



# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

September 2025



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

## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING and BLOCK PARTY

Jodi Wolper

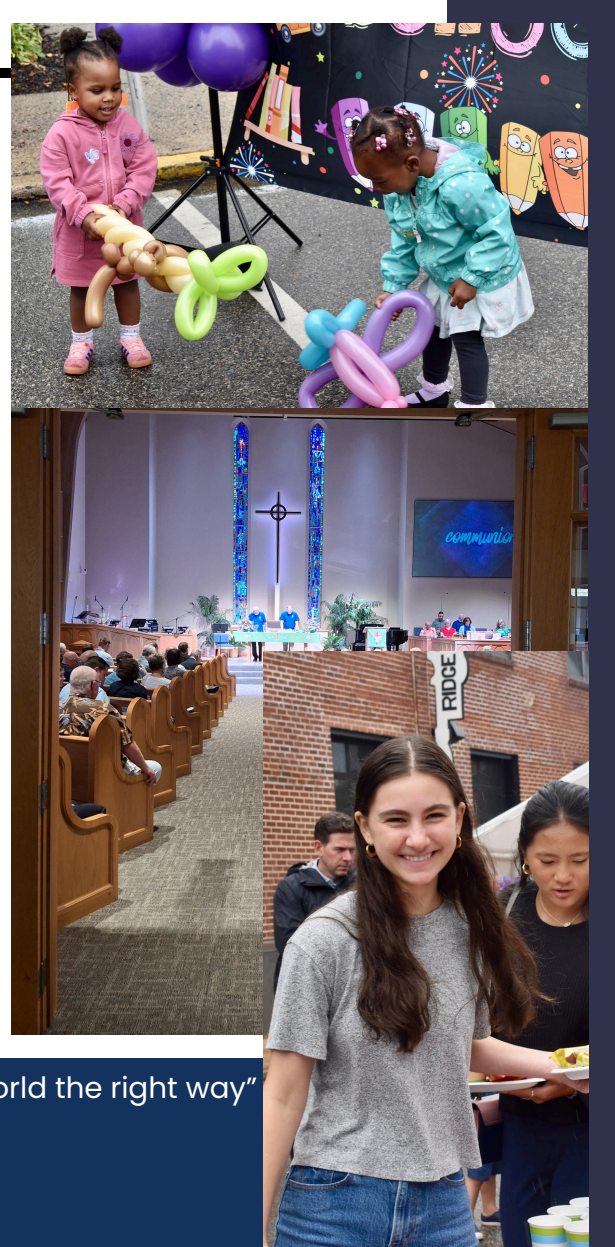
Need rain? Plan a Community Block Party in September! Despite the puddles and clouds, our third Back-to-School Blessing and Block Party welcomed our community, and the sun couldn't resist finally joining us! Our worship service at 10:00 am included a responsive back-to-school blessing led by: Breanna Grant, Jacob Grant, Kimberly Smith, Tom Myers, Wilson Ramsden and Connie Morgenson. The congregation responded to spoken words of prayer with verses from "Take My Life."

***Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.***

Transitional pastor, Morgan Murray introduced a new sermon series **"The Fear of the Lord, the Flow of the Heart"**, reflections on the Proverbs.

"The wisdom of Proverbs helps us to live in the world the right way" Pastor Morgan shared.

"If we want good things to flow out of our hearts, then we need to put good things in."



We ventured outside to continue the celebration after worship, communion, and a festive postlude by organist Chris Henkel. Despite the soggy setup, a few tents, many towels, and Beth Marquard's determined energy transformed S. Ridge Avenue into a warm and welcoming space for community camaraderie.

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## BLESSING (continued)

From bubbles and balloons to barbecue and water ice, we played, laughed, and talked – sharing plentiful burgers, hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, pasta salad, and all the fixings with friends, neighbors, and visitors. We are thankful to our mission partners who came with smiles and helped make the day special: We Care, Family Promise of Montco and Mainline, Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard, Wissahickon Fire Company Station 7, Ambler Community Garden, and Mayor Jeanne Sorg.

**We Bring The Fun 365** kept us well dressed in balloon hats and **Rita's Water Ice** served lemon and mango frozen treats – always with a smile!

Our very own **South Ridge Band** lifted our spirits and got our feet moving with a joyful mix of popular and praise songs. Would you like to hear more? Join us every Sunday at 10:30 am for worship and uplifting praise music.

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

None of this would be possible without the many willing and helpful hands behind the scenes. A **very special thank you to Barb and Mark Yantek**, who once again managed to feed everyone – and somehow made it all look effortless!

We're also incredibly grateful to our amazing volunteers – from the **grill team** to those who helped with **set-up** and **clean-up** – your hard work and cheerful attitudes made the day run smoothly and joyfully. **Many thanks to Maia McClure** for taking such wonderful pictures and capturing the day!

A rainy day transformed into a radiant one full of laughter, music, and community connections.







## KITCHEN RENOVATION BEGINS

Mark Yantek

We're excited to share that the long-awaited kitchen renovation has officially begun! Demolition kicked off on Monday, September 15, and a barrier has been installed around the work area to ensure that part of Fellowship Hall remains available for use during construction.

The project is expected to be completed by December 2025. The new space will include:

- Commercial refrigerator – large enough to support multiple church events without relying on refrigerators throughout the building.
- Full-sized commercial freezer – provides expanded storage for meal prep and outreach efforts.
- New stove and ovens – upgraded to meet or exceed the current cooking capacity.
- Second Kitchen Entry – designed to improve traffic flow during busy events.
- Expanded sink area – built to handle oversized cooking utensils with ease.
- Commercial dishwasher – fast and efficient, washing and drying loads in under 10 minutes.
- Taller pull-down window – improved visibility in and out of the kitchen space.

Thank you for your patience and continued support as we create a kitchen that will serve our congregation and community more effectively for years to come. Stay tuned for more updates!



**View from Fellowship Hall into Kitchen**



**View from Kitchen into Fellowship Hall  
(temporary barrier)**



## CRAFTING CUTTING BOARDS AND CANDLESTICKS

John Richards and Mark Whitney  
(compiled by Jodi Wolper)

Our recent youth woodworking event was full of fun, creativity, and meaningful moments. Five middle school boys joined us in the shop, each one crafting a candlestick and a cutting board to take home - or to stash away for the next time they need to win back Mom's favor!

Mark Whitney led the boys through the candlestick project, teaching basic lathe skills and guiding the assembly process. While he focused on turning, John Richards introduced the boys to the planer, router, table saw, and spindle sander as they worked on shaping and smoothing their cutting boards.

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“Woodworking is always a collaboration with Him. I believe He made us to build things. Particularly, things that show the beauty in what He has made.

It is like that line from Chariots of Fire,

‘When I run  
(or do woodworking)  
I feel His pleasure.’”

John Richards

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Todd Smith floated around the shop, offering one-on-one instruction. Youth Director, Bree Grant oversaw all the activity (leaving her boys, Jacob and Grayson at home.) Bree also made a very nice cutting board.

In addition to project instruction, we took time to cover important shop safety protocols and learned to identify several wood species: red oak, teak, mahogany, poplar, maple, and black walnut. But woodworking isn't just about tools and techniques. There are many connections between woodworking and God. God made the wood - the color, the smell, the texture, the intricate grain. It was rewarding to see the boys engaging with their work and, with each additional cut or pass, improve their technique. One even made a cutting board shaped like a NASCAR racetrack!

We wrapped things up by thanking the boys for their hard work and creativity, and reminding them they now had a choice: give their handcrafted projects to Mom now—or save them for when they're in trouble. It was a truly joyful afternoon—full of laughter, learning, and the quiet satisfaction of making something beautiful.

