



Views From a Hill

Uncluttered: Clearing Space for Fruitful Living

A new year has a way of stirring mixed emotions. For some, January feels like a clean slate - fresh calendars, new possibilities, renewed energy. For others, it feels heavy. The pace of life hasn't slowed, the world still feels uncertain, and the things we carried out of last year are quietly following us into this one.

As we begin 2026 together, our upcoming sermon series, **Uncluttered: Clearing Space for Fruitful Living**, is an invitation to start the year with honesty, purpose, and hope. Rather than rushing to add more goals, more commitments, or more pressure, this series asks a different question: What might God be inviting us to let go of so that something new can grow?

Jesus often used ordinary, everyday images to speak about deep spiritual truths. In that same spirit, this series will explore familiar spaces and objects - things we all understand - to help us reflect on our lives with clarity and grace.

We'll begin with the backpack, naming the visible and invisible burdens we carry into a new year. Many of us are walking with responsibilities we must bear, but also with unnecessary weight - old regrets, unresolved pain, unrealistic expectations. Scripture reminds us that God invites us to travel lighter, trusting Christ to carry what we cannot.

From there, we'll open the closet, looking honestly at what no longer fits - old patterns, fears, habits, or identities that no longer reflect who we are in Christ. This is not about shame or self-criticism, but about grace-filled renewal as we "put off" what belongs to the past and "put on" the life God is forming within us.

As clutter is cleared, space opens. At the table, we'll reflect on community, hospitality, and belonging. God forms us not in isolation, but through shared life - making room for one another, even when life feels busy or imperfect.

We'll then turn to the calendar, reclaiming time as a gift rather than a tyrant. In a culture that celebrates busyness, Scripture invites us into rhythms of wisdom, rest, and purpose - trusting that fruitfulness comes not from doing more, but from abiding more deeply in Christ.

Our attention will also turn to the heart and the wallet, exploring how generosity and faithful stewardship can increase our trust in God. Jesus taught that where our treasure is, our heart follows. Learning to live with open hands can free us from fear and reorient us toward God's abundance.

As the series moves forward, we'll step onto the road, acknowledging that much about the year ahead remains unknown. Faith, after all, is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1)

Finally, we'll arrive in the garden, a hopeful image of new beginnings. With space cleared and soil prepared, we trust God to bring the growth. Fruitfulness is ultimately God's work, nurtured by our willingness to abide, tend, and wait with hope.

My prayer is for this series to meet you exactly where you are - whether hopeful or overwhelmed, eager or weary - and offer a way to begin the year not with pressure, but with promise. May we discover together that when we make room for God, new life has a way of taking root. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2026!

Much love,

Brad

Worship, Study and Connection at Falling Spring

Check out these opportunities to Gather, Learn and be Refreshed in Spirit.

January & February Worship Schedule:

- Jan. 4: Epiphany Sunday. *Communion at all services.*
- Jan. 11: The Backpack: What We Carry Into a New Year
- Jan. 18: The Closet: Clearing Out What No Longer Fits
- Jan. 25: The Table: Rebuilding Community and Connection
- Feb. 1: The Calendar: Ordering Our Days with Wisdom. *Communion at 8 AM Contemplative service.*
- Feb. 8: The Heart & the Wallet: What We Treasure
- Feb. 15: The Road: Walking Into the Year with Faith
- Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday service, *7 PM in the Chapel.*
- Feb. 22: The Garden: Planting New Beginnings. *Communion at all services. New member reception at 10 AM.*

Falling Spring Membership Class

Would you like to join Falling Spring Church? Even if you are “on the fence,” feel free to attend the first session to learn more about our church and the membership journey. Church is more than an organization we join - it’s a family! By grace we are God’s children, and that makes us family - brothers and sisters placed in a household called the Church. Becoming a member of Falling Spring is not about putting our names in a book; it’s about relationships and partnering more fully in the work God is doing here and beyond. Sessions will take place in the Library (Rm. 106), and childcare is available. Here is the schedule:

- Jan. 25, 9:00 - 9:50: Getting to know one another and Falling Spring.
- Feb. 1: 9:00 - 9:50: How to Get Plugged In.
- Feb. 8: 9:00 - 9:50: Questions, History of PCFS, and Church Structure.
- Feb. 15, 9:00 - 9:50: Meet with the Elders and Deacons.
- Feb. 22, 10 AM - New member reception during the 10 AM service.

To register for the membership class, visit pcfallingspring.org/membership or scan the QR code below.



Words of Care from Rev. Meagan

On December 16th, at the age of 99 ¾, Edith Lindsell went ahead of us into Heaven. Edie was cared for at Brookview Health Care Center at Menno Haven for the last several months of her life. She was able to attend Bible studies there and was so appreciative when we would share communion together. For over 60 years Edie worked in the library field and shared her skills and gifts as we set up the library in the FLC. She also served the church as an elder. Thank you to everyone who visited Edie over the years. Your prayers for Edie's daughter Joan and family are cherished. A private graveside service will be held in the early spring in Gettysburg. Memorial contributions may be made to the Menno Village Benevolent Fund or to the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring.

None of us know the day when God will call us home to Heaven. We do not know if we will still be here at the end of the hour, the day, the month, or the year. We do not know if we will live 99 years like Edie, but we do know that we are still living right now. How are we making the most of the time God has given us?

Some may be reading this and thinking, "I'm too old to do anything but just make it through the day." "I'm too busy to do anything but just make it through the day." "I'm too tired, too distracted, too sick, too messed up, too sad, etc." I hear you. I do. And yet, these are the people God often chooses to do extraordinary, impactful things for his kingdom. We are the people God chooses to shine his light, to visit the sick, pray for the church, for the community, for the world; we are the people God chooses to speak kind words in a tense moment, to make a phone call to check in, to make a donation of food, or funds, or time, or whatever God has given you to share with others.

Thank you to so many who help to care for the PCFS church family through your gifts of teaching & leading children, youth, & adults, music, safety/security shepherds, worship planning, hospitality, prayer, administration, property management, visits with the sick or lonely, tech support, etc. Thank you! May God show us ways we can be serving him no matter our circumstances, no matter our age or address. Every day is a gift from God. Let's choose to make our days count for Christ.

With love and prayers,
Rev. Meagan



★ Welcome to the World, ★
Shepard James Hickey! ★

Shepard is the son of MacKenzie & Ryan Hickey, brother of Blair and Liam, and grandson of Renee & John Brink.

Shepard was born on November 18th, 2025.

Congratulations!



FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

January February Update:

A new year always brings new goals, new hopes, and new schedules. There are many amazing things scheduled for 2026 in the Falling Spring Youth Ministry! In the coming months we have fun events to focus on community and building relationships, service events to focus on serving like Jesus to those in need, and opportunities to learn from the Bible at youth group and Sunday School.

The first weekend of February we will join together with 10 other local churches and head to Mount Pleasant, PA for our annual Winter Slam Retreat! We have seen God work through this retreat in many ways over the years and are excited to see that happen again. Please be praying for the students and leaders from PCFS, as well as other churches, that will be a part of this weekend. Specifically we are praying for safe travels, spirit-filled worship, speaker Adam Keath, and that hearts will be transformed!

Be sure to check the church league basketball schedule and catch a game before the season ends!

Blessings,
Sam Ray



WWW.FALLINGSPRINGYOUTH.COM



Upcoming:

January Youth Group
7TH, 14TH, 21ST, 28TH

February Youth Group
4TH, 11TH, 25TH

Winter Slam Retreat
FEBRUARY 6-8TH

Serve Saturday
FEBRUARY 21ST



KIDS' MINISTRY

JOIN US

1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/25:
6:30-7:30 J-Walkers & Tweens
7:30-8 Joyful Voices

1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22:
9-9:50 Sunday School

Upcoming Events

2/18: Ash Wednesday
3/15: Tweens Sunday and
Spaghetti lunch fundraiser
4/1: Easter Celebration and Egg
Hunt

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Bible buddies Moe the sloth and Amanda the red panda will help us learn about some important leaders from the Old Testament.

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. We will also start planning for Tweens Sunday.

J-WALKERS

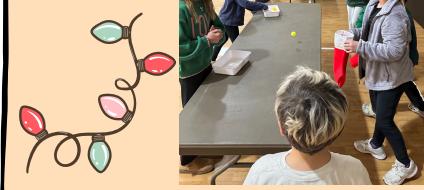
Room 101: Age 4 - Grade 2

TWEENS

Room 103: Grade 3 - Grade 5

JOYFUL VOICES

Room 101: Age 4 - Grade 5



Christmas
Fun

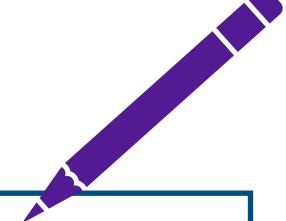
BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. -Psalm 145:8

Jenn Smith, Director of Children's Ministry
pcfkids@pcffallingspring.org



Congregational Meeting - February 8th



A Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday February 8, 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 the 2025 Church Committee Annual Reports.

Food Pantry Update



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! The Food Pantry has been the recipient of over \$25,000 in donations from our congregants and other non-members. In fact, \$4000 of this came from anonymous, non-member donors in November. Earlier in the year, \$3500 was given by the family of our longtime volunteer Liane Clever. We are so blessed with cash on hand that we will not take our final \$2500 budgeted allocation from Mission and Outreach Committee for December.

We will of course have December expenses to pay, but at this point in early December we project that we will end the year with a nice balance (\$7000?) to start 2026.

November was a busy month with our distribution of turkeys and turkey breasts to 90 households. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving we distributed bags of Thanksgiving sides to 103 households. A new record high for the year. In November alone we had 342 returning households and 31 new registrations. This can probably be attributed to the government shutdown and the delay in receipt of SNAP benefits for many of our clients.

A full summary of our income, expenses and household numbers will be available in the new year.

Our loyal core of volunteers are **awesome**: Mike Breslin, David Finch, Vicki Kaye, Jane Morgan, LouAnn and Bill Myers, Elise Overcash, Bonnie Rabold, Sue Reynolds, Lorraine Schwartz, and Karen Shoemaker. Our other volunteers, Mark Bayko, Ellie and Dennis Cox, Wanda Hutchings, and Jessica Wauls have ably assisted on many days as well. A mere “*Thank You*” to all of them does not do justice to their work for our FP.

In addition to cash donations, we receive weekly food-in-kind from our members that truly helps lower our food purchasing expenses. The “Food of the Week” program has enabled us to maintain the staples that our households seek, especially peanut butter, canned corn and applesauce. We especially appreciate these donations from our congregation.

It was a very good year for your Food Pantry. While need was at an all-time high, we managed to end the year with a positive balance.

Again, we are continually grateful for your support of this important mission & outreach to our community.

Marty Walker, Coordinator

News from Presbyterian Women



SOUP'S ON!

The Soup sale has begun.

PW is conducting a fundraiser through Happy Valley Soup Company again this year. Perhaps you purchased some of these dry soup mixes from us in 2024. This year there are **16** different soups to purchase through online sales, or through local/direct sales from any of the Coordinating Team members.

The price is \$9.50 each and there is a nice variety to choose from.

Now is a great time to stock up!

Flyers with a QR code for online sales are available now. The forms will be included in Sunday bulletins and are placed around the PCFS campus for your convenience and easy ordering.

♦ Please be sure to order from the *specific site for our fundraiser with our assigned code* - use this link below:

<https://fundraising.happyvalleysoupcompany.com/?fund=469>.

[Do not order 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. Payment is expected with your order. We will see that your local orders are delivered to you.

To place an order directly, call Linda Fisher (717-263-0310) or talk to any of our CT members: Becky Fritz, Judy George, Marilyn Griffin, Wanda Hutchings, Vicki Kaye, Sue Mummert, Pat Phenicie-Grandel, Lorraine Schwartz, Karen Stover or Joy Zimmerman.

Thanks for your “Souper” support!



Coming To Falling Spring!

Happy New Year! **2026** is a new year. It's a fresh start. Are you ready to get out of the house, to try something different or to meet new friends? Below and throughout the newsletter are opportunities at Falling Spring to “**spice up**” the New Year, begin something **new** and join in **fellowship** with others.

○ New Adult Sunday Morning Class, Room 107

This winter, let's learn how to live as public representatives of God and His Kingdom. We are His ambassadors!

Located in FLC Room 107, “Unleashed”, led by Chelsea Bennett, Ben & JK Landon. Esteemed teacher Tony Evans will guide us through a six-week video series called *Unleashed*, teaching us to live as empowered kingdom citizens. These 20 minute videos will be followed by group discussion and application of the principles taught in the series. Let’s challenge each other and be accountable as ambassadors of a greater Kingdom.

Come ready to grow, be challenged, and live unleashed. Coffee provided.

○ A Taste of the Caribbean, Sunday January 25th

Who's ready to pretend they're in Jamaica while Pennsylvania feels like winter? Then break out your favorite floral shirts, grass skirts, and best island vibes to join us for a Caribbean-themed meal on Sunday, January 25th at 12 PM. Tickets will be sold on January 18th in all services. Adults \$15 per person. Kids 12 & under free. A kids menu will be available. No passport or REAL ID required—just an appetite and a sense of fun.

Want to get in touch? Check out the information below. Hope to hear from you soon!

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM
Other times available by appointment
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Abby Bucher	childcare@pcfallingspring.org

The Fielders in Kenya

Dear Friends in the Faith,

Merry Christmas to all of you and your families! The Fielders (most of us) are spending Christmas in Kenya this year. Matthew (20) is with my parents in Texas. He is halfway through his junior year at Rice, still studying computer science.

Aaron (18) is a senior and applying to college. He is only considering schools in Pennsylvania, near Amanda's parents. Like his brother, he plans to study computer science. He is spending the break learning Unity and coding a computer game (and beating me at Memoir '44, a World War II board game). Anna (14) is between basketball and soccer seasons. She and I are reading *Everything Sad is Untrue*, the story of a family fleeing religious persecution in Iran and settling as refugees in Oklahoma. The narrator's (author's) mother gave up her life as a doctor, undertook a perilous journey with her children, and led a hardscrabble existence in Oklahoma. Why?

How can you explain why you believe anything? I just say what my mom says when people ask her. She looks them in the eye with the begging hope that they'll hear her and she says, "Because it's true."

...We can keep talking about it, keep grinding our teeth on why Sima converted, since it turned the fate of everybody in the story. It's why we're hiding in Oklahoma.

We can wonder and question and disagree. You can be certain she's dead wrong, but you can't make Sima agree with you.

It's true.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

This whole story hinges on it.

Amanda is getting a much-needed break after another busy season as the lead of the school's counseling department. She is expecting additional help next year as other missionaries join. Amanda also enjoys beating me at board games like Azul. She just finished reading *Kiku's Prayer* by my favorite author, Shusaku Endo, about the cost of following Christ in 19th-century Japan.

My travel picked up over the second half of the year, with two trips to the US and a visit earlier this month to Malawi. In February, I will be heading to Sudan for the launch of Gidel Hospital's five-year strategic plan.

Christmas week found me covering the medical ward in the hospital. I was reminded that about two decades ago, on Christmas Day, we performed peritoneal dialysis on a woman with acute kidney failure. She survived. Now, traditional hemodialysis is common in Kenya and at Partners in Hope.

In Malawi, I met old friends from the Moyo (Life) HIV clinic at PIH. It was wonderful to see my "war buddies" from those difficult days when HIV treatment was being rolled out across the country, and patients were still very sick. Today, most are healthy and stable.

We thank God for all of you and pray that you are "fine in the Lord," as my Kenyan pastor friend likes to say.

Serving with you,

Jon, Amanda, Matthew, Aaron and Anna



FIERCE MARRIAGE DATE SERIES

Save the Date!

February 13, 2026

ONE DATE PER MONTH
SECOND FRIDAY
5:30-6:30PM GATHERING
DATE ON YOUR OWN
CHILDCARE 5:30-9:00PM
FALL WEEKEND RETREAT
OCTOBER 9-11

10 Date Nights

*Child care provided. Cash donation \$5 per
child requested*

PCFS ROOMS 107-108