz; Vicki Kaye; Wanda Hutchings; Lorraine Schwartz; Judy George; and Joy Zimmerman, our rep to Nominating Committee 2025.



Congregational Meeting - February 23rd



A Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday February 23rd, 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 for reviewing Church Committee Reports.

CAMP FALLING SPRING JULY 13-18TH

CAMP NURSE NEEDED!

We are in need of a camp nurse this summer. This needs to be someone who is licensed and legally allowed to give medications to students. We are looking for someone who is able to stay overnight at the camp for the week.

If you have questions or are interested in serving in this vital role contact Sam Ray.
sam@pcfallingspring.org or 717-830-0806

MEET YOUR 2025 DEACONS

PCFS Involvement: My family and I started attending PCFS in 2018. My wife, Emily and I aren't from the area and found our church family here after attending a few other local churches. I am active in the praise team at the contemporary service, occasionally sing in the choir or play trumpet at the traditional service, and have recently started helping with community dinner. Emily co-runs the college ministry and is a Wackies leader. Chase (7) is in J-walkers and his sisters Emma (4) and Grace (3) love playing with friends in the nursery!

Best Contact: Call or Text (717) 660-1568. I try to disconnect from 4-7p most days to focus on family time.

Favorite Meeting Places: Historic Texas Lunch (breakfast), Panda Buffet (lunch), and Panera Bread (coffee)

Alex Lemons, Moderator



Kira Wright, Vice Moderator

PCFS Involvement: I've been attending PCFS since I was born. On Sundays, you can find me at the contemporary service, where I am occasionally in the back of the FLC, working at the A/V table. I'm also involved in the Young Adult class on Sunday mornings and our book club on Tuesday evenings, and I help lead the high school girls on Wednesday nights. In 2020, I was the Youth Ministry Intern - COVID Edition, and this summer will be my 13th year at Camp Falling Spring.

Best Contact: Text or Call (717) 491-2422

Favorite Meeting Places: Big Oak Cafe, Omega Coffee Collective, Gearhouse Brewing Company, or anywhere else of your choosing!

PCFS Involvement: My family has been attending PCFS since June 2023. My husband and I lead a couples' ministry, and I attend the Monday night Women's Bible Study. I enjoy Sunday School class each week before the contemporary service. I am so excited to serve as a deacon and continue to connect and support the families at Falling Spring.

Best Contact: (717) 377-1430 Text is the quickest way for me to respond in the moment, but I'm also open to a phone call.

Favorite Meeting Places: I'm always open to try new places, but I love a cup of coffee at Starbucks or something yummy to eat at Gearhouse.



Trish Thomas



PCFS Involvement: I have been involved with PCFS my whole life. I volunteer with the youth program and my wife, Caroline, and I are involved in the Young Adult bible study. I am looking forward to serving as a deacon.

Best Contact: Call or text (717) 809-9107 or email hunterbrindle@gmail.com

Favorite Meeting Places: Texas Lunch, or outdoors for a hike or some lazy fishing

Hunter Brindle

PCFS Involvement: I have been attending Falling Spring since 1990. On Sundays you can find me at the contemporary service. I am involved in Wackies, Camp Falling Spring, and the Young Adult study groups. In 2011 I was your Youth Ministry Intern, and I am notably thankful to now have this opportunity to serve as a Deacon.

Best Contact: Text (717) 377-0525

Favorite Meeting Place: I thoroughly enjoy hanging around the FLC after the contemporary service, so feel free to approach me there!



Courtney Shatzer



Sue Laub

PCFS Involvement: I've attended Falling Spring since I was 5 years old...and that's more years than I want to count! This is my first time serving as a deacon. I have volunteered in the church office, in the food pantry, and most recently by singing in the choir. I attend both 10a Sunday services, so you may see me in the sanctuary or in the FLC. In my spare time, I enjoy teaching English to adults for the Literacy Council.

Best Contact: in order of preference - email me at suebiesue@gmail.com, Call (717) 263-3811 or Text (717) 377-2876

Favorite Meeting Places: Coyle Free Library, Veroni Café, Falafel Shack, & Don Checko's.

PCFS Involvement: I became a member of PCFS in 1979. I like to attend the contemporary service in the FLC and especially enjoy the Praise Band. I serve on the Mission & Outreach committee & look forward to ushering at the contemporary service. I look forward to being able to connect with many of you as a deacon!

Best Contact: Call or Text (717)860-7899

Favorite Meeting Places: My home is always open to church family and I'm happy to go to yours! I also enjoy Big Oak Cafe.



Jan Good



Becky Fritz

PCFS Involvement: I have been a member of PCFS since 2004. On Sundays I will be at the contemporary service in the FLC. I am an active member of the Presbyterian Women, attend the prayer meeting held on Fridays at Ann Thompson's house, and was involved with the food pantry for many years. This is the beginning of of my third year as a deacon and I am eager to to meet many of you.

Best Contact: Home (717) 352-7338 or cell (315) 250-4850

Favorite Meeting Places: Panera Bread or Windy Knoll

PCFS Involvement: My family and I usually attend the contemporary service in the FLC, where I occasionally give the children's message. I am a member of the Mission and Outreach Committee, serving as the Operation Christmas Child coordinator. I'm currently participating in the Monday evening Women's Bible Study - please let me know if you would like more information on this small group. My husband Steve, who is currently serving on Session, and I both work at Shippensburg University. We have two amazing daughters, Hannah and Abby. My family feels very blessed to be part of the Falling Spring family.

Best Contact: Text or call (717) 860-6776 or email psbucher3@gmail.com

Favorite Meeting Place: Anywhere you feel comfortable connecting!



Pam Bucher



PCFS Involvement: I usually attend the 10a traditional service, but I do enjoy going to the contemporary service to see friends and new faces! I was the Camp Falling Spring nurse from 2021-2023. You can also see me in the food pantry on Tuesday mornings.

Best Contact: Email northstar1950@comcast.net or call or text (301) 991-3536

Favorite Meeting Place: Anywhere you would like to connect.

Karen Shoemaker

PCFS Involvement: I've been attending PCFS since 1996. On Sundays, you can find me at the contemporary service in the FLC, and often front row because I have 0% music talent but 100% enjoyment of worshipping God. I'm involved in facilitating the Monday evening Women's Bible Study and participate in a Thursday group as well. Since falling in love with Jesus, I've had a passion to share His love and truth and much of my time has been focused upon youth ministry, where I currently help lead the high school girls. I consider it a privilege to get to know everyone He places before me.

Best Contact: Text (717) 491-5313

Favorite Meeting Place: Anywhere you would like to meet, including activities!



Tracy Lombardozi

The Felders in Kenya

Dear Praying Friends,

It's been a while since our last update. Life has been typically hectic. Amanda and the two younger kids spent the first half of December with her family in Pennsylvania before we all came together in Houston to celebrate Christmas with my parents and my brother's family.

Matthew (19) continues studying computer science as a sophomore at Rice University. He is involved with Intervarsity and the rocket club. Matthew spent the summer shoveling mulch and living with his grandparents in Chambersburg, PA.

Aaron (17) is a junior and shares his brother's interest in computer science. He has just started looking at colleges. Aaron participated in the Kenyan national chess tournament, which included the cross-cultural experience of staying at a boarding school with thousands of other competitors.

Anna (13) is in eighth-grade, played three sports this year (and cringes at her father's voluble exhortations from the bleachers), and was a class officer.

Amanda continues to lead the counseling service at Rift Valley Academy, amongst other duties like sponsoring Anna's class. She benefits from a very collegial relationship with another counselor. Amanda was excited this year that the packing to return to Kenya finished a whole hour before departing for the airport – a new record.

I (**Jon**) continue to balance clinical duties with the work of African Mission Healthcare. This year involved less travel than typical, which was nice. In February, I did go to Uganda to visit the new 45-bed maternity under construction and due to open early next year. My long-time friend and colleague Kenneth Miriti and I were to journey to the Nuba Mountains of Sudan in October, but heavy rains washed out the road. Now I plan to go in February when a team from Kijabe Hospital in Kenya will conduct an AMH-sponsored training program to reduce maternal mortality.

Another highlight (?) was that I vanquished a second bat (picture not shown, but available upon request). This time, we don't know how the critter got into the house. Amanda just saw it flying around downstairs one morning. Our house is next to the forest, the likely source of the uninvited guest. Our hope that it had been chased away was misplaced as it resurfaced that night. After the previous encounter, I knew what was needed:

Hoodie

N95 mask, left over from Covid

My regular armor-plated glasses

Triple gloves, also left over from Covid

Tennis racket

Half bottle of Doom (like Raid)

Rabies boosters for everyone, since we didn't want to take any chances

The rest can be left to your comical imagination. This time, my heart rate achieved only 80% of maximum.

Seriously, rabies is no joke in Kenya. This year I was consulted about two cases at different hospitals (from dogs, not bats).

As always, we are incredibly grateful to our ministry partners who help our family fulfill Christ's calling to serve in Africa. This year marked 20 years on the ground in Africa. We enjoyed visits from supporters and love the opportunity to share about the ministry.

Many blessings for 2025,

Jon, Amanda, Matthew, Aaron and Anna



Information on Receiving Church Emails

Falling Spring has two email lists: Prayer Chain and Weekly Updates. Prayer Chain emails are sent as more emergent requests are received, inviting those on the Prayer Chain to pray. Weekly Updates emails contain weekly announcements, the prayer list, information about upcoming Sunday worship services, and anything else we feel would be helpful for you to know. Anyone can sign up to receive these emails. If you would like to sign up, you can...

- Go to pcfallingspring.org, scroll down the homepage and click "Join the Prayer Chain," "Sign up for weekly updates," or both if you want to be on both lists.
- Go to Church Center (app or web). On the Home tab, click "Join our prayer chain," "Join our email list," or both if you want to be on both lists.

We've received requests from a number of people who signed up, but aren't receiving emails from us. Below are the most likely reasons and their solutions.

PROBLEM: Someone isn't on the email lists because they didn't sign up.

SOLUTION: See the two bullet points above for instructions on how to sign up.

(Please note: Signing up for one does not automatically sign you up for the other. If you want to receive both Prayer Chain and Weekly Updates, you will need to sign up for each one.)

PROBLEM: Someone is on the list, but our emails are going to their junk folder.

SOLUTION: Check your junk/spam/promotions folders. Add brad@pcfallingspring.org to your address book. There are also ways to whitelist @pcfallingspring.org with your email provider (e.g. Gmail).

PROBLEM: Someone used to receive emails, but accidentally clicked the unsubscribe link.

SOLUTION: Go to the [Resources page](#) of our website. Under "Stay Connected," click either/both of the following: "Re-subscribe to Prayer Chain" and/or "Re-subscribe to Weekly Updates."

(Note: We cannot re-subscribe people on our end due to spamming regulations.)

PROBLEM: Someone isn't receiving emails because of an incorrect or old email address.

SOLUTION: Update your email address on Church Center by following the Church Center guide on the [resources page](#) of our website, or by contacting the church office to ensure your email address is correct.



You've got mail...



SESSION

2025

Dana Baker
Sue Bodner
Brian Truesdale
Jodi Wright

2026

Renee Brink
Steve Bucher Jr.
Cheri Kearney
Braden Smith

2027

Carl Francisco
Dave Mummert
Mitch Rosenberger

TRUSTEES

2025

Tom Good
Brian Hanks
Susy Sponseller
Jason Wetherald

2026

James Albrecht
Ed Fisher
Barbara Law
Kory Wengert

2027

Beth Luka
Jamie Santora
Deb Stewart
Chris Stover

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM
Other times available by appointment
717.264.5715
office@pcfallingspring.org
www.pcfallingspring.org

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Erin Bayko-Smith
Sam Ray
Jenn Smith
James Wright
Bryan Lucas
Kelly Witmer
Kory Wengert
Abby Bucher

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