

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

January 3, 2019

**From Your Pastor's Desk:** This Sunday, following the Twelve Days of Christmas, is the observance of Epiphany. It begins a season which affords us a time for spiritual focus on the wonders of the divine physical intervention into this world. At the same time it also brings a fresh awareness of the troubles in this world which Jesus came to deal with. Some of them are large and largely beyond us (war, famine, disease, injustice, hate) but others are right at hand (personal sins and failures, broken relationships, death, the effects of sins -- ours and others). In the year ahead, as a congregation and Council we minister together, with God's help, as best we can, with an assurance that his church is in good hands because it is in his. Thanks be to God that he so loved the world that he sent his one and only son.

## Sunday Worship, Epiphany, January 6.

The Christian festival of Epiphany commemorates the arrival of the Magi/Wise-men following Jesus' birth. It represents the beginning of the revealing of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. This Sunday we will testify to his coming to save us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and we read Matthew 2:1-12, for a message titled "Draw All to Himself." Our offerings will be for the General Fund and Fremont Christian School.

## Our Church Family:

**Bill Sneller** has returned to his home in Sebring, FL following his recent hospitalization.

**Jean Sneller** is being treated in Zeeland Hospital for a sodium imbalance. Her shoulder is healing in the meantime, but her arm remains in a sling.

Our sympathies are extended to **Kaitlyn Arendsen** whose grandmother, Vivian Vander Kooi, passed away last Friday.

This week **Mike and Sylvia DeKuiper, Dave and Mariel Poel, and John Mellema** are traveling to Texas for serving with SOS Ministries in Matamoros, Mexico. Pray for safety in travel as they prepare for their work next week.

**John and Helen Mellema** ask for prayers for their son Jason who has begun treatment for a nonHodgkin's lymphoma.

## Library News

Do you have gently used Bible story books and Christian kids and teens books that you would be willing to donate to our church library? You could help us expand our collection with these donations. Your books may be left in the book donation box in the library. Questions? Please see Melinda Barnhart or Bette Wagenmaker.

## Mobile Food Truck

The Mobile Food Truck will be at Second Church on Wednesday, January 16. Volunteers are needed from 4:15 to 5:30 PM. Please sign up on the sheet on the literature ledge.

## IF Gathering, Saturday, March 9

Are you ready? It's coming back! A day of renewal....A day of challenge.... A day of being reaffirmed in what God says. IF: Fremont 2019 is a one-day women's conference where we'll learn to rely on the wisdom of God, rather than our own understanding. Mark your calendars for this one-day conference on March 9, 2019 at the Dogwood Center. Registration for 2nd CRC women opened December 30. Make sure to sign up at [tinyurl.com/iffremont](http://tinyurl.com/iffremont) to reserve your spot today. Registration will open to the general public on January 6.

## Stock the Pantry!

For the month of January the Deacons request cereal, pancake mix and syrup for donation to the TrueNorth food pantry.

## Community

### JANUARY SERIES

The *January Series* of Calvin College will be video streamed live at the Dogwood Center, 4734 S. Campus Court, Fremont, from 12:30-1:30 PM beginning January 3. The lectures are free and open to the public. Both the Black Box and Main Stage areas will be available for seating. Attendees may bring their lunch or order a lunch for \$5 by calling (231) 924-8885. Please give 24 hour notice if you would like a lunch.

Thursday, January 3 – Todd Cioffi and Christiana deGroot “The Transformative and Redemptive Power of (a Christian) Education”

Friday, January 4 – Arthur C. Brooks “Bringing America Together”

Monday, January 7 – Dr. Jimmy Lin “Finally, Some Good News about Cancer”

Tuesday, January 8 – Kara Powell “Growing Young: Helping Young People Discover and Love the Church”

Wednesday, January 9 – Mariela Shaker “Finding Refuge on the Stage”

### PARENTING THE LOVE AND LOGIC WAY

New class begins January 21 through February 25, six Monday evenings from 7-9. Cost is \$50 whether a couple or single; place is Fremont Rec Center, lower level. Contact Sharon Deur at 616-219-4392 [sharond.outpost@gmail.com](mailto:sharond.outpost@gmail.com). Check out [loveandlogic.com](http://loveandlogic.com) for testimonials and more information.

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

“The gifts that the three Wise Men, or Kings, or Magi, brought to the manger in Bethlehem cost them plenty but seem hardly appropriate to the occasion. Maybe they were all they could think of for the child who had everything. In any case, they set them down on the straw -- the gold, the frankincense, the myrrh -- worshiped briefly, and then returned to the East where they had come from. It gives you pause to consider how, for all their great wisdom, they overlooked the one gift that the child would have been genuinely pleased to have someday, and that was the gift of themselves and their love.”

-- Frederick Buechner, *Peculiar Treasures*, p. 172.

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
600 Apache Drive

**Fremont, MI 49412**

(231) 924-0170

[www.secondcrcfremont.org](http://www.secondcrcfremont.org)

**email –** [secondcrcfremont@gmail.com](mailto:secondcrcfremont@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/SecondCRCFremont](http://www.facebook.com/SecondCRCFremont)