

2nd's Matters

December 5, 2018

From Your Pastor's Desk: It's that time of the year for nostalgic films like "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and the classic movie "It's A Wonderful Life." That latter film depicts how a world deprived of the Fruit of the Spirit deteriorates into a vicious, mean, and brutish world. That unhappy potential is understandably real enough that we can easily imagine it and why the movie strikes a chord with us. The movie pulls the corner back on hellishness showing us just how close we are to it. By way of fiction it give us a peak at what the place would be like without basic instances of the good, the true, the beautiful, and the brave. George (Jimmy Stewart) had no idea what his small acts of kindness and decency were accomplishing. It is encouraging to ordinary folks who wonder if our everyday decisions and lives make a difference. Since the real antidote to the hellish potential of this world came at Christmas, we are thankful and can be encouraged to participate in the difference God is making in this world with our own lives which embody that which is true, kind, and reflective of the way God intends things to be.

Worship, The Second Sunday of Advent, December 9. We will light the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace. Elder Ann Pell will offer our congregational prayer and Pastor Doug's message in the series from John 3:16 will be "Whoever Believes." Our offerings will be for the General Fund and Youth Unlimited.

Area CRC Advent and Christmas Season Worship Schedule

(services at Second Church are in italics):

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"

Our Church Family:

Please remember and pray for the elderly and home-bound people in our community.

Please pray for the students who are and will be traveling this Christmas season.

Thank You

A special thank you to everyone at Second Church who made Polly Hoekman feel so welcome last Sunday. If you are in the habit of sending Christmas cards, Polly really cherishes every one she receives and reads them over and over. Her address is: Green Acres, Polly Hoekman, 801 E Main St, Fremont, MI 49412.

Greg and Thea hoekman

Thank you to those who contributed to the care packages for our college students. 11 boxes were filled and sent out to brighten the students' days during these last weeks of school before Christmas.

Cadets Rain Gutter Regatta, Saturday, December 8

Each year the Cadets compete in a styrofoam sailboat race called the Rain Gutter Regatta. The time is this Saturday from 10:00am-noon and is at First Reformed Church (348 E. Main St., Fremont). We try to include as many Cadet clubs from the area as possible. Parents are welcome to come and watch.

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 to 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" has been placed in mailboxes 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.

Library News

Check out the new book displays in the lobby and the library and find some great new reads! There are also some short Christmas reads on display in the library. Clipboards are out for you to write down the date, your name, and the books you are checking out!

Stock the Pantry!

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

Community

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.

30th Annual Christmas Concert, December 9

The 30th Annual Christmas Concert will happen on Sunday, Dec. 9. The newly named River Country Community Christmas Choir totals over 50 singers and invites you to a wonderful evening of sacred Christmas Music. The concert will be at Grant Fine Arts Center, Dec. 9, starting at 6 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken for Love in the Name of Christ. Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus! Following the concert, there is a time of refreshments and fellowship.

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

"One of my favorite stories is about John of Kronstadt. He was a nineteenth-century Russian Orthodox priest at a time when alcohol abuse was rampant.... People said he would lift the hungover, foul-smelling people from the gutter, cradle them in his arms and say to them, 'This is beneath your dignity. You were meant to house the fullness of God.' I love that phrase: *you were meant to house the fullness of God*. That describes you and me. Knowing that this is our true identity is the secret to walking in holiness."

-- James Bryan Smith, *The Good and Beautiful God*. p.162