

FROM PASTOR TAD

DO TO BE, OR BE TO DO?



I first encountered this question in a community that was at something of a crossroads. This community was highly educated, highly paid, power-wielding professionals, retired judges, leaders of successful tech start-ups. Since most of us were successful people (by world standards) in the hard-nosed world of business, working in tech firms, inventing products that changed lives, we were bringing that same mindset into our family of faith. We engaged with one another and with Jesus the same way we engaged in business. The consequence of this was people burning out. We felt measured, judged, and found wanting at church in all the same ways our bosses made us feel at work. Finally, we realized that church no longer felt like it did when we came to faith, got married or graduated.

Into this God gave our pastor at the time a wonderful message which has stayed with me, and I would like to pass along. Our pastor showed us we were relating to God in a “Do to Be” mindset. We wanted to be loved by God, and we wanted to be a part of God’s family, so we were trying to earn our way in. We tried to prove to one another that we belong in God’s family by doing good works, setting ambitious goals for ministry just like we did at work. We were running ourselves ragged trying to prove we were faithful Christians. We needed to remember the reality of the Christian life is the opposite of “Do to Be.” We are called to live the Kingdom reality of “Be to Do.”

What does this mean? To me, “Be to Do” means our actions, life choices, the words we say and everything else about us comes out of the pre-existing reality that *we are already God’s children*. We are *already* inside God’s love and held in His embrace. Therefore, we submit our financial choices, our sexual choices, the words we say to one another, our ambitions, our fears, longings, hopes and dreams to the authority of Jesus Christ as a response to grace that is *already* bestowed on us before we ever knew who Jesus is. This is the gist of First John -that Jesus set things right between us and God long before we ever realized anything was wrong. Our status as beloved daughters and sons was secured before we ever thought to ask. We spur one another to greater acts of love and good deeds because we are *already* welcome at God’s table.

What does any of this have to do with us in Chambersburg? How do a large urban church’s problems have anything to do with our lives? I am glad you asked! As I gaze toward the future and as I see us doing our best to follow Jesus amid rapid change, I see the need for the same reminder. As we see how our culture is changing, we may feel anxious. As our public political discourse grows ever more toxic and our faith loses its pride of place in the community at large, it can be easy for us to feel like we have let God down. We may even feel like we are saddled with the task of saving the American church from the waves of godlessness sweeping across our nation. To this, I say we must be careful. It is God who will redeem His Church. It is Jesus Christ who wins souls to himself, not us. We must remember that we are messengers of the gospel of Jesus Christ because we are *already* beneficiaries of that good news. We set audacious goals and we challenge ourselves not to save anyone or anything, least of all ourselves. We are not on a mission to prove our worthiness to God. We set big goals to see God work through us. Easy goals are the sort that we would congratulate ourselves on. Big goals are the kind that when achieved, we say, “See what the *LORD* has done!”

We are empowered to proclaim God’s radical grace because we are already radically loved. We do the work of God’s kingdom because we are already citizens of Heaven. We invite people to come experience belonging in God’s family because we are already part of God’s family.

Above all, Christians are thankful people. Our joy is rooted in gratitude for God’s gifts freely given without merit, simply because God is love. As we open a new chapter in our ministry together at Falling Spring, may we remember how thankful we are and may we press deeper into our Father’s arms together because God found us when we were lost and opened our eyes to the riches of His grace when we could not see.

We *are* the children of God; therefore, we *do* the work of His kingdom with thankful hearts.

Views From a Hill



A Season of Gratitude, A Season of Hope

The last eighteen months have been among the most formative of my life — and I mean that in the best possible way. After Pastor Andy's resignation, I knew the coming season would stretch me. What I didn't fully anticipate was how much it would teach me. One of the most humbling lessons has been seeing up close just how many decisions, questions, and unexpected situations appear on a pastor's radar on any given day. It has given me a deep new appreciation and admiration for pastors everywhere — and it has made me want to pray for and support Pastor Tad in ways I simply couldn't have before this season.

Before looking ahead, I want to say thank you! You have shown me more grace, patience, and love than I deserve. There were moments when I didn't have the time or capacity to meet every need, when things slipped through the cracks, when I simply came up short. You extended grace anyway. That is not something I take lightly, and it is not something I will forget.

I also want to express my deep gratitude for our stellar staff. They show up every day and work with dedication and excellence — not for recognition, but because they know they are doing it for the King of Kings. It is a privilege to serve alongside them. And I want to say a special word of thanks to Rev. Dr. Meagan Boozer, for graciously stepping out of retirement to lead and care for this congregation in beautiful ways. Meagan is one of my heroes, and the opportunity to partner with her in ministry during this season has been a blessing.

Okay - time to look ahead, because I am excited! Pastor Tad begins his ministry with us in July, and I want you to know that, over the past several weeks, I've had a number of conversations with him — by phone and email — and each one has caused me to appreciate him even more. His sincerity, his love for Christ, and his commitment to lifelong curiosity and learning are evident every time we talk. Falling Spring is receiving a gift, and I hope you will receive him as one.

I want to encourage each of you to prayerfully welcome Pastor Tad as he begins this new chapter with us. Pray for him by name. Introduce yourself. Give him the same grace you have so generously given me.

I am excited to collaborate with Pastor Tad in the life and ministries of Falling Spring, anticipating what lies ahead. I look forward to having more margin in my schedule for genuine rest, which is essential for sustained, faithful ministry. But I am equally energized by the growth I believe God has in store for us — deeper spiritual formation in all of us, and the joy of welcoming the many new friends we will invite into new life with Christ. There is so much good work ahead, and I look forward to our journeys together!

Reflecting on this next season is a moment to exhale with gratitude for what has been, and inhale with anticipation for what is coming. The best days at Falling Spring are ahead of us, as we continue to be one generation commending God's works to another, declaring His mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4).

Much love,

Brad



FALLING SPRING

YOUTH MINISTRY

July Update:

Summer is off to a great start! In June we welcomed our summer intern Lydia, played glow volleyball, blessed our community by handing out popsicles at a park, welcomed our new 6th graders and had fun at water wars!

As we move into July, all thoughts are on Camp Falling Spring. On July 12-17th we will gather in Horse Valley with 73 campers and approximately 40 adults. We look forward to a week filled with fun and competition, but most importantly a week filled with Jesus! Gene Reineman will be the speaker for the week.

I ask that you would be praying over Camp Falling Spring. Please pray for safety, for friendships to be built & strengthened, for students to meet Jesus for the first time and for lives to be transformed.

Blessings,
Sam Ray



Upcoming:

Students vs. Adults
JULY 1ST 6:30-8:30PM

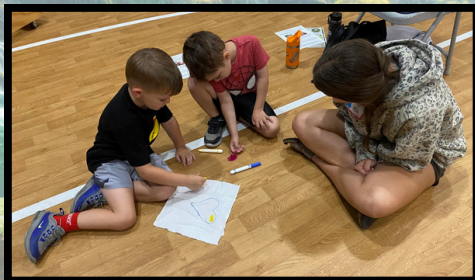
Camp Kickoff Event
JULY 8TH 6:30-8:30PM

Camp Sunday
JULY 19TH 10AM

Soap Hockey
JULY 29TH 6:30-8:30PM



THANK YOU to everyone who supported Rainforest Falls VBS. We had a great week with 66 kids and over 30 adult and youth helpers. The kids spent the week learning about the nature of God through stories, games, and fun activities.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 5, 12, 19, 26: Sunday School 9-9:50 in room 101

July 6: Superhero Night 6:30-7:30 room 101

July 22: Dog Days of Summer Night 6:30-7:30 room 101

July Worship Schedule

July 5: Meagan Boozer preaching in the Chapel and Sanctuary; Brad Hill preaching in the FLC. We will conclude our series - Faith That Matters - from the book of James.

July 12: Pastor Tad preaching in all services. We will begin a five-week sermon series, where we look at how Paul begins his letters by first calling out something good about the people he addresses.

July 19: Pastor Tad preaching in the Chapel and Sanctuary - part two of the series in Paul's letters; Gene Reineman preaching in the FLC for Camp Sunday (Gene is the speaker for CFS 2026, and his message will reflect on the theme and experiences from CFS 2026.)

July 26: Pastor Tad preaching in all services - part three of the series in Paul's letters.

PNC Members with Pastor Tad

From left - Kimberly Baker, Chris Lombardozi, Jane Morgan, Hunter Brindle, Pastor Tad, John Brink, Elise Overcash, Bill Happel and Doug Martzluf. Cale Jones not pictured.



News from Presbyterian Women



PW of the Synod of the Trinity 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 of the PC(USA) General Assembly. There are flyers posted around campus and registration forms are available. The cost is \$275.00 for a double room. 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. We love to send "First Timers" so ask a friend to go along and come talk to us. Register now!



Ice cream! Ice cream! We all scream for ice cream!

The folks across the street at The Tower certainly do love when we visit in July for our annual ice cream social. Mark **Wednesday, July 15th from 1-3** on your calendar to join us in scooping ice cream and socializing with our neighbors. We could use some help. Let Becky Fritz know if you would like to take part.

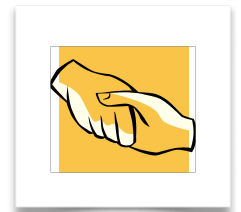


Looking ahead to August—

The Annual Gathering of PW of Carlisle Presbytery will be held on August 22 at the Mechanicsburg Church. Ride sharing will be available. We will need preregistration for lunch. Watch for information in the bulletin.

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.





CAMP FALLING SPRING IS LOOKING FOR DESSERTS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Dessert Donations

Camp is right around the corner, and we are looking for dessert donations to help keep our campers fueled and smiling! Whether you are a master baker or prefer to pick up something store-bought, your contribution makes a big difference.

We are specifically looking for cookies, brownies, or any other sweets that are ***not iced or chocolate covered*** that are easy to serve to a group of hungry campers.

We want everyone to feel included! We're also putting together some gluten-free, nut-free, and dairy-free sweets. If you'd like to contribute a treat that meets these dietary needs, we would absolutely love it.

Please drop off your baked goods at the FLC kitchen on Sunday, July 12th, or at Horse Valley as you drop your camper off for camp.

Thank you so much! Any questions, please see Bryan Lucas.

Volunteers Needed For Camp Falling Spring

CFS is looking for adult volunteers to help serve meals at camp Monday-Thursday at 2 time slots—10am-2pm and 4pm-7pm.

Volunteers will help prep for serving, serve, and clean up after the meals. Use this link to connect to the sign-up sheet

form.jotform.com/261614197008052 Questions can be directed to Sam at sam@pcfalloingspring.org