

Join with us as we sing
"Christmastime" by Michael W. Smith
in the Christmas Celebration!

Children and Adult singers are needed for this fun and festive song to ring in the Christmas Celebration!



Rehearsals will be held in the Choir Room after the conclusion of the 10:00 services.

Rehearsals: November 30 and December 7 from 11:15-11:45 AM

Service: Christmas Celebration Service on December 14th 10:00 AM

Warm up, rehearsal, and soundcheck: 8:45 AM in sanctuary

Christmas Celebration Service: 10:00 AM in sanctuary

Questions? Contact Erin S. Bayko

Let's gather around the warmth of the Christmas season and fill the air with joyous melodies!



Bring your family and friends (children and adults) to join us as we prepare music for this year's PCFS Christmas Celebration



Views From a Hill

Every December, our hearts are drawn toward home. We decorate our living rooms, hang stockings, and set extra places at our tables for loved ones who come home for Christmas. There's something deep within us that longs for the warmth, belonging, and peace that the word home represents.

It's no accident that this longing is stirred most deeply during the season when we celebrate the Incarnation — the moment when the eternal Son of God left His heavenly home for His earthly home. John says it this way: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us" (John 1:14). The Greek word for "dwelling" literally means "to pitch a tent" or "to tabernacle." In a surprising and marvelous act, God moved into our neighborhood.

What a wonder! The One who spoke galaxies into being chose to be born in a borrowed stable, to rest on straw instead of a throne. The Son left His home so that we might one day find ours.

In Jesus, God made His home on earth — not in splendor or power, but in humility and love. He stepped into our world of cold nights and crowded inns, of joy and sorrow, of laughter and loss.

Thankfully, the story doesn't end in Bethlehem. The wonder of Christmas reaches all the way to the present. Jesus promised, "If anyone loves Me... My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23). The God who once dwelled in a manger now dwells in the hearts of all who believe.

One day, the story will come full circle. Near the end of the book of Revelation, we find a promise: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.'" (Revelation 21:3). Home, at last. No more goodbyes, no more distance, no more longing — just the eternal joy of being with God, forever at home.

So this December, as you hang lights, bake cookies, and welcome those who walk through your door, remember the deeper story these traditions tell. The Son left His home to bring us home. The cradle leads to the cross, the cross to the empty tomb, and the empty tomb to an open door — the door of God's eternal home.

May your heart be warmed this Christmas by the One who still whispers, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." And may you know the peace and wonder of being truly home in Him.

Much love,

Brad



Words of Care from Rev. Meagan

The stores are full of Christmas decorations, commercials are already portraying happy children around a sparkling tree, and Christmas music is playing nonstop wherever you go. There is such anticipation about December 25th and the days surrounding it. Whether that anticipation is about how wonderful you hope it all will be, or whether that anticipation is fraught with anxious thoughts about how you will make it through, anticipation about Christmas has arrived.

I feel certain that everyone reading these words knows that Christmas is not about decorations, sparkling trees, or just the right Christmas music. We all know that Christmas is all about Jesus. At Christmas we fall on our knees in gratitude for his coming to earth to save us. We give gifts to one another as a way of thanking God for the joy and the gift of Jesus. We find just the right gift for a dear friend to let them know the gift their friendship is to us. We anticipate the moment that we can give it to them as an expression of our love and gratitude to God for bringing them into our lives. Christmas is a time to express our love for God and our love for one another.

But the Christmas season can be complicated, too. It brings up memories filled with family and friends who have died, and memories of gatherings that no longer happen. Grief can be magnified at Christmas just the same as joy is magnified. Let's be extra sensitive to one another in these hard months. Let's give space to hold each other's joy and sadness. With hope in our hearts, let's sing with fullness of heart and mind the carols that beautifully tell the story of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ. Let's open our eyes to ways we can reach out intentionally to provide comfort and help. Yes, Christmas can be complicated. Yet, it can be singularly, peacefully simple because it is all about the birth of Jesus.

Whether your Christmas celebration is small or large, whether your house is quiet or chaotic, Jesus is there. He is Immanuel. He is 'God with us.' He is 'God with you.' Carry that truth wherever God sends you. Repeat it out loud when you feel unsettled, unsure, stressed, or sad. Jesus is with me. Take a breath. Jesus is with me. Take another breath. Jesus is with me. Thanks be to God.

*Fully God and fully man, he comes for all with open hands.
He rules with love on David's throne,
all praise belongs to Christ alone.
Oh, hear the angel voices sing "Come, let us adore Him."
Peace has come, for our King is with us.*

(Hillsong Worship, 2014. Peace Has Come)

✱ **Worship in December**

At Falling Spring this December, we anticipate a month filled with joy, expectation, and worship. Each Sunday offers a unique opportunity to gather as a church family, lift our hearts to the Lord, welcome new friends, and trust God to do far more than we could imagine. As a church, let's plan to be part of these worshipful gatherings.

December 7 – Firm Foundation Finale

We conclude our Firm Foundation series with a message on Future Hope: Jesus' Return and Eternal Kingdom. Come ready to celebrate the promise that, just as Christ came on that first Christmas, He will come again and make all things new.

December 14 – Christmas Celebration Service (A.C.T.S. Sunday)

This beloved tradition brings people of all ages together to tell the story of Christmas, highlighted this year by a special presentation of our pageant: "The Lamb." We will sing carols, enjoy special music from the Joyful Voices, and lift our voices together in an all-church Christmas choir—everyone is invited! (If you would like to sing in the choir, please contact Erin Bayko.) On this Sunday, we will gather for one A.C.T.S. service, 10 AM in the Sanctuary, as we celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth.

December 21 – The Sunday Before Christmas

What better way to prepare for Christmas than to worship together as a church family? Join us as we celebrate Jesus—Immanuel, God with us—and reflect on the wonder of His coming.

December 24 – Christmas Eve at Falling Spring

We invite you to two beautiful candle lighting services: 4:30 PM in the Family Life Center (Brad Hill preaching) and 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary (Rev. Meagan Boozer preaching). Come celebrate the holy night when Christ was born.

December 28 – Final Sunday of 2025

Let's finish the year strong with a joyful and worshipful final Sunday together. Come expecting God to meet us as we gather in His name.

✱ **New Adult Sunday School Class Offered**

Have you ever wondered why God allows suffering and evil? Or how to really know Him personally? Maybe you've asked yourself if there is a "right" way to pray or the best way to read and understand the Bible. If you've ever found yourself wondering about these things or simply want to grow deeper in your faith, consider joining the "Firm Foundation" class led by Chelsea Bennett, Ben and JK Landon for Coffee & Conversation on Sunday mornings at 9 AM in Room 107. We dig into real-life questions about faith, talk about what it means to live as Christians in our everyday life, and encourage each other as we grow closer to God. No matter where you are in your faith journey, you're welcome here!

KIDS' MINISTRY

JOIN US

12/3, 12/10:

6:30-7:30 J-Walkers & Tweens

7:30-8 Joyful Voices

12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28:

9-9:50 Sunday School

Upcoming Events

12/10: Wednesday evening
Christmas parties

12/14: Christmas Celebration
Service

12/17: Church-wide event:
Christmas Caroling

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We will be learning about Christmas! We will also be making special pictures and letters for our pen pals in Zambia.

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



Joyful Voices



J-Walkers

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find the baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.

-Luke 2:11&12



FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

December Update:

November in the youth ministry was filled with packing care packages to send to college students, packing OCC shoeboxes, playing glow-in-the-dark volleyball, and a middle school pizza and bowling event! We also wrapped up our series, SIFT, which focused on worldview, apologetics, theology & identity while working through 2 Peter.

December kicks off with our annual Generosity Conspiracy night! Students will get into groups with adults and go around collecting \$\$ while discerning how God wants them to use that money to bless others. Be praying that God will really work through our youth ministry to bless our community that night! If you would like to make a cash donation that will be given directly to someone in the community, talk to me about getting your address on our list of houses that groups can visit to get cash that night, or plan on being present at the church that night as students will start by collecting from those at the church before heading out.

God is working in mighty ways to transform the lives of our students and those around them. Thank you for praying for the youth ministry.

Blessings,
Sam Ray

Upcoming:

December 3rd

GENEROSITY CONSPIRACY

December 10th

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 17th

ALL CHURCH CAROLING
& COCOA

JANUARY 7TH

YOUTH GROUP



Upcoming Congregational Life Events

Caroling & Hot Chocolate, Wednesday, December 17th, 6:30 PM

Please join us for Caroling on December 17, 6:30-8:30. We will begin at the church, and travel via bus to shut-ins to raise our singing voices. After caroling, we will return to the church to enjoy hot chocolate and sweet treats.

Post Holiday Church Gathering, Sunday, January 11th, 11:30 AM

Sunday, January 11, 11:30. We will celebrate as a congregation with an after-Christmas gathering. Tickets will begin to be sold in December. More details TBA.

Food Pantry Update

On November 18, our Food Pantry gave out 90 vouchers for small turkeys or turkey breasts to be redeemed at Weis Market. On November 25, clients were given sides of corn, green beans, pumpkin mix, cranberry sauce, mixes of mashed potatoes, stuffing, and gravy. Martin's Pastry donated 90 packs of dinner rolls and will also make a \$225 donation. The local Boy Scouts donated 15 boxes of non-perishable food, and the Franklin Fire Company on West King Street donated 3 boxes of canned goods. These donations of food, coupled with cash donations from our congregants, really helped to increase our inventory when we faced high demand due to the funding disruptions for SNAP and WIC benefits.

We are very grateful for the in-kind food and cash donations from our congregation that enable us to help meet the food insecurity of our Franklin County low-income families.

Thank You! Marty Walker, Coordinator

Power Pack Help Is Needed!

Power Pack is a program that helps feed children in the Chambersburg school district on the weekends and holidays. These are children who may not have food at home. Again this year, we are hoping to gather food to cover the two-week Christmas break. 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 (please mark the bag or box with “**Power Pack**”) or contact me at 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 100 kids. The deadline for donations is Friday, December 12. Thanks for your help!!!

Christmas blessings to all of you,

Sue Bodner



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the crew at 221 North Main Street. May you experience the wonder and promise of this blessed Christmas season.

We are looking forward with excited anticipation to celebrating, serving & worshipping with you in 2026.

In preparation for the new year please note that the first Newsletter of 2026 will be a combined January/February edition to be distributed mid-January. The deadline for items to be included in this edition is January 5th, 2026. Please email your submissions to Kory at office@pcfallofingpring.org.

Thanks and have a blessed holiday season.



SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP 2026



Scan for the full description and to apply!

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 1st- August 7th 2026

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, 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: Stipend of \$3,500 for the summer.



News from Presbyterian Women



This December we are again joining with community churches to bake **HOME-MADE COOKIES** for the **Franklin County Jail Ministry's Christmas Party**. If you are able to help by volunteering to bake cookies, please let Linda Fisher (717-263-0310) know to add your name to our list. Cookies need to be **delivered to the FLC kitchen by Friday, Dec. 12th by 10:00 AM** when they will be taken to the collection point where they will be individually bagged. The Chaplain and his team will deliver a bag of cookies to each inmate.

Looking ahead—January Soup Sale



Presbyterian Women will hold a fundraiser through **Happy Valley Soup Company** again this year. Perhaps you purchased some of these dry soup mixes from us last year. This year there are **16 different soups** to purchase through online sales, or local/direct sales from any of the Coordinating Team members.

The soup sale will be held in January.

Flyers with a **QR code for online sales** will be made **available after Christmas**. Please be sure to order from the specific site for our fundraiser, and not directly with the company in January. PW Coordinating Team members will have flyers to show the different soups available and will be **taking local orders** for the soup sale. We will see that your local orders are **delivered to you**.

****The price is now \$9.50 each.**



2025 OCC Shoebox Drive Was a Record Year!!!

This year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive is truly one for the record books. As of Sunday, November 16th, you packed a total of **355 shoeboxes**, which is the most we have ever sent! That's **355 Gospel opportunities for Jesus!**

Not only is this our highest total ever, but at our packing party on November 2nd, you packed an incredible **325 boxes**, setting yet another record!

None of this would have been possible without you. Thank you to everyone who packed shoeboxes, donated items, provided t-shirts to be turned into jump ropes, braided jump ropes, contributed toward the shoebox shipping costs, and helped with the packing party!

Our shoeboxes are so much more than boxes filled with toys, hygiene products, clothes, and school supplies—they are gifts filled with hope, joy, love, prayers, and Gospel opportunities, given just as God gave us the gift of His Son, Jesus.

Now the only thing left to do is **PRAY**. Please pray for the shoeboxes and for everyone who will handle them, as they begin their journey to over 100 countries around the world and are delivered into the arms of children. May the light of Jesus shine through these gifts, bringing hope, joy, and His love to every child who opens one.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive a great success!

"Well done, my good and faithful servant... Let's celebrate together!"

— *Matthew 25:21*

Pam Bucher, Mission and Outreach Committee

PNC Update for December

Dear friends:

Your PNC (Pastoral Nominating Committee) has been meeting twice a week, guided by the Spirit, to work towards a successful candidate selection. We are continuing to carefully examine profiles from applicants. Initial contacts with several pastors using Zoom technology for "meet and greet" virtual gatherings are taking place. We hope that this and other updates are helpful, whether from the Newsletter or from worship time personal appearances by PNC members. If you have any questions that you wish to bring to the committee, please call my cell number listed below. Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we advance in this process.

Doug Martzluf PNC Chairperson 717-816-1881

Session Update

Session met on November 3, with Pastor Ed Blank moderating the meeting.

Session approved the following:

- The removal of the manse as a housing option for a new pastor. Preliminary inspections proved too costly and too extensive. This also partners with a trend of seminary graduates preferring a housing allowance in order to build home equity, and to live off-site of the church property in order to better define work/life boundaries.

Other information from session:

- The Church Operation Manual is being updated.
- Congregation tithing throughout the year has been both loving and generous. This has kept our budget in balance and helps us prepare to welcome a new pastor.

We congratulate and send our blessings to Reverend Scott Stolte on his calling and ordination with the Lamington Presbyterian Church in Bedminster, NJ. Not only were Scott and his wife Laura part of our Falling Spring family, he was under the care of our congregation during his seminary journey. We wish the Stolte family all the best.

“God’s call is a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace.” (2 Timothy 19)

Enjoy the blessings designed just for you this day,

Cheri Kearney

Clerk of Session

ckearney4@comcast.net

6TH - 12TH GRADE

WINTER SLAM

FEBRUARY 6-8, 2026

Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt Pleasant PA

COST \$125

**WORSHIP. GAMES. FRIENDS. FOOD.
TEACHING FROM THE BIBLE.**

