

# 2<sup>nd</sup>'s Matters

November 29, 2017

## From Your Pastor's Desk

There is a long and sacred history of the use of X to symbolize the name of Christ. His name in Greek is "Χριστός" (pronounced "Christos") and the first letter, used as an initial, was an easily recognizable symbol and designation for Christ from the first century on. The X has been commonly used throughout history in church art work to represent Christ. Today some express chagrin about seeing Christ's name dropped from the spelling of Christmas. Every year you see the signs and bumper stickers saying, "Put Christ back into Christmas" as a response to this substitution of the letter X for the name of Christ. But Xians (did you see what I did there?) can know that writing "Merry Xmas" does not need to be at all disrespectful but harks back to centuries of using an initial for Christ's name.

## Worship This Sunday, December 3

The season of Advent begins this Sunday. The sanctuary is being decorated for the season and the Worship Committee has hung a new Advent banner and pulpit parament. Sunday we will light the first Advent candle and celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The message will be the second in the series on the Five Solas of the Reformation. Ephesians 2:5-9 will be the text for "Sola Gratia." Our offerings will be for General Fund and Youth Unlimited.

## Worship Schedule For December:

December 10, the Second Sunday of Advent: "Sola Fide" (Faith Alone)

December 17, the Third Sunday of Advent: "Solus Christus" (Christ Alone), and the annual Sunday School Christmas program, "New Star."

December 24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent: "Soli Deo Gloria" (Glory to God Alone).

December 24, 10 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, led by FYSH.

December 25, Christmas morning worship services will be held at First CRC (9:30) and at Trinity CRC (9:30).

December 31, Old Year observance.

## Poinsettias

If you ordered a poinsettia from FYSH to take home before Christmas Day, you can find it on the table by Zach's office .

## Stock the Pantry!

Thank you to all who brought in spaghetti sauce, pasta/rice and other items for the pantry. For December the requested items are soup and crackers.

## Christmas Eve Choir

We'd like to have a special choir for our Christmas Eve candlelight worship service (10 PM). Louise Slager has volunteered to direct the choir and rehearsals will be each Sunday morning, beginning December 10, in the sanctuary following the worship service.

## Love Offering

An envelope was placed in mailboxes this past Sunday labeled "Love Offering" to show our good will and appreciation for our church staff this Christmas season. If you would like to participate, please place your offering in the collection plate in the provided envelope by December 17. You may specify how your gift is dispersed if you desire. Please Note: any late offerings that come in following December 17 will be added to the general fund.

## Matamoros

We are looking for new people to be involved with our adult mission outreach work in Matamoros, Mexico. Our week this year is Jan. 6 - 13. Please see or contact Mariel Poel at 231-349-9152 or Mike DeKuiper at 231-335-6171 for additional information.

## Community Events

### **Fremont Christian School Fundraiser**

Fremont Christian School is collecting gently used shoes for a fundraiser until the first week of January. We have collected 1,000 pairs of shoes already, with a goal of 2,500. Would you be willing to look through your closets to see if you have any shoes you no longer wear that could still be worn and be a blessing to someone in another country? Any kind of shoe and any size shoe are being collected. There are collection boxes at both Fremont Christian buildings. We are collecting shoes until the first week of January. Thank you!!

### **Need help with holiday gift giving needed?**

Visit the display of prayer reminders for Latin America by Bible League volunteers in Newaygo County at the Commission On Aging Bazaar Friday, December 1, 8:00 - 3:00. Lunch is served by COA.

### **UCC Christmas Shopping & Home Tour, December 2**

This event will be held December 2, 2017 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It is sponsored by the Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church and includes a Christmas Shoppe with many quality crafted items, a Plum Pudding Shoppe with gourmet holiday foods, a Soup Luncheon from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., and a Home Tour of three beautiful homes in the Fremont area. Tickets for the Home Tour are \$5 and may be purchased at the church at 714 Hillcrest Dr. in Fremont. You can get more information at the church website: fremontfcc.org We hope you join us for the 28th anniversary of this event. This is a great outing for you and your friends in preparation for the Christmas season!

### **CureUs Christmas Concert, December 3**

Jason Gray, Chris August, and newcomer Hannah Kerr will perform at the Fremont Wesleyan Church on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 pm. Tickets are on sale at the Fremont Community Rec Authority and on line with I-Tickets. Jason Gray Management has joined with I-Tickets for a ticket reduction. If you purchase 10+ tickets they will be only \$8.00 per ticket along with \$1.40 service charge. Gather together and contact I-Tickets at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) or call (800)965-9324.

### **Trinity Candle Light Worship, December 17**

You are invited to a candle light worship service at Trinity CRC at 5:30 PM on December 17. This is planned as reflective and contemplative one hour service using a series of music and readings with a short meditation.

### **WMC Annual Christmas Collage, December 19**

The highlight of the Christmas season, which showcases our very gifted bands and choirs, is right around the corner! Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM** (notice **day & time** change!) for WMC's annual Christmas Collage, to be held at the Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts in downtown Muskegon. Tickets are available in the school office and at the box office of the Frauenthal the night of the collage for only \$10. A program fit for a King...don't miss it!

### **Old Year's Concert, December 31**

The Voices of Victory will be holding their annual Old Year's concert on Sunday evening, December 31. Please note that the concert location has changed - instead of at Hudsonville Reformed Church the concert will be held at Bethel United Reformed Church - 8360 Cottonwood Dr, Jenison, MI 49428 (formerly First Jenison CRC). As in previous years, you are invited to come and go as you please at any time between 8 and 11 PM. Refreshments will be served. A freewill offering will be taken for Georgetown Harmony Homes. Join the Voices of Victory and their guests, the Sacred Harmonies quartet, and participate in joyful audience singing throughout the evening!"

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*Peace starts with a smile.*