

FROM PASTOR TAD

Autumn Poems

Autumn is a special time of year. It is the harvest season, the beginning of a new school year. Autumn breezes bring cool refreshing air, replacing the sweltering heat of summer. We begin to look forward to celebrations like Thanksgiving. Autumn is also a season in which the family of Jesus Christ can (re)establish our hearts in the steadfast love of our Lord and Savior.

For all these reasons, Autumn is a season made for poetry. I found some beautiful poems, composed by three sisters in Christ who put words to these feelings. May they be a blessing to us all and turn our eyes toward Jesus in this Autumn season.



Autumn Blessings

Autumn brings to the soul relief,
as hot summer days, slip to an end
God sent the season for weary hearts
to restore, repair and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,
that shed their changing leaves
God send the season for failing hearts
to adhere, embrace and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,
there comes a new refreshing rain
God sent the season for fraying hearts
to increase, grow and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb,
and dips much earlier into the night
God sent the season for sleepy hearts
to arise, shine and awake in His light.

God gave to us the Autumn season,
so we could have a respite and rest
for it is the season for our beset souls
to see how much we are blessed!

~~~~~  
Psalm 16:9 King James Version:

*"Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope."*

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<https://poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com/2012/10/13/autumn-blessings/>

#### *When Autumn Leaves Begin to Fall*

By Kathleen Higham

When autumn leaves begin to fall  
I think of Him most of all  
Colors bursting with the sun  
Rays shine down on everyone.

There is a leafy autumn smell  
I walk on softness where they fell  
Floating gently to the ground  
Touching down without a sound.

Animal are scurrying to and fro  
Instinctively the creatures know  
The leaves scattered everywhere  
Beautifies a place once bare.

Rising up to the bluest sky  
A tree looks down, creaks a sigh  
Nestled in her hollowed place  
Life will wait through winter's race.

When the tress at last have shed  
Sturdy branches though not dead  
Beneath the earth roots hold tight  
Tall and stately through the night.

When autumn leaves begin to fall  
The Father orchestrates it all  
Blooms in waiting seem to say  
He is coming back someday.

Again dressed in a formal gown  
Branches filled and hanging down  
See the miracle of God once more  
Birds leap from her branch to soar.

Here I stand in wonder of this  
A soft wind blows to me a kiss  
My spirit tells my mind to hush  
Peace abounds in Christ for us.

The seasons change, come and go  
But this is what I truly know  
When autumn leaves begin to fall  
I think of Him most of all.

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<https://www.christart.com/poetry/poem/1827>

## *Autumn Glory*

Chills on my skin,  
I feel an Autumn breeze,  
Red, gold and orange  
Glow upon the trees.

The air is crisp,  
Refreshing to breathe in,  
Excitement stirs in my heart  
As starts a new season.

Lord Jesus, I marvel  
The rhythm You create,  
Surely but a glimpse  
Behind Heaven's gate.

With perfection and beauty  
The seasons do dance;  
Each one has its glory,  
Each one its chance.

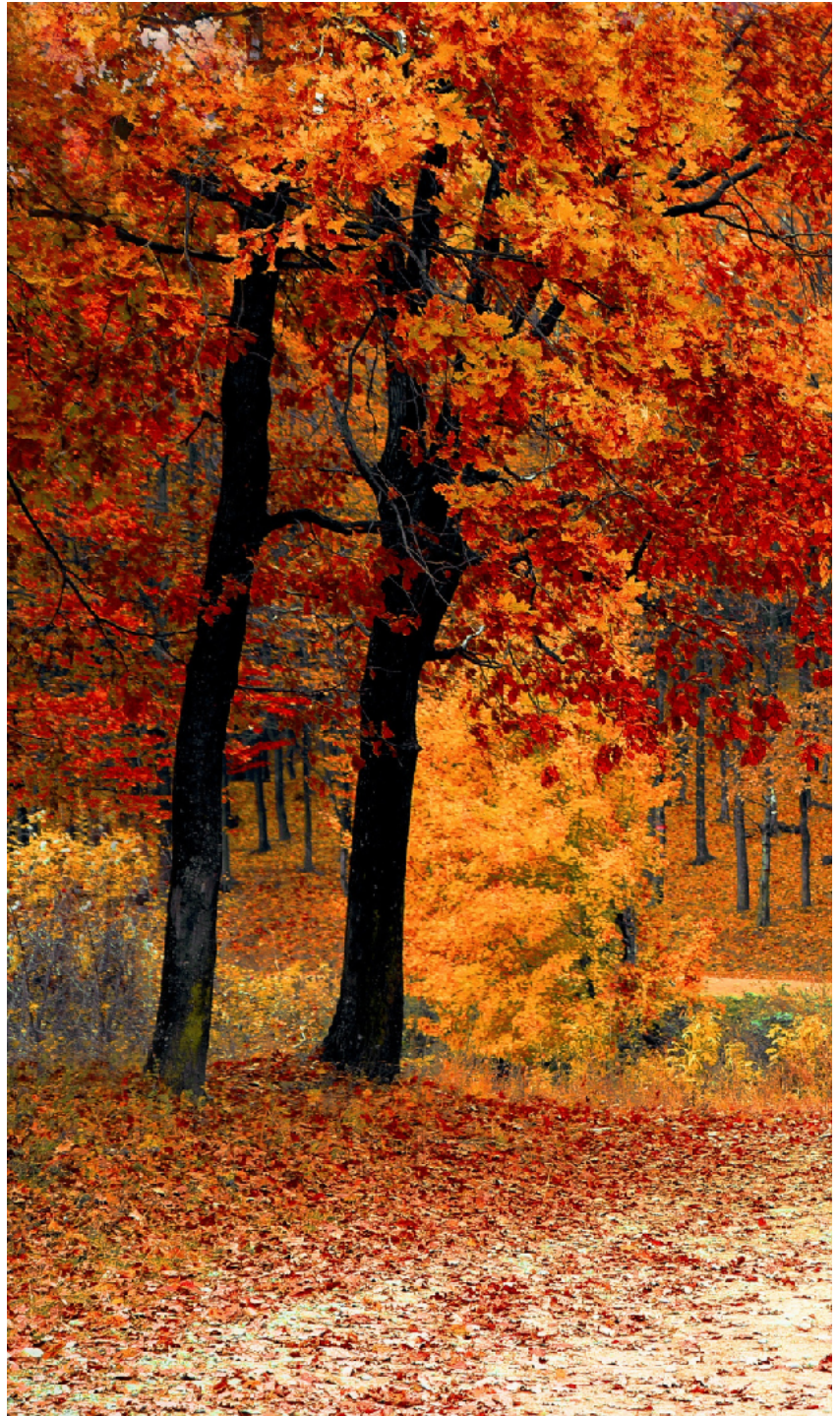
So amidst these changes,  
As trees are cloaked in glory,  
I remember all is Yours,  
Your unfolding story.

The refreshing air,  
The trees of red and gold,  
Sing a song of Your love,  
Extending from days of old.

The cool Autumn air  
I delight to breathe in;  
Excitement stirs in my heart  
As starts a new season.

Yes, my Lord Jesus,  
As I feel an Autumn breeze,  
The glory of Your presence  
Brings me to my knees!

*He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding..." ~ Daniel 2:21*



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<https://reflectthislight.com/2013/09/autumn-glory/>

# Views From a Hill



## Ordinary Time: A New Season in the Book of Ruth

This September, as school buses are rolling again, and our routines settle back into “normal,” we're turning to a story about what it looks like to find God at work in the ordinary rhythms of life. Starting in late August, we'll spend three weeks in the book of Ruth — a short, quiet story tucked into the Old Testament that turns out to be anything but small.

It's a fitting story for this particular season at Falling Spring. Ruth is about beginnings that come after loss, about faithfulness that shows up in unglamorous, everyday ways, and about a “new ordinary” that God is quietly building toward something much bigger than anyone in the story could see at the time. Here's where we're headed:

**Week 1 — When Everything Empties Out (Ruth 1).** We meet Naomi at her lowest point — she's lost her husband, her sons, and her home, and she's honest enough to say so, asking to be called “Mara,” meaning bitter. This week gives us permission to be honest about our own empty chapters instead of rushing past them. We'll also encounter Ruth's remarkable vow of loyalty to Naomi — a decision to stay, not just a feeling — and we'll notice how even in a chapter that ends “empty,” the story quietly hints that provision is already on its way.

**Week 2 — Grace in the Grain Field (Ruth 2).** Enter Boaz, who doesn't do anything flashy — he simply lives out God's built-in provisions for the poor and the vulnerable with unusual generosity and personal care. It's a great picture of faithfulness showing up in ordinary obedience rather than grand gestures, and of grace surprising the very person who receives it. Ruth's question — “why have I found such favor?” — is one we might ask ourselves more often.

**Week 3 — The Kinsman Who Comes Through (Ruth 3:1–4:17).** The story comes to its resolution at the threshing floor and the city gate, where both Ruth and Boaz take real risks for the sake of redemption. We'll talk about a guardian-redeemer who was willing, not just able — and we'll end at the story's famous final lines, where a quiet genealogy reveals that this small, overlooked story was never small at all. It's the perfect handoff into our next sermon series in Isaiah, which opens up exactly what that “whole time” was building toward.

I look forward to going through this series together. Come ready to be honest about your own empty chapters, to notice the ordinary grace around you, and to be reminded that God is never in a hurry — and never absent — even when the story seems small.

Much love,

*Brad*

## September Worship Schedule:

August 30: Ordinary Time, part 1 - Ruth 1, when everything empties out. Brad preaching in all three services.

September 6: Ordinary Time, part 2 - Ruth 2, grace in the grain field. Gene Reineman preaching in the Chapel and Sanctuary, Brad in the FLC.

September 13: Ordinary Time, part 3 - passages from Ruth 3 & 4, the kinsman who comes through. Paul Quesenberry preaching in the Chapel and Sanctuary, Brad in the FLC.

September 20: Words of Conviction & Hope, part 1 - Isaiah 1:10-20, Conviction & Hope. Pastor Tad preaching in all three services.

September 27: Words of Conviction & Hope, part 2 - Isaiah 6:1-8, I Saw the lord High & Lifted Up, Whom Shall I Send / Send Me. Pastor Tad preaching in all three services.

## Worship Committee: Helping Our Church Worship God Well

Worship is at the heart of who we are as the people of God. On a regular basis, the Worship Committee works behind the scenes with our pastors, musicians, and worship leaders to help ensure that everything we do in worship points us to Christ and brings glory to God.

The committee provides oversight for worship at Falling Spring by prayerfully planning and supporting our services throughout the year. This includes helping shape worship schedules, coordinating special services like World Communion, Christmas Eve, Lenten services, and Easter, overseeing Communion, arranging volunteers such as ushers, greeters, liturgists, Bible readers, and A/V teams, and caring for the worship environment and resources in our Chapel, Sanctuary, and Family Life Center. The committee also helps evaluate worship needs, equipment, and future opportunities so that our worship remains meaningful, faithful, and welcoming.

If you have a heart for worship, enjoy working collaboratively, and would like to help support one of the most important ministries of our church, we invite you to consider serving on the Worship Committee.

If you feel God may be calling you to this ministry, please speak with one of our Worship Committee elders: Jodi Wright, Dave Mummert, or Brian Truesdale. We'd love to talk with you about what serving on the committee looks like.

## Come and See: **Alpha** Begins September 2!

Starting **Wednesday, September 2, from 6:30–8:00 PM**, we're hosting another session of Alpha — a relaxed, no-pressure space to explore life's big questions and the Christian faith over a shared meal, a short video, and honest conversation.

Maybe you've never quite settled the big questions and want an honest place to wrestle with them. Maybe you have a friend, neighbor, or coworker who's curious but unwilling to walk into a "regular" church event on their own — Alpha is an easy way to invite someone to explore the Gospel. Or maybe you grew up in the faith, or have been in the church a long time, and realize it's been a while since you sat down with the basics — who Jesus is, why the cross matters, what prayer actually does. Alpha holds room for all three. No experience required, no question too big, small, or awkward. Just come as you are — and bring someone with you.

### Here are seven reasons to give **Alpha** a try this fall:

1. **There's food.** Every session starts with dinner together — because good conversation often begins around a table.
2. **Every question is welcome, no matter how long you've been a Christian.** Whether you've never opened a Bible or you've taught Sunday school for twenty years, doubt and curiosity belong here.
3. **It's an easy way to invite.** Alpha doesn't feel like "church" to someone checking it out for the first time — it feels like dinner with friends. If you've been wondering how to invite that neighbor or coworker, this is it.
4. **It's a refresher course on the essentials.** Even lifelong members find Alpha is a great way to revisit the basics of the faith with fresh eyes — no assumptions, no jargon, just the fundamentals explained well.
5. **The small-group conversations are real, not rehearsed.** After a short video, you'll talk it through in a small group where everyone's voice matters — no one's grading your theology.
6. **You get to watch someone else discover this stuff for the first time.** There's nothing quite like watching a friend ask "wait, so God actually *likes* me?" Bonus: it'll probably deepen your own faith too.
7. **There is a statistically significant chance Bryan's meals will border on a burning-bush experience.** We can't prove this in the Westminster Confession, but we're fairly confident that eating Bryan's food will restore your faith in humanity.

**Join us Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 PM, beginning September 2.** Whether you're curious, bringing a friend, or brushing up on the basics — bring your questions and come hungry, for dinner and for something more.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up or scan the QR code.



# KIDS' MINISTRY

Email: [pcfskids@pcfallingspring.org](mailto:pcfskids@pcfallingspring.org)

# SEPTEMBER

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHT



### Paint night creations



### Dog days of summer event



## WHAT WE'RE LEARNING



### Sunday School

Our Bible buddy Klymer the snow leopard will help us learn about David and Abigail. On mission Sunday at the end of the month we will make items to put in OCC shoeboxes.



### Joyful Voices

We will begin learning some songs that we will share with the congregation later this fall. We will also have fun learning a song with boom whackers.



### J-Walkers & Tweens

J-Walkers and Tweens will follow the same lesson every week, but it will be modified to fit each age group. They will be learning stories and people from the Bible. We will practice looking verses up in the Bible and learn a different memory verse every month. And of course, there will be lots of interactive games and activities!



## A NOTE FROM MISS JENN

I am so excited to be starting another year of kid min activities! We have lots of fun things planned this year, including an event for the whole family every month. See you soon!

-Jenn Smith, Children's Ministry Director

### Sunday School

Age 4 - Grade 5  
Room 101 & 103  
9-9:50

### J-Walkers

Age 4 - Grade 2  
Room 101  
6:30-7:30

### Tweens

Grade 3 - Grade 5  
Room 103  
6:30-7:30

### Joyful Voices

Age 4 - Grade 5  
Room 101  
7:30-8

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Love your neighbor as yourself.  
-Matthew 22:39



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 2

Mid-Week Activities  
6:30-8

Sept. 9

Mid-Week Activities  
6:30-8

Sept. 16

Mid-Week Activities  
6:30-8

Sept. 23

Mid-Week Activities  
6:30-8

Sept. 25

Family Game Night  
6-7:30

Sept. 30

Mid-Week Activities  
6:30-8

Sunday School every  
Sunday from 9-9:50

Mid-week activities are J-Walkers, Tweens, & Joyful Voices

# Falling Spring Youth

As a new school year begins, we're excited about the year to come! More than a calendar of events, Youth Ministry is about helping students discover the love of Jesus, grow in their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience the support of caring Christian adults.

This fall marks a season of transition following the departure of our Youth Director, Sam Ray. While we begin the search for a new director, one thing has not changed: our commitment to investing in the lives of students. We're incredibly grateful for the dedicated team of volunteer youth leaders who continue to faithfully show up day after day, creating a place where every student is known, loved, and encouraged to follow Christ.

## Wednesdays

Youth Group  
6:30-8:00 PM  
(Begins in the gym)  
Best night of the week!

## Sundays

Youth Bible study  
9:00-9:50 AM in 211-212  
A great place to study the Bible with other students and some amazing leaders.

## Other opportunities

**5th Quarter Parties** - after home CASHS football games. Check with your youth leaders for dates and locations.

**High School girls' Bible study** - meets on Sunday afternoons and evenings. If you would like to join, please talk to Abby Bucher, Tracy Lombardozzi, or Elise Wright.

**Guys' open gyms** - Reach out to Cade Brindle, Colton Wright, Nate Widmann, or Hunter Brindle for details.

Plans are already in the works for **Camp Falling Spring 2027**, scheduled for July 11-16.

As we look ahead, we invite the entire church family to pray with us. Please pray for our students as they navigate another school year, for our youth leaders as they faithfully love and encourage students, and for the search committee as they seek the person God is preparing to become our next Youth Director.

Thank you for supporting the Youth Ministry through your prayers, encouragement, and faithful investment in these amazing youth. Together, we get to help young people grow and thrive in the love of Christ.



# Volunteers Needed



## Kid's Ministry Needs You!!

We are blessed to have a wonderful group of kids who attend Sunday School each week. Sunday School classes are most effective when we can divide into 2 age groups, *but we need more teachers* to continue to make this happen. Are you willing to volunteer to teach kids' Sunday School a couple times a year? All supplies and lesson plans are provided. Please reach out to Jenn Smith at [pcfskids@pcfallingspring.org](mailto:pcfskids@pcfallingspring.org) for more information and to volunteer. Thanks!

### *Community Dinner - A Great Place to "SAY YES!"*

Were you set afire from Brad's message on Aug. 9th? Perhaps you felt a nudge from Pastor Tad's sermon? Are you ready to "Say Yes"? The Community Dinner team is looking for additional volunteers to help serve and feed the Lord's sheep. When? - Every other Sunday in the FLC gym from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Just come with a willing heart & a smile. Email Deb Jacobs at [trjacobs54@hotmail.com](mailto:trjacobs54@hotmail.com) for info or if you have questions. Deb is the Community Dinner Coordinator. Or you may email Kory Wengert at [office@pcfallingspring.org](mailto:office@pcfallingspring.org) and she will forward your email to Deb to be added to our list of existing volunteers. Deb sends emails prior to each Community Dinner as a reminder & to check on your availability.

**Upcoming Community Dinners are: 8/30, 9/13, 9/27 and so on (every other Sunday).**

Thank you for taking the time to consider volunteering to a very important cause - feeding God's people.

*Ephesians 2:10 - We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Deb Jacobs, Community Dinner Coordinator

## College Ministry Team is Gearing Up for Fall/Spring Semesters

Know any college students? Want to help put a smile on their face and encourage them on their educational journey? Want to lift their spirits and let them know their hometown is thinking of them?

The College Ministry team loves sharing encouragement with students both near & far.

Use the Google Form (QR Code here) to sign them up to receive a monthly message from our team. We share a little encouragement, prayer, and a reminder that they are loved and supported while they're away at school. It's a simple way for us to stay connected and remind them that their church family is praying for them! Contact Emily Lemons or Katie Truesdale with any questions.



# Through the Lens: A Food Pantry Picture Show

You are in for a treat. This month we wanted to give you a glimpse of the summer offerings at the Food Pantry. Let's begin & end the show with pictures that show some of the colorful garden contributions from our Falling Spring members.



We have received an assortment of basil, dill, mint, tomatoes, string beans, banana peppers and cucumbers from the garden of Beth Francisco, delivered weekly by Karl. The summer squash come from Kory Wengert. Sue Laub dropped off tomatoes. Our clients **love** all the fresh contributions.

The second picture shows dozens of fresh eggs donated by Kim & Dana Baker and Jennifer & Tony Rotz. Bill Meyers brings 40 half gallons of fresh milk each week and Karen Shoemaker contributes butter weekly.



Picture No.3 is our volunteer Mike Breslin displaying a roll of ground beef. Each week our clients have a choice between two frozen items: our offerings rotate between chicken breasts & thighs, ham steaks, tilapia or haddock filets and ground beef as our meat / fish option, as our funds allow and depending on what we can purchase from the Central PA Food Bank.

Picture 4 shows the baked foods we receive and distribute. We are the lucky recipients of the items that Ada's Bakery at Jim's Country Market does not sell. *And* we usually receive 10-20 large boxes of Dunkin Donuts from the LWE store that Mike & Rosemary Smith kindly pickup for us on Mondays.



Our baked goods are so popular that our clients arrive at 6:30 am just to get a low number for their entry into the Food Pantry at 9 am because they want first pick!!! When I arrive at 7 am to start bagging garden items and donuts the troops are beginning to congregate. Numbers go out at 8 am and our clients are very good about the "honor system" as to the order of their arrivals. For many, the weekly socialization with their food pantry friends is an important part of their week. How nice it is that our ministry provides both food and camaraderie.

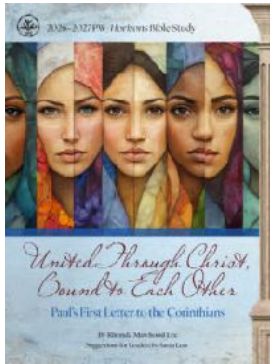
Marty Walker  
Food Pantry Coordinator



# News from Presbyterian Women



**The 2026–2027 PW/Horizons Bible study will begin on Monday, September 14 at 9:00 AM in Room 205.** The group meets the second Monday of each month September through May and uses a DVD and supplemental materials for the study. Contact Sue Mummert if you wish to join this study so we can order your study book.



***United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*** by Rhonda Mawhood Lee and Suggestions for Leaders by Sarah Leer.

Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return; he challenged his friends to be ready when that day came. Two thousand years later, the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. Our challenge remains to live in ways that demonstrate our trust in the resurrection.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**



This ministry continues to bring blessings for both those who create the shawls or lap robes and for those who receive them. There have been several women who have contributed their time and talent diligently over the past years. We are always looking for more women to participate in this mission. PW will provide the yarn if you provide the skill, time and prayers to create these. Even if you don't knit or crochet, you can be part of this ministry through your monetary donation so that we may purchase more yarn. Talk with any of the Coordinating Team members about how you can participate.

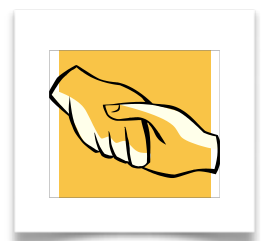


## **No Sale of Happy Valley Soups to be held in 2026.**

We will consider a sale for 2027. There are other local organizations who will offer these soups this fall. See Sue Mummert or Linda Fisher for additional information about those sales.

## **PW in Mission and Service**

We are always looking for women to join us in our missions. Presbyterian Women 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.





## It's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Time Again!

The holiday season is just around the corner, and it's time for our annual **Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoebox Drive!**

Packing, praying over, and giving a shoebox is a special way to share the love of Jesus with children around the world. Last year, Falling Spring packed **355 shoeboxes**, including 325 at our packing party. This year, we are praying & working toward our goal of **400 shoeboxes!**

### How You Can Participate

OCC shoeboxes are available in the **Family Life Center (FLC), Sanctuary, and church office**, or you may use a standard shoebox from home. Each church-provided box includes a gift suggestion list and label with a QR code for the **\$10 shipping donation**. You may also place a \$10 check inside the box, payable to **Samaritan's Purse**.

**Filled shoeboxes are due at the church by Sunday, November 15, 2026.**



### Annual Shoebox Packing Party

**Sunday, November 1, 2026 • 11:00 AM**

Following the 10:00 AM worship services

**FLC Rooms 107/108**

Everyone is invited to this special church-wide mission and fellowship event!

### Donations Needed

We especially need:

- Small stuffed animals
- Small toys, games, playing cards and jacks
- School supplies, including pencils, sharpeners, pencil pouches, drawstring backpacks, tablets and solar calculators
- Hats, gloves, scarves, T-shirts and bandanas
- Hygiene items such as combs, brushes, hair accessories, toothbrushes, nail clippers and files (*non-liquid; no toothpaste or soap*)
- Soccer balls and pumps, bouncy balls and small footballs

Donation bins are located in the **FLC, back of the Sanctuary, and church office**.



### Help Us Make Jump Ropes!

We are collecting **T-shirts and long-sleeved cotton shirts** to turn into jump ropes. Please place donated shirts in the OCC donation box in the FLC lobby. Here is a YouTube video on how to turn t-shirts into jump ropes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPZxe6xD3Nw&t=225s>.

*Operation Christmas Child continued...*



## Amazon Wish List

Shop our **PCFS OCC Amazon Wish List** by scanning the QR code. Items will be used for our November 1 packing party. Please order early so they arrive in time.



## Shoebox Supply House

Great OCC gift deals are available locally at:

709 Marden Ave.

Shippensburg, PA 17257

Visit the Shoebox Supply House website for hours and information, <https://shoeboxsupplyhouse.com>.



## NEW THIS YEAR!

### Falling Spring Will Be an OCC Shoebox Drop-Off Location!

We are excited to announce that Falling Spring has been selected as a **Shoebox Drop-Off Location** for area churches and individuals during **National Collection Week, November 16–23, 2026!**

This gives us a wonderful opportunity to welcome our community into Falling Spring as we work together to share God's love with children around the world.



## We Need a Truck!

We are looking for an individual or business willing to provide a **box truck or tractor-trailer and driver** near the end of Collection Week. The truck will transport shoebox shipping containers from Falling Spring to the local OCC drop-off center at **Antrim Brethren in Christ Church at Kaufmann Station**.

If you can help or know someone who can, please contact **Pam Bucher** at **717-860-6776** or [psbucher3@gmail.com](mailto:psbucher3@gmail.com).

Together, we can **pack, pray, give, welcome, and serve—all in the name of Jesus!**

Every shoebox is an opportunity to share God's love with a child. Thank you for supporting this ministry through your time, gifts, prayers, and generosity.

For questions about the Falling Spring OCC Shoebox Drive or to make a monetary donation toward our November 1st packing party, contact:

**Pam Bucher**

**717-860-6776**

**[psbucher3@gmail.com](mailto:psbucher3@gmail.com)**

*"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"*

**Mark 16:15**

**Thank you for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child!**

# CALLING ALL MEN TO THE RALLY IN THE VALLEY

Who  
Has The  
Truth?

**JESUS**

All Men Come

**SATURDAY**

SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2026

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**CHRIS HUGHES, SINGER EVANGELIST**

NITTERHOUSE YMCA PROGRAM CENTER  
756 COLDBROOK AVE, CHAMBERSBURG, PA

INTERESTED? CONTACT BROTHER BOB: 717-479-2023

**NO ADMISSION FEE - FREE TO ALL**

Bring your lawn chair - Water provided

**A N C H O R** - Pastor Lawrence Metzler

**F R I E N D** - Pastor Vic Johnson

**H O P E** - Pastor Noel Benzo