



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

July 2026



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

THE MINISTRY OF SHOWING UP

EDITOR INTRODUCTION: Ministry takes many forms. Sometimes it happens in front of the congregation, and sometimes it happens quietly, behind the scenes, through simple acts of faithful service.

Every other Sunday, Bennett Falcone arrives at church early to help prepare the sanctuary for worship. He fills the pew racks, sharpens pencils, and takes care of the small details that help make our worship space ready to welcome members and guests. His service is a reminder that ministry is carried out in many different ways—and that even the smallest acts can make a difference.

We invited Bennett to share a little about his faith, his experience serving at church, and what this ministry means to him. We are grateful for his faithful presence and the ways he continues to share his gifts with our church family.

Bennett Falcone

How does serving help you feel connected to our church community?

Serving helps me feel connected because I get to build relationships with people in the church while using my time to help others. It reminds me that we're all working together to serve God, and it makes the church feel more like a family.

What would you say to someone your age who is thinking about volunteering at church?

Something I would say to someone considering volunteering is to absolutely start volunteering at the church. It's a great opportunity to serve the community, the church, and God.



Bennett Falcone (right)
with his dad Mark in Alaska

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SHOWING UP (continued)

Have there been a memorable or meaningful moments while serving that you'd like to share?

On a mission trip in North Carolina, a woman and I were taking out the trash together, and she shared her story with me. She told me she'd worked at the pharmacy we were volunteering at for years, and that she was in a lot of pain because of her age."

People that we are serving have such great faith no matter what they are doing, even though they have been struggling with homelessness they still have great faith.

On the last day of work at a program in Alaska, we worked outdoors at a facility that helps young people transition into adulthood. While we were there, we met an 18-year-old named Loki who had just completed the program. It was inspiring to see how much his life had changed. He was also adopted by a woman who worked at the facility, giving him a loving and supportive family.

Is there a particular part of your ministry that you especially enjoy?

A particular part of your ministry that I especially enjoy is being able to help so many people in a short period of time. In only a week of service, we are able to help a lot of people. We affect their lives and they affect ours too. They teach all of us a lot like how blessed we all are.

What have you learned about faith, service, or yourself through this experience?

How my faith sometimes is affected by how I am feeling that day or if I have had a bad couple of days. But the people that we are serving have such great faith no matter what they are doing, even though they have been struggling with homelessness they still have great faith



THEY SHOWED UP - 5 NIGHTS, 51 PEOPLE

Jennifer Baskett,
Director of Children's Ministry

When you decide to host a program or event like a vacation bible school, the first question is always the same: who will be around to help you?

We're all overscheduled. But in the spring, I put a dry erase board in the Narthex and asked people to sign up to help with VBS. Who signed up? 10, 30 people?

No. This month, for 5 nights, 51 people came here to help with our VBS program.

And what did those 51 people do? First, they fed our kids dinner- mac and cheese, pulled pork, lasagna, sausage, pizza. Then, they sang and danced with the kids here, in the sanctuary. They put on costumes, performed skits, then built houses with the children, painted with them, taught them about clean water, made gardens with them, played musical instruments, helped them make lunches for the food pantry, and played with them in the memorial garden. For 5 nights, 51 people set aside their responsibilities to remind our children that God loves them more than anyone else.

Why do we spend time with children when our schedules are crammed with so many other things? For a number of reasons, but mostly because a long time ago, Jesus put aside the fierce demands of his own life to spend time with and bless children.



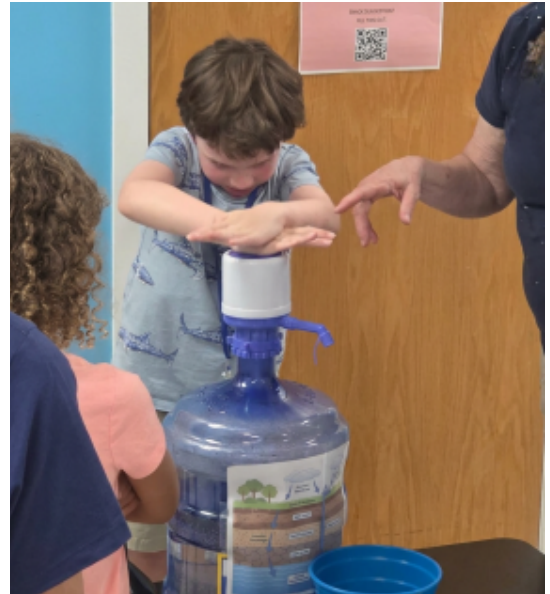


THEY SHOWED UP - (CONTINUED)

Some of our lab leaders shared their reflections:

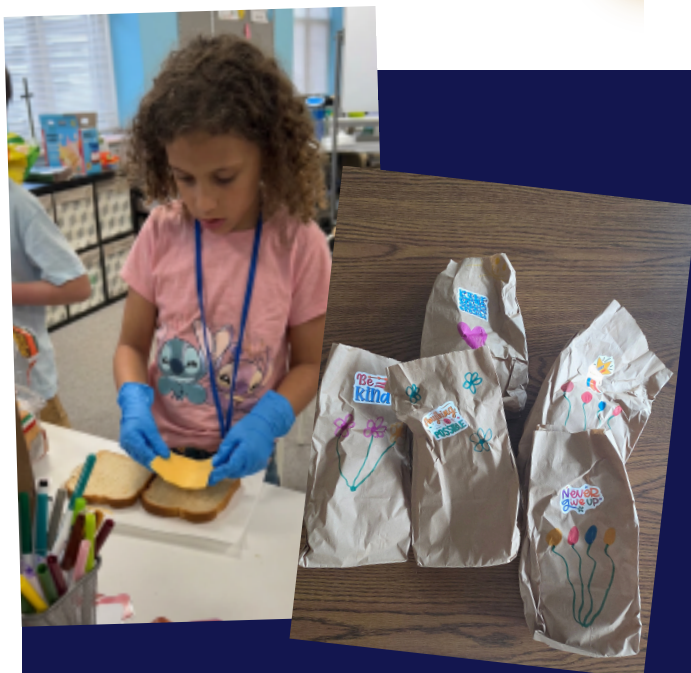
Sarah Moyer

On Monday, we had a great time using science to explore God's intricate design for our Blue Planet. We experimented to discover how rainwater interacts with different types of ground. The kids were surprised and delighted to observe how well dry desert sand holds onto the water from a rare rainstorm, and the way volcanic rock filters and drives water deep into aquifers to recharge our water supply. We worked hard, manually pumping water from "wells" to meet the needs of imaginary cities, discovering how water can become scarce if we aren't good stewards. One student exclaimed how UNFAIR!



it is that some communities run out of water, from drought or overuse. We loved guiding these curious kids through the tension they were feeling between God's provided abundance and the impact of human greed and climate change. We followed up on that theme on Thursday as we focused on Community and how kids of all ages can be helpers. The group was drawn in and inspired by Beth DeWet's stories and photos of our talented teenage Salvadoran friends who serve God by creatively helping their neighbors access safe drinking water.

Meg Gruwell



The children learned about spiritual food and food we eat. We also discussed how not everyone had enough money to buy food. Our project was to decorate lunch bags, and make sandwiches for people who didn't have food.

The kids were very enthusiastic and we succeeded in making over fifty sandwiches and uplifting lunch bags to put them in. A representative from Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard was there to tell us about their work, and they gratefully accepted the food for their programs. Good work kids!!



COMPASSION CAMP REFLECTIONS - (CONTINUED)

John Richards, along with Sarah Moyer and Meg Gruwell led two sessions of the Shelter Lab. In the Shelter Lab, students worked together to build a house - one wall panel at a time. Each panel represented a different threat or challenge we may face, from extreme heat and cold to loneliness, fear, anger, grief, worry, and sinfulness.

Students first explored the threat described on each panel. Then they turned the panel around to discover the gift of God's shelter: friends and family, understanding, forgiveness, prayer and patience, peace, salvation, and more. The students placed each panel into the house, building a shelter that reminded us of God's loving care and protection. Finally, the roof was added over the completed house - a reminder that God shelters us from every threat under the shadow of God's wings.

The lesson was simple and powerful: We may face many challenges, but God provides shelter, strength, and care—and we are part of that shelter for one another.



*Be merciful to me, O God; be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
until the destroying storms pass by.
I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
Psalm 57:1-2*