



Views From a Hill

Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the prayers, support, and love for me during my studies and preparation during the process to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder. So many of you prayed for me, asked how things were going, and encouraged God's call on my life. This was incredibly helpful when it felt like the workload was ever-expanding, while my day to day tasks and responsibilities remained. I am grateful to be able to continue serving in this new capacity at Falling Spring.

Firm Foundations

One summer night while working at the beach, one of my roommates came in late from surfing. He leaned his eight-foot surfboard against a two-foot plastic trash can. You can probably guess what happened next—it toppled over, landing on another roommate who was sound asleep! In the heated discussion that followed, the surfer insisted, “There is no logical reason why my board fell over! The trash can should have held it up.”

Of course, he was wrong. Trash cans aren't built to hold surfboards.

That moment makes me think of the ways we sometimes try to lean on things in life that were never meant to support us—success, achievements, acceptance, wealth, etc. They might feel good for a time, but they can't give us the stability we truly need. Only God provides a firm foundation for living to His glory.

That's why, on September 21, we launched a new teaching series: **Firm Foundation—Twelve Core Truths from the Bible**. My prayer is that this series will deepen our knowledge of God and strengthen our obedience to His Word. I'm excited to walk through this journey with you, and I'm confident that God will do great things in and through us as we build our lives on Him.

Much love,

Brad



There are so many ways that we can care for and encourage one another. The Scripture tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”* The Message puts it this way, *“So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you’ll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you’re already doing this; just keep on doing it.”*



From my perspective, I see that many are already doing this within your own groupings of friends or small group attenders. Well done! However, I challenge us to go wider. I challenge you to go wider. Go wider. Expand your view and extend your reach to those you see beyond ‘your circle’ on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. Reach out to those you used to see, but don’t see now. Sometimes it takes just a short call, or text, or email to tell someone you miss them and ask if there is something you can do to help. Can you visit? Can you pick them up for worship? Connection and reconnection starts with you and me.

The months ahead can be especially brutal for folks who are grieving and feeling alone. God puts people on our hearts. I know you have experienced this. I encourage all of us to respond to those promptings. Let’s not wait for someone else to do it, let’s expand our vision, extend our reach, and let all the great people God has gathered at Falling Spring through the years know that they are loved and not alone.

Caring for Our Community: FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Food Pantry at PCFS is seeking donations of the following items for the Thanksgiving bags that are distributed to our clients prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

- ☐ Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- ☐ Boxed Stuffing Mix
- ☐ Gravy Mix Packets
- ☐ Canned Corn
- ☐ Canned Green Beans
- ☐ Canned Pumpkin
- ☐ Canned Cranberry Sauce

Thank you all for your ongoing support of our Food Pantry ministry.

Marty Walker, Coordinator

KIDS' MINISTRY

JOIN US

10/8, 10/15, 10/22:
6:30-7:30 J-Walkers & Tweens
7:30-8 Joyful Voices

10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26:
9-9:50 Sunday School

Upcoming Events

10/29: Trunk or Treat
11/2: OCC Packing Party after
10am service
12/14: Christmas Celebration
Service

WHAT WE ARE LEARNNING

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Rockette the flying squirrel will help us learn about the Israelites and the promised land

J-WALKERS: We will use Biblical stories and real life examples to learn about building Christian character.

TWEENS: Become a detective as we investigate the truth about Jesus.

J-WALKERS

Room 101: Age 4 - Grade 2

TWEENS

Room 103: Grade 3 - Grade 5

JOYFUL VOICES

Room 101: Age 4 - Grade 5



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. -Joshua 1:9



FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

October Update:

A Full Room...

Since the end of July, every Sunday morning at 9am the youth room has been full of youth! We are celebrating a growing youth Sunday school class. On average there have been 10 youth gathering Sunday morning before service to dive into the book of Matthew. We have had conversations about Jesus, His teachings and how they apply to our lives today.

It's a beautiful thing to sit in a room of teenagers who are asking great questions about what it means to live the lives that Jesus calls us to. Witnessing them encouraging and supporting each other as they seek to know God's word more is a gift.

The youth ministry has also been blessed this fall to welcome many new youth to our Wednesday evening youth group! Each week we have had anywhere from 2-6 youth who were joining us for the first time. Our youth are embracing the mission of inviting their friends into the community of Falling Spring Youth Ministry.

We are excited to host our first Youth Prayer & Praise Night on October 8th from 6:30-8pm in the FLC! A great group of adults & students will be leading worship. And there will be time for youth to engage with prayer stations focused on being connected to God's word, the church, our community & God.

I would love to have you join us in praying for the youth ministry. Below are specific ways to pray:

- Youth to have a growing desire to dig into God's word
- Youth to continue to invite their friends to church

Thank-you for joining us in supporting and praying for our youth!

Blessings,
Sam Ray

Upcoming:

October 8th
PRAYER & PRAISE NIGHT

October 15 & 22nd
YOUTH GROUP

October 29th
TRUNK OR TREAT



Youth Serving at NETwork Ministries on September 27th



News from Presbyterian Women



Women's Thank Offering Service

November 9th is the date for the 2025 annual service. We have acquired our guest speaker, Beth Fine, a CRE candidate from Camp Hill, who will speak at all three services. Judy George is planning the service in conjunction with Brad Hill and she will be looking for a few women to take part in the Minute-for-Mission on November 2, liturgists, and ushers. If you would like to participate, contact Judy George.



Waiting for our Soup Sale?

We have plans to sell the Happy Valley Soups again this year but will schedule the sale for January after the busy holidays. We had great success last year and have received many positive comments, so look forward to January to place your orders through PW.

Hoss's Community Event in early November

This fall the fundraising event will support our own local Power Pack project. This mission under the guidance of Sue Bodner provides food to the students at Stevens Elementary School. We wanted to show our support for this project. We hope you will join us for lunch or dinner on the date which we will be assigned very soon. This is a heads-up about the event. Look for details in the church bulletin.



Come join the Horizons' Bible study

A group of women meets **the third Monday of each month** from September through May for Bible study. They use the award-winning Horizons material published annually. For 2025-26 the **Bible study is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter.** New members are always welcome. We will meet on Monday, Oct. 20th at 9:00 in Room 205. Contact Sue Mummert for more information.



The members of the Coordinating Team are Linda Fisher, Sue Mummert, Karen Stover, Marilyn Griffin, Pat Phenicie-Grandel, Becky Fritz, Vicki Kaye, Wanda Hutchings, Judy George, Lorraine Schwartz, and Joy Zimmerman.

Update From Your Pastoral Nominating Committee

On August 24, 2025, your PNC (Pastoral Nominating Committee) was authorized by the congregation to begin the process of calling a new Pastor to the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring.

Your committee consists of the following people:

Doug Martzluf, Chair

Elise Overcash

Chris Lombardozzi, Vice-Chair

Jane Morgan

Hunter Brindle, Scribe

Kim Baker, Alternate

Cale Jones, Communications Director

John Brink, Alternate

William Happel, Finance Liaison

Members of the committee have met on 8/25, 9/2, 9/4, 9/8, and 9/15, to create the information to help “call” pastoral candidates from the database of candidates within our denomination. Being “called” to a location does not just mean employed in a job. Rather, it implies that the applicant uses their discernment, guided by the Holy Spirit, to consider where the Kingdom of God may be strengthened by their spiritual gifts.

Our first step in this process is to complete a Ministerial Discernment Profile (MDP). This includes information about the church and congregation, duties and desired traits of a prospective Head Pastor, and narrative responses about the ministries of this church. At the time of this update, we are completing the draft of our MDP, which then will be approved by our session and the Carlisle Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry. It may then appear in the database to be viewed by and matched with prospective candidates.

Know that we are prayerfully completing each step in this endeavor. We also rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us in this process. We solicit your prayers that the right pastor for our congregation will be “called”. Also, please pray for us, your PNC. It will truly make a difference! We are open to general questions that do not breach any confidentiality that is required. We hope that you will understand that we cannot discuss many details of our work such as specific information in the MDP, dates, or names of prospective candidates.

It is our goal that we will report in person to the congregation in person every 6 weeks over the coming months. Thank you in advance for your patience as we represent you, our friends and family of faith.

Doug Martzluf, Chair



It's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox time again!

You have the opportunity to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox drive again this year. The process of packing, praying, and giving an OCC shoebox is a very special way of introducing the love of Jesus to the children of the world.

Please support OCC again this year by packing shoeboxes. Shoeboxes are available throughout the FLC, Sanctuary, and church office.

Filled shoeboxes can be dropped off at the church through 11/16/2025!

Packing a shoebox could not be easier:

- **OCC shoeboxes are available at the church, or you can use a standard size shoebox from home.** All the boxes at the church come with a gift suggestion list and a shoebox label. This label contains a QR code, which can be activated with your smart phone, plus you can pay the \$10 shipping donation online or you can place a \$10 check for the shipping donation on top of your items inside your box. Shipping donation checks should be made payable to Samaritans Purse.

- **Save the Date! Shoebox Packing Party**

When: Sunday, November 2, 2025

Time: 11 AM following the 10 AM Worship Services

Where: Family Life Center room 107/108

Lunch: Following the packing party in the gym. Menu - Pizza, Salad, and Dessert

We hope you are able to join us for this church wide mission and fellowship event. All are invited! **Donations of small stuffed animals, toys, school supplies, hats, gloves, hygiene items (non-liquid, no toothpaste or soap), balls, games would be appreciated.** Donation bins are located in FLC, back of Sanctuary, and Church office.

- **Amazon Wish List:** Scan the QR code to shop the PCFS OCC Amazon Wish List. This is an easy way to donate shoebox items for the November 2 packing party. Remember to order your items so they arrive in time for the packing party.



- **You can find great deals on OCC gifts at the Shoebox Supply House.** You can even pack your own shoeboxes at the Supply House or have them pack a box or two for you. The Shoebox Supply House has its own website: <http://shooboxsupplyhouse.com/> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ShoeboxSupplyHouse>. They are located at 709 Marden Ave. Shippensburg, PA 17257. Check out their website for hours of operation and price list. They have the best prices on shoebox items around!
- We are also accepting donations of t-shirts and long-sleeved cotton shirts to repurpose into jump ropes. The shirts can be placed in the OCC donation box in the lobby of the FLC. Here is a YouTube video on how to turn t-shirts into jump ropes, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPZxe6xD3Nw&t=225s>.

In 2024, we packed 244 shoeboxes at the packing party and as a church we packed a total of 325 shoeboxes last year. Can we pack that many this year???

If you have questions regarding this year's Falling Spring OCC Shoebox drive or would like to make a monetary donation toward purchasing items to be packed at our November 2nd packing party, contact Pam Bucher at psbucher3@gmail.com or call 717-860-6776.

Thank you for your continued support of OCC!

Pam Bucher,

Mission and Outreach Committee

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"

Mark 16:15

Coming in November!!!

Food Fun

Fellowship



Progressive Dinner

Saturday, November 15

5 pm

Appetizers

6:15 pm

Main Meal

Contact Renee Sharpe at
reneesharpe789@gmail.com
if you would like to host

8 pm

Dessert

AT the church with music
by DJ James Wright


Cost is \$25/person

Deadline to sign up is October 26

Childcare provided at the church. The kids
will receive pizza for dinner.




Connect with your church family over a meal! Join us for a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, November 15 starting at 5:00pm. The cost is \$25 per person. Sign up sheets are located in the FLC, the Chapel, and the Sanctuary. You must sign up by **October 26**. If you are interested in hosting the main course, please see or contact Renee Sharpe at reneesharpe789@gmail.com or call 717-360-4100.



November Newsletter Deadline

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER
NEWSLETTER IS MONDAY MORNING
OCTOBER 20TH. PLEASE SUBMIT ALL
INFORMATION TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.
EMAIL: OFFICE@PCFALLINGSRING.ORG



The **Nominating Committee** is seeking candidates for the offices of Elder (Session) and Deacon for the term beginning January 1, 2026.

If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for either of these offices, if you are interested in serving, or if you have any questions regarding the job responsibilities please contact any of the Nominating Committee members or Carl Francisco (Chair) with your suggestions.

Carl's contact info:

carl.p.fran@gmail.com,
Cell Phone 717-377-9536.

