



# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

June 2025



First Presbyterian Church of Ambler  
4 S Ridge Ave., Ambler PA 19002 [fpcambler.org](http://fpcambler.org)

## FROM PING PONG to PURPOSE: YOUTH SERVE WITH CROSS MISSIONS

Caitlin Marquard



Seven youth and four leaders traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina for this year's mission trip from June 15 - 20. We stayed in an outreach center connected to a local Presbyterian church, where there was plenty to do such as ping pong, basketball, and even time to get to know another youth group from Atlanta. Each day, we partnered with CROSS Missions, who provided devotionals and sent us to two different service sites. This gave us a chance to serve in all kinds of ways while learning about Charlotte's "housing first" approach to chronic homelessness. Our days were full from baking cupcakes and playing cards with residents in

permanent housing, to sorting medical supplies at a nonprofit pharmacy, to walking alongside elderly neighbors making a long, hot weekly trip for food support. We also cleaned parks, helped prepare classrooms at an arts center that provides free music lessons, and took on the \$20 meal challenge to better understand food insecurity. Even with early mornings and summer heat, the students were excited and thankful to be there. In the evenings, we played games like Dutch Blitz, The Game, and so many more. On Wednesday, explored downtown Charlotte visiting the Museum of Illusions, grabbing ice cream, and cheering on the Charlotte Knights at a baseball game.

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#### YOUTH (continued)

Each day, students reflected on our theme, "Mountains, Valleys, and Plains," finding God in both the highs and lows of the week. Their energy, compassion, and willingness to listen made a lasting impact. Thank you FPCA for your prayers and support. This trip was an incredible blessing, and we're so grateful to have shared it together!

## HOWARD FORSTER'S LEGACY OF FAITH

Jodi Wolper

Howard Forster, a member of First Pres Ambler for 62 years, was born an only child to parents who, for a time, split their Sundays between two congregations - one Lutheran, the other Presbyterian. Eventually, they chose to make Presbyterianism their spiritual home. Howard fondly remembers that many of the friends he had at both churches were also his neighbors, making faith and community a part of his daily life. Although reading the Bible together wasn't a regular part of his household routine, offering grace and lifting others in prayer was. Howard attended Bible school, church retreats, and participated in Christian Endeavor, a youth fellowship group that met at Leverington Presbyterian Church.

Howard's educational journey took him from Valley Forge Military Academy to Rice Institute, culminating in a degree from the University of Delaware. Driven by a personal commitment to a life that would benefit humanity, he dedicated his career to advancing the field of chemical engineering, working as both a Chemical Engineer and Project Manager. Howard and his wife Ruth celebrated 69 years of marriage and life together and raised 3 children.

"I learned a lot about Christianity in my home and church. I prayed about almost everything, many times unknowingly, especially during tests in school."

Inspired by the love of Jesus, Howard continues to reach out to others with care and compassion. He intentionally connects with those who are 90 and older, making phone calls and writing notes to remind them they are remembered and loved. With a prayer warrior's heart, Howard is quick to lift others up in prayer whenever there's a need. His secret weapon is his smile - somehow, he always manages to pass it on. It's nearly impossible to talk with Howard and not come away smiling. He lives out his faith daily, anchored by his favorite scripture:

***"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*** – John 3:16



# WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Beth Hedges

*Beth grew up at FPCA. She was involved in children's choir and children's bell choir, Sunday school, Youth Group and helping her parents, Bob and Jane with many projects for the church. Since graduating from seminary in 1986 she has been with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship serving university students. She moved to Armenia in 2016 to serve with the local student ministry as the International Coordinator*

*The following is from her June 2025 ministry news.*

On sidewalks near three different universities we set up this interactive evangelism display. We spoke to over 100 students about what they wanted to do before they "kick the bucket." We shared how Moses' bucket list was to see God (Ex. 33) and offered to pray. Eighty-five people sharing their info with us. There were 51 people wanting prayer, 26 wanting information on Crossroads, 12 interested in Bible study, and 26 wanting to talk about Jesus.



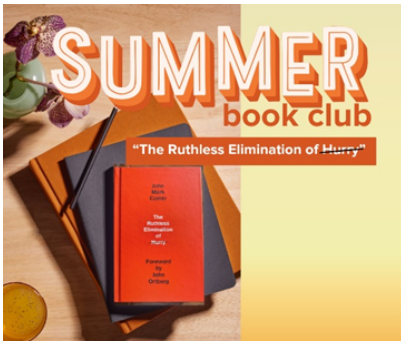
Sixteen Crossroads students worked the Proxe station\*, inviting people to share and offering to pray for them. Several quieter students and one first year student surprised us by how willing they were to engage with strangers.



NOTE: Beth plans on visiting First Pres Ambler in August 2025.

*\*Proxe stations are one of the ways that InterVarsity reaches students who may not be following Christ. They are evangelical tools that are designed not to preach and attack passerbys, but to help create natural conversations about Christ.*





### Summer Book Clubs are Here!

Register now to join one of our summer book clubs. This year's book by bestselling author John Mark Comer is *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, so take a breath, pick up the book, and enjoy some challenging discussion. Invite a friend or neighbor to join with you!



**We invite you to CONNECTIONS on Sundays** to share and reflect together in the lounge after the 10:30 am contemporary worship service. We need volunteers to join the Connections team! If you sense a call to welcome, engage, and invite others with the love of Christ, or have thoughts or input on how to make this time more captivating, valuable, or relatable, please contact Moses Kim. Email: [mosekim305@gmail.com](mailto:mosekim305@gmail.com).



**SATURDAY PRAYER ON ZOOM.** This is a time for us to pray for wisdom, discernment, and faithfulness, for wise decisions and continued blessing and growth. And so, I invite you to come together for 15-20 minutes of prayer each Saturday morning at 8 am. Zoom information here or scan the QR code.



## Worship with us!

### SUNDAYS:

9:00 am traditional *and* 10:30 am contemporary



on our website: <https://fpcambler.org/>

### Watch Anytime:

sermons on our website:

<https://fpcambler.org/sermon-clips/>



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