



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

October 2025



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

STEPHEN MINISTRY AN ENRICHING WORK IN PROGRESS

Denise Walters,
(with introduction by Jodi Wolper)

Founded in 1975, Stephen Ministries (SM) is celebrating 50 years of equipping God's people for ministry. The program trains and supports lay people to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to those who are experiencing difficult times.



First Presbyterian Church of Ambler (FPCA) enrolled in Stephen Ministry in September 2023. Linda Bishop and Jenn Vincent completed leadership training to serve as Stephen Ministry Leaders and were joined by Carol Brumbaugh, commissioned on September 28, 2025. Our first Stephen Ministers class began its extensive training in September 2024. In the spring of 2025 the care ministry began at FPCA. One of those Stephen Ministers, Denise Walters, has shared her reflections on answering God's call.

In the fall of 2023, I felt God telling me to step back from many of my church commitments. I didn't know which commitments, and I didn't know why. I started praying about this and sought a wise friend's counsel. She recommended I listen to God, step back one thing at a time, and pay attention if it doesn't feel right. A few months later, I mentioned this to Jenn Vincent, and she said she wondered if God might be calling me to make room in my life to be a Stephen Minister. Hmmm. Many months later, I answered God's call to be a Stephen Minister.

Everyone has different gifts and Stephen Ministries will grow your gifts and challenge you to become gifted in other areas. Some key qualities for Stephen Ministers include empathy, attentive listening, trustworthiness along with being non-judgmental, prayerful, and full of faith.

Becoming a Stephen Minister has enriched my spiritual growth in many ways. I'll highlight a recent growth and to be honest, it's a work in progress. I've learned to trust God more and not rely on my own thoughts.

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Stephen Ministry (Denise Walters, continued)

When I look for meaningful Bible passages for my care receiver (CR), I've learned to stop searching once I sense that God is pointing me to a particular verse. In the past, I would keep looking for one that felt less challenging. Now I'm learning to trust that God knows what I need to study with my CR, and if I've chosen the wrong passage, He'll let me know. Every time I've trusted His choice, it's worked out perfectly. I need to just trust God.

As a congregation, FPCA wants to connect seekers. Stephen Ministry connects members, friends, and community members to trained Stephen Ministers who help care receivers through whatever they may be going through. Whether someone is experiencing job loss, grief, health issues, or other difficult life events, it can be helpful to talk with someone, listen, pray, and gain perspective and hope.

I'd encourage anyone to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister. You can start by visiting FPCA's Stephen Ministry page (scan the QR code) or reach out to Jenn Vincent, Linda Bishop, or Carol Brumbaugh at stephenministries@fpcambler.org.

Most importantly, pray about whether God is calling you to become a Stephen Minister. It is a big commitment, but I've learned so much about caring through the training and have been blessed more than I can imagine by my care receiver.

If you are wondering whether you'd benefit from having a Stephen Minister, you can talk with Jenn Vincent, Linda Bishop, or Carol Brumbaugh (email - stephenministries@fpcambler.org).

Stephen Ministers provide confidential, non-judgmental, and Jesus-centered care. Most importantly, you should understand that many hours of prayer go into matching you with a Stephen Minister. I am in awe at how well Stephen Ministers and care receivers (person who receives care) are matched. It is totally all God!

Learn more
about Stephen
Ministry here



SCAN HERE

