

FROM PASTOR TAD

PRAY CONTINUALLY



I have always had trouble with 1 Thessalonians 5:17. In this verse Paul exhorts us to “pray without ceasing”, or to “pray continually.” In the days of my youth I struggled to understand this command and even more, to live up to it. On the surface it seems physically impossible. How can one be always praying? When would we sleep, or eat, or do any work, or speak to anyone else? Scripture tells us to be kind to our fellow human beings. How can we follow that commandment if we are always physically or mentally away somewhere praying? Also, anyone who is like me might wonder, “How much praying can I do before I run out of things to talk to God about?”

Considering the nation’s post-pandemic depression, political anxiety, wars, and the seeming inability of our culture to see the good God has put in those with whom we disagree, the practice of constant prayer is more important than ever. I think the only way we can find a just, healthy, or life-giving path forward, both as a church and as a nation, we need to reinvest ourselves in constant prayer. Prayer is the most powerful gift God gives us to discover His will and mind on any given subject. It is through prayer that we understand what God is doing and where God wants to lead us to help bring His kingdom fully to bear. Because nothing ever is discovered all in one go, we must be in prayer “without ceasing.”

How is this accomplished? The first step is to remember the way we pray in church and the around the dinner table is only one form of prayer. Prayer is the primary way we communicate with God. Therefore, we must learn to pray listening prayers too. That means going through our days not always talking at God; but also bringing our hearts and minds into stillness to hear God’s responses to us. Anyone who has been sucked into a “conversation” where the other person constantly speaks and no one can get a word in edgewise, knows that is not truly a conversation. Fruitful, life-giving conversations go both ways. If we are to speak *with* God, we must learn to listen. Prayerful silence is a well-known practice among the early church fathers, the ancient Israelites, the prophets as well as those today who seek to know our Lord’s mind.

Finally, another form of prayer is our actions. If we communicate with God through prayer, what might the things I do today say to God? How might they show God that I am listening? St. Basil the Great (A.D. 330-379) says this: “This is how we pray continually- not [only] by offering prayer in words, but by joining yourself to God through your *whole way of life*, so that your life becomes one continuous and uninterrupted prayer.”

Brothers and sisters, may the lives we live together be the prayer to God our people so desperately need.



Views From a Hill

Finding New Rhythms

August is a strange month. It can't decide what it wants to be. One foot is still in summer. Sit outside on a good afternoon, book in one hand, something cold in the other, and it feels like the season will never end. Head to the court. Jump in the pool. Pack the car for one more trip to a place you love.

But the other foot is already walking toward September. The school-supply aisle is calling your name. New schedules are landing in the mailbox. Somewhere in the back of your mind, a list is forming — lunches, cleats, backpacks, forms to sign.

Rest and rush, sharing the same thirty-one days. Sound familiar? It should. August is just an honest month — a microcosm of every month of our lives, a blend of rest and activity, sabbath and sprint. The trouble is, many of us only remember the sprint. We can tell you every deadline on the calendar. But ask us the last time we sat still in the presence of God, and we go quiet. We remember the doing. We forget the resting. God never intended it to be this way.

Unhurried, on Purpose. Eugene Peterson spent a lifetime pastoring people in a hurry. He called followers of Jesus to the ministry of the unhurried — not lazy, not passive, but paced by attention to God rather than the tyranny of the urgent. As Peterson describes it, Jesus never seemed to rush. Grace doesn't sprint; it strolls alongside you. Ask yourself: *Am I living an unhurried life, or just managing a hurried one?*

A practical step: Before you fill in a single square on the new Fall schedule, pencil in rest first — a Sabbath hour, a quiet ten minutes before the house wakes. Protect it like a doctor's appointment. In a real sense, it is one.

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry. Dallas Willard's counsel stings in its simplicity: ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Not slow down a little. Eliminate it.

Willard was diagnosing something deeper — hurry itself is a spiritual condition that quietly starves the soul even while the to-do list thrives. Hurry and communion with God cannot occupy the same moment; one will always crowd out the other. His counsel was to practice solitude and silence until a hurried heart relearns how to be present with God.

A practical step: Interrupt one hurried habit this month. Drive without the radio. Sit in the car an extra sixty seconds before walking in. Let silence make room for God's voice instead of your own racing thoughts.

Rest Doesn't Require a Recliner. Brother Lawrence, a seventeenth-century monk, spent most of his life washing dishes in a monastery kitchen — hardly restful work. Yet he became one of history's clearest voices on resting in God, because he discovered rest was never about the activity. It was about the awareness.

He called it "practicing the presence of God" — turning his heart toward the Lord in the middle of ordinary work. He was as aware of God's nearness flipping an omelet as he was on his knees in prayer.

Continued on next page...

Good news for August: rest in the Lord isn't reserved for the vacationer. It's available to the parent folding laundry, the teacher prepping a classroom, the grandparent driving carpool. Every ordinary task can become saturated in God's love, if you simply remember whose presence you're standing in.

A practical step: Pick one recurring task this week — dishes, driving, packing lunches — and turn it into a prayer trigger. Every time you do it, whisper: *"Thank You for being here."*

Both Feet, One Lord. Maybe August isn't confused after all. Maybe it's just telling the truth about every season — that rest and responsibility were always meant to walk together, not as rivals but as companions.

Jesus said it plainly: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). Not "come to me when the to-do list is empty." Come now. Bring the calendar, the carpool line, the shopping list — and let Him teach you to walk unhurried, present, and at peace, even when it feels like life is moving fast.

This August, don't just remember the activity. Remember the rest. It was there all along, waiting for you to notice.

Brad

August Worship Schedule:

Aug. 2: Colossians 1:1-6. Pastor Tad preaching in all three services. Series: I Thank God.

Aug. 9: Philippians 1:1-8. Pastor Tad preaching in the Chapel and Sanctuary; Brad preaching in the FLC. Series: I Thank God.

Aug. 16: Philemon 1:1-7. Pastor Tad preaching in the Chapel and Sanctuary; Brad preaching in the FLC. Series: Do the Right Thing.

August 23: Philemon 1:8-25. Pastor Tad preaching in all three services. Series: Do the Right Thing.

August 30: Ruth 1. Brad preaching in all three services. Series: Ordinary Time



Smiles from the Food Pantry

One thing we've learned at the Food Pantry is that no two Tuesdays are ever the same! Along with serving our neighbors, we also collect a wonderful assortment of stories that remind us ministry is full of unexpected moments.

Every now and then someone has a very specific request—like wanting only brown eggs. While we do our best to meet individual needs when possible, sometimes an egg is just an egg!

Ordering food from the Pennsylvania Food Bank has also provided a few memorable adventures. Once I ordered hot dogs that arrived frozen in giant 120-count packages. Breaking them apart into family-sized portions required more effort (and more dropping them on the floor—in their sealed packages!) than I ever imagined. Lesson learned: always read the packaging details!

We've also discovered that some foods are much more popular than others. Whole wheat spaghetti, watery mushroom soup, and dried peas don't exactly disappear from the shelves. On the other hand, one bargain purchase of individually packaged popcorn turned into six pallet-sized boxes containing hundreds of bags. Thankfully, our pantry guests loved it! If you've peeked into the chapel choir room recently, you may have wondered if we were preparing for a movie marathon.



Our volunteers have also become quite creative in communicating with guests who speak different languages. Between a few carefully chosen words of Spanish or Haitian Creole, lots of smiles, and generous amounts of pantomime, we've discovered that kindness is a language everyone understands.

As funny as these moments can be, they remind us that the Food Pantry is ultimately about caring for people. Each week we serve 80–100 individuals and families in our community. We are deeply grateful for our faithful volunteers and for your generous donations of food and financial support. If your garden produces more than you can use, fresh vegetables, greens, apples, potatoes, and tomatoes are always appreciated—and always enjoyed by our pantry guests.

We'll close with one story that captures the heart of this ministry. One of our elderly guests, who lives alone, faithfully donates \$500 three or four times each year, even though she lives on a very limited income. She comes each week for a little butter and a pie, but she also comes because she enjoys the fellowship. She wants others to benefit from the pantry just as she has. Her generosity reminds us that those who receive are often among the most generous people we know.

Thank you for helping make the Food Pantry a place where practical help, genuine friendship, and God's love are shared every week.

Marty Walker, Food Pantry Coordinator



FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

August Update:



We had an amazing time at CFS 2026!

Gene Reineman was the evening speaker. He did a great job of connecting with the students and sharing the truth of the Gospel. We played fun games...which led to the Valiant Vultures taking home the CFS Cup Win! There was powerful worship in the pavilion beginning on night one. We saw students connecting with each other and enjoying building relationships with new friends.

We were blessed to have 73 campers, almost 40 staffers, and we ended the week with 9 baptisms! If you donated desserts, served meals, loaned us your cabin, sent your student to camp, or prayed over camp - THANK YOU!

Continue to pray for those whose lives were impacted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ during camp.

Blessings,
Sam Ray



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KIDS' MINISTRY

JOIN US

8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, 8/30:
9-9:50 Sunday School

Upcoming Events

8/12: 6:30-7:30 Room 101
Paint Night - You must RSVP to
Jenn by 8/10. Thanks!

8/27: Fall Kickoff Fun Fest!

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have been learning about the fruits of the spirit and how God grows them in us. Each week we are learning about a new fruit and how we can show it in our daily life.



Do you love working with kids? We are looking for more people to join our kids' ministry team on both Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Contact Jenn for more info!



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@pcfallingspring.org



News from Presbyterian Women

The Summer Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Carlisle Presbytery will be held on Saturday, August 22 at the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. Registration opens at 9:15. There are two morning programs. Bette Stammerjohn, a delegate of the Synod of the Trinity, will present an "Update on the UN Commission on the Status of Women".



Pam Bucher will speak about "Dyslexia and Literacy Advocates". She will be sharing information about dyslexia and efforts to expand Orton-Gillingham based training into areas outside of Harrisburg.

After a light lunch, there will be an introduction to the new Horizon Bible study, "United through Christ, Bound to Each Other - Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians" written by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. The introduction session will be led by Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston of the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church.

Pre-registration is required for lunch. A \$5 donation is suggested. Please let Linda Fisher (717-830-4043) know by Aug. 15 if you will be attending. Ride sharing is available. Please come and bring a friend.



PW Coordinating Team Members:

Linda Fisher, Sue Mummert, Marilyn Griffin, Karen Stover, Pat Phenicie-Grandel, Becky Fritz, Vicki Kaye, Wanda Hutchings, Lorraine Schwartz, Judy George and Joy Zimmerman.

Mid-year Treasurer's Report

June 2026

As we close the first half of 2026, the church finances are on track and actually well ahead of budget. In planning for 2026 the Finance Committee, with Session's approval, made an estimate of when our head pastor position might be filled and through the very hard work of our PNC we find that our estimated timeline was almost exactly correct.

As we begin the next chapter of PCFS leadership under Rev. Schuldt, we do so in a solid financial position thanks to your generosity and the diligence of our staff and leadership. We have been blessed again with generous giving by the Congregation and, in spite of a tithes budget that is higher than 2025's, you have responded. Giving is ahead of last year and ahead of budget at this point. We have been fortunate that our expenses in this first half have been under our budget, so we enter the second half of the year with a better than expected financial picture.

With this good news in mind, it is important for us to remember that our July to December costs will increase and that we do still anticipate that we will end the year with a deficit, but hopefully less of one than the approved budget anticipated.

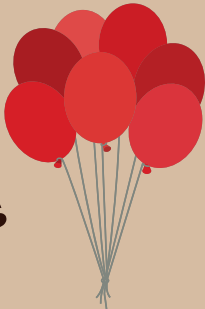
	through June 30, 2026	
	Actual	Budget
Total tithes and other income	\$ 328,000	\$ 315,000
Expenses	<u>\$ 312,000</u>	<u>\$ 346,000</u>
Mid Year Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ 16,000</u>	<u>\$ (31,000)</u>

Tithes are \$13,000 (4%) over budget

Mission and Outreach continues its great work within the local community and beyond. In addition to your support of the church operations through your tithes, direct giving to general mission, food pantry and power pack has totaled over \$24,000 in the first half of this year. This, plus the 10% of tithes that is dedicated to benevolences has allowed the Mission and Outreach Committee to fund over \$50,000 for local and other mission activities.

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

Submitted by Paul Luka



FREE!

FUN FEST

**FALLING SPRING
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Food, Carnival Games,
Balloon Animals, Face
Painting, Bounce House,
and lots of FUN!



**AUGUST
26**



5:30-7:30 PM

**221 N MAIN STREET
CHAMBERSBURG**