

second chronicles



September 2026

Worship With Us

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Start the Season with Worship in September

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Don't Settle for the Half the Gospel – Christians today can seem divided into conservative and liberal camps. It doesn't have to be that way. We all need all the Good News.

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The Problem of Pain – Why Does Life Hurt So Much? America is obsessed with pleasure, comfort, and pain-relief of all kinds. But what if pain is an essential part of growth, development, and even joy. What if certain kinds of pain are part of God's plan? Pastor Jeff will help us to think more deeply about why not all kinds of pain should be avoided or numbed.

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The Problem of Poverty – How Can We Help? The challenges we face as a country and as a community of faith in Carlisle are daunting. We wonder where to begin. Jesus says to us in our desperation: "You give them something to eat." Let's find out what this might mean.

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The Problem of Proof – How Do We Know What's True? In the Age of Artificial Intelligence it's hard to know what's real and what's not. If seeing isn't believing anymore, how can we be sure something is true and reliable? Pastor Jeff will help us to face this challenge head on.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 4 PM

Worship | Dinner | Fun

100s of Presbyterians

41 Congregations

All Ages

Remember:

No 10:30 AM Service August 30
(Many Voices Worship at 4 PM; In-person or Online)

Jewelry for Jesus, Gold for God, Silver for the Savior... On September 20

Whatever you call it, your gift that day is going to make a difference. You may have old coins, outdated jewelry, scratched watches, broken bracelets, or mismatched flatware that's not doing anyone any good. Maybe you have a pearl earring without a mate, a ring from an ex, Uncle Billy's gold tooth, or a brooch that you'll never wear (but it came from Grandma). Your Second Family is here to help. On Sunday, September 20, you can bring in ANY jewelry, silver, or gold in ANY condition and donate it. The Legacy Team will convert it into cash and 100% will be invested in the congregation's Generations Fund to bless your Second Family today and for years to come.

This offering is a way to eliminate sentimental clutter without guilt while helping our congregation stay strong. It's more than a fundraiser for our congregation's future— it's an act of faith rooted in Biblical history. When God was directing Moses to build the Tabernacle, God gave Moses this instruction:

You shall receive the offering for me... from all whose hearts prompt them to give. This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, onyx stones and gems ... have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:2 -7

Precious metals and gems remind us of the precious treasure we have in God. We can make an idol of these things – like Aaron did with the Golden Calf – or we can use them to glorify God. This special offering is one more way that people can leave a legacy and contribute to the Generations Fund.



“You won’t be here always. Whatever gifts and whatever knowledge you have will live only if you hand it to the next person to keep it going. Legacy lives in the lives of those who follow you.”

THE REV. CECE ARMSTRONG



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How to be a Gracious Host (and Maybe Make a Friend) in our Second Family

We want to make people of all colors feel welcome on our campus. Sometimes we don't know what to say or do upon meeting a person who looks different from us; we can feel nervous; we don't want to offend or make things weird. But remember that it can be even more intimidating for a person of color to come into a Sanctuary that seems almost all-White. Let's try to make it less awkward for everyone. Here are a few tips I've gathered from my work with Carlisle Bridgebuilders.

What to say:

“

Thanks for coming!

Welcome!

Glad you're here!

”

What not to say:

- *Can I touch your hair? Is your hair real? How do you wash your hair?*

Don't ask a Black guest questions you wouldn't dare ask a White guest that you don't know like a relative. Curiosity is good, but these are not appropriate questions for a person that you don't already know extremely well. Hair care is very personal in every culture. Don't presume a familiarity that often comes with being part of the dominant majority in the room. If you like someone's hair, complement them on it – and stop there.

- *You're so intelligent, eloquent, articulate, well-dressed, etc.*

Praise seems like a good thing, but it's often based on unconsciously low expectations of People of Color. These comments, when made to strangers, make it seem surprising that a Person of Color would be intelligent, well-dressed, etc. These phrases sound a lot like when White folks used to say to high-achieving Black folks, "You are a credit to your race." A more helpful comment might be, "I appreciated it when you said...." or "I really like your shoes."

- *I don't see color.*

Racial color-blindness sounds like a helpful thing to strive for: We want to assess people based on their character and not on their skin color. Striving to see the whole person in front of us is good. But we still live in a fallen world where skin color still makes a huge difference in how people are treated daily in stores, hospitals, courtrooms, and schools. It's not helpful in the fight against racism to pretend that the battle is already completely won. People of Color do not move through Carlisle in the same relatively unencumbered and unself-conscious way that White folks do. White people's experiences with schools, medicine, and the justice system are often very different from that of minorities. We don't want to deny that racism still exists by denying that skin color exists; and that people of different skin colors often get treated differently. And we don't want to pretend that

there are no cultural differences between people with different ethnic backgrounds; this would deny the rich and God-given diversity in our community. People of Color might actually say to us, “Please see my color; I’m proud of it; just don’t judge me based on it.”

There are situations in which color-blindness is practical, especially in emergencies. When a police officer, military commander, firefighter or doctor gives an order in a crisis and lives are at stake, their color is irrelevant to the question of whether or not we should follow that order. But when we are reflecting on an individual’s personhood and appreciating their lived experience, of course their color has likely shaped them at least as much as the school they attended or their economic status growing up.

- ***I don’t have a racist bone in my body; I’ve got a bunch of Black friends.***

Building genuine friendships with people from other cultures can help create bridges of understanding. But professional relationships at work are not actual personal friendships, especially when one person holds power over another. And neighbors can be “friendly” without actually being true “friends.” Friendships are mutual and intimate, and very few White folks have the opportunity to build actual full-bodied friendships with Black people in Carlisle.

Even if our bones aren’t racist, we all “breathe” racism anew every day through the media and simple encounters with others. Having one black friend or even a few in your circle is likely a blessing. But it doesn’t mean that you understand the many varieties of Black experiences across America or that you have eliminated the tendency toward racism from your life. Black culture is just as diverse as White culture. Think of all the different versions of Christianity! Having one Black friend means you know... one and only one Black experience. Keep learning. You will be blessed by what you discover.

— Pastor Jeff Gibelius Co-leads Carlisle Bridge-Builders, a group that builds understanding across racial differences, which meets on second Saturdays at Bibleway Church of God in Christ, Carlisle.



Sarah Hostetter Ordination Set for October 4

Sarah was our Coordinator of Ministries for Children, Youth, and Families for about 24 months while she completed her ordination requirements and expanded her family. About 2 years ago her husband, Andrew, also a Presbyterian pastor took a call as a chaplain in Lancaster. Sarah is now ready to be ordained a Minister of Word and Sacrament by Highland Presbyterian Church, where she is currently serving. She has invited her Second Family to attend, and Pastor Jeff will be participating in the October 4, 4pm, service. A dinner will follow. Bibleway Church is loaning us their 15 passenger van for the trip.

Thursdays with Luke
Starting September 17, 11 AM

Journey to Jerusalem with Luke, Pastor Jeff, and the Thursday Morning Bible Study, starting September 17, 11am-12am. We will explore all of The Gospel of Luke a few verses at a time. No preparation needed.

Hearing the Voice of God
Small Group — led by Shirley Verbos
Tuesdays, 3 PM
Starting September 15

Consider this amazing truth: The Creator of the universe wants you for a friend! And the best way to develop that friendship is to have conversations with him. The more you talk with God, the more you'll get to know him. And the more you get to know him, the more you'll want to talk with him. So if you're ready to tune in and hear God's voice, then don't miss this study. It will help you start a conversation with God that will change your life!

Climbing the Mountain

Sundays, 9 AM

Starting September 13

Led by Rev. Dr. Dale Bowne



Based upon the Book *Sermon on the Mount: Inspiring the Moral Imagination*
Written by Dr. Dale C. Allison, Jr.

Dale C. Allison, Jr. is the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. He earned his MA and PhD from Duke University. His academic research and publications include the historical Jesus, the Gospel of Matthew, Second Temple Judaism, and the history of the interpretation and application of biblical texts.

Too often the Sermon on the Mount has been interpreted as though it were a book itself rather than a portion of a book. Dale Allison insists on the contrary that the full meaning of these chapters in Matthew's Gospel can be seen only in relation to the broader literary context of the Gospel as a whole, with its Jewish Christian orientation. Indeed, the Sermon and the moral imperatives it contains must be understood: 1) in relation to the example provided by Jesus' words and deeds elsewhere in the Gospel; 2) with reference to the community of believers that constitutes the intended audience of Matthew's Gospel; and 3) in terms of what the Gospel says elsewhere about the end of the age. The Sermon does not present a simple set of rules, perhaps only intended for a small and select group within the Christian community but seeks to instill a moral vision and to inspire the moral imagination of all who would follow Jesus.



Sunday, September 20 Following Worship

The Fellowship Team invites our members over 80 years of age and a driver or significant other to a luncheon celebrating you. We'll welcome you, spend some time sharing stories and memories around a wonderful lunch prepared and served by members of Second Church.

Sundaes on Sunday

Sunday September 13
Following Worship

Join us after Worship on Sunday, September 13, for fellowship and Ice Cream! Make your own Sundae or just enjoy a cool cup of chocolate or vanilla ice cream. The Connect Team looks forward to helping our members engage and connect to Second Church.



Social Justice Second Circle

How do we as American Christians understand the Israel/Gaza war? Is there any hope for a just, lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians? How do we pray for peace? Is the God of the Bible unreservedly on the side of the modern state of Israel as a continuation of promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (as believed by most Evangelicals)? How can we support the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as our Muslim, Jewish, and Christian brothers and sisters in their struggles?

If these questions engage your curiosity, you may wish to join our Social Justice book discussion group this fall. We are reading *THE FUTURE IS PEACE*, co-authored by two tour guides, one Israeli and the other Palestinian, who are working together for peace. They model an approach to personal trauma and sorrow that harnesses anger into bridge building and growing trust rather than bitterness, hatred, and violence. Dr. Bruce Humphrey will lead this discussion, and we are pleased to have Rev. Dr. Gene Gordon, retired PCUSA pastor, join us by zoom.

Rev. Dr. Gordon is a retired University professor who entered ministry in his 60's. He was pastor of the African American congregation in downtown Harrisburg, Capital Presbyterian Church. He was selected to represent Presbyterians in a peacemaking tour of Israel a few years ago and has given presentations regarding that trip. Retired, he now lives with his daughter in Maryland.

Instead of reading one chapter a week, please read the entire book before our first discussion in September.

The Social Justice Circle will begin on September 23, and continue October 14 and 28, and November 11th from 11:00 to noon in the chapel. Zoom is available. Contact Sandra Goodling for more information.

8 **September's Facilities Department** Goals include continuing to work on edging and stoning around the church building and replacement of broken and cracked downspouts.

Music Ministries

The Carlisle Area Church Musicians (CACHM) invites the public to a hymn sing dedicated to the history and diversity of American hymnody as part of the celebration of our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

What: **“A Festival of American Hymns”**

When: Sunday, October 18 at 4 p.m.

Where: First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 21 South Bedford Street, Carlisle PA 17013

For whom: adults and children who love to sing hymns

Cost: none

RSVP here for one, or all, of these FREE offerings: <https://forms.gle/71ibZ4Sx75ZyrS3w7>

- Attend the festival
- Attend hymnody classes
- Sing in a Festival Choir

Our presenter will be nationally known Michael Burkhardt, who will lead congregational singing and a festival choir. Our sponsor is the Church Music Institute (CMI) who has provided a generous grant to underwrite this hymn festival.

In addition to congregational singing, a volunteer choir is being formed to sing Alice Parker and Robert Shaw's arrangement of the early American folk hymn “I Will Arise.”

If you are interested in singing, we will rehearse at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlisle.

Please register no later than Thursday, October 8th

Scores will be provided.

For those of you who are interested in an overview of the entire history of hymnody from the first century to the present day, CACHM will be offering free online classes on the five Monday evenings prior to the hymn festival (not required to attend the classes in order to sing in the choir).

- September 14, 21, 28, October 5 and 12 @7pm by Zoom
- Contact Dr. Stan Wicks, Cantor at First Evangelical Lutheran: musician@firstlutherancarlisle.org.
- We will be using the textbook “The Church Sings Its Faith” by Robert Mann (not required reading in order to attend the classes). If you wish to obtain a copy, it may be purchased through GIA Publications, Inc.



Continuing Music Ministries:

- Second Sunday Choir on the Second Sunday of the Month, 9:30am
- Youth Arts Christian Choir, Thursdays, 4:45-6:15pm
- Second Singers, Thursdays, 7-8:30pm
- Second Ringers, select Fridays, 9:30-10:30am
- Contact michelle@growwithsecond.org for more information.

Children, Youth, and Families Ministry News From Bekah Barlow, Director of CYF Ministries

CYF was busy this summer! We had fun at the Carlisle Sports Emporium, playing laser tag and mini golf. We visited residents at Sarah Todd Nursing Home and made sun-catchers with them to brighten their rooms! CYF families enjoyed a day at the Boiling Springs Pool and we had a Jewelry making/Craft night!

We are now looking forward to the fall back to school season! There will be a special "Back to School Blessing" given by Pastor Jeff, during service on August 16th for all of our children and youth, parents and teachers! Other activities are coming up soon including Karaoke Night and a Back to School Night!

Our programs for CYF:

SecondKids (pre-school-5th grade) and SHINE! (6th-12th grade) will resume classes on Sunday, September 13th at 9AM!

SecondKids, which meets downstairs in Glory's Edge, will be continuing the series, **HEROES OF THE BIBLE!** We are so excited that Miss Jada will be returning to help us downstairs! Running from 9-10:30AM, programming will start with donuts:-), followed by a bible lesson, crafts and will finish with activities and games! We are excited about beginning a new series on the New Testament later in the fall, as well as starting preparation for our Children's Christmas program...Yes IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY!!



SHINE!, (Grades 6-12) is led by Pastor Jeff Gibelius, Julie Rhen and other amazing adult volunteers and meets in the Rotunda, Sundays from 9 to 10:15 AM. Starting with Donuts:-), SHINE! is a dynamic curriculum for teens that also offers service opportunities. We are so excited to be able to extend these programs to our children and youth! For more information regarding SHINE! or SecondKids contact Jeff@growwithsecond.org or bekah@growwithsecond.org.

The Playground continues to be a great space for little ones to play, lightly supervised by their parents in the Sanctuary during worship. This allows parents the freedom to be a part of the service while keeping an eye on little ones not wanting to go to the Nursery.

Our Nursery (birth-age 5) will reopen for the year on September 16 from 10:30-11:30. It will be staffed by 2 adult, fully screened childcare workers. We ask that parents drop off their children at the nursery in accordance with our Child Welfare and Safety regulations.



Kids Praise happens during the worship service for children of all ages! Led by our Musical Director, Michelle Trefren, Kid's Praise gives children the opportunity to work directly with Michelle, to learn musical concepts and to sing and play various instruments. They can then join in with our worship service in a truly meaningful way! Contact: michelle@growwithsecond.org.

I am thinking of all our CYF families as we enter a new school year! It is an exciting time for all of us filled with new adventures and challenges! May God bless all of you and your families and may he strengthen and encourage you throughout this school year!

It's Time to *SHINE!*— All 6th through 12th graders get to rise and shine to meet at 8:53am, starting on September 13. Pastor Jeff, Julie Rhen, and Steve Kuhn lead the fun; different families donate the donuts (or whatever floats their boat).

Confirmation is Part of *SHINE!* this Fall— Do you know a youth in 8th grade or higher who has not yet confirmed their faith? If so, send them to Shine! starting September 13, at 8:53am each Sunday. We will review what it means to know, love, and serve, Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Confirmation-age students will have the opportunity to join the congregation officially in January. Students in 6th and 7th grade will preview these lessons in preparation for their own confirmation experience in future years. Students who have already confirmed their faith will have a chance to assist in leading the classes.



Staff Spotlight:

Vicki Lantz, Director of Adult Ministries

Celebrating Vicki Lantz's 20 Years of Leadership at Second Presbyterian

Vicki Lantz: Twenty Years of Dedicated Service

Vicki Lantz, Director of Adult Ministries, has been in a leadership position with Second Presbyterian longer than anyone currently on staff. She celebrates her 20th anniversary with us this August and her job titles and responsibilities have changed over the years. More about that later.

Vicki met husband Bill at the Penn State Governor's School for Ag Science while managing high school students in the summer program which included research, field trips, labs, classes, and social activities. Vicki has a Bachelor of Science in agriculture education from Penn State University. She has 15 ½ years of experience teaching Educational Agriculture at Manheim Central and Big Spring High Schools. Vicki was one of only nine female agriculture teachers in the state, making her a trailblazer. She left her teaching career to be a fulltime Mom to daughter, Bri.



Adapting to Societal and Church Changes

Since beginning 20 years ago, Vicki has adapted her position and responsibilities to meet the needs of a changing congregation and world. Initially hired as Director of Christian Education, her focus was on Sunday morning Christian education, Wednesday evening Kirk night and Vacation Bible School. Vicki noticed a significant shift in church life when more mothers entered the workforce, driven by economic factors and evolving societal roles for women. At that time attendance dropped at Sunday and Wednesday night functions. Working Moms were no longer able to volunteer. At the same time student activities were scheduled evenings and weekends outside of the daily schedule.

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about another dramatic shift. Society sheltered in place, but the work of Second Presbyterian continued. The congregation connected through online and parking lot worship, and meetings were held via Zoom. Although church services were suspended on Sundays, staff members continued to meet as usual on Tuesdays. Vicki led the Serve Team in reaching out to congregation members to determine their status and needs, coordinating efforts with the Serve Team, Deacons, and Connect Team. Even while she was sequestered at home, her work persisted, with ongoing planning and outreach. Vicki became adept at using Zoom, collaborating with the Deacons, Serve Team, and Connect Team to stay in touch with the congregation and address their needs.

Transitioning Responsibilities

Vicki took on additional responsibilities with the retirements of Pastor Jennifer and Deb Brandberg. Around this time, Second Presbyterian transferred its membership rolls to the CCB church database, and Vicki, along with Destinee Friskey, took on the responsibilities related to managing this system.

What Others Say About Vicki

Vicki is an amazing asset to our congregation! As both a dedicated Second member and employee, she knows EVERYTHING that is going on and is extremely helpful for anyone with questions. Se listens. She is the oil that keeps our Second machine running smoothly! Definitely a pleasure to work with!—Sandra Goodling

Second Church has thrived through many challenges during the past 20 years. The constant throughout has been Vicki Lantz on staff. Her job focus has evolved from Christian Education in 2006 to Children's Ministry to Adult Ministry today—and in each role she has brought steady, faithful, organized, flexible leadership to her responsibilities. She is the spotlight who helps others shine. She is the person who thinks of details others might overlook. She is often “the first one in and the last one out.” The words I most associate with Vicki? “Character,” “willing,” “responsible,” “calm”, “dedicated,” “glue”, “life-saver.” Thank God for her humble, tireless, leadership over the years.—Pastor Jeff

When I retired from teaching, I took a part time job as “assistant secretary” for Second Presbyterian Church. Vicki was always willing to help. Vicki has a wonderful smile and sense of humor and would brighten the office. I was a member, then later the chairman of the serve committee. That's when I worked closely with Vicki. She brought out the best in me. She had great ideas and helped me immensely. Her guidance meant a lot to me.—Kathy Beck

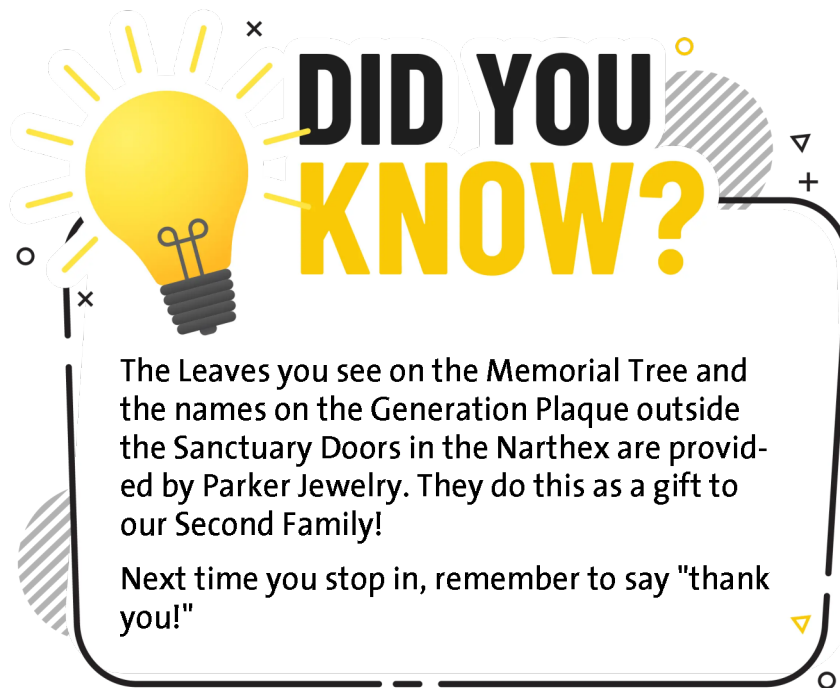
In summary Vicki is a dedicated member of the Second Presbyterian staff and valued member of our Second Family whose work and energy are broadly felt. She works tirelessly to achieve our mission Making Disciples Who Make a Difference To state Vicki's influence in plainer terms: if the planning, events and documents of Second Presbyterian were dusted for fingerprints, Vicki's would be everywhere!



"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants.."

Members of our Second Family who have entered the Church Triumphant since the last issue of Second Chronicles:

Bob Bjorkman



**Thank
You**
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Dear Second Family,

Thank you for your kind words, gifts, and recognition of my twenty years at Second Church. The saying "fin a job you love and you'll never work a day" is how I feel about my time at Second. And of course, without the support of my husband, Bill, Sundays would have been so much more difficult. While I was prepping for classes, kids, and volunteers, he made sure our daughter, Bri was dressed and to church on time. I appreciate all of the relationships I've made with our members and friends of Second Church. Thank you for supporting me over these twenty years.

Vicki Lantz

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women is the women's organization of the PC(USA). Participate as deeply and/or broadly in the organization and its commitments as you wish.

PW of Second engages in meaningful missions work, social activities, and community.

Join your PW sisters for any or all these fun activities! Need a ride? You can always reach out and we'll pick you up :) Contact Lynn Kennaly/Diane Tokach, Co-Moderators.

Co-moderators for 2026:

Diane Tokash (717) 919-2680 drosen1057@gmail.com

Lynn Kennaly (717) 386-7004 dkennaly@yahoo.com

Women's Awesome Autumn Weekend Away #17—Deadline to Register, September 1

Contact Lillian Wong for more information.

On September 15th, PW will again **support Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties** by providing lunch. Signups went out but we could still use a few more items and help delivering. Contact Lynn Kennaly for more information.

Join your PW in Second sisters September 29th at 5pm at Veterans Square for **Walk the Mile to raise funds and awareness to combat violence against women and girls**. Just go to the YWCA Carlisle website ywcacarlisle.org and click 'learn more', 'register here', 'register now', 'I am part of an organization', and then 'join a team'. Our team – PW in Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle will be on the list. Fundraise if you can, but join us for a visible reminder that violence toward women and girls in our community and everywhere will not be tolerated. **WEAR YOUR PW SHIRTS!!!** Contact Lynn Kennaly with any questions.

October 7th at 1:30 PM in the church library, Pat Butler and the Circle crew start a **new study of the 10 Commandments**. All women are welcome. Contact Pat Butler for more info.

The next **Whale-of-a-Sale will be October 17th**. As you prepare for fall and put away your summer gear, please save those things you no longer need for the Sale!



Giant Gift Cards

These are available for sale in the Narthex on the 3rd Sunday of every month. They are great for buying gas, groceries and gift giving!

All proceeds go to mission.



second
presbyterian church
528 Garland Drive
Carlisle, Pa 17013



**Many Voices,
One Song**

**August 30
4 PM**