



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

August 2026



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

ONE COMMUNITY. MANY PARTNERS. CLEAN WATER FOR ALL.

Hal Stansfield

Colonia San Luis II, Ahuachapan district, El Salvador.

The Colonia San Luis II is an Adesco, basically a community based organization with legal standing, that manages community affairs for their community. San Luis II is a community, not a church-based partner.

We first met the community in August of 2025, for a short visit to gauge interest and possible capability to commit to a project there. Following that visit, Denis Evangelista, who is the El Salvador representative from Living Waters for the World (LWW) visited and carried out a site assessment to verify both interest and capability to host a project.

Based on that assessment, we returned to the community in early February, this year, to spend several days working through the details of what a project would entail. Among other things, we helped them determine a location for the water building, studied their water resources, and developed a Covenant agreement with them. The Covenant defines the specific roles and tasks both they and us (FPCA) would carry out to bring the project to completion. The plan required them to build a suitable building to house the water system, to bring both water and electricity to the building, and to commit people to be present for training and ongoing work once the installation was completed.



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Clean Water for All (continued)

We were incredibly impressed with their commitment from the very beginning. The building construction was started promptly, and was substantially complete in June of this year. At that point, we made plans for the installation trip, and scheduled it for the second week of August. We flew to El Salvador on a Red-Eye flight (departing JFK at 3 AM) on Saturday, August 8, travelled to the town of Ataco, which is near San Luis II, and checked into 2 Air bnb houses for our stay. We started work on Monday morning, August 10.

Hal Stansfield led the work with the local administration team, developing their future operating and financial plan. Pat Stansfield led the work with the local educators, who will work with the community to teach them the correct way to use the purified water, and to monitor the improving health of the community. Elizabeth Schoenberg led the team that performed the actual system build and then trained them in system operation. We were joined by Ken and Katey Schuyler from Carmel Presbyterian Church in Glenside, the first of hopefully many future joint ventures with Carmel and other churches in our area.

Following the successful system build and startup, a celebration was held by the community. Certificates of completion were distributed to the various work teams, a pinata shaped like a water drop was broken, a ribbon was cut, and cups of fresh, newly purified water were shared by all.

The first cups of water were given especially to two very special members of the community:
a 6-month-old baby girl named Fiorella, who is an honorary member of the Administration team, and a 102-year-old grandmother named Manuelita.





SEEDS OF JOY IS NOW A STARS 3 PROGRAM



What is Keystone STARS?

Keystone STARS rates child care programs from one to four STARS on things families care about. Programs must meet state regulations for safety and offer a kid-friendly atmosphere with good teachers that partner with families to help children learn. Childcare programs within Keystone STARS earn a STAR 1 to STAR 4 rating based on quality standards that measure:

- Staff education: Early childhood teachers have the training and knowledge for working with young children
- Classroom/Learning environment: The program has a variety of materials and activities for each age level that makes it possible for children to learn something new every day!
- Including families and the community: Families and community members are encouraged to become a part of the child's learning progress
- Leadership and management: A quality program has to have sound business practices to ensure your child's safety and early learning



As programs earn more STARS, they are providing higher quality early education for children.

REMEMBER: the MORE Stars, the higher the QUALITY!



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the deacons helped dozens of children and families begin the new school year with the supplies and support they need. Once again, Sue Seestedt, Lynn Gould, and Sylvia Bell led the way, coordinating the collection, sorting, and packing of backpacks and school supplies.

In the weeks leading up to the start of school, the congregation contributed financially to our annual Back-to-School Drive. The deacons then got busy purchasing, sorting, and organizing backpacks, calculators, and other essential school supplies.

On August 23, volunteers gathered to pack 30 backpacks filled with school supplies and calculators for children in the Wissahickon schools. In addition, school supplies were provided for 50 children served by our Soup Kitchen partner. The congregation's generosity also extended beyond the classroom. Eighteen gift cards were given to families at Family Promise, helping parents purchase much-needed school clothing for their children.

What began with donations from our congregation became backpacks ready to be carried into classrooms, supplies placed in the hands of students, and practical support for families facing the added expenses of a new school year.

Thank you to everyone who donated, shopped, sorted, packed, and helped make this year's Back-to-School Drive possible. Your generosity is helping 98 children and families start the school year with a little more confidence.

