

2nd's Matters

March 20, 2019

From Your Pastor's Desk:

The word "Lent" comes from the same root word that is behind "lengthen." It is a season of lengthening daylight and the emergence of things green. St. Paddy's Day ties into this seasonal color with shamrocks and discolored beer. Green is usually associated with growing things and with progress (think traffic light), hopefulness (think baseball fields), and with winning (think, e.g. MSU -- oops, maybe I shouldn't have gone there). Anyway, green can also be used to denote jealousy and envy, or to indicate immaturity not only in fruit but also in people. In the Bible, the most well-known use of green describes the pasture where the Good Shepherd leads his sheep in Psalm 23. While sheep are not color-blind they don't see color well, but green they can see well enough. In Psalm 23 "green" is much more than an adjective for a field, it describes a place that is fresh, life-sustaining, verdant, flourishing, nourishing, fruitful, fragrant, pleasant, wholesome, and simply good. Even better than shamrocks, in Psalm 23 green represents shalom.

Sunday Worship, March 24. The Third Sunday in Lent.

The next story in the Gospel of Mark tells of additional preparations for Jesus' sacrifice. Mark 14:12-31 will be the text for Pastor MacLeod's message, "Making Preparations." Our offerings will be for the General Fund and The Bible League.

Our Church Family:

Eileen Alderink is scheduled to have her left rotator cuff (shoulder) surgically repaired this Friday at Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital.

Brad Gilliland was hospitalized the last few days in Grand Rapids for a hernia condition. He is coming home today anticipating surgery to be scheduled later next month.

Men's Lenten Breakfast, Friday 7 am.

This seasonal community weekly gathering continues this Friday at 7 am at the Church of the Living Christ, 605 Hemlock St. All men of the community are welcome to attend. Second CRC anticipates hosting this weekly breakfast on **April 12**. Contact Pastor Doug if you'd like to volunteer to help make it happen!

The 55+ Breakfast Group, Friday, 8:30 am

This week's gathering will be at Brew Works this **Friday** (note day change) March 22, at 8:30 AM. This is a social gathering without an agenda and is open to everyone. We order breakfast from the menu and enjoy an hour of conversation and visiting.

The Cadets' Pine Car Derby, Saturday, 10:30 am

This Saturday morning at Second Church spectators are welcome to fill the stands for the Cadets' Pine Car Derby. The races begin at 10:30.

FYSH Easter Plant Sale:

Please check your church mail box or the literature ledge for the FYSH Easter Plant Sale order forms! The Easter lilies, hyacinths, and tulips which you order can be used either as decoration in the church or may be taken home on Good Friday (April 19). The money and orders forms must be in by April 9 for guaranteed pick up on April 19, but late orders will be accepted. Proceeds from the sale of Easter lilies, hyacinths, and tulips will go towards student mission trip accounts. Any questions? Contact Zach by calling or emailing the church office.

A Beautiful Wall

This week the 1970's era paneling in the lobby, council room, and office space is being redone with a skimcoat plaster. It should be finished by Sunday, and then painted the following week.

Library News

IF: Gathering nonfiction books and new fiction books are available for checking out. Stop by the table in the lobby and pick up a good read!

Russ and Tori Taff: A Night to Believe

Saturday, March 23 at 6 pm, join the Taffs at First CRC as they share their story of the struggle of addiction with their movie, music, and a special Q & A. Russ is a Grammy and Dove Award-winning musical artist. This event is being sponsored by CureUs Ministries, including support from Second CRC through our Outreach Team. Tickets are available at First CRC or through iTickets.com. They are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

Stock the Pantry:

For the month of March, the Deacons request peanut butter and jelly.

Community

Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children is once again organizing a weekend to pack 108,000 meals for God's children around the world. On Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23 we are invited to be among the five hundred volunteers who will meet at TrueNorth to pack meals to Feed His Starving Children. Email Linda Ackerman at lackerman2@comcast.net or visit the website fmnc.org/mobilepack to register you and your family.

The Ball Brothers in Concert:

Ferrysburg Community Church is presenting a concert featuring Christian music artists The Ball Brothers! Plan to join us April 7 at 7:00PM at 17785 Mohawk Drive in Spring Lake. No tickets are required but a free will offering will be taken. For further information, visit www.theballbrothers.com or call the church at 616-842-3880 or the Schaafs at 231-206-2964.

Pastor Doug: A Quote from a Book I Read

"George MacLeod was both a Celtic mystic and a Presbyterian minister, and proud of it. He liked to ask people, for instance, what the anagram of Presbyterian is. 'The anagram of Presbyterian,' he would tell them, 'is "best in prayer".' He would go on to ask what the anagram of Episcopal is, and say, 'The anagram of Episcopal is "Pepsi Cola".'
J. Philip Newell, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God, A Celtic Spirituality*, p.77

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