

2nd's Matters

October 24, 2018

From Your Pastor's Desk:

There is great value in identifying people in your life from whom you take inspiration and for whom you have respect. These are people who contribute to your personal formation and faith. Some may be historic figures, or widely known public figures, while others are simply personal friends or family members. Who you admire defines you and at the same time shapes you. As I have gotten older more and more figures in my life are completing theirs. Eugene Peterson is one such figure.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2018/october/eugene-peterson-died-message-bible-long-obedience-resurrect.html> I also find that as I accumulate years I am in a position to identify more figures of influence who are younger than myself! Make a short list of such figures in your life, identify what it is about them that you admire, and give thanks to God for them.

Worship This Sunday, October 28:

For our Reformation Day observance we will include the wonderful wording of the Heidelberg Catechism's Q&A 60, Louise Slager will provide an organ rendition of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" for the offertory, and Pastor Doug's message, "The Affect of Jesus," will be based on Romans 5:12, 15-19. Our offerings will be for the General Fund and Habitat for Humanity.

Mid-week Bible Study today, October 24, 2 PM

If you would like to know more about our Reformed heritage and theology, Pastor Doug leads today's Wednesday afternoon class studying *Reformed: What It Means, Why It Matters* by Rev. Robert DeMoor. Open to everyone, we meet at church from 2-3 PM

Christmas Send-A-Card Program:

Second Church has the opportunity to again provide Christmas cards for those prisoners involved in the Crossroads Prison Ministries Bible study program. Flyers with instructions will be in your mailboxes on Sunday and will also be near the ledge in the back of church. All cards may be deposited in the marked box in the lobby. Deadline is **Sunday, November 11**. Questions? Contact Karen Admiraal (335-2285).

2nd Sunday's Adult Education:

Plan ahead now to attend a new adult education class at 2nd. It will be held the second Sunday of each month, hence its name will be 2nd Sundays! Our first meeting will take place on November 11 and will feature John Barkel, the principal of Fremont Christian School and Ken Haggart, superintendent of Fremont Public Schools. They will discuss how each school sees their "community" and what our role as Christians is in serving that community. Plan now to attend!

All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner, November 18

Save the date for the all-church Thanksgiving dinner to be held on November 18, 11:30 AM.

Christmas Shoe Boxes for ARO (Appalachia Reach Out)

It's almost time to fill Christmas boxes for children in Inez, KY served by ARO. Our congregation responded so generously last year and now we have the opportunity to fill more boxes this year. We have 70 boxes and they will be out on Sunday, November 4 with information on ages and necessary instructions. Boxes need to be filled, wrapped, and returned by Sunday, November 25. Remember you just need to wrap the container but not the individual items in the container. Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ to children in Kentucky who will be delighted to receive a box of fun things...just for them!

Financial Need at the Karin Medical Clinic

It has been brought to the attention of the Outreach Committee that the Karin Medical Clinic in Gulu, Uganda is in a deficit financial situation and currently needs about \$8,000. Outreach is encouraging friends and members of 2nd Church to give a special gift to help erase this deficit. Your gift should go through 2nd Church and your check should indicate that it is for the "special need at the clinic". All funds received through individual gifts are over and above the annual \$4,000.00 of support that we send to the clinic through our Faith Promise giving. The Deacons assigned the special envelope offering on November 11 for Karin Medical Clinic.

Small Group Survey:

Are you interested in digging deeper into the Word with a small group of people? The Discipleship Committee has put out a survey (located in mailboxes and on the literature ledge) concerning our small group ministry and individuals interest in becoming involved in a small group. We would love it if you would take 3 minutes and fill out a survey for you/your family and return it to the box on Zach's office door by October 28.

From The President's Pen:

The Administrative Team and Council met in October and here are a few items of interest:

- the new sound system is nearly complete.
- new flooring will be laid around the coffee serving area in the lobby.
- the Search Team has interviewed a candidate for our Music Director position.
- the Administrative Team had a strategic planning meeting on October 21.

Stock the Pantry!

For the month of October, the Deacons request canned fruit and vegetables for donation to the TrueNorth food pantry.

Community

The Nest

The Nest Up-Scale Resale Volunteer Opportunities: Are you available to volunteer one half-day a week or even once a month? We have openings in cashiering or working in our intake area. Schedules are very flexible. This is a great way to meet people and have fun while assisting in our mission to raise funds for Christian education in Newaygo County. Please contact the store at 231-924-3930 or Dee DeKryger at 231-335-8483 for more information. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of our team. We need you!

First Fremont CRC

First Fremont CRC invites you to two special evening worship services. On Sunday, November 11, West Michigan Teen Challenge will lead worship in music and testimony. West Michigan Teen Challenge works with people overcoming addiction through the power of Jesus. On Sunday, December 2, the Chamber Choir from Western Michigan Christian High School will lead worship in music. Under the direction of Kathryn Becksvoort, the choir includes local students Caleb Minasian, Abby Sweetman, Sarah VanderKooi, and Brant Zeerip. Both services begin at 6:00 pm.

Western Michigan Christian High School

WMC High School is looking for a coach for the girls track & field team this spring. If interested or have questions, please email WMC Athletic Director Kurt Gruppen at: mrgruppen@wmchs.net.

Pastor Doug: A Quote from a Book I Read

"A Christian who stays put is no better than a statue. A person who leaps about constantly is under suspicion of being not a man but a jumping jack. What we require is obedience -- the strength to stand and the willingness to leap, and the sense to know when to do which. Which is exactly what we get when an accurate memory of God's ways is combined with a lively hope in his promises."

Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, p 166.

Eugene Peterson, the author of *The Message*, died earlier this week at 85. Among his final words were, "Let's go."