

# second chronicles

## **REJOICE WITH GOD!**

**There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice.**

**John Calvin**

**September 2023**

# FALL SERMON SERIES:



## Acting Lessons: Ten Lessons from the Acts of the Apostles

The cool thing about the Book of *Acts* is that it describes how the Holy Spirit works through people just like us. Because of this, the Book of *Acts* is very useful for contemporary Christians when it comes to discerning how to live with faith, even when we can't see Jesus like the Disciples did. Pastor Jeff will be preaching and teaching through the first ten chapters.

**9/10** *Where Do You Get Your Power?* — Acts 1:4-5 — If you're running on empty, this is a message for you!

**9/17** *Dumb Luck* — Acts 1:15-26 — Is life a matter of luck, free will, or something else?

**9/24** *Going Solo* — Acts 2:42-47 — Can you follow Jesus without a congregation or without "going to church"?

**10/1** *What Can Christians Offer to a Hurting World?* — Acts 3:1-16 — Is compassion the best we have to offer?

## Testimony Time: Meet Josh Beck



Josh Beck is an elite long distance runner, cancer survivor, garage fire survivor, husband, dad, columnist, and the founder of Appalachian Running Company in Carlisle and Chambersburg. He also happens to be the son of a Presbyterian pastor (Bill Beck, formerly the pastor of Big Spring Church). Josh has left behind his A.R.C. retail ventures and is now exploring a new calling from God. On Labor Day Sunday (September 3) Josh and Pastor Jeff will explore together with you how to discern God's will in uncertain times.

## An Invitation to our Online Worshipers from Pastor Jeff Gibelius: See You in September (I Hope)

Thanks for being part of our online Second Family. For some people it's the only way they can worship because they are traveling, sick, or live out of state. But one of the many things I learned during the second half of my sabbatical this summer is this: there is no completely adequate substitute for showing up *in person*. Talking on the phone is good, Zoom is better, but seeing people in the flesh is the best when relationships are at stake. It's that way with worship, too. If you've been away, come back to our Sanctuary at least once this September, and reconnect with your Second Family and with our Savior. Worship online when you must, but we'd love to see you face to face whenever you can come in.

Not yet a Member  
Let's Make it Official.



Be part of our next Seeds Group, starting September 17. Seeds is specially designed for people who want to discover what it means to be part of the Second Family and the Presbyterian Church (USA). You can join the congregation in October if you choose. Key topics: What Presbyterians believe, Presbyterian history, How Presbyterians make decisions, and highlights of Second Church History. Through discussion, independent study, and hands-on service you'll grow closer to other great people – and God. Pastor Jeff leads this experience, Sundays at 9am, through October 15. RSVP on [GrowWithSecond.org](http://GrowWithSecond.org).

## Second Staff

**Jeff Gibelius, Pastor**  
[Jeff@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Jeff@GrowWithSecond.org)  
717-448-1294

**Sarah Hostetter, Director of  
Children, Youth and Family  
Ministries**  
[Sarah@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Sarah@GrowWithSecond.org)  
717-344-7220

**Michelle DiBona Trefren,  
Director of Music Minis-  
tries**  
[Michelle@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Michelle@GrowWithSecond.org)  
717-961-1866

**Vicki Lantz, Coordinator of  
Adult Ministries**  
[Vicki@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Vicki@GrowWithSecond.org)  
717-609-6113

**Destinee Friskey, Office  
Manager**  
[Destinee@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Destinee@GrowWithSecond.org)  
717-372-4373

**Brian Koller, Facilities Su-  
perintendent**  
[Facilities@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Facilities@GrowWithSecond.org)  
717-881-1839

**Terry Brown, Treasurer**  
[Treasurer@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Treasurer@GrowWithSecond.org)  
717-891-6582



## Acting Lessons: Study the Book of Acts with Pastor Jeff this September

Pastor Jeff will preach through the first ten chapters of the Book Acts this fall. Each Sunday he'll show how the passage is relevant for daily living AND for our eternal hope. Read the full assigned passages below to cover all 10 chapters of the first half of Acts in 10 weeks or simply read the assigned passage for each Sunday. Either way, you'll be blessed. Want to meet with Pastor Jeff and others to talk about what you've read? Come to the Church building on Thursdays at 11am, and join the conversation. If you participate on Thursdays, you'll be thoroughly prepared to get the most out of the following Sunday morning's sermon. No sign-up necessary—just show up.

For Sunday, September 10 – Read Acts 1; Sermon passage: Acts 1:4-5. *Thursday morning studies begin on September 7.*

For Sunday, September 17 – Read Acts 1 again; Sermon passage: Acts 1:15-26 (*Discuss this part of Acts on the previous Thursday (9/14) with Pastor Jeff at 11am\**).

For Sunday, September 24 – Read Acts 2; Sermon passage: Acts 2:42-47 (*Discuss this part of Acts on the previous Thursday (9/21) with Pastor Jeff at 11am\**).

Sunday, October 1 – Read Acts 3; Sermon passage: Acts 3: 1-16 (*Discuss this part of Acts on the previous Thursday (9/28) with Pastor Jeff at 11am\**).

\*Zoom link available through [GrowWithSecond.org](https://www.growwithsecond.org).



## Interfaith Community Picnic – Saturday, September 23

We've invited friends from Carlisle's Muslim, Pentecostal, Buddhist, Jewish, and Baha'i communities to join us for a fun picnic on September 23 at 3 pm at Second Church (rain or shine). All are welcome for games, great food, and bridge-building fellowship. Highlights will include Gospel music from Bibleway Church and Bosnian folk-dancing taught by our Muslim friends in the Bosnian Islamic Community Center (Carlisle). (This does not need to be red--I can't figure out how to change it!) Second will provide the chicken, water, and paper/plastic goods, and we ask that every family brings a dish to share, your beverages, and chairs/blanket. More information to follow along with a link to sign up.

Put the date on your calendar now! All are Welcome!



# Blessing of the Animals



WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 13  
6:30 PM

Second Presbyterian Church will have a blessing of the animals. We invite you to bring your pet or a picture of your pet to be blessed at the service. All pets should be on leash or caged. A free will offering of unopened cat or dog food will be taken and donated to a local shelter. Rain or Shine.

## Coming in October: The Chosen – A Bible Study for People who Don't Like Bible Studies....

The Chosen is a new family-friendly “television” series that brings the Gospels to life in powerful, creative, and insightful ways. You can find The Chosen on Amazon Prime, Netflix, the CW (TV station), AngelStudios.com and YouTube. Three seasons are currently available; each episode is about an hour. Pastor Jeff suggests that you begin with season one, if possible. In October he will be leading an episode by episode discussion, looking at the Bible passages explored and expanded upon in each installment and what we can learn from them. The next edition of Chronicles (Oct/Nov) will explain how you can participate in this upcoming study. Sunday, mornings at 9 am, starting October 22.



This luncheon is especially for people who are age 80 and up (plus their younger companions or caregivers). Food will be provided. Pastor Jeff Gibelius will host a table trivia contest with questions drawn from the 1950s to the '70s – start brushing up now. Saturday, September 9 at Noon. Need transportation? Call Vicki Lantz at 717\*609-6113. RSVP at [GrowWithSecond.org](http://GrowWithSecond.org)

## SUNDAES ON SUNDAY



SEPTEMBER 10  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP



## **How We Continue to Connect at Second**— from Julie Rhen and the Connect Team

With a smile on my face, I say "Hello, I am Julie Rhen. I don't know you (or remember your name) but it is good to have you here. Is this your first time worshiping with us?" Yes, Second Family, it is as easy as that short statement to provide a welcoming greeting to a person you might not know or recognize. As a member of the Connect Team, I am fortunate to partner with other members who care about the congregation and visitors and want to spread God's love and grace. That desire is not limited to our team; I know our members seek ways to live out our Vision.

With God's love and grace,  
Welcoming all  
Growing relationships  
Serving joyfully

Every member and friend of Second Presbyterian Church can be the hands, feet, and smile of this Vision. We can all notice the people that sit around us in worship and introduce ourselves if we don't know them. We can guide someone new to the Cove for a coffee and chat or to the information desk for a First Time Visitor mug. We can introduce them to Pastor Jeff or Sarah or Vicki and an Elder or Deacon. Please, find your way to welcome all and grow relationships. Your small act of care and consideration makes a big difference in sharing God's love and grace. Thanks, Julie

## **Second Church Mission Partners**

The Serve Team encourages you to get involved with our Mission Partners, to make volunteering for one or more of them a goal in 2023-2024. Over the course of the year, we'll announce opportunities to serve, we hope you will join us.

Here's what they have to say about our Second Church volunteers and the support provided by the Serve Team at Second.

Safe Harbour greatly values the support of the Church and the Serve team. They are generous and flexible to our needs.

I think you do GREAT work. I am the new CEO of Project SHARE, so I have been overwhelmed and have not officially connected yet; however, I have met many of your members at different events. Thank you!

We have had a great working relationship with Second Pres. for many years. You have supported us regularly financially and during our cookie drive event each year. You have also asked about and supported us on several specific needs. We look forward to continuing this close working relationship! Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry

Thank you so much for all the assistance and support, Vicki. We couldn't do what we do without Second Pres. Cheers! Michael Landis, Maranatha-Carlisle

## A Season of Sorrow and A Time to Mourn

Several beloved former leaders of our Second Family passed into the eternal Church Triumphant this summer. Among the Second Saints who have recently died are Susan McCrea, June Shomaker, Jan Hays, Gene Schlosnagle, and Gladys Argast. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of those who have died, and our prayers go up to God in thanksgiving for their eternal salvation.

## Our 2023 Mission Partners

**Truck Stop Ministry**— Ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of truckers, travelers, and stranded and homeless persons who use the truck stops.

**Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties**— Provides 24-hour hotline and 24 hr. emergency shelter services for victims of domestic violence. Other services include: individual and group counseling, medical and legal advocacy, community education and prevention programs, information and referral services.

**Community Cares**— Provides daily emergency shelter for homeless single adults, families and children (guests). Operates a Day Resource Center which helps homeless men and women meet basic needs for social support, counseling, food, clothing, showers, lockers, and information.

**His Hands Auto Repair Ministry**— Affordable, i.e., discounted, automobile service and repairs to assist low-income persons living in the Carlisle area maintain employment and meet basic transportation needs. Also offers affordable auto service and repair to the general public on a sliding scale fee basis.

**Project Share**— Distributes wide variety of basic food items to individuals and families from the greater Carlisle area on a weekly basis including shut-ins and school children. Operates a Farmstand at the corner of Pitt and Lincoln Streets. in Carlisle where free produce, perishables foods and breads are distributed to local residents. Provides nutrition education and hands-on cooking classes.

**Safe Harbour**— Operates a continuum of temporary, transitional and long-term housing facilities for homeless families and single females from Cumberland County at the James Wilson House and at other Carlisle locations. Provides counseling and case management services to assist individuals and families develop the skills and resources necessary to live independently.

**Samaritan Fellowship**— Volunteer organization which meets weekly at the United Methodist Church of Carlisle to render emergency financial assistance to low-income and destitute individuals and families from the greater Carlisle area to assist them meet basic needs for shelter, utilities, medical care, transportation and other types of emergency needs.

**Maranatha, Carlisle**— A Christian Ministry that provides financial management services to low-income individuals, many of whom are intellectually disabled. These financial services primarily involve budgeting, bill paying and representative payeeship.

**Fruit Belt Farm Workers Christian Ministry**— Mission is to reach out and help migrant farm workers who come from Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, Honduras, and Guatemala to work in the orchards in Adams, Franklin, and Cumberland counties. They come with little, work in our area for months, and send their wages home to their families.

# SERVING AT SECOND

## Serving at Second on Sundays— Consider joining one of these ministries!

**Valet Parking** - Team of men and women, usually on Sunday mornings at the 10:30 Service, to help park cars or help our members and friends out of their cars. Reach out to Denny Wimer at [wimerda@aol.com](mailto:wimerda@aol.com) or 717-701-0507.

**Welcome Center Hosts** - Hang out at the Welcome Desk on Sunday morning, before and after Worship to greet visitors and answer any questions. Your main focus is to be a welcoming presence and direct people to someone or the website or a staff member. Reach out to Julie Rhen at [julie.k.rhen@gmail.com](mailto:julie.k.rhen@gmail.com) or 719-330-8281.

**Sanctuary Hosts** - Stand at the entrance to the Sanctuary to greet people as they enter, provide bulletins to those who want one and welcome any visitors to the church, help them find a seat, etc. Reach out to Sue Wimer at [wimersm@comcast.net](mailto:wimersm@comcast.net) or 717-701-3670. If you used to enjoy ushering, you'll love hosting!

**Opening and Closing the Building** - This group rotates each week, their role is to open the building on Sunday mornings (basically turn on the lights in all parts of the church for that particular Sunday). The Closers turn off all the lights and lock the doors following Worship. Reach out to Vicki Lantz at [Vicki@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Vicki@GrowWithSecond.org) or 717-609-6113.

**Hospitality Cart** - This team provides drinks and small snacks immediately following Worship to provide a time of fellowship around food in the Narthex. Reach out to Carol Turner at [cturn717@gmail.com](mailto:cturn717@gmail.com) or 717-329-5850.

**Tech Team** - This team is responsible for sound, cameras and live streaming on Sunday mornings. The three main areas are advancing slides, controlling the cameras, or helping with sound. Reach out to Steve Kownacki at [AV@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:AV@GrowWithSecond.org) or 717-319-8486.

**Tech Ops Ministry (T.O.M.)** - Help Second spread the Word by lending a hand to T.O.M. The Tech Ops Ministry would love your assistance advancing slides, controlling the cameras, or helping with sound. NO experience necessary! No reason to be intimidated, we will train you. Please reach out to friends, family, or neighbors, this is a great job for youth. This person does not need to be a member of Second Church. FREE Coffee! Woot! Contact Steve Kownacki at the tech table or [AV@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:AV@GrowWithSecond.org), mobile 717-319-8486. Thanks for your interest.





## **We're Helping our Leaders by Creating a new "Volunteer Center"**

Ever since the pandemic ended we have been relying more on our volunteers to carry out essential ministries in support of worship (think about everything the Worship Advisory Team does), communications (Eg, mailings and printing), fellowship (Eg meals), facilities (room use assignments), and more. We also rely now on volunteers to supplement the staff in serving as building receptionists. What we didn't have until now was an ideal workspace for our volunteers to gather in groups, use printers, find office supplies, and store frequently used items, like greeting cards for the Deacons and outdoor banners. The staff brainstormed ideas for locating a new "volunteer office" in former Pastor Jennifer McKenna's office, but it was deemed too small for multiple volunteers and too far from the office equipment. Then we started thinking outside the box: what if we turned the main office into a "volunteer center" — with easy access to everything our leaders need—and move our Office Manager/Communications Director (Destinee Friskey) to Rev. McKenna's old office.

This summer the staff got the Personnel Committee's permission to experiment with this new arrangement. Destinee's workstation and all valuable, fragile, or confidential materials are now in a secure office. The new Volunteer Center (formerly the Main Office) is open whenever the building is unlocked so that volunteers can access items at odd hours without a special key to get in. The Volunteer Center includes a public access computer that you can use to access the web, CCB, your email, and more. The staff hopes this experimental arrangement makes volunteering more satisfying and effective without sacrificing security, confidentiality, or productivity.

Here's how you can help:

1. Tell us what's missing from the Volunteer Center—Destinee Friskey will keep it stocked.
2. Serve as a receptionist in the Volunteer Center — we need people to take 2-hour shifts on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, from 10-2. You'll greet visitors (occasional), answer the phone (rare), help with an office project or two, and enjoy a great cup of coffee from The Cove. You can sign-up by contacting Vicki Lantz at [Vicki@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Vicki@GrowWithSecond.org).
3. Get trained on how to use the copiers and other office equipment. Vicki Lantz can assist you.

Want to offer feedback on this experiment? Contact Pastor Jeff: [jeff@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:jeff@GrowWithSecond.org).

Here's some more of what you can find in the Volunteer Center:

- We moved into the Volunteer Center items that members, committees and teams might need access to (banners, candles, worship supplies)
- Deacons have already moved their cards, grief books, items needed for their mailings into a cabinet in the center.
- Desks, tables, chairs and workstations for small meetings and volunteer collaboration. Have lousy wi-fi at home? Come and use a Volunteer workstation for your Zoom meetings, etc.
- Pens, pencils, paper clips, paper, sticky notes, etc. so a team or group has at hand all the supplies they might need for a great meeting or event.

# MUSIC AT SECOND



## Kids' Praise

Sunday mornings, during the sermon at 10:30 worship, elementary school aged children are invited to join us for music, scripture, and praise in the Commons. Led by Director of Music Ministries, Michelle Trefren, we play instruments in praise, sing scripture and prayer, and talk about how we can be more like Jesus in our daily lives.



## Second Piano

Learn to praise God through instrumental and vocal music. These sessions dive into learning to read music at the piano. Families will purchase piano method books (about \$20). Assistance available for book purchase. Students may also explore the cello, percussion, or ukulele. We will prepare music for select worship services throughout the year. Since space is limited, a commitment to participation for the semester is required. Contact Michelle Trefren to sign up!  
[michelle@growwithsecond.org](mailto:michelle@growwithsecond.org)

September 14 - December 21, 2023

Jan 14 - May 9, 2024

Thursdays: 5-6 - Grades 4-8

Thursdays: 6-6:45 - Grades K-3



## SECOND SINGERS & RINGERS

God commands us to sing and to play instruments in praise to Him. What God does NOT say is, "Only those who have talent, praise the Lord!" Let's erase the "I can't" or the "I'm not good" mentality. God COMMANDS that we sing our praise. A glorious thing happens when we make ourselves vulnerable to making music - the music works in us. The beauty of harmony and poetry and scripture changes our very being to be closer to God.

Music is a vessel for the Holy Spirit to enter our presence, so come join in the glorious FUN and sing or ring with us. Contact Michelle ([Michelle@GrowWithSecond.org](mailto:Michelle@GrowWithSecond.org)) to get plugged in.

## Second Singers

Thursdays at 7-8:30pm

Kick off Rehearsal & Potluck - Saturday, Sept 9 at 10am-1pm

## Second Ringers

Select Wednesdays 10:00-11:00am

*Let everything that hath  
breath, praise the Lord!  
Psalm 150:6*



## Social Justice Circle

The Social Justice Circle began several years ago to read about and discuss issues involved in social justice: racism against native Americans and African Americans and most recently issues of poverty in America. We try to look at the problems from a Christian perspective—how does the Church view the injustices—WWJD? Discussions are led by the Rev. Dr. Bruce Humphrey, who has preached for us in the past. The group is small—5-8 members on any given day. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, from 11-12 noon in the Chapel. Starting September 27<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss the Church's reaction to the LGBTQ+ community. We will read *Walking the Bridgeless Canyon: Repairing the Breach Between the Church and the LGBTQ Community*, by Kathy Boldac, with an accompanying discussion guide. Bruce recently led another book discussion of this book, and he was pleased with their reception to learning about a group of people who do not always experience social justice in our communities and how to respond as faithful Christians. Please join us—we are also available on zoom. Contact Sandra Goodling for more information: [goodlingsandra@gmail.com](mailto:goodlingsandra@gmail.com), 717-422-7009.

## Know Your Deacons

### MATTHEW

Lori Loudon  
Kathy Day  
Ann Seim

### LUKE

Kim Bollinger  
Sandra Goodling  
Konnie Serr

### DEACON MODERATOR

Roxanne Hagenbuch

### JOHN

Linda & Dave Rose  
Cindy Varner  
Kathy & Greg Miller

### MARK

Susan Blackburn  
Charlie Bailey  
Lynn & Dave Kennaly

Thank  
you

Thanks to some hard-working volunteers our church kitchen is sparkling clean and ready for upcoming fall events! Volunteers came in on their own time during July and thoroughly cleaned areas of the kitchen and/or rotunda. Many thanks go to Kathy Beck, Lynn Kennaly, Barb Ogline, Mary Zeladonis, Deb Brandberg, Sue Wimer, Gretchen Naugle, and Sue Benner. This important annual task couldn't have been accomplished without your help!  
Carol Turner

11

# SECOND KIDS & SECOND YOUTH NEWS

From Sarah Hostetter, Director of CYF Ministries

## It is Kick-off Time!

September 10th is our annual kick off to our regular Sunday morning program starting at 9am. Our Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Ministry has missed you and is excited to share a few things coming up.

We are partnering with adult ministry to have a little kick-off party on the patio. Join us after worship for Sundaes and lawn games!

We will also be sharing a draft of our CYF yearly calendar so that you can start adding to your calendars.

This year we are really focusing on experiencing God through relationship, the church, and service.

## Bibles

Is your child in 3rd grade or 5th grade or did they miss a year when Bibles were being distributed? If so, contact Sarah Hostetter with your child's full name and if you will be in attendance during the 10:30 service on September 10th for our Bible Ceremony.



Jesus and Me (JAM) is what we call our Children's Sunday School. JAM meets in Glory's Edge at 9am on Sunday mornings. This time is filled with worship, dancing, games, storytime, small groups, fellowship and may even conclude with some hot cocoa and donuts some weeks. We are trying to create a space that allows kids to meet God, and engage in deeper relationships with one another.

## second BREAKFAST



Second Breakfast is what we call our Youth Sunday School. Second Breakfast is open to all 5th-12th graders EVERY Sunday morning at 9am. This time is filled with food, ice breakers, and discussions that provoke questions around how our faith applies to the world around us. Here we encourage seeking, doubt, real questions, and open dialogue about God and our relationship with God.

## NURSERY

We will be doing a slow roll out of Nursery in the fall. Some weeks we will have coverage but the weeks we do not, we will have a sign advertising our sacred kid space in the Sanctuary, "The Playground." If you would like to volunteer in the nursery that will help us keep the nursery open. Please contact Sarah Hostetter if you are interested.



## A Sacred Space for Children in Worship- “The Playground”

Have you heard joy and jubilation coming from the front of the Sanctuary recently, well that's because we have created a space for the children of the church to gather. Pews can be restrictive and cause children to feel claustrophobic and antsy. We felt that by opening up a space for kids to quietly be kids in a space with sensory activities and fidget manipulators, this would alleviate a little anxiety from our parents trying everything they can to keep their children quiet in pews. We want children to feel welcome in our sanctuary, to feel like this is their church, and we want children to hear good Gospel lessons and important Old Testament lessons. We at Second Presbyterian Church believe that children and youth are a vital part of building the kingdom today, not just the church of tomorrow. So we have been very intentional about providing a safe and sacred space for both children and adults to worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. We encourage you to bring your children on a Sunday morning, sit at a neighboring pew, and watch how God can work even through the doodles and foam walls of Jericho.

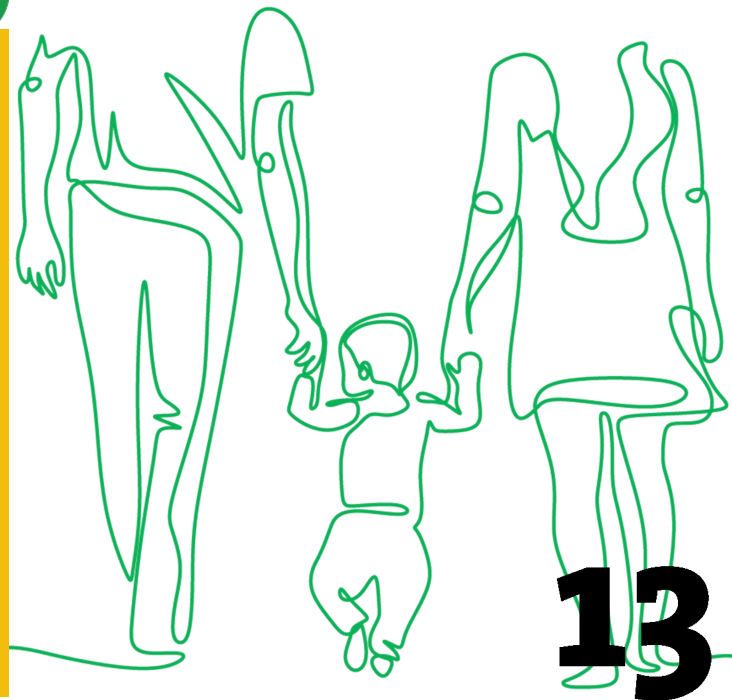


## Sacred Sensory Bags

Another element we have in worship are “Sensory bags” for all of those who need to move their hands and multitask in order to listen in the service to empower better listening. These elements are to enhance our young congregants who need to fidget, and some of our older congregants. There are adult coloring books, doodle boards, and Qwiky sticks. You are all welcome to take a look in the bags on Sunday mornings, and bring them to your pew. These bags have been updated and are ready to be shared on a Sunday morning.

# VOLUNTEERS

We always need volunteers. If you feel God calling on you to support your congregation, and children or youth are gifts that you or someone else in your life have identified, consider volunteering with us. We have a great team of volunteers already forming, and you will only enhance what beauty already exists. We especially need volunteers on our CYF Committee, JAM and Second Breakfast Sunday School classes and in the Nursery. Please reach out to Sarah Hostetter [sarah@growwithsecond.org](mailto:sarah@growwithsecond.org) if you would like to volunteer or need more information.



Rated

G

## SABBATICALS MAKE SENSE

—A Message from Pastor Jeff Gibelius



Thank you so much for granting me a sabbatical this summer. The term “sabbatical” comes from the Hebrew word for “shabbat” or “sabbath.” The idea is that intentional resting is just as creative as intentional working. After almost 16 years of ministry with you, I took the first half of my second sabbatical last summer, by following the footsteps of Saint Paul, by studying ruins in Greece and Turkey. This summer I used the second half of my sabbatical to attend to my physical health, family relationships, and my sense of pastoral call.

Some of what I did:

- **Worshipped** every Sunday with my wife at: Hibner Memorial Bibleway Church of God in Christ; Big Spring Presbyterian Church, Carlisle Evangelical Free Church; Sandy Cove Ministries and other inspiring spots. It’s so helpful when husband and wife can worship side by side.
- **Listened** to dozens of podcasts relating to the culture, customs, and geography of Jesus’s world and the First Century Church. One of my new favorites is “Israel Bible Podcast, with Cyndi Parker.”
- **Consulted** with medical professionals to get healthier physically, emotionally, and nutritionally. Caught up on physicals, counseling appointments, dental cleanings, eye exams, and more. Are you up to date in these areas? I also worked with a ministry mentor out of Oregon, to gain clarity about leadership priorities for the next 12 months.
- **Exercised** daily – maybe you saw me on the LeTort pickleball courts! I find that when I’m exercising my body, my mind is calmer.
- **Studied** with Michael Card, the famed singer/song-writer and Bible study author. He wrote El Shaddai, and is now a serious teacher of the Bible.
- **Played** – I completed a few woodworking projects, volunteered with the Carlisle Theatre, and studied advanced improv techniques at Harrisburg Improv Theater. I loved having a chance this summer to meet people who are completely unchurched and skeptical about God; it challenged me to be able to explain our faith in concise and powerful terms.
- **Connected** – Some of the most powerful time of my sabbatical was spent with family: I visited my mother and my sister and her extended family in upstate NY. I went salt-water fishing with my 21-year old son, Andrew, and my good friend, Garrett, near Barnegat Lighthouse in NJ. My 20-year old son, Aaron, guided the rest of us on a whirlwind tour of Pittsburgh for the annual Pickleburgh festival. And we ended the summer with a visit to Kari’s sister’s family on Long Island. After several years of Zoom calls, it was priceless to see each other face to face.

Thank you for this generous gift of time to recover, re-frame, and re-new. I am coming back to our Second Family ready to join you in an exciting new season of ministry!

# MEMBER MINISTRIES



## Women's Awesome Autumn Weekend Away XIV at Ocean Grove NJ: October 20-22

The theme this year is "Seeking Treasure" and we have managed to keep the cost at same price as last year. That is \$200 for 2 nights, double occ, all Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast are included as well as all activities. Is a weekend of conversation, spiritual growth, prayer, devotions, fun and laughter!

## Hospitality Cart & Giant Gift Card Sale: September 17

PW will host the hospitality cart Sunday September 17 and will have Giant gift cards available for purchase at the welcome area that day. Thank you for helping mission giving!



## SAVE THE DATE:

**Fall Whale of a Sale—**  
October 14



**Senior Singles** is a special group for older single members and friends of our congregation that has been meeting monthly for several years now. It meets on the second Wednesday of each month to eat at various restaurants in the area. Usually, the reservations are at 6 p.m., and there is carpooling from the church parking lot. There are about 35 people on the mailing list, and about 15 people reserve a spot each month. This group introduces you to new friends who have a lot of fun! Please join us!

If you would like to add your name to the email list to get monthly information or have questions, contact Sandra Goodling, [goodlingsandra@gmail.com](mailto:goodlingsandra@gmail.com), 717-422-7009.

## Brown Baggers Continue to Meet!

The Brown Baggers meet every Tuesday at noon in the Library for fellowship. Bring your own lunch and a drink; coffee and water will be available in the building. This Member Ministry is sponsored by John Gillespie. Call John (cell # 267-371-9891) with questions or to indicate your interest in attending.



# second

presbyterian church  
528 Garland Drive  
Carlisle, Pa 17013

## KICK-OFF

# SUNDAY

## SEPTEMBER 10, 10:30AM

- JAM & Second Breakfast begin for Children and Youth at 9 AM.
- Bibles for Children and Youth during worship.
- Second Singers!
- Pastor Jeff Gibelius will launch a new sermon series on the Book of Acts, called *Acting Lessons*. Come for the Lord's Supper.
- Sundaes on Sunday – enjoy sweet, creamy, and cool ice cream after worship and lawn games on the patio following worship.