

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

November 21, 2018

## From Your Pastor's Desk:

Some years Advent begins the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving, but not this year. Thus our Thanksgiving tree will remain in the sanctuary this coming weekend. The leaves on this tree have been written by many of our children and youths, as well as some adults. You are invited to take a look at the leaves and see for yourself some of things others are thankful for.

## Thanksgiving Day worship, November 22:

We gather for worship Thursday morning at 9:30. Pastor Doug is preparing a message from Acts 14:8-18, "Can You Give Me Directions?" The Deacons will accept offerings for any ministry of your choosing designated on a check or envelope. Non-designated offerings will be given to the food pantry at True North.

## Worship This Sunday, November 25:

In the Christian church year this Sunday is known as Christ the King Sunday, and it is also a prelude to Advent. Pastor Doug will be participating in leading an ordination service for Ben Gandy at Sunshine CRC in Grand Rapids. Our own Rev. Joseph Fox will be leading our worship service and preaching from John 17:3 and Luke 17:33 with a message "Searching for Real Life?" Our offerings will be for the General Fund and True North.

## Our Church Family:

Pray for God to sustain **Paul Keehl** as he cares for his wife, **Janet**. Janet suffered a serious head injury in a fall a couple of weeks ago and is not expected to live much longer. Paul remains by her hospital bedside in Grand Rapids.

Thank you for the beautiful plant given in memory of our father, **Harold Visscher**. Second CRC was so important in his life, and it will always hold a special place in our memories. Thank you also, Pastor Doug, for visiting him at Rest Haven and officiating at the funeral.

The Visscher family  
Al, Carol and Gary

Our deepest sympathies to **Helen Wissner** in the recent death of her brother-in-law, Ray Pell.

## Christmas Shoe Boxes for ARO (Appalachia Reach Out)

Remember that all filled and wrapped boxes for ARO must be brought to church by this Sunday, November 25. All boxes from Fremont participating churches will be brought to ARO in Inez, Kentucky next week.

Thank you from the Outreach Committee  
Mariel Poel, Bette Wagenmaker, Tyler Cook,  
Lewis Blohm, Joe Jiran, and Bob Barnhart

## Crossroads Prison Ministries

There is an epidemic of loneliness behind bars. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE** by writing a letter. Crossroads Prison Ministries is an international ministry to prisoners. Students of Crossroads are sent Bible lessons. When they have completed their lessons they mail them back to Crossroads. Crossroads in turn sends these lessons to mentors for correction. Becoming a mentor demands approximately a one to two hour commitment per week: to correct the lesson (answer materials are provided), go over a devotional roadmap that the student has filled out, and write a one page letter of encouragement to the student. The mentors' encouraging letters--typed or hand written--are the heart of the ministry and remind people in prison that they are not forgotten and are deeply loved by God. All of this is done in the comfort of your own home. Time off is given whenever needed. If you're looking for an opportunity to serve, to share the good news of Christ's love and make a difference in the lives of those in prison, consider becoming a Crossroads mentor. To become a mentor, visit [cpministries.org/getinvolved](http://cpministries.org/getinvolved). If you have any questions about becoming a Crossroads mentor, email [mentor@cpministries.org](mailto:mentor@cpministries.org), call 800-668-2450 and/or contact Second's Outreach Committee.

## Kids Hope

There are 168 hours in each week; assuming you sleep 8 hours every night, that leaves 112 hours in your week. Do you have time to give just one of those to a child who needs a special friend? We now have two children still waiting for a mentor. Thanks for considering this! Please contact Ann Pell, (231) 250-7329.

## **Financial Need at the Karin Medical Clinic**

Karin Medical Clinic in Gulu, Uganda is in a deficit financial situation and needs about \$8,000. The Outreach Committee 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 total collected so far is \$2,150.

## **Stock the Pantry!**

For the month of November the Deacons request spaghetti sauce and pasta or rice for donation to the TrueNorth food pantry.

## **Community**

### **Coffee Break**

**Urgent Prayer Concern** - Over the last several months the attendance at Coffee Break has decreased and also the children involved in Story Hour and the nursery. Please pray that more women and children will respond to the Spirit's nudging and find a way to attend. For the children especially, it is so much more fun if there are other kids! Story Hour is a great time of structured activities, Bible story, and crafts -- led by loving, caring women. Coffee Break is a great way to explore the Bible (in January the study of Acts will continue) through discussion and questions. It is a wonderful place for someone to explore the Word for the first time or do some deeper study. The women learn from each other and in the process build relationships/trust with each other. So what about you -- why not try CoffeeBreak/Story Hour? Bring a neighbor or friend along - break out of your comfort zone with the boldness of the Spirit. Questions - call Julie Baker #231-245-0184.

**Urgent Need - Coffee Break nursery staff starting in January** Due to some of our faithful workers going south for the season, we need more nursery workers for Coffee Break. We need to be ready to warmly receive children if they come. Would you be willing to dedicate a Tuesday morning to receive these young ones? Questions - call Julie Baker #231- 245 -0184.

### **Western Michigan Christian High School Chamber Choir, December 2**

First CRC of Fremont will host the Chamber Choir from Western Michigan Christian High School for the Sunday evening worship service at 6:00 pm on December 2. The choir will lead worship in music.

### **Pastor Doug: A Quote from a Book I Read**

"Celebration is central to all the Spiritual Disciplines. Without a joyful spirit of festivity the disciplines become dull.... Every Discipline should be characterized by carefree gaiety and a sense of thanksgiving."

-- Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* p.191