## From Pastor Tad



### An Exercise in Gratitude

November is a special time for giving thanks. The harvest is in, school is well underway, and the year is drawing to a close. We even have a special holiday at the end of the month where we take a whole day to give thanks to God for His provision in the past year and for all the good things in our lives.

As the family of Jesus, we are supposed to be thankful people all year long. Special autumn holidays help; but they cannot be the only time we remember to be thankful. This is partially why gratitude is baked into the core of our weekly worship together. We worship God not to earn our place in heaven or out of fear; but because we are thankful for what God has done for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The difficult thing is becoming people who intentionally practice thankfulness every singly day of the year. A reminder at the beginning of each week that Christians are thankful people is valuable; but we often need more. Becoming thankful on a daily basis, especially when the going gets tough, requires daily effort. The good news is the daily effort required does not need to be difficult. A marvelous gift we have from one who lived long ago is St. Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer of Examen. This is a spiritual practice primarily for reviewing the day at its end to look for where we could see God working. Another benefit of this prayer habit is that when we take a moment to look for God sightings each day, the natural thing to do next is say, "Thank you." This is a simple way to train ourselves to be consistently thankful.

If the Prayer of Examen is new to you, the prayer itself is quite simple. Take the following steps in an informal conversation with Jesus before sleep at day's end.

Movement 1: Thanksgiving -simply thank God for everything that comes to mind, remembering He was there even when you couldn't see.

Movement 2: Guidance -Ask God to guide you through an honest reflection of the day - highs and lows.

Movement 3: Review- Take an "Inventory" of the day, retrace your steps through the day's events, interactions, challenges, defeats, and victories. Nothing is too small or large for notice.

Movement 4: Grace -Remind yourself that God's grace covers everything, good, bad, and unremarkable. Ask God to forgive where you fell short. Accept God's grace for everything you recall. Ask for God's grace to cover everyone you interacted with.

Movement 5: Resolution -Thank God for forgiving you. Thank God for the good things of the day. Thank God for already going before you into the day to come.

Daily gratitude is a muscle we need to intentionally exercise. But just like with physical exercise, we start with what we can do and grow stronger by doing. Just a couple minutes before bed each evening will work results you never dreamed possible. What seems like a chore will grow in time to a delight we long for, and we will marvel at the awareness of God's presence which results.

# Views From a Hill



## SATURATED WITH GRATITUDE

*"Give thanks in all circumstances."* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

In my present circumstance, I'm writing an article for the November newsletter. November, the month of Thanksgiving, when we focus a bit more on gratitude. I've long believed gratitude to be the antidote for most, if not all, negative emotions and attitudes. It is a gift to the giver and to the one who receives it. With that in mind, **thank you, Falling Spring, for being a congregation who...**

**Loves the Lord.** We are not a church focused on ourselves, the latest church trends, or even our beloved traditions. We are committed to loving God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Loves laughter,** one of God's great gifts. We laugh hard, and we laugh often.

**Loves children and youth.** From my first day at Falling Spring to the present, it has been clear that we care about the young: enjoying the life they bring and helping them grow strong in Christ.

**Loves each other.** It might blow your mind to know all the ways we care for one another. Beyond the obvious ones, like our Deacons and pastoral care, there are individuals and groups who consistently go out of their way to share tangible expressions of God's love with others.

**Loves the vulnerable in our community.** From Mission and Outreach's efforts to support ministries locally and globally, to our strong nourishment ministries of the Food Pantry, Community Dinner, and Power Pack, we put real time, effort, and resources into caring for those in need.

**Loves God's Word.** I've seen a passion for Scripture in worship services, Bible studies, small groups, meetings, dinner conversations, chats in the grocery store, Alpha, and so on.

**Loves worship.** Isn't it wonderful that we gather in three locations every Sunday for worship? We are saturating our campus with worshippers who seek to worship the Lord in spirit and truth.

I could go on and on, thanking you for being such a fun, kind, and loving church family, but **now it's your turn.** You are hereby challenged to saturate our community with gratitude. Be grateful, show it, and share it. What if you sent someone a note of thanks every day this month? It just might brighten someone's day, and it could possibly change the world!

Who will you thank today?

Much love,

Brad



# November
# Worship Schedule

## Sunday, Nov. 1 – All Saints Sunday

We begin a new series, "Through Children's Eyes," connecting beloved children's stories to Scripture and to our response to it. This week, we look at Luke 18:15-17 and how it connects to *Charlotte's Web.* Pastor Tad will preach in the Chapel and Sanctuary, and Brad will preach in the FLC. Communion will be celebrated at 8 AM in the Chapel. In all services, we will hold an All Saints service of remembrance, honoring those from our church family who have passed from this life to the next during the past year.

## Sunday, Nov. 8 – Women's Thank Offering Sunday

This service is planned in collaboration with Presb*yterian* Women, and our own Katy Dortenzo will preach in all three services.

*"Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."* —1 John 3:18

## Sunday, Nov. 15

Pastor Tad will preach in all three services, exploring how Colossians 3:1-14 connects to *The Velveteen Rabbit.*

## Sunday, Nov. 22 – Christ the King Sunday

Pastor Tad will preach in all three services, exploring how Luke 19:1-10 connects to *The Runaway Bunny*.

## Sunday, Nov. 29 – First Sunday of Advent

We begin a new preaching series, "Sing It Again!" In this series, we will explore the meaning and message of beloved Christmas songs and the Scriptures that inspired them. Pastor Tad will preach in the Chapel and Sanctuary, and Brad will preach in the FLC. Communion will be celebrated at all three services.

# A Beautiful God Wink for Tad and PCFS


Jerry Nuernberger and his wife in the prayer room with the cross

What would the following have in common? —

The Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring, Eldon Nuernberger, Rev. Tad Schuldt, Church House, Nancy and Ted Schuldt, Issaquah WA, Jerry Nuernberger, and God's gifts.

As Pastor Tad was prayerfully looking toward where God was calling him, a member of his parent's church in Issaquah WA was also answering God's call to finally use a piece of "good wood" that *his* father had salvaged from a building which was being demolished nearly 30 years earlier. This wood accompanied the family as they moved around the country. Finally, the "good wood" was handed off from father to son to one day be used for a special purpose he had not yet found. The man who salvaged the wood was Eldon Nuernberger, the wood was the banister from the Church House which once stood on the site of the current Family Life Center (FLC). His son, Jerry Nuernberger, also a wood worker, felt called to incorporate the wood, in the form of a cross, within the design of the new stained-glass window for the Prayer Room which was being created for Sammamish Presbyterian Church where Nancy and Ted Schuldt are members.

In May/June, Nancy sent a request out to her church for prayers as they traveled to Missouri for the purpose of helping Tad pack up and move east for his new calling in Chambersburg PA. Jerry reached out immediately, inquiring about details of Tad's calling because he had grown up in Chambersburg and attended the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring. When Nancy confirmed that PCFS was where Tad was called to serve, Jerry conveyed the back story of the cross in the stained-glass window.

I find it important to focus in on the good wood's original purpose. It was a banister in a church house which spoke God's truth to so many youth and adults over many years. The banister provided support and balance while people moved through their life.


Tad and his parents Nancy & Ted Schuldt

The banister becoming a cross in a prayer room is a continuation of providing support and balance, through Christ, as even more people move through their lives.

God's hand at work, God's heart embracing us all, and God's love always present.

Blessings, Cheri Kearney

NOVEMBER

# Falling Spring Youth

## Our youth leaders are crushing it.

While we search for our next youth director, our incredible volunteer leaders keep showing up, keep leading, and keep loving our students well. Thank you, leaders. You are the heart of this ministry.





## Wackies in November.

Doors open at 6:15. The game starts at 6:30, followed by a talk and small group conversations on the parables of Jesus. It's the best night of the week!

Please note: no Wackies on Nov. 11 (Veterans Day) or Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving).

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

We're still working our way through the book of Acts, Sundays from 9:00-9:50 in the youth room. Great group. Great discussion. Great place to dig into Scripture.

## Save the Date: Camp Falling Spring 2027

Plans are underway! Camp runs July 11-16 at Horse Valley. Mark your calendar now.



## 1 Thessalonians 5:18: *"give thanks in all circumstances"*

This November, what if you sent someone a personal thank you note each day? It will likely brighten their day and just may change the world, one person at a time!

# Reminder: Shoebox Packing Party

## Join us to fellowship and Food and Shoebox Packing

**When:** Sunday, November 1, 2026

**Time:** 11 AM following the 10 AM Worship Services

**Where:** Family Life Center room 107/108

**Lunch:** Following the packing party in the gym. Menu - Pizza, Salad, and Dessert

## Volunteer to help During National Collection Week, November 16-23 at the Falling Spring Shoebox Drop Off Location

We need your help during **National Collection Week November 16-23** to help us welcome individuals and groups as they bring their OCC Shoeboxes to Falling Spring as the first stop in the shoeboxes journey to the children that God has selected all around the world. Our drop-off location is only open for two hours each day. Scan the QR code to see if any of the available time slots fit your schedule.

Thanks for your continued support of OCC. Together, we can **pack, pray, give, welcome, and serve-all** in the name of Jesus!
Questions contact Pam Bucher at 717-860-6776 or psbucher3@gmail.com

## Thanksgiving Blessings from the Food Pantry

As has been done for many years, your Food Pantry will distribute a grocery bag of food with traditional Thanksgiving meal items on November 24th. We aim to bless approximately 100 households. A week prior to that distribution, we give out a voucher to pick up a 4 lb. turkey breast at Weis Market.

Contents of the meal bag include a can of corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie mix. Packages of mashed potato mix, gravy mix and a box of stuffing are also included. See the picture here.

We welcome donations of these items from our congregation between now and Thanksgiving. Just put the items in the Food Pantry chests in the Sanctuary and FLC. Our clients look forward to this treat each year. The thank yous and smiles are plentiful. If you want to witness pure joy, come to our Food Pantry on November 24th around 9:30 am. You will be blessed by the gratitude of our clients.

*Marty Walker*
Food Pantry Coordinator



# KIDS' MINISTRY NOVEMBER

Email: pcfskids@pcfallingspring.org

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHT

Joyful Voices



Sunday School Mission Week: Making Necklaces



## WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

### Sunday School

Our Bible buddy, Zion the lion, will help us learn about some of God's Good Kings in the Old Testament.. On mission Sunday at the end of the month we will make Christmas cards to hand out when the church goes caroling together.

### Joyful Voices

We will continue working on the song "Thankful" that we will be sharing with the congregation on November 22. We will also start learning a Christmas song to share at the combined December 13 service.

### 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. During November we will be focusing on giving thanks. We will practice looking verses up in the Bible and learn a different memory verse every month. And of course, there will lots of interactive games and activities!

## A NOTE FROM MISS JENN

We hope your family will join us here at PCFS on Nov 7 for a fall block party. There will be lots of fun activities including punkin' chunkin'! Let's also remember to give thanks for all the wonderful blessings God gives us each day.

-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

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
-Philippians 4:4



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Nov. 1**
OCC Packing Party
11AM
**Family event**

**Nov. 4**
Mid-Week Activities
6:30-8

**Nov. 6**
Family Trivia Night
6-7:30
**Family event**

**Nov. 7**
Fall Block Party
3-5
**Family event**

**Nov. 18**
Mid-Week Activities
6:30-8

*No Mid-Week Activities on Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day) or Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving)*

Sunday School every Sunday from 9-9:50

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

# News from Presbyterian Women

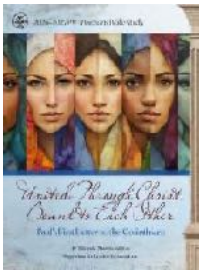


## Women's Thank Offering Service

**November 8th** is the date for the 2026 annual service. This year's theme is ***"Loving in Deed and Truth,"*** taken from 1 John 3:18. Since 1888 this offering has been collected in women's groups and churches as a thank offering to the Lord. Nine projects have been selected in 2026 of which 40 per cent are related to health ministries. More information will be shared in the Minute-for-Mission and the bulletin covers. Our **special guest at all three services will be Katie Dortenzo** who will share her story of love and how the **Sweet Grace Ministries** came to be and how it continues to grow.




## Come join the Horizons' Bible Study



**The 2026–2027 PW/*Horizons* Bible study will meet next on Monday, November 9th 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.

**Would there be interest in offering an evening Bible study group for this Horizons' publication? Please let anyone on the Coordinating Team know of your interest. Suggestions welcome as to a meeting day/night and time. It is published as 9 monthly lessons.**



## Homemade Cookies for the Franklin County Jail Ministry

For many years we have participated with the County Jail Ministry, an ecumenical ministry of the United Churches of Chambersburg Area, in supplying **homemade Christmas cookies**. The cookies will be **collected at Falling Spring on Friday, December 11th,** and delivered to the collection sight - Salem United Brethren Church. The cookies are bagged & delivered by the Prison Chaplain and his team to each inmate. Please let us know if you will be baking cookies so we have a count for planning (Linda Fisher 717-263-0310). Please drop off cookies to the FLC kitchen any time prior to 11:00 on Friday, Dec. 11. Label them for PW and use disposable containers. Thank You!

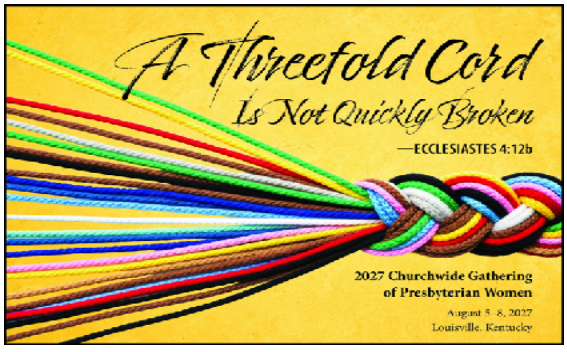
## Prayer Shawl Ministry



This ministry continues to bring blessings for both those who create the shawls or lap robes and for those who receive them. 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 in your home as you have time. Even if you don't knit or crochet, you can be part of this ministry through your monetary donation that we use to purchase yarn. Talk with any of the Coordinating Team members about the specifics of the shawls and lap robes.

**New faces always welcome in our mission and service.**

We are always looking for women to join us in our missions. The members of the Coordinating Team are Linda Fisher, Sue Mummert, Karen Stover, Marilyn Griffin, Pat Phenicie-Grandel, Becky Fritz, Vicki Kaye, Wanda Hutchings, Judy George, Lorraine Schwartz, and Joy Zimmerman.




**Plan now to attend the Churchwide Gathering 2027. Registration will open in March. Scholarship is available.**

- **NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS -** The Nominating Committee will begin the process of seeking candidates for the offices of Elder (Session) and Deacon for the term beginning January 1, 2027 within the next few weeks. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for either of these offices, if you yourself are interested in serving, or if you have any questions regarding the job responsibilities please contact Dave Mummert, Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee, with your suggestions prior to Sunday, November 1, 2026 or as soon as possible.
- Dave's contact info: dmummert02@gmail.com, Cell Phone 717-860-5243. Thanks!

## Updates from Session:

The Lord God is at work in the hearts and the spirit of the church members and leaders. We are prayerfully striving to strengthen the foundation on which we stand both spiritually and physically and ask for prayers as we move through callings and transitions.

Exciting news on the horizon, we are fast approaching the Presbyterian Church of Falling Springs 300-year anniversary in 2034.

For the non-mathematicians in the group, this timeline means the anniversary is a short 7yrs and 2 months away. Although God was, is and will be to come, and measures nothing but our love for Him and each other, we as humans find comfort in timelines, roots and looking back. Hopefully the historians, visionaries, and creative spirits of the congregation will begin forming ideas about this upcoming moment in history for the church.

Session recently passed a pay compensation increase for substitute musicians and pulpit supply. Our previous compensation level was not competitive enough with other churches in the area to secure the needed substitutes.

There will be a **congregational meeting on Sunday December 6** for the purpose of electing elders and deacons for the 2027 terms. Please be praying about those among us who will best serve our spiritual needs and the comforting needs of our church members. Also at the December 6 meeting, our Pastor's Terms of Call will be proposed and voted on for the coming year. Please plan to remain after the 10am services for the meeting in the FLC.

This is also the time of year when we focus a little more on being thankful for the abundant gifts God provides for us each day, and looking inward to see how we too can provide gifts to others. Gifts of our time, our talents, or our tithing are expressions of our thankfulness and our call to share and spread God's love.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the elders, the deacons, the trustees, the committee members, the staff, and for the members of this congregation.

On behalf of your session,

Cheri Kearney
Clerk of Session

# Third Quarter Treasurer's Report - September 2026

Looking back, it seems that each of these quarterly reports begins with a thank you to the congregation for its continuing generosity in supporting our church and its mission. 2026 has been no exception - giving in all phases of church activities including tithes, building, general mission, food pantry and power pack continues to be very strong. As a church, we are blessed with your continued support.

We are further blessed by the arrival of Rev Schuldt after the diligent work of the Pastor Nominating Committee. With his formal installation complete, we are well on our way to the next chapter of ministry at Falling Spring. Continued growth in the congregation and participation in all phases of our activities speaks very well for the future of the church.

The congregation's support in this transition year has been a true blessing. Tithing is significantly ahead of both last year and our expected 2026 budget. Added to this is your continued support of mission activities. While the need is great, your donations have met the challenge.

Similar to 2025, our annual budget anticipated a deficit for the year. This year's original budget anticipated that deficit at $68,000. Based on year to date giving, investment income and the fact that expenses are better than budgeted we might actually do much better than that large projected deficit.

| | through Sept 30, 2026 |
|---|---|
| Total tithes and other income | $ 526,000 |
| Expenses | $ 509,000 |
| 9 Month Surplus | $ 17,000 |

Tithes are 37,000 over current budget
Investment income is $6,000 over budget

Mission and Outreach continues to be very active with its primary focus this year being the needs of the Food Pantry, Power Pack and community dinners. This year over $36,000 has been funded towards these activities.

One concerning issue in 2026 is the extraordinarily large expenses we have faced with respect to our campus and buildings. Session and trustees have made the difficult decision to replace the FLC roof before any further interior damage is caused by leakage. That cost alone will be over $125,000 making our overall building fund expenses over $150,000 for the year. We will have more on future building fund plans soon.

Thank you all again for your incredible support of our church and its Mission! Submitted by Paul Luka

# "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas"

Here you will find information about upcoming Christmas activities.

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



Remember and honor your loved ones by purchasing beautiful poinsettias to be displayed throughout the Christmas season.

Poinsettias cost $9.00 each. Please pay when you place your order & complete the order form. Order Forms are located in the Office, Chapel entry, Sanctuary vestibules & the FLC Welcome desk.

Order by November 15th.

See payment options on the order form.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING SET FOR DECEMBER 13th from 2-4 PM

Come join in the Christmas spirit with an afternoon of Caroling.

Help us spread Christmas Joy by singing favorite Christmas carols!

When: December 13th - 2-4 pm

Where: Meet at the FLC parking lot

Who: Everyone! Fun for the whole family!

Questions: Call Renee at 717 816 5331

- Come ready to load the bus.

**Hot Cocoa & Cookies await you back at the church!**