



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

July/August 2025



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

FPCA YOUTH FIND A STRONGHOLD AT THE GREAT ESCAPE

Caitlin Marquard

From July 2 to July 6, six youth group members and 3 leaders went to The Great Escape (TGE) for our middle school summer trip. [TGE Northeast is at NorthBay Adventure Camp in North East, MD, nestled in the beautiful Elk Neck State Park on the shores of the upper Chesapeake Bay.] Each day, the students met new friends, heard messages from new people, worshiped, played games, and more! The week's theme was "Stronghold" so many of the activities were knight-based.



Activities

Ropes Course
Rock Climbing
Pool
Learning the TGE dance
to the song "Sunshine"
Mind Games

Worship Songs

"How He Loves"
"Praise"
"Amazing Grace"

Meals

Pasta
Mac & Cheese
Chicken Fingers
Ice Cream Cookie Cake

Main Take Away
(from Duffy Robbins' talk):

**"God has a plan,
man has a problem,
the choice
is up to you."**





LEADERSHIP RETREAT RE-ENERGIZES TRANSFORMATION EFFORTS

Jodi Wolper,
based on notes by Bruce Ruhf

Fueled by coffee, bagels, and pastries, the Session, deacons, and staff gathered for the annual joint meeting on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Supplee Presbyterian Church in Maple Glen. Transitional Pastor Morgan Murray opened the morning with introductions and an agenda overview. Before diving in, Dan Myers led us in worship, and Pastor Don Kazen lifted us in prayer.

The COVID pandemic highlighted a need for adaptive change in how churches serve and lead. First Pres Ambler has been working with AE Sloane Leadership to identify and explore meaningful initiatives for growth and transformation. The focus of our meeting was to select one of the four initiatives developed in collaboration with AE Sloane, to establish a unified and clear direction for the year ahead.

Our four initiatives are:

- Strengthen connections as we invite others into community.
- Deepen and center spiritual formation to energize service.
- Prioritize the next generation for the benefit of the entire congregation.
- Rethink the church campus as a welcoming public community space.

We voted and chose to focus on
***Strengthening connections
as we invite others into community.***

Pastor Morgan guided us with thought-provoking presentations followed by small group discussions. We tackled distinguishing between technical and adaptive challenges and the value of playful experiments. We also practiced formulating thoughtful questions, especially using the “How Might We” (HMW) approach, to help clarify what we are truly trying to learn.

As we move forward with renewed purpose, you are invited to pray, asking God to guide us as we strengthen connections and build a more welcoming, connected community. You are encouraged to speak with elders, deacons, or staff if you have thoughts to share.

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,
not giving up meeting together
... but encouraging one another.”
Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)

*Thank
you.*

to Tracy Vetrone, who arrived early to set up breakfast and went above and beyond in planning, ordering, organizing, picking up, setting up, and cleaning up our fantastic taco lunch. We are so grateful you have joined us at FPCA!