

# **second** chronicles



**April & May 2026**

# Walk with Jesus to the Cross and the Empty Tomb: Holy Week Worship



**3/29**

**PALM  
SUNDAY**

**LEAVING A LEGACY OF FOLLOWING** — We'll look at how Jesus' disciples followed him into Jerusalem and, ultimately to the cross and resurrection. We'll sing The Palms and join the children in shouting "Hosanna!" to our King.

**4/2**

**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

At this 7pm meditative worship service we'll recount the events of Jesus' Passion Week, including the Last Supper. Many people find this candlelit service to be one of the most powerful of the year.

**4/3**

**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

Bethel AME, the oldest historically black church, on East Pomfret Street in Carlisle, is presenting the "Seven Last Words of Christ" – starting at Noon with Pastor Jeff Gibelius' message on Jesus's first "word" from the cross, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." You are welcome to participate for as much/little of the service as you can. Each of the 7 messages is planned to be 10 minutes. 151 East Pomfret Street.

**4/5**

**EASTER  
SUNDAY**

You won't want to miss the resurrection celebration! We'll enjoy special music, including Hallelujah! Chorus, the Lord's Supper, and... live animals. Come and see for yourself!

## Easter Flowers 2026

It's our tradition that we decorate the chancel on Easter Sunday with flowers. You can help us by dedicating flowers *In Honor Of, In Memory Of* or *To the Glory of God*.

You can do this on the giving page of the website, the cost is \$10 or by sending a check to the church. Please mark in the memo line easter flowers and your dedications or include a note. The last day to dedicate a flower is **Palm Sunday**.



# Worship With Us

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS IN APRIL AND MAY



**April 12 – Pastor Michael Dorsey** has done it all... and he's got stories to tell. His "resume" includes being a state administrator in MD, published author, church pastor, and a contestant on the TV show, "The Biggest Loser."

### May 31 – Rev. Yvette

**Davis** will be our guest preacher. Rev. Davis is an ordained pastor, an avid actor, historian and history re-enactor. She is also the director of the Popel Shaw Center for Race and Ethnicity at Dickinson College. Pastor Jeff and Rev. Davis have worked together on several bridge-building projects in Carlisle.



## Second Staff

**Jeff Gibelius, Pastor**  
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# Easter

O F F E R I N G

Our 2026 Easter Offering will support two of our mission partners this year. His Hands Auto Repair Ministry is in need of a new door. The door is one of the main points of access into the building and is rusting out. The door has been a part of the building since the beginning, but they can no longer get a door that is the same size, so they will need to order a special door and make additional modifications. They also have a plumbing crisis. They have discovered there is an issue with a cast iron pipe that carries waste from the building to the street. The initial cost to explore and possibly fix the pipe is \$6000 and could go as high as \$20,000.

The Second Ministry partner we will support is Maranatha-Carlisle for their financial literacy program. This program is for people who want to learn how to manage their money more effectively. It is especially set up for someone who is struggling with paying bills, managing an immediate crisis, or budgeting for unexpected expenses. Financial literacy is one of the first steps in helping clients manage their finances and help them out of recurring financial crises.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2 | 6 PM DINNER | 7 PM WORSHIP

### Maundy Thursday Dinner

You are invited to a dinner on Thursday, April 2 at 6pm of Soup (Chicken Corn Soup and Vegetable Soup), Salad, Bread and Desserts, prior to Maundy Thursday Worship. Join your Second Family for food and fellowship. There will be both gluten free and vegetarian offerings available. If you would like to be a part of the fellowship team that organizes and determines the food offerings for our fellowship events (Breakfast in the Narthex, Christmas Breakfast, Ash Wednesday, etc.) please contact Carol Turner at [cturn717@gmail.com](mailto:cturn717@gmail.com). Kindly reserve spots for your family through our online sign up.

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You are Cordially Invited

TO THE ORDINATION AND  
INSTALLATION OF

**DEACONS & ELDERS**

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**

**10:30 AM WORSHIP**



### **Sunday Morning Bible Study**

1st and 2nd Thessalonians Sunday morning Bible Study will resume on Sunday, April 12 at 9am in the Chapel. Led by Sarah Larouche.

We will continue our examination of one chapter of Paul's letters to this church and discuss how early Christians lived while they waited for Christ's return. We will also discuss how we can live a meaningful life while waiting for Christ's return. While I will use Ligon Duncan's study of 1&2 Thessalonians titled "In Light of His Return" to help guide our discussion, no text will be needed other than a Bible.



**Worship • Food • Fun for All Ages**

400+ Presbyterians, 41 Congregations

August 30, 4pm, Second Church

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# Be Strong and Courageous, Second Family: GOD IS WITH US!

*This is an adapted excerpt from Pastor Jeff's message to the congregation on February 1, the day of our annual congregational meeting.*

As Joshua was preparing to enter the Holy Land, what was the one message that God really wanted Joshua to take to heart? What did God tell Joshua?

*I hereby command you:*

***Be strong and courageous;  
do not be frightened or dismayed,  
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."***

***Joshua 1:9***

You are not weak and powerless to change things—because God is not weak and powerless. And you have no logical reason to be afraid, because the God who knows all goes before you—and God is not afraid. You can be strong. You can be courageous. God is with you wherever you go.

Now let's take a moment as a Second Family to think about what challenges lie ahead for us. What is God calling us to "take on" right now?

Yes, we need to replace a big part of our heating system—but that's small potatoes for God.

Yes, there's a big gap in funding, but God has given us all the resources we need—we simply need to share them with each other and invest them in God's work here.

Yes, our congregation needs new leaders to build on the legacy of the past. But God is raising them up right now. They are sitting in these pews this morning.

These are challenges, but they are the kind most every congregation faces. They are simply about us and our congregation's survival. God has something bigger in mind for us. God wants us to be part of his big plan to help the world.

Three things threaten to kill what is best about our society right now:

- Dis-information
- Intimidation
- Isolation

The Good News is that God has given us the antidote to these diseases.

There was a time when people agreed on the meaning of words: man, woman, freedom, democracy, fairness, equality. But then a president said, when a reporter asked about an affair, "Is there something going on with you" and the president famously replied, "It depends on what the meaning of is, is." Now we can't even agree on the meaning of photos – is it real or AI? What is a fact, can there be alternate *facts* about the same thing? No wonder young people are confused! No wonder they turn to leaders and ideas that are shocking to those of us who grew up when people from vastly different walks of life all agreed that the sky was blue and grass was green.

# 6

That's why in this Second Church we help children and youth know that there is such a thing

as bed-rock, unchanging, eternal, truth. And Jesus is truth's name, truth's source, truth's embodiment. Jesus is not simply an idea that can be argued with or denied. Jesus's life and death are historically, verifiably, facts. The meaning of his life and death can be debated by reasonable people, but not denied.

We help young people build their lives on the rock-solid truth of Jesus Christ. We help them to know what Jesus taught about caring for the poor and the outsider, about how to treat their enemies, and how to trust their Heavenly Father. We help them to give their heart to Jesus in a way that will guide them the rest of their lives and all the way into eternity.



Bekah Barlow, our Coordinator of Ministries for Children and Youth and Families, has watched the joy on kids' faces as they can't help but RUN to Second Kids each Sunday morning. They want the love Jesus offers. She tells me that in the past year five of those kids have offered their hearts to him. Stay tuned for news about more family nights and programs just for parents.

Michelle Trefren, our Music Director, has been helping kids use music to connect with God. Whether it's through KidsPraise or the Youth Arts Christian Choir or singing with the adult choir – they are using the gifts God put inside them. In the coming months you'll hear our kids adding instruments and voices to the last hymn on most Sundays. They're even planning a trip to Sight and Sound theatre to experience Joshua, live.



I would love to tell you stories about our Shine! Kids – asking me for Bibles, asking if they can bring their friends to Shine, asking really hard questions about faith — and I can see what God is doing in their lives. Friendships are forming. Youth are responding. God is good! We went to Philly last fall and we are now planning a mission trip to Pittsburgh.

God needs Second Church to keep challenging dis-information with truth: God's truth about who we are and what really matters in life.

Which leads us to the next challenge we face: Our national obsession with intimidation and power. I first started noticing this years ago. Pick-up trucks were getting bigger and tougher. They looked more and more like monster trucks designed not exactly for practicality but to drive over other cars if push came to shove. Remember when Hummers arrived? These are civilian versions of military vehicles. What practical purpose do they have? They are great for people who are in love with power. They are perfect for people comfortable with making others uncomfortable.

Intimidation and coercion are not the ways of Christ. He taught that true power comes only from God, not from engines or artillery. He knew that when you make others afraid, you control them for a moment, but it's only a matter of time before they fight back – like a cornered rabbit. Maybe that's why Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem and not a chariot or an armored car with blacked out windows.

Jesus was all-powerful and did not once use that power for himself – not even to turn stones into bread when he was starving. Jesus lived the truth that evil can only be overcome with good. Or as Dr. King put it, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

That's why this Second Family is devoted to bringing light, to bringing love, to our hurting world. When others declare war on the weakest among us – which is the trademark of bullies everywhere – we stand up to the powerful and defend what Jesus calls, "the least of these." the hungry, the stranger, the imprisoned, the foreigner, the widow, the orphan. They need us to be strong and courageous for them.



I asked Terry Brown, our church treasurer, what he has learned about our congregation in his time here. He said. "I can't get over how generous people are. Especially around special offerings." Our Christmas and Easter offerings are not for ourselves – they are all about others. This past year it was for foster kids and

homeless people – neither of which is known for being powerful or intimidating. When no one else seems to care, God’s people care. You care.

The third challenge this congregation is taking on right now is a dangerous trend toward isolationism. Remember when it used to be a punishment to be sent to your room? Now kids have to be dragged out of their room, off their devices, and forced to go to Tommy’s birthday party. Digital connectivity has made it more comfortable to be alone than it is to be with others. Home schooling is a reflection of this trend. This isn’t the fault of kids or their parents. COVID is partly to blame. But those devices in our pockets are the biggest reason we’ve become more connected “virtually” and less connected “personally.”



Second Church is working to use digital connectivity for God’s purposes. Destinee Friskey, our Communications Administrator, tells me that the sermon videos and podcasts are a hit. She gets your notes telling her how much the weekly email devotionals mean. We all need these forms of connectivity, especially when we travel or the weather is bad. We are committed to being a leader in the online space.

And we will *always* specialize in personal, face to face, experiences of God’s real presence. There’s nothing like being in this Sanctuary on a Sunday morning when you hear God speaking to you. When you feel God’s love warming you. And that’s why we offer so many in person “fellowship” and learning experiences for children and youth and adults of all ages.



Vicki Lantz is our Coordinator of Adult Ministries. She is really excited about some of these opportunities coming up. There’s a new Sunday morning class going and one on the way. Jeannette Mater leading a Lenten Class and I’m leading Seeds for people interested in connecting more deeply with others in our Second Family. We enjoyed a pre-Lenten dessert on Ash Wednesday and a delicious lunch together on the Sunday afterward. I hope that you are building the friendships that happen when you combine the Holy Spirit with a generous serving of donuts or pasta or whatever else we’re cooking. Second Church is committed to helping people get out of their houses and into each

other’s hearts.

We’re also leading the way in breaking whole groups of people out of their informational silos and relational echo chambers. Through sharing our building we are forging connections with people from different cultures. Kenny Mansfield is our Facilities Superintendent. He’s the guy who keeps the lights bright, the building warm, and the parking lot plowed. He also knows how much AA and the MS Support Group appreciate being able to meet in this building. In the past year we’ve hosted two giant events for the local Nepali Christian Community. And in the past two months we’ve joined with Bethel AME and other congregations twice – in this building – for building bridges. On top of this we’re hosting the Presbytery of Carlisle twice in 2026.

Every dollar invested in maintaining our building and campus makes it a better place for people to come together-- whether it's from different congregations, countries, or cultures. This is God’s ministry of reconciliation in action. And we’ve got a group right now looking at ways to improve the sanctuary lighting in 2026. It hasn’t been upgraded in decades. When we’re done, even people with diminished eyesight, will be able to be more fully engaged in worship without straining their eyes to see. In this case, seeing IS believing.

How are you feeling about the challenges ahead of our Second family? Are you ready to take on disinformation with God’s truth? Intimidation with compassion? Isolation with connection?

**Brothers and sisters, we can do this. God is with us. Be strong and very courageous. Amen.**

# Leaving a Legacy



Dozens of our Second Family brothers and sisters have left legacy gifts through their estates. Their stories are about generosity, yes, but also about love and shared faith and their desire to pass it on to the next generations of our Second Family.

We will celebrate these faithful disciples by telling their stories.

Second Presbyterian's Generations Fund, the "pot" where legacy gifts go, has several categories. One is the Memorial Garden, designed to manage funds designated for the maintenance and improvements to the garden.

The Memorial Garden is a peaceful spot for reflection and meditation while surrounded by nature. Its current structure and landscaping are because of the legacy of Verna R. Shafer, a woman who loved gardening and loved her Second Family. Her generous legacy enabled many improvements to the Memorial Garden as well as continued maintenance and improvements in this holy space.

Verna was 87 years old when she passed into the Church Triumphant. She was a lifelong resident of Carlisle and worked as an executive secretary at C.H. Masland & Sons. She was a deacon of Second Presbyterian in addition to being a member of the Carlisle Garden Club and the Cumberland County Historical Society.

We encourage you to take a stroll through the Garden this spring and take a moment to appreciate Verna's wonderful legacy to our church.



# Facilities Updates

During the months of March and April, the Facilities Department will be working on getting the grounds ready for spring. We'll be trimming bushes, pruning old flowers, weeding flower beds and edging and barking. The large oak trees out front will have dead and dangerous branches trimmed, and the dead oak will be removed. Glory's Edge and the Rotunda will have new heat pumps for air conditioning and gas heat installed in each area to complete the HVAC Projects in those areas.

**Sharks sighted at Second Church!** The Facilities Committee has purchased two Shark brand cordless, self-emptying, vacuums for use by volunteers after any event. They are conveniently located in the custodial closet off the Cove. Please use them as needed and return them to their charging stations when done. Thank you for helping to keep God's building clean.

## Second Serves the Community

**On Sunday, March 29 Second will serve at The Breakfast Table.** We provide breakfast (pancakes, eggs, casseroles, fruit, muffins and drinks) to over 100 members of the community in need of a hot meal. If you would like to be involved in this ministry, reach out to Vicki@growwithsecond.org. We cook and serve the meal, but would also take donations to cover the cost of drink, muffins and fruit.

**On Wednesday, April 29 Second will serve at St. Paul's Wednesday Night Dinner.** Our team prepares a chicken meal, serves it to 100 community members and helps with clean up. If you would like to be involved, reach out to Roxanne Hagenbuch at Rae195462@gmail.com.

### Christmas Flowers and Luminaries

Christmas Flowers were given in Memory of Harold Showalter, Polly Miller, Second Church staff that have died, Cliff and Hariette Blackburn and Robert Chant. Flowers were also given in honor of Andy Hoke.

Luminaries were given in Memory of Harold Showalter, Cliff and Hariette Blackburn and Dave Ditenhafer and his parents. They were given in Honor of Carol and Bill Turner, and Linda and Dave Rose.



## Making Sense of the Middle East with Dr. Steve Biddle



**Sunday, March 29, 11:45 am**  
**In person or by zoom**

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

We continue to be encouraged by the growth and energy in our children and youth programs at Second! You will see sign of young life all over the church from the Playground to the Nursery to the Rotunda, where SHINE! “shines”, to Glory’s Edge where SecondKids thrives!



**SecondKids** continues to study their series on Heroes and Heroines of the Bible, but took a break in March to study the Easter story and to decorate a mosaic cross for the church.

**SHINE!** is going strong and embarked on a Missions trip to Pittsburgh the middle of March.



SHINE! and SecondKids, led by Stephanie Freedman baked Purim cookies for the Sunday after worship hospitality cart and CYF had their first annual Fun Night of the year with over 24 kids attending. SecondKids also enjoyed a bowling party with the Elders and SHINE!

New activities are being planned for the spring to include the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 28th at 10am.

We are always looking for fun and rewarding activities for our CYF program and for volunteers. If you would like to contribute in any way please reach out to Bekah at [Bekah@growwithsecond.org](mailto:Bekah@growwithsecond.org)



## Staff Spotlight: Kenny Mansfield, Facilities Superintendent

In our continuing effort to help the congregation become more familiar with our staff, the Personnel Committee highlights the work of our Facilities Superintendent, Kenny Mansfield. If you have been in the church on a weekday morning, you may have met Kenny but otherwise you've surely noticed his work. Cleared sidewalks on a wintry morning, landscaped gardens, and a clean and welcoming sanctuary are evidence of his work.

Kenny Mansfield is a graduate of Big Spring H.S. and Cumberland Perry Vo Technical School. He joined the staff of Second Presbyterian Church in June of 2024 with extensive experience in all phases of construction including masonry, carpentry, roofing and siding. Additionally, he acquired supervisory and management skills through his employment at Green Ridge Village, PA Turnpike Commission, Cumberland County Housing and Development Authority and Newville Water and Sewer Authority.

Kenny is the father of Aubrie, Taylor, Ben and Levi. He speaks proudly of the accomplishments of his adult children, Aubrie, a registered nurse, Taylor, a medical sonographer and Ben, a security guard. He resides with his wife, Brooke and son, Levi in Newville PA.

His overall job responsibility is to ensure that all church-owned buildings, equipment, and grounds are safe, functioning, clean, secure, and attractive. Some of his specific duties include preparing, executing and overseeing an annual plan and budget. He works with outside contractors for routine maintenance and special projects, Kenny is responsible for monitoring all operating systems (e.g. HVAC, electrical, plumbing, lighting, sound, and security).

Kenny is pleased to work within a faith-based organization and enjoys his associations with staff and congregation. He stated that he takes a proactive approach to work so that little problems don't become bigger, more complicated and costly. His current goals include installation of the HVAC systems for the rotunda and Glory's Edge; completion of the Fob and Camera work and landscape work prior to Easter. Kenny particularly values the opportunity to work with member and volunteer, Denny Wimer (Otherwise known as the Kenny/Denny Team). When asked what he finds challenging, Kenny indicated that he works hard to stay within budget and is frustrated when expenditures exceed budget.

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### What Others Say About Kenny

"Kenny brings many strengths to his work for our Second Family. He has a wealth of experience managing large facilities in our area so he knows what to look for and how to speak contractors' language. He is a self-starter who knows how to use his time well and how to address potential problems before they become actual problems. He doesn't need someone watching over his shoulder to get him to do the right thing; he just does it. He has a deep Christian faith which gets displayed in the way he treats with respect everyone he works with, including parishioners, staff, vendors, and the public. It's easy to see the pride he takes in his work."

Pastor Jeff Gibelius



“Kenny applies his skills, knowledge, and commitment in service to our church in a respectful, patient, and humble way. He is great at explaining issues and processes to others. We are indeed fortunate to have him on our staff and his work ethic is second to none”.  
Roger Serr Chair of Facilities Committee

“It has been a pleasure to work alongside of Kenny and overtime, he has become a good friend. He’s very capable as our Facilities Director and relates well with contractors and all he comes in contact with. I’ve always respected how genuine he is and how he lives out his faith as a Godly man in the way he treats people and approaches his work.”  
Denny Wimer, Facilities Volunteer

Kenny Mansfield is another member of staff who is working to achieve the Mission of Second Presbyterian, Making Disciples Who Make a Difference. We are indeed fortunate to have Kenny Mansfield as a member of our staff.

## Music Ministries



### April 11, 3-6pm - Karaoke Night at Second!

Come to the Rotunda to enjoy singing and snacks!

All ages and musical styles welcome.

GrowWithSecond.org to sign up!

**Many Thanks** to all the volunteers in the music ministry this Lenten and Easter season! From singers to instrumentalists, you lift us up with inspiring music, share the word of God, and create moments in worship when the Spirit can really come in.

## Music for Easter

On Easter Sunday, the congregation joins in singing *Hallelujah from Handel's "Messiah."* Here are some resources for you to get your voice warmed up and ready!

Warmups:



Practice Tracks:



Here is a guide for you to decide which practice track to listen to:

- Soprano - High treble voice
- Alto - Low treble voice
- Tenor - High bass clef voice
- Bass - Low bass clef voice

**Psalm 146:2**  
**I will praise the LORD all my life;**  
**I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

# 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 in February/March for these terrific activities! If transportation is ever a concern, just ask! Contact Lynn Kennaly/Diane Tokach, Co-Moderators.

Co-moderators for 2026:

Diane Tokach (717) 919-2680 [drosen1057@gmail.com](mailto:drosen1057@gmail.com)

Lynn Kennaly (717) 386-7004 [dkennaly@yahoo.com](mailto:dkennaly@yahoo.com)



**The PW Circle is beginning a new study**, *Come to the Waters*. This study guides us through the rich imagery of water in the Bible, to help us understand our faith. Water is a central image in the Bible.

What is the purpose of a circle? Why join a circle? A circle does include our Bible study, and much more. We become a caring circle of friends, supportive of our faith journeys and our day to day lives.

You are welcome to join our small group of women and become part of our circle of care, study, and fellowship.

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We meet the first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm in the church library. If you have any questions or if you are interested in coming along, talk to Pat Butler. Other circle members include Lillian Wong, Barb Oglie, Julie Rhen, Shirley Verbos, and more! Talk with any of us!

# Swing into Spring with PW!



## **Come Pray Together—Presbyterian Women Day Retreat**

**Monday, April 13, 2026**

**9:30am – 3:30pm**

**Silver Springs Presbyterian Church Retreat House**

**444 Silver Spring Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA**

Cost is \$15 payable to PW in Second Church.

For lunch we will bring food to share with each other. We will be utilizing their kitchen and dishware. Carpools will be arranged to the retreat house.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Butler at 717 512-2252, text or call.

## ***Save These Dates!***

**April 28th** we will prepare lunch for the guests at the Domestic Violence Services residence. Look for sign ups coming out closer to the date.

**May 11th** an evening hike with reflective prayer - venue to be determined.

**May 17th** PW hosts the hospitality cart! Look for sign ups closer to the date. .



## **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

## LENT at Second

3/29 Palm Sunday, 10:30 AM

4/2 Maundy Thursday

Dinner—6 PM & Worship—7 PM

4/5 Easter Sunday, 10:30 AM

