

2nd's Matters

November 28, 2018

From Your Pastor's Desk:

This past Sunday I was grateful to be invited to participate in the ordination of a recent graduate of Calvin Theological Seminary into the ministry of the Word in the CRC. While reading the ministerial responsibilities of ordained clergy to this new pastor and the congregation of Sunshine Community CRC I was reminded of the immensity of the calling. It is natural to be intimidated by the task until both pastor and congregation realize that the church belongs to Christ, and he is the one responsible for it. Clergy and members alike are positioned not to save the church but to serve the church according to Christ's pleasure.

Worship, The First Sunday of Advent, December 2.

This Sunday begins the season of Advent. The sanctuary will be decorated for the season and we will light the first of the Advent candles. Pastor Doug will begin a series of Advent messages based on John 3:16, "God Gave His Son." Our worship will also include our being welcomed to go forward to receive the gift of the sacrament of Communion. Our offerings will be for the General Fund and Western Michigan Christian High School.

Area CRC Advent and Christmas Season Worship Schedule

(services at Second Church are in italics):

The First Sunday of Advent: December 2

9:30 am, Communion, John 3:16, "God Gave His Son"

6:00 pm, WMCHS Chamber Choir at First CRC

The Second Sunday of Advent: December 9

9:30 am, John 3:16 "Whoever Believes"

6:00 pm, Worship at First CRC

The Third Sunday of Advent: December 16

9:30 am, Sunday School Christmas program, "What Did I Miss?"

5:30 pm, Candlelight service at Trinity CRC

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 23

9:30 am, John 3:16, "Death or Life?"

6:30 pm, Worship at First CRC

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

9:00 pm Candlelight service at Reeman CRC

9:30 pm Candlelight service at Second CRC (FYSH)

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

9:30 am Worship at First CRC

9:30 am Worship at Trinity CRC

December 30

9:30 am, John 3:16, "Receiving Gifts"

Mid-week Bible Study this afternoon, 2 PM Find out more about our Reformed heritage and theology, Pastor Doug leads today's afternoon class studying "Reformed: What It Means, Why It Matters." Open to everyone, we meet at church from 2-3 PM

Our Church Family:

Our sympathies are extended to **Paul Keehl** whose wife, Janet, passed away early Tuesday morning. Visitation will be Tuesday, December 4, from 4-7 p.m. at Crandell Funeral Home – Fremont Chapel 7193 W 48th Street. Service will be Wednesday, December 5, at 2pm at the Crandell Funeral Home.

Please pray for **Zach Van Wyk's** father, who is having an extensive and serious operation for intestinal cancer today.

Pauline Afman, (Jennie Dimkoff & Bonnie Emmorey's mother) is in Newago Medical Care Facility, regaining her strength while fighting pneumonia. Her room is C-5 if you'd like to stop in to pass on some encouragement.

College Student Care Packages: As a church we will be sending care packages to our students who are away at college. These packages will be sent in time for exams and end of the year projects and papers. There

is a sign-up sheet with suggestions for what to donate located on the literature ledge. Please feel free to sign up to bring one or more of these items. All donations can be put in the box outside of Zach's office door by Sunday, December 2. If you are a parent of a college student and their address has changed in the last year please email the updated address to 2ndyouthdirector@gmail.com

Financial Need at the Karin Medical Clinic

The Outreach Committee is encouraging friends and members of 2nd Church to give a special gift to help erase an \$8,000 deficit at the Karin Medical Clinic. 2 CRC's financial gifts will be included with other supporting organizations of Karin Medical Clinic in an attempt to offset 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. Currently 2nd CRC alone has collected \$3,400.

Second Sunday, December 9

Have you ever wondered how the Matamoros mission project began and how 2nd Church became involved? Come to our next Second Sunday on December 9, in the sanctuary following our worship service, to learn that and much more. Dale Painter will give us background, tell us some of the successes and also share some failures. Plan now to attend and learn more about this wonderful mission outreach.

Crossroads Prison Ministries

Crossroads Prison Ministries is an international ministry to prisoners. Students of Crossroads are sent Bible lessons which are returned to mentors for correction. Being a mentor requires approximately a one to two hour commitment per week including writing a one-page letter of encouragement to the student. 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. Visit <https://cpministries.org/get-involved/>, call 800-668-2450, or email mentor@cpministries.org, and/or contact Second's Outreach Committee - Mariel Poel, Bette Wagenmaker, Tyler Cook, Lewis Blohm, Joe Jiran, and Bob Barnhart.

Love Offering

An envelope labeled "Love Offering" will be placed in mailboxes this Sunday to give us an opportunity to show our good will and appreciation for our church staff this Christmas season. If you would like to participate, please place your Love Offering in the collection plate in the provided envelope by December 16. You may specify how your gift is to be dispersed if you desire. Please note: any late offerings that come in following December 16 will be added to the General Fund.

Stock the Pantry!

For the month of December the Deacons request soup and crackers for donation to the TrueNorth food pantry.

Community

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.

Free movie showings of *God Bless the Broken Road* on December 7

On Friday, December 7, the American Decency Association, is sponsoring the faith-based movie *God Bless the Broken Road* at their location on Main Street in Fremont. The times for the free showings are 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. This movie is co-written by Jennifer Graeser Dornbush, a native of Fremont. Jennifer will be there to introduce the movie and to meet and greet all of you who come to see it. Refreshments will be served.

Western Michigan Christian High School Fundraiser, December 22

The WMC Boosters invite you to the second annual ALL-U-CAN Eat Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to support all WMC athletic teams. The breakfast will take place on Saturday, December 22 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the WMC cafeteria. The breakfast is donation only. Please come and join us.

Pastor Doug: A Quote from a Book I'd Like to Read

"In a very real sense, the Christian community lives in Advent all the time. It can well be called the Time Between, because the people of God live in *the time between* the first coming of Christ, incognito in the stable in Bethlehem, and his second coming, in glory, to judge the living and the dead. In the Time Between, "our lives are hidden with Christ in God; when Christ who is our life appears, then we also will appear with him in glory" (Col.3:3-4). Advent contains within itself the crucial balance of the new and the not-yet that our faith requires."

-- Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*. (From the Introduction)