

2nd's Matters

March 6, 2019

From Your Pastor's Desk:

Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is the forty-day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter (this year, March 6 – April 21). It is a time during which the church confesses the need for a savior and recalls the suffering and passion of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Why forty days?

In the Bible a forty-day period is symbolic. *It signifies a time of spiritual struggle to which God provides the promise of relief and victory.* Moses on Mt. Sinai, Elijah traveling to Horeb, and Jesus in the desert all fasted for forty days. The rains of the Flood, the spies in Canaan, Goliath's challenge, Nineveh's deliverance, and the period between the Resurrection and the Ascension all lasted forty days. Whether forty years or forty days, the number forty spoke not only to a span of time but also a span of God's ongoing presence experienced in trial and temptation, and eventual blessing.

Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 pm

The CRCs of Fremont share an Ash Wednesday worship service this evening here at Second CRC. A traditional observing of the beginning of Lent, this 40-minute service of meditation will include scripture readings, songs, and an invitation to receive an ash mark on your forehead. All are welcomed.

Sunday Worship, March 10: The First Sunday in Lent (9:30 AM EDT)

This year for Lent our worship themes will follow Jesus to the cross as recounted through several stories in the Gospel of Mark. We'll begin with Mark 12:1-12 and a message by Pastor Doug, "They Will Respect My Son." Our offerings will be for the General Fund and TrueNorth Community Services.

2nd Sunday

Join us for March's 2nd Sunday on March 10. Aimee Breuker, daughter of this congregation and Dave and Chris Breuker, will be speaking to us about her work at the Children's Advocacy Center of Ottawa County. This center works with children on abuse prevention and intervention. Come learn more about her work; something not pleasant to think about, but necessary to learn about.

Our Church Family:

John Mellema is doing rather well and is expecting to be granted permission to discontinue wearing his neck-brace today.

Many thanks for the prayers, cards, and acts of kindness I received during my recent injury. It is truly a blessing to be a part of the family of faith.

John Mellema

Dee Simmerman was hospitalized this past weekend due to a diabetic incident. She has since returned to her residence at Green Acres.

Men's Lenten Breakfast\

Begins next week, Friday, March 15, at 7 AM at the First Congregational Church on Hillcrest Ave.

Inspire 2019: Attention Church Volunteers

Are you interested in spending time with other church volunteers to pause and celebrate the many people who make ministry possible? **Inspire 2019** is a 3-day event in Windsor, Ontario on August 1-3. Join others from across our denomination and choose from over 75 ministry workshops, listen to dynamic keynote speakers, and connect with people from more than 1,000 CRC congregations. Information can be found at crcna.org/Inspire or on the literature ledge in the narthex.

Stock the Pantry!

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

Community

IF: Fremont

The IF Fremont team has been overwhelmed and excited by the support and the number of attendees to this year's event. We continue to ask for your prayers for this Saturday's (March 9) Gathering that women grow deeper in faith with God and that they be equipped to live out their God given purpose!

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 fmcs.org/mobilepack to register you and your family.

MOSES

MOSES (Making OurSelves Equipped Servants) is accepting registrations for two trips:

March 28 - April 6 to Panama City, Florida for hurricane recovery

July 9-21 to Ensenada Baja, Mexico for VBS, construction and sewing classes

Teens age 14 or at least 9th grade are welcome. There is also a need for adults to drive, mentor, and chaperone. Contact Judy VanderArk at 616-949-0344 or mosesjudy@gmail.com

Pastor Doug: A Quote from a Book I Read

"I have heard it said, 'Christ didn't die for frogs. So he was responding to our value as humans.' This turns grace on its head. We are worse off than frogs. They have not sinned. They have not rebelled and treated God with the contempt of being inconsequential in their lives. God did not have to die for frogs. They aren't bad enough. We are. Our debt is so great, only a divine sacrifice could pay it."

John Piper, *The Passion of Jesus Christ*, p. 29

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

600 Apache Drive

Fremont, MI 49412

(231) 924-0170

www.secondcrcfremont.org

email – secondcrcfremont@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/SecondCRCFremont