



Views From a Hill

The Great I Am: Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John

What do you truly hunger for? What keeps you up at night — the uncertainty, the grief, the quiet sense that something is missing? These aren't new questions. They're questions every human heart has asked since the beginning of time.

This spring, we're diving into a sermon series that goes straight to the heart of those questions. **The Great I Am: Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John** explores seven memorable moments in John's Gospel where Jesus steps forward and declares, with incredible clarity, exactly who He is — and what He offers to a searching world.

Each of these "I Am" statements recalls Exodus 3:14, where God reveals His name to Moses from the burning bush. Jesus isn't simply offering helpful advice or moral guidance. He's revealing His very identity — and inviting us to respond.

During the series, we'll explore these statements one by one:

- **I Am the Bread of Life** — For every soul that hungers for meaning and connection
- **I Am the Light of the World** — For every heart lost in confusion or fear
- **I Am the Gate** — For those searching for a way into real, abundant life
- **I Am the Good Shepherd** — For those longing to be truly known and cared for
- **I Am the Resurrection and the Life** — For those facing grief, loss, or the fear of death
- **I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life** — For those who need direction and certainty
- **I Am the True Vine** — For those ready to grow deep roots and bear lasting fruit

Notice the movement of this journey. It begins with our most basic need — hunger — and carries us all the way through to fruitful, abiding life in Christ. Along the way, Jesus meets us exactly where we are — in our emptiness, our darkness, our grief, and our searching — and calls us to new places.

One of the beautiful things about this series is how these words stand the test of time. We live in a world overflowing with noise, options, and competing voices, all promising satisfaction and direction. Yet many people still feel lost, empty, and afraid. The Gospel of John gives us Jesus speaking directly into that reality — not with a self-help philosophy, but with bold, personal declarations about who He is and what He came to do.

Whether you've followed Jesus for years or you're still figuring out what you believe, this series has something for you. Each week will open up a new aspect of Christ's identity and extend a fresh invitation to trust Him more.

I hope you'll be here each week — and that you'll bring someone with you. Invite a neighbor, a coworker, or a family member who might be hungry for something they can't quite identify. You never know when the right words at the right time can change everything.

Much love,

Brad

PNC UPDATE...

The following update was sent as a letter to all PCFS households.

April 14, 2026

Dear PCFS Members and Friends,

On behalf of your Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), I am pleased to share that a candidate has been selected for the vacant pastor position at The Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring. This individual has indicated his willingness to accept a call from our congregation, and we are grateful for God's guidance in leading this shepherd to our church.

Over the past eight months, the PNC has conducted a thorough review of numerous applicants' profiles and Statements of Faith, held Zoom interviews, evaluated sermons, and engaged in prayerful deliberation and discussion. Our Commissioned Ruling Elder, Brad Hill, has also had the opportunity to discuss mutual ministry with the prospective pastor. After this intentional process, the PNC has unanimously, joyfully, and prayerfully chosen this dedicated pastor to serve as the next leader of our congregation.

The Presbytery of Carlisle Commission on Ministry approved the call on Thursday, April 9, 2026, after meeting with both the candidate and our PNC. The Session and church staff have been informed that a selection has been made, although biographical details have not yet been shared. Sunday, May 3, has been chosen for the candidate to preach for our congregation. In our Reformed Tradition, the congregation has the final responsibility in selecting a pastor for our family of faith.

Following worship, there will be two meetings:

1. A brief Corporation Meeting to elect Trustees (this meeting was previously approved for this date)
2. A Congregational Meeting to consider the election of a new pastor

After prayerful consideration, members will vote YES or NO to confirm the candidate as pastor.

Participants are asked to refrain from sharing information about the candidate online or through social media until after May 11, allowing him the opportunity to share his intentions with his present congregation.

To provide an opportunity to meet the prospective pastor, you are invited to an Open House on Saturday, May 2, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in Rooms 107–108 of the Family Life Center. Light refreshments and childcare will be provided. Biographical information will be available at the open house and as a bulletin insert during the Sunday A.C.T.S.* worship service.

On Sunday, May 3, a single service will be held in the sanctuary. The service will not be broadcast to YouTube. While only members may vote, all are welcome to attend both the open house and the worship service.

These are special moments in the life of our congregation. Whether last Sunday was your first time here or you've been part of this church family for years, you are warmly encouraged to come and participate.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Doug Martzluf, Chair of PNC

*A.C.T.S. = *All Church Together Sunday*.

Caring Words from Rev. Meagan



People have asked me in the last year, “What do you see at Falling Spring with your ‘pastoral eyes’ in this time of transition?” My response is ready and quick.

- I see people stepping forward to serve in ways most needed.
- I see gifts being activated in people who perhaps didn’t realize those gifts were there and/or were dormant.
- I see Brad Hill quietly carrying many responsibilities not in his job description, and I see and hear many people expressing a desire to help him, support him, pray for him, and try to ease his load.
- I see cooperation to make sure ministry doesn’t lose momentum.
- I see flexibility in setting things right as we discover something that ‘fell through the cracks.’
- I see a congregation eager to serve the community.
- I see a church community eager to serve one another, willing to have difficult conversations, and open to ways God would lead us to speak life over one another and over our congregation.

Are there other things I see that could be better? Of course. No pastor, retired or not, doesn’t have eyes to see how a congregation can do better at reflecting the love of Christ. In addition to the lovely Christ-centered, hope-filled conversations I hear, I also hear some grumblings. I’m sure you are familiar with church grumblings. “Why did we do it that way?”

Here’s a lesson for all of us: Ephesians 4:29, “*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*” Or how about this one: Proverbs 16:24, “*Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*”

There is so much good happening at PCFS. In this time of transition, let’s make sure our words are ‘building-up’ words, our actions are quietly and servant-heartedly supportive, our hearts open to one another, and our eyes focused on the One who is the head of the body, the Church: Jesus Christ! He alone holds all things together. (Colossians 1).

With love and prayers,
Rev. Meagan



May's Worship, Prayer & Study at Falling Spring Come, Join Us. We would love to meet you!



May Worship Schedule

May 3 — Candidate Sunday.

There will be one service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by a Corporation Meeting to elect Trustees and a Congregational Meeting to elect a new pastor. The candidate will preach a sermon entitled "You Comfort Me" based on Psalm 23 and Hebrews 13:20–21.

Please Note: There will be an Open House to meet the prospective pastor on Saturday, May 2, from 3:00–5:00 PM in Rooms 107–108 of the Family Life Center.

May 10 — Mother's Day. I Am the Good Shepherd. Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

May 17 — I Am the Resurrection and the Life

May 24 — I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Communion at all services

May 31 — I Am the True Vine

June 7 — Rose Rent Sunday

There will be one service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by the Rose Rent Ceremony at the grave of Colonel Benjamin Chambers. This will be followed by a church picnic.

Adult Discipleship — Wednesday Nights

Our final two weeks for this program year!

May 6 — Worship and Prayer in Rooms 107–108

This evening is open to anyone who would like to worship and pray together through singing, prayer stations, testimonies, and discussion of God's Word.

May 13 — Spring Celebration.

We will share a meal together, enjoy some kids vs. adults competitions, and celebrate important transitions:

- J-Walkers moving to Tweens
- Tweens moving to Youth Ministry
- Middle School students moving to High School
- Honoring our graduating Seniors



SPRING celeBRATION

May 13, 2026
6:30pm-8pm

Yummy tacos, fun games,
and recognition of our 2nd,
5th, 8th and 12th graders.

Please use the QR code to
sign up.





FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

May Update:

In April we wrapped up our Wednesday evening study on Daniel, enjoyed some games on the field and had an inspiring Youth Sunday service! The youth did an amazing job leading all aspects of the Youth Sunday service using their gifts to bless the whole church.

This month we will wind down our regular Wednesday evening activities as we look forward to a more varied summer schedule focused on building community and serving. At the end of May we will welcome our summer youth ministry intern, Lydia Willson! Over the summer she will be heavily involved in the prep and planning for CFS while also focusing on relationships and community building within the youth ministry through fun events and Jesus focused conversations.

Be praying for Lydia as she prepares for her summer role, the seniors who are about to graduate, and all the youth who are wrapping up another school year.

Blessings,
Sam Ray

Upcoming:

Youth Worship night
MAY 6TH

Spring Celebration
MAY 13TH



KIDS' MINISTRY

JOIN US

5/6:

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

7:30-8 Joyful Voices

5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31:

9-9:50 Sunday School

Upcoming Events

5/13: Spring Celebration 6:30-8

6/7: Joyful Voices singing at
Rose Rent service - 10am

6/15-6/19: Vacation Bible School

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Bible buddy Sal, the spotted-tail salamander, will help us learn about Jesus' life and how we can follow Him. On 5/10, we will have a special Mother's Day Lesson.

J-WALKERS & TWEENS: We will be finishing up for the year! Families are invited to attend the spring celebration on May 13 where we will recognize the 2nd and 5th graders. Plus there will be lots of fun games and tacos!

J-WALKERS

Room 101: Age 4 - Grade 2

TWEENS

Room 103: Grade 3 - Grade 5

JOYFUL VOICES

Room 101: Age 4 - Grade 5



Easter
Celebration

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
-Philippians 4:13

Jenn Smith, Director of Children's Ministry
pcfskids@pcfalloingspring.org

News from Presbyterian Women



Birthday Offering collected on Mothers' Day

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)



Giving to the PW Birthday Offering is a springtime tradition for Presbyterian Women. Since its beginning in 1922, grants from the offering have funded capital investments such as clean water projects, rural medical centers, prison ministries for women, shelters for children and so much more. For over a century, participants in

Presbyterian Women have helped carry the message of God's joy by offering tangible symbols of God's abundance through this impactful grant program. This year the grants of \$250,000 are sending hope to the distressed. These gifts will empower the food insecure to be fed with healthy meals that nourish body, mind and spirit, and enable those facing homelessness to be sheltered — Women and Children Crisis Center in Findlay, Ohio and Rural Food Assistance Project in Waynesville, North Carolina. Support the Birthday Offering so that organizations like these two selected for 2026 will continue to celebrate in God's abounding hope and power in the world.



Many thanks to those who helped with the Celebration of Life for Ken Thompson. There were helpers who baked, who set up the room, who served, who cleaned up, who laundered table clothes, and of course, let's not forget those dedicated dishwashers. It was nice to see some new faces among those helpers. We need more helpers if we are to continue this tradition at Falling Spring to support families during their time of loss.

Also thank you **for supporting our Hoss's Event on April 16th** in support of our local Cold Weather Drop In Shelter. At the time of submission for the newsletter we had not yet heard back what our donation amount may be. We will report that in the future. Hopefully we can continue this local mission opportunity again in the fall.

PW of the Synod will hold a **Women's Retreat July 16-18** at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. The theme is "**Finding Joy in the Journey**". Join for lively worship, special workshops, great food, spirituality walk, toe-tapping music, silent auction, games, crafts, mission opportunities and more. A special guest speaker will be CeCe Armstrong, co-moderator PC(USA) General Assembly. There are flyers posted around campus and registration forms are available. The cost is \$275.00 for a double room.

Joy

Cost includes accommodation, materials, six meals as well as snacks. Sue Mummert has the details if you are interested. There are scholarships available through PW at Falling Spring and/or PW of the Carlisle Presbytery.



PW in Mission and Service

If you would like to know more about Presbyterian Women, contact any of our CT members: Linda Fisher, Becky Fritz, Judy George, Marilyn Griffin, Wanda Hutchings, Vicki Kaye, Sue Mummert, Pat Phenicie-Grandel, Lorraine Schwartz, Karen Stover and Joy Zimmerman.

Meet Your Food Pantry Volunteers - May Edition, The Smiles Say it All!

Jane Morgan (*left front*) is retired from AT&T where she worked for 28 years providing financial support for Tariff filing as a Project Manager. She also previously prepared income tax returns for H&R Block and she continues to assist with tax return prep for AARP. Jane resides in Chambersburg. For many years she played hand bells and has served as a Trustee at PCFS. Currently she is serving on the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). She keeps the pantry stocked with toilet paper, serves as a registration clerk, and *most importantly*, is the “keeper of the Candy Can” to the delight of our very young clients.

Marty Walker (*right front*) retired in 2021 after a 50 year career of practicing Family Law. She also served as a Bank Director at F&M Trust for 40 years and has served on 30 non-profit boards over the years. Marty resides at Menno Haven with her husband **David Spang**, a former PCFS Trustee. Marty serves as the Coordinator of the Falling Spring Food Pantry. She is the “glue” that keeps the Pantry team together and the “oil” that keeps it running smoothly at it’s best. Marty also works to complete paperwork and registrations needed for new clients. Husband, **David**, is happy to help out and keep the pantry supplied with dry beans.

Bonnie Rabold (*left rear*) retired from Chambersburg Hospital after working as a Registered Nurse. She lives in Chambersburg. She has served as a Deacon here at Falling Spring. When serving at the pantry, Bonnie is responsible for repackaging and keeping the shelves supplied with toilet paper.

Lou Ann Myers (*center rear*) retired after 37 years from Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown working as a Registered Nurse and Director of Risk Management. She serves at PCFS as a Deacon and a member of Congregational Life. Lou Ann lives with her husband **Bill** in Orrtanna, Pa. At the the Food Pantry, she assists clients with food selection & registration and helps with seasonal décor. Lou Ann and Bill keep the Food Pantry supplied with milk.

Sue Reynolds (*right rear*) is retired from Vanguard after 30 years as IT Project Manager for Eastern PA. Sue is the assistant coordinator at the Food Pantry. She and her husband, Jim, live at Penn National in Fayetteville, Pa. Sue is the buyer of a variety of much needed food to round out & complete the FP inventory.

Karen Shoemaker (*below left*) retired from Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown in 2016 after working as a Registered nurse in the ER. She has served at PCFS as a Deacon and currently is serving on the Worship, Finance, and Nominating Committees. Whew! Karen resides in Scot Greene. She keeps the Pantry supplied with butter. On “Food Pantry” days she is “Miss Sweets” - busily handing out the donated sweet treats along with her sweet smile!



Here's **Bill Myers** “hamming it up” with some of the 90 hams that were distributed to our Food Pantry families for Easter.

Thank you to all who donate to the FP and to all these smiling volunteers for letting the light of Jesus shine through them and sharing the love of God with our Food Pantry Families.



Treasurer's Report Submitted by Paul Luka

March 2026

As we presented the budget at the Congregational meeting, the church budget anticipates a deficit again this year. However, there are many uncertainties in 2026 as we transition in our search for our new pastor.

Our budget for tithes this year is generally based on 2025 giving with a slight increase anticipated. So far, the congregation has been very generous and we are slightly ahead of budget.

Although it is early in the year, we are experiencing expenses in line with the budget expectations or slightly better.

		through March 31, 2026	
		Actual	Budget
	Total tithes and other income	\$ 155,000	\$ 148,000
	Expenses	\$ 147,000	\$ 171,000
	First Quarter Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 8,000	\$ (23,000)

Investment income is \$3000 over budget for which we are very pleased.

The first quarter of 2026 is very similar to last year in terms of expenses. While it looks like we are significantly ahead of budget, some of this is due to the timing of expenses. We are blessed with the wonderful news from the PNC regarding our pastoral candidate and will be experiencing those transition costs in the second and third quarter of this year.

This congregation has not only generously supported our operating budget tithes, but has also donated just under \$12,000 directly to mission, food pantry and power pack ministries.

Thank you all again for your incredible support of our church and its Mission!



Many Voices, ONE SONG

**Worship for ALL People of the Presbytery of Carlisle
Uniting Every Age, Every Parishioner, Every Congregation**

Save the Date
**Sunday,
August 30, 2026
4 PM**

**Guest Preacher:
Rev. Cecelia "Cece"
Armstrong**
Co-Moderator of the 226th
General Assembly



Outstanding Music

Unity Vocal Choir
Unity Bell Choir
Unity Youth Choir
Hallelujah Chorus Sing-Along

Have Fun Praising God with other Presbyterians!

Food and Fellowship
before and after Worship
Special Gatherings for
Children and Youth

Host Location:

Second Presbyterian Church

528 Garland Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013

Planned by the Presbytery of Carlisle for our 7000+ Members and 40+ Congregations



Rose Rent Picnic

Sunday, June 07, 2026

At the conclusion of the

Rose Rent Ceremony

in the PCFS - Family Life Center

Tickets are available for purchase from Renee Brink, Lou Ann Myers, and/or Jodi Wright. Also, you may register through the Church Center app.

Menu

Fried Chicken

Grilled Chicken Breast

Macaroni & Cheese

Potato Salad

Strawberry Fields Salad w/
Poppysseed Vinaigrette

Grilled Vegetable Platter

Biscuits & Cornbread

Assorted Brownies & Cookies

Fresh Lemonade

Sweet Tea

Ice Water

Adult Cost: \$11

Children under

10: \$5.50

