

# STAY STRONG, SECOND!

## Funding the Vision 2021

### A Message from Rev. Dr. Jeff Gibelius

The past six months have been some of the most challenging in my lifetime, maybe yours, too. Between the threat of deadly illness and the isolation of social-distancing many in our Second Family have struggled emotionally and financially – and some folks have experienced the impact of COVID physically. There have been days when it was not at all clear what the safe, smart, and faithful next step was for us as individuals or as a Second Family.

The good news is that we are meeting the challenge together, and we are far from lost. In fact, we have been moving forward with bold confidence during this time.

Notice that we have kept all of our essential ministries thriving:

- Online and Drive-In Worship
- Zoom Bible studies and small groups
- Open mic nights and food truck events involving 100s of people.

We've kept our commitment to help people care for each other, serve the community, connect in deep relationships, and grow spiritually through every means available to us in response to the COVID Challenge.

We have also been taking courageous steps toward building the congregation we want to be after COVID. A group of six Elders was tasked last fall with preparing a set of "Strategic Guides" that would function as our congregation's decision-making "north star" in times of pandemic, peace, prosperity, and poverty. The Session has adopted them, and you'll find them on the next page.

I'm a student of true-life survival stories. The people who live to tell an epic odds-defying tale are the ones who knew exactly where they intended to go, used all of their resources for reaching that promised land, and knew why they were on the journey in the first place.

The Strategic Guides that you'll find on the next page are not a map of the "territory" facing us – only God knows what lies ahead -- but they tell us what we are trying to achieve (vision), why we are working so hard (mission), what we refuse to give up along the way (values), and what our milestones will be (strategic goals) over the next 1-2 years.

#### Here's what I'm asking you to do:

1. Take a look at the Strategic Guides and see for yourself how they reflect our commitments and priorities as a Second Family.
2. Tune into the next four worship services when I'll be helping you discover your own vision, mission, values, and goals.

Stay strong, Second!  
Pastor Jeff



# Second Presbyterian Strategic Guides

June 2020 - June 2023

## Vision

With God's love and grace,  
Welcoming all  
Growing relationships  
Serving joyfully  
Being a Second Family

## Mission

Making disciples who make a difference

## Strategic Goals

With patient endurance, love, and faithfulness, imagine, discover, and evaluate and reshape all ministries to reach the most people most effectively for the church of tomorrow

Put systems in place that enable us to have all the resources to thrive

Led by Jesus' teachings, love and serve our community through personal involvement and leadership by taking deliberate action to address and advance safety, diversity, and inclusion for all people

## Values and Principles

Guided by the law of love<sup>1</sup>

Guided by the Spirit<sup>2</sup>

Committed to the Greater Carlisle community to which God has called us to minister

Committed to be part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Rooted in the sovereignty of God, the incarnation of God in Jesus, the necessity of grace through faith

<sup>1</sup>Luke 10:27, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (NRSV)

<sup>2</sup>Galatians 5: 22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (NRSV)



# Strategic Guide FAQs

**What is an organizational “vision”?** Think of it as a congregation’s “Promised Land.” It’s the enticing picture of the future that pulls a group forward through hard times in the wilderness. The ancient Hebrews “Promised Land” was “a land flowing with milk and honey.” For Second Church it’s “being a Second Family,” a family characterized by boundless hospitality, vital friendships with God and each other, and people with happy servant hearts. This vision is grounded on the foundation of God’s undying commitment to us, no matter what.

**Aren’t all congregations’ missions the same?** You might think so, but that’s not the case. Some think it’s to keep everyone happy or make converts. Some think it’s primarily to worship, or share faith, or serve others. At Second we believe that God has called and equipped us to “make disciples who make a difference.” We believe that if we help people follow Jesus Christ in their daily living (i.e. become disciples), we will have helped people worship, share, and serve. But if we don’t make disciples, many people will miss out on a life-changing relationship with Jesus, and we will have refused to do the very thing Jesus asked us to do: “Go...make disciples.” Mathew 28:19

**Just three strategic goals—why not more?** The old saying is that if you aim for everything you’ll hit nothing. Of course Second Church will accomplish way more than these three goals in the next few years, but if we don’t make significant progress toward these three goals we are unlikely to be any closer to achieving our vision or fulfilling our mission. Many congregations engage in lots of activities that feel good, but aren’t what God asks them to do: it’s like walking in circles – you can take 10,000 steps and not really go anywhere. We are calling these goals “strategic” because they have been chosen to help us deal with challenges that we are facing right now.

**Don’t we have more values than the ones listed?** Of course we do. We could have listed the Bible, worship, Christian education and more. Instead, we chose to focus on several values that form recognizable boundary lines for our journey forward. Love is first – we won’t do anything that seems to contradict the law of love. The Spirit is listed to remind us that we don’t have all the answer or all the power we need, but God the Holy Spirit does; we will always leave room for the Spirit. We are rooted in Greater Carlisle and the PC (USA) – this is our parish and these are people; we will be faithful to them. And finally, several key tenets of Reformed Theology are listed. Within the Reformed tradition you’ll find esteem for Scripture, worship, Christian Education and most other things we value highly as a congregation.

**What’s next?** The Session is reviewing our staffing, budget, and committee structure to ensure that we have the right systems in place to help us realize God’s vision for us in the years ahead. After that, various ministry teams will create action plans designed to achieve the strategic goals in the next one to three years.



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Second Presbyterian Church  
528 Garland Drive  
Carlisle, Pa 17013

**October 11, 10:30am**

Last Drive-In Worship

**October 18, 10:30am**

**Worship led from the Sanctuary; *Online Only* for Congregation**

Facebook Live or [GrowWithSecond.org](http://GrowWithSecond.org)

The Re-opening Task Force is currently making recommendations for how parishioners can worship safely as soon as possible in small groups in other venues. Stay tuned for details. Thank you for your patience.