



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

November 2025



First Presbyterian Church of Ambler
4 S Ridge Ave., Ambler PA 19002 fpcambler.org

GROWING TOGETHER ON THE VINE - Women's Retreat 2025

Lauren Keatley

Joy was evident among women from FPCA and Leverington Pres who experienced a "fruitful" retreat at Saint Raphaela Center in Haverford, PA, in early October. Nearly 40 women from the two churches dug deeper into the familiar passage of Jesus being the True Vine whom believers need to cling to, just as grapes on a vine in John 15.

Before the retreat, Sarah Moyer visited Langdon Palmer, former FPCA pastor, at his vineyard for a crash course in tending a vineyard so it bears good fruit. Sarah shared photos and explained the painstaking care of branches on the vine needed to produce useful fruit. Her presentation helped women more fully see connection with Jesus is essential to fulfilling our Creator's purpose for each of us. She also showed a branch growing rogue on the vine. Such branches steal water and nutrients from the rest of fruit-producing vine. Jesus said they must be pruned.

In small groups, women grappled with hard questions about marrying Jesus' words with our daily lives, struggles and disappointments—and staying connected to Him. Conversations were genuine and compassionate. How refreshing.



Throughout the weekend, crisp fall air, turning leaves, a beautiful setting, and meeting of hearts in groups, at dining tables, and in worship, produced a spirit of what Jesus promised if we stay connected to Him daily in big and small things: Joy!

As we closed our time together in a quasi-impromptu worship service Sunday morning, joy was abundant. Everyone participated in some part of the service, briefly planned the night before. Singing, praising, reading, confessing, praying. We celebrated the joy of our salvation because we are connected to the True Vine.

photos video



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SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE

Dave Wise

For several years, the Worship and Music Committee, in collaboration with our in-house sound engineer, Ed Myers, has been working on upgrading our sanctuary sound system. The previous system was purchased over a decade ago and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. This meant that no software upgrades were available for years, leading to a lack of iPad connectivity as Apple continued to update its iOS operating system.

When the old system was purchased, we were not live-streaming. While that system could support both in-house and live-stream feeds simultaneously, it did not allow for independent management of each feed. We also noticed increasing failures within the soundboard, and while these could be corrected, it was only a matter of time before an unexpected problem would arise at an inopportune time. Finally, digital sound technology has advanced significantly since the old system was designed and manufactured.

For these reasons, the Session gave the go-ahead for the upgrade. Ed worked with many people here at FPCA, proposing various configurations until we settled on the new soundboard and its associated hardware. After the new system was delivered, Ed configured and tested it. Before the installation, it was discovered that the wiring between the console in the balcony and the equipment used by the praise band was insufficient for modern digital connectivity.



With invaluable help from Connor Miksch, Ed completely rewired the low-voltage connections between the balcony and the chancel area. The new system was then installed, tested in rehearsal, and went live. We were pleased and astonished when we first began using the system. While we expected many improvements, the sound quality exceeded our expectations. As of now, many on the tech team and the praise band have been trained on the new equipment, and we are all loving it.

As a final bonus, the old system has been moved to the Contemporary Praise Band's practice room and will soon be set up as a silent rehearsal system. This is something we've needed for a while so that we can hear each other when we rehearse in that space. If you have any questions about this project, please contact David Wise or Jeanne Miksch.