

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

January 30, 2019

**From Your Pastor's Desk:** With our worship planning software we can track the songs we sing and how often we sing them. Ever wonder how many different songs we have sung in worship in the past year? Go ahead, take a guess. Those who study such things consider a plate of about 200 songs to be a realistic annual diet. While you are thinking about that (I'll tell you the answer next week) consider that there are two songs which we sang more than any other song (6 times each), and both of them are doxologies/parting songs: "My Friends May You Grow in Grace", and "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

**Sunday Worship, February 3.** This Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper and Pastor Doug will continue the five-part series of messages on The Doctrines of Grace: FAITH. The second message will be "FAITH: Adopted By God" based on Ephesians 1:3-12. Our offerings will be for the General Fund and Western Michigan Christian High School (WMC).

## **Cancellations due to the weather**

Midweek Bible Study will not meet Wednesday afternoon.

Property Committee will not meet Wednesday evening.

Young Life will not meet per their policy of when school is cancelled, they are cancelled.

## **Congregational meeting:**

I would like to thank all of the congregation who were able to attend our meeting this past Sunday. We had a very good question and answer time. I would also like to thank all the members who could not attend but chose to vote absentee. After the tally of the vote the results were 58 yes to 29 no. I have notified the builder that our proposal passed and to schedule our project. We will keep the congregation updated moving forward. Thank you to the property committee for their work in this project.

President of council Matt Mellema

## **Welcome Shower**

A baby crib is in the lobby to welcome Leopold Miller, son of Wes and Melissa Miller, to the Second Church family and to 'shower' him with gifts. The crib will be set up until February 10.

## **Council Nominations**

The Council is accepting nominations for new Council members to serve a 3-year term starting in July 2019. Please inform Matt Mellema, Council president, if you would like to serve or would like to nominate someone.

## **Stock the Pantry!**

For the month of January the Deacons request cereal, pancake mix and syrup for donation to the TrueNorth food pantry. Starting in February, the Deacons request macaroni and cheese, canned meat (tuna, chicken).

## **If Gathering, March 9**

Our If Gathering event is FULL! Wow! What an overwhelming response from the ladies of the Fremont community. If you are still interested in attending but haven't signed up, make sure to go to [tinyurl.com/iffremont](http://tinyurl.com/iffremont) to get your name on the wait list. The planning team is working their hardest to make sure as many women as possible are able to attend.

## **Community**

### **Western Michigan Christian High School**

Western Michigan Christian High School is seeking applications for a Head JV Baseball Coach. Candidates must have strong communication skills and an excitement for working with high school student athletes. Western Michigan Christian is committed to developing athletes of high Christian character that represent our school and community in a positive way. Contact: Athletic Director: Kurt Gruppen [mrgruppen@wmchs.net](mailto:mrgruppen@wmchs.net)

## CureUs Ministry

CureUs Ministry is bringing legendary Christian recording artist Russ Taff to Fremont on March 23. Russ will have a mini concert, show his movie "I Still Believe", and host a Q and A along with his wife Tori. The event will be at First CRC, 6 PM, with the doors opening at 5:30. General admission tickets are on sale now for \$10, or \$12 at the door. Call First CRC (924-2460), or online at: [ww.iTickets.com](http://ww.iTickets.com), or call iTickets at 1-800-965-9324.

## Insight Pregnancy Services

There are some [new job openings](#) at Insight Pregnancy Services! With the addition of a new position and rearranging staff internally, we are looking to fill three positions: Administrative Assistant (30 hours), Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator (30 hours), and Client Services Coordinator. To see the job descriptions and apply, go to our website, [InsightPregnancy.com](http://InsightPregnancy.com).

As we continue to get settled in our new location, our client numbers are picking up quickly, and we are *desperately in need of volunteers*. Our available appointments are filling up, and we are having to schedule two weeks out! It's great that our services are being found and used by our community, but we sadly cannot get everyone in as soon as we'd like. If you are interested in volunteering, we will be having our next volunteer training at the end of February.

### Training Dates and Information:

- Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6-9 pm
- Saturday, Feb. 23, 8:30-3 pm
- Monday, Feb. 25, 6-9 pm
- Saturday, March 2, 8:30-3 pm

Cost for Materials: \$30.00. Pre-Registration required by February 13.

## Wellspring Adult Day Services Fundraiser, March 23

Wellspring Adult Day Services invites you to the "FILL THE WELL" Dinner Fundraiser at The Commons of Fremont on March 23 at 6:30 PM. Come and enjoy a great meal and learn more about the Wellspring mission. Ticket cost is \$50 per person, buy a single ticket or purchase a whole table and invite your friends. Limited seating; please call Tammy Cowley at 231.638.8786 to reserve your seat and choose your entrée. Entrees available: prime rib, herb and parmesan crusted white fish, crusted chicken cordon bleu and eggplant parmesan (vegetarian option). All proceeds will be used to continue our mission to provide safe, stimulating, Christian care for senior adults and respite for their caregivers.

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

Souls are like wax waiting for a seal. By themselves, they have no special identity. Their destiny is to be softened and prepared in this life, by God's will, to receive, at their death, the seal of their own degree of likeness to God in Christ.

The wax that has melted in God's will can easily receive the stamp of its identity, the truth of what it was meant to be. But the wax that is hard and dry and brittle and without love will not take the seal: for the hard seal, descending upon it, grinds it to powder.

Therefore, if you spend your life trying to escape from the heat of the fire that is meant to soften and prepare you to become your true self, and if you try to keep your substance from melting in the fire—as if your true identity were to be hard wax—the seal will fall upon you at last and crush you. You will not be able to take your own true name and countenance, and you will be destroyed by the event that was meant to be your fulfillment.

— Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, p. 16.

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