

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

December 19, 2018

**From Your Pastor's Desk:** Yesterday Second CRC's 1921 brick building on the corner of Stewart Ave and Oak St was demolished. Somehow I feel like it would have been nice if our congregation had been notified of the demolition schedule.. Although the signs of its coming demise were evident, I didn't know it was going to happen yesterday. Since it has been 45 years since the congregation moved into our present facility I figure no one under 50 has much or any personal memory of ministry in that place. However, I think of those over 50 who recall first-hand spiritual experiences, people, and rites of passage there. They remember preachers and worship times and programs like Cadets and Calvinettes to special times such as baptisms, professions of faith, weddings, funerals, etc. Nostalgia can indicate that life has been rich. Even when you know a loved one is going to die, the event itself is still quite notable and emotional and for those who cherished that place and the blessings which resided there, this week is a time of notable grief and renewed thanksgiving for God's means of grace in that place.

**Worship, The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23.** We will light the fourth Advent candle (Love) and Pastor Doug will continue his series of messages from John 3:16, "Death or Life." Our offerings will be for the General Fund and Fremont Community Closet.

## Area CRC Advent and Christmas Season Worship Schedule

(services at Second Church are in bold):

December 23, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

5:30 pm, Candlelight service at Trinity CRC

December 24, Christmas Eve

9:00 pm Candlelight service at Reeman CRC

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

December 25, Christmas Day

9:30 am Worship at First CRC

9:30 am Worship at Trinity CRC

December 30, Sunday

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

## Our Church Family:

**Pauline Afman**, mother of Bonnie Emmorey and Jennie Dimkoff, passed away Monday evening, December 17 at the Newaygo Medical Care Facility. Visitation will be at the Kroeze-Wolffis Funeral Home from 6-8 PM on Friday, December 21, and the funeral service will be at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 22, at First Baptist Church in Fremont.

**Jean Sneller** will have no use of her shoulder for six weeks following her surgery last week. Then she expects to begin rehabilitation therapy. In the meantime she is receiving some living assistance.

**Ron Emmorey** is recovering from an emergency appendectomy on Saturday, December 15, while in Wichita, Kansas.

## Hand2Hand Special Offering

Our special envelope offering scheduled for December 30 will go to support Hand2Hand ministry. Through mid-November 1,127 backpacks have been filled with about 109,319 food items. We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to this important cause which helps feed children in need right here in our own community. Should you have interest in learning more about Hand2Hand Ministry or discussing volunteer opportunities please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

## CoffeeBreak Update

Give thanks for the stimulating, Spirit led discussions/learning from the fall studies by all involved. Pray that the CB women, like the early disciples, will be bold in sharing the story of Jesus -- in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the ends of the earth, including Fremont! Give thanks for the hours of dedication/commitment of the CoffeeBreak and Story Hour leaders, nursery staff and refreshment staff. May the efforts of their "hands" be acceptable to God and used for His glory.

On January 8, 2019 CoffeeBreak/StoryHour will resume - continuing the study of Acts. Pray for the women and children returning and that God will continue to use this ministry in the Fremont community.

## **Stock the Pantry!**

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

Thank you very much for all who contribute to the food party each month. Last month, we were able to give 106.4 pounds of pasta and sauces which help many families in Newaygo County who struggle to provide food for their families every month.

## **Community**

### **Western Michigan Christian High School Fundraiser, December 22**

The WMC School Boosters invite you to the second annual All-You-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 Read**

“God starts out where we start out: a child is born. He submerges himself in our biology, our psychology, our history. He becomes one of us so we can become what he is.

He doesn’t terrorize us with doomsday signs. He doesn’t crush us with superior knowledge. He doesn’t tease us with mysterious clues. He is here with us, in Jesus.

God’s way of revealing himself to us and giving himself to us is Jesus.”

-- Eugene Peterson, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*. p. 139.

**There will not be a 2<sup>nd</sup>'s Matters published next week, December 26**