

2nd's Matters

December 20, 2017

- Pray for safety for many college students, family members, and friends who are traveling over the holiday season.
- Pray for healing and relief from discomfort for **Mary Breuker** who had surgery this past Monday for repair to her right shoulder. Tomorrow, **Rachel Ward** will be having surgery on her jaw which will begin several weeks of meals through a straw. **Grace Portenga**, who fell a couple of weeks ago continues with weakness and discomfort.

From Your Pastor's Desk

The worship offered by our congregation is always a gathered effort from all of us be it in prayer, gifts, confession, singing, or receiving the Word. Musical accompaniment leads our singing and lately we have been employing gifts and instruments from a growing variety of members. We continue to incorporate traditional and contemporary hymns. This Sunday morning and evening our accompaniment selection will be primarily piano and keyboard (organ) with some accents by flute and guitar as best befitting some of our Advent and Christmas songs. In all of this our intent, as always, is for us to be collectively enabled to give glory to God alone.

Worship This Sunday, December 24

9:30 AM The Fourth Sunday in Advent: We light the fourth Advent candle and the message, "Soli Deo Gloria" (Glory to God alone) will be the final one in the series on the Five Solas of the Reformation. Our offerings will be for the General Fund and our Cadets.

10:00 PM Christmas Eve: You are invited to our traditional community candlelight service led by our high school FYSH students. The offering will go towards a food drive that FYSH will be leading in January for the local food pantry.

Worship Schedule:

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

December 31: The First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday morning worship.

January 7: Epiphany, Sunday morning worship includes the Lord's Supper.

Christmas Eve Choir

We have a special choir for our Christmas Eve candlelight worship service (10 PM). There will be a brief rehearsal Sunday morning, December 24, in the sanctuary following the worship service.

Reminder:

For contributions to the church to be credited to 2017 they must be received by December 31.

Stock the Pantry!

For December the requested items are soup and crackers.

IF Gathering, 2018

IF Gathering is a two-day event for women to come together across generations, denominations, and cultures in our community to learn from each other and to be pointed to God. Be on the lookout in the next few weeks! Registration will open up for IF Fremont 2018 after the New Year! Our church will have the first chance to register on-line beginning January 2 for one week before we open registration to the public. If you haven't, please like us on facebook - IF:Fremont

DATES: March 2-3, 2018

LOCATION: Dogwood Center

More details to come!

Adult Education

An Adult Education Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes led by Bob Broekema will begin on January 7 following the worship service. More details to come soon.

Community Events

CoffeeBreak Nursery Opportunity

Due to some of our regular staff going south for some winter months we need additional nursery staff. If you love the Lord, have a heart for outreach, have the patience to work with/love children/babies and have Tuesday mornings available this is a perfect opportunity for you! Please call Julie Baker (928-0184) ASAP to indicate your willingness and availability.

Note from Chris Roos

Dear Friends,

The Universal Reformed Christian Church (NKST - Tiv church) held its Synod in November. A few weeks ago we heard a report in church. One of the exciting things is that the denomination will organize 15 churches and form 4 new classes early in 2018. Give thanks for this evidence of growth and pray that there will growth in depth as well as numbers.

Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The Gospel Tree

There once was a shining Christmas tree
Standing out where all could see.
Its brilliance captured every eye
And seemed to cheer each passer by.

"The lights are so bright," they would say
And hesitate to walk away.
The tree stood proud ablaze with light
For every light was burning bright.

Then some bulb was heard to say
"I'm tired of burning night and day;
I think I'll just go out and take a rest
For I'm too tired to do my best;
Besides I am so very small
I doubt if I'd be missed at all."

Then a child lovingly touched the light,
"Look, mother, this one shines so very bright.
I think of all the lights upon the tree
This one looks the best to me."

"Oh my goodness," said the light
"I almost dimmed right out of sight.
I thought perhaps no one would care
If I failed to shine my share."
With that a glorious brilliance came
For every light had felt the same.

Our Gospel, like this Christmas tree,
With little lights which are you and me,
We each have a space that we must fill
With love, and lessons and good will.
Let's keep our tree ablaze with light,
With testimonies burning bright.
For our Gospel is a living tree
That lights the way to eternity.