

# **SECOND'S MATTERS**

**July 22, 2020**



**Second Church  
of Fremont**

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

## **From Your Pastor's Desk**

[Click here to watch the July 21 Tank Talk](#)

This past Sunday morning, as we were preparing to hold our first outdoor worship service our prayers for rain were being answered during our scheduled set-up time. Thankfully the rain swept through and ended in time for us to hold our worship service outdoors as planned. One count tallied 80-85 in attendance, and while a few remained in their vehicles, most sat outside in chairs brought from home. There was a good number of children present and even some of our members with immune system concerns were also comfortable enough to come to drive-in worship.

Let your Shepherding Elder know what your concerns and expectations are for the worship setting and for your attendance, as we want to worship, and we want to offer it as safely as we can.

## **From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk**

The last week or so has felt heavier in a way that has been hard to explain. I think it's the weight of COVID-19 continuing longer than we anticipated. What started as a short school closure and shelter in place became a new socially distanced lifestyle. It wasn't what we had expected or been promised. I've started to notice that I am becoming comfortable with the new routine and this has made me sad in a way that's hard to put to words.

We are a people designed to be in relationship - it's the way we were created. God literally designed us for community. This weekend I spent time at a graveside funeral for a mentor and friend, as well as enjoying our first outdoor worship service and with some of my extended family. Each of these experiences are not the same as they would have been before the pandemic, but they reminded me of the simple truth that "we were made for this." We were made for relationships and community. It might not look the same to have church outside, or eat a meal with others, or to grieve 6 feet away from people, or hold a youth group meeting in the park, but we were together. We were able to be in community. This week I want to invite you to lean into that uncomfortable feeling of things not being the way that they were, and at the same time relishing in the new ways we get to build relationships and be a part of a community. The world might look different, but we were created for this and we have a God who walks alongside us in it.

## **Sunday Worship, July 26**

This Sunday we will offer an outdoor worship service and we also plan to live-stream the service. The live streaming begins at 9:20 and the service itself will begin at 9:30. Bring a lawn chair or choose to remain in your car and listen on the radio on FM 99.5

This Sunday our worship time will include the commissioning of our new Elder and Deacons, and Pastor Doug will offer a few concluding thoughts on the gift of the Lord's Prayer, from Matthew 6:9-13, "The Disciples' Prayer: A Gift."

## **Student Ministries Update for Outdoor Worship on Sunday, July 26:**

For the time being we continue to not have a nursery or Children's Worship class available but are excitedly planning for your student to join us in worship. Here are some of the ways we are doing that:

- Should you or your student be in need the front lobby doors, under the portico, will be unlocked so you can access the bathroom/changing station located just off the lobby. We ask that you wipe down the changing station with the provided Clorox wipes after use.
- We will have Children's Activity Bags, with coloring pages, worksheets, and worship guides available for students when you are greeted by the lower parking lot. This will be yours to take home with you. We do ask that you provide crayons, pencils, markers, etc for use with these bags.
- During worship, we will offer a Children's Meditation. We ask that students remain with their families during this time.
- We recognize that while we are outside, we may experience children laugh, sing, shout or squeal with joy (or frustration) and we celebrate that they are joining us in worship today!

## **Our Church Family**

**Rog Rauwerda** is still being treated at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids following his surgery last week. He hopes to be home this weekend.

## **Congregational News**

### **Second Church's New Website**

Our new website can be viewed at: <https://secondcrcfremont.org/>

### **Oasis, Wednesday, July 29, 7 pm.**

Next Wednesday will be the final summer Oasis event – Game Night! We're excited to invite all incoming 6th graders! We'll be at First Fremont CRC (721 Hillcrest Ave) on Wednesday, July 29 from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Can't wait to see you there, and hopefully a bunch of new friends as well!

### **Faith Promise Update**

So far we have received \$19,550 in pledges towards our budget goal of \$28,000. Your pledges are still most welcomed and will be added to the total.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge and contribution to our Faith Promise fund so we are able to continue to financially support our seven missionaries. Your pledge can be dropped off at church and put in Tyler Cook's mailbox, mailed to Second CRC, or put in the offering plate in the lobby.

### **Christian Education Fund**

Thank you for your support of Christian Education for the children of Second Christian Reformed Church. Each year we are amazed at the level of financial commitment that both parents and non-parents have for the cause of Christian education.

As we approach the 2020/2021 school year, we will have 20-25 children utilizing our Christian Education Fund at a cost of approximately \$136,000.00.

Please use a projected giving card which has been put in your church mailbox to let us know how much you are willing to give to this church ministry for 2020/2021. There is a box in the church foyer for you to place your card in by August 30.

### **Offerings**

Our Deacons welcome our continued support for our congregation's financial obligations with our offerings. Donations can be mailed to the church at 600 Apache Drive. Additionally, donations can be submitted online via bank account, credit, or debit card at this link: [Second CRC - Online Giving](#) or download the "GivePlus" app if you wish to give to funds other than the General Fund.

Special envelope offerings are:

July 26 – TrueNorth 'Tools for School'

August 2 – Wellspring Adult Day Services

August 9 – Young Life

August 16 – Hand to Hand

### **Ministry Shares**

In the past year our church has provided \$56,169 towards our regional (Classis Muskegon) and denominational (Christian Reformed Church) shared ministry. Jeffrey Bolt, the Director of Advancement writes to us: "You are a Blessing! Thank you for your church's gift to ministry shares. Your gift makes it possible for us to share God's story of grace, hope and love. We could not impact the world through missions, media, and church development without your incredible and faithful support. To learn more about the work you support visit [crcna.org/ministryshares](http://crcna.org/ministryshares). "

### **The Church Office and Lobby Mailboxes**

The church office is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am to noon and on Sunday morning. There are plenty of mailboxes that have accumulated items over the past months when the church was mostly closed. You are welcome to stop in and check your mailbox.

### **2020 Directory**

We will be printing a 2020 church directory soon. Our directory includes contact information for members, guests and friends of Second Church. If you would like to have your information added to the directory, or if you have changed your address, email, and/or phone number in the past year, please notify Valerie by August 3. You may send it to [office@secondcrcfremont.org](mailto:office@secondcrcfremont.org), call 924-0170, or write the information on a slip of paper and place it in the box on the office door.

**Stock the Pantry**

For the month of July, the requested items are cereal, pancake mix, and syrup. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly to TrueNorth.

**Today Devotional**

Copies of the July / August edition are available in the church lobby. It is also available for reading, listening, or podcast at <https://today.reframemedia.com/>

**Bible League**

Each year Bible League International Volunteers send out a special letter to their church members. Together, we are equipping Christians and churches all over the globe to engage people in the Word of God. As a result, God's Kingdom is growing! Look for this letter in your mailbox in the lobby of church. As you read it, please sincerely pray for the work of Scripture engagement. We appreciate any contribution you feel led to provide. Kindly respond on or before Sept 1, 2020. Thank you

**SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

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