

2nd's Matters

January 3, 2018

- Pray for safety in travel and blessings in ministry for those from Second Church who will be serving in Matamoros, Mexico from January 6-13. **Mike and Sylvia DeKuiper** and **Dave and Mariel Poel** will arrive on Wednesday, January 3; **John and Helen Mellema** and **Ann and Randy Pell** will arrive on Friday, January 5.

From Your Pastor's Desk

With a new year underway I can hardly imagine what events, experiences, and memories are going to be made in the months ahead. Like you, there are some things I am planning on, but there will be much more which unfolds that is unanticipated. As time delivers its revelations of life, and as we engage our days, "may the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us" (Psalms 90:17).

Worship This Sunday, January 7

We will receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and recall the story of Herod and the Magi in Matthew 2:1-12. The sermon, "Born to Reign" considers the theme of how we are to receive the kingship of Christ and the nature of his reign. Our offerings will be for our General Fund and Insight Pregnancy Services (formerly Alpha Family Center).

Thank You

I am thankful for the prayers for healing and for all the kind words and deeds. Gary and I flew back to Arizona on January 2 where I will be following up with physical therapy while my shoulder heals.
Mary Breuker

Thank You

The staff of Second Church thanks the congregation for their generosity on the love gift given to us at Christmas. We also appreciate the support and encouragement which you offer is throughout the year.

Stock the Pantry!

For January, the requested items are cereal, pancake mix and syrup.

IF Gathering, 2018

Registration Now Open

The 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. Our IF event will be held March 2-3 at the Dogwood Center for the performing arts. Registration is now open for Second CRC and will go live for everyone beginning next week. If you have any questions please contact Chelsea Breuker or call the church office. To register please use the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/0SDerMeukaKclKnv2>

Adult Education

An Adult Education Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes led by Bob Broekema will begin on January 7, in the fellowship hall downstairs, following the morning service. Bob will give a brief introduction to the book of Ecclesiastes. If possible, it would benefit you to read all of Ecclesiastes before the first meeting.

Community Events

Calvin College 2018 January Series

The series begins on January 3 and continues weekdays through January 23 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. with topics ranging from millennials and faith to restorative justice, confident pluralism, radical generosity and so much more by top experts in their fields.

The Dogwood Center Black Box, 4734 S Campus Court, Fremont is a remote location

Wednesday, January 3 – Mary Hulst "Why Millennials Are the Hope of the Church"

Thursday, January 4 – David R. Williams "Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?"

Friday, January 5 – Randy Lewis "No Greatness without Goodness: How a Father's Love Changed a Company and Sparked a Movement"

Monday, January 8 – Shane Claiborne “Executing Grace: How the Death Penalty Killed Jesus and Why it’s Killing Us”

Tuesday, January 9 – Pashon Murry “Detroit Dirt: Zero Waste from the Ground Up”

Wednesday, January 10 – John Inazu “Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving through Deep Differences”

Love INC

Concert of Prayer Thursday, Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m. (Neway Center—585 Fremont Street, Newaygo)

Please join us as the ministry of Love In the Name of Christ, our churches, and community members unite in prayer to lift up our community, Our families, our churches and our nation.

Coffee Break

Women: January 9 we will begin our study of Jesus' final weeks on earth through the perspective of Luke's gospel. It will be a timely reminder leading up to Good Friday and Easter. Even if you were not part of Coffee Break before, you are welcome to join us -- better yet bring a friend with you. Questions? -call Julie Baker #231-928-0184.

Coffee Break Opportunities: If you would like to become involved as a co-leader, story hour, nursery staff or providing refreshments - please contact Julie Baker. Perhaps, God is challenging you to try a different ministry opportunity this year. The need is there -- will you respond? Call Julie Baker #231-928-0184.

**If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator;
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist;
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist;
If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer;

But our greatest need was forgiveness,
so God sent us a Savior.**