

# SECOND'S MATTERS

November 18, 2020



## From Your Pastor's Desk

I tend to get better at those things that I practice. For example, right now, I'm pretty good at raking leaves, but my snow shoveling rhythm is a wee bit off. I'm looking forward to getting some practice in pretty soon.

This year there is so much we can choose from to complain about that we might overlook the holy virtue of practicing gratitude. Good thing Thanksgiving is at hand – even so, most of us will count the sacrifices we will be making about our gatherings – but even sacrifices can't stop our practicing gratitude if we so choose. Understandably, our gratitude rhythm might be a bit off at the moment, but Thanksgiving affords us a great chance to get a little extra practice in.

**Pastor Doug's Tank Talk** will be distributed tomorrow. This week I will not include my fish tank, but I will offer some thoughts about our Council's decision to suspend in-person worship for the next three Sundays.

## From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

This weekend Lizzie and I virtually attended the funeral of a dear friend and mentor that had ended her battle with cancer. This weekend we also put up a Christmas tree and turned on our outdoor Christmas lights. We really felt the tension of having to hold sadness and joy at the same time. Between new MDHHS orders, the uncertainty around holiday gatherings, and the generally disgruntled nature of the season we find ourselves in, I think it is safe to say we all know what it means to be sad right now. For many of us, for one reason or another, sadness weighs heavy on our hearts.

The kid's movie *Inside Out* talks about the tension between sadness and joy. Towards the end of the movie, one of the characters says: "Without the hard times, how would we know when we are in the good times?" If you are like me, you might respond to that and wonder if it really has to be that way. Do we really have to be sad to understand joy? I don't know if there is a right answer, but I do know that right now, we are all holding sadness and joy at the same time. It is exhausting. Today I want to encourage you to remember that while some days are great and some are hard, we do not walk this journey alone. If you need a little extra joy, put up that Christmas tree early or turn on the lights, but don't forget that our hope and our futures rest in God's hands. And we know that he won't let us down. Today that is enough for me, and I pray it is for you too.

## Sunday Worship, November 22 – live stream. [tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive](https://tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive)

Out of respect for Michigan's three week "Pause to Save Lives" order our worship service this Sunday will be live-stream only beginning at 9:30. Pastor Doug will have a Thanksgiving message based on King David's wonderful prayer in First Chronicles 29:1-22, "A Thanksgiving Prayer."

## Thanksgiving Day

This year we are not holding a Thanksgiving Day worship service. We will be offering resources for family at home Thanksgiving and Advent devotions. These include some items that need printed. If you do not have a printer at home, we have some copies available at church that you can pick up or we can deliver.

## Sunday Worship, November 29, The First Sunday of Advent – live stream. [tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive](https://tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive)

This year our Advent attention will be guided by the New Testament texts from the Revised Common Lectionary. These texts will join us with the worldwide church and in solidarity with a world enduring this pandemic. For the First Sunday of Advent the scripture text will be Mark 13:24-37 which includes the words of Jesus himself pointing to his second advent.

## Our Church Family

**Roger Folkema** returned home from the hospital this past Friday. He is receiving end-of-life hospice care in the comfort of his home and with his family.

**Al Baker** passed away this morning at the Newaygo Medical Care Facility. We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Vicki (his daughter) and Brad Gilliland.

**Directory Correction:** MAJ Josh Dimkoff (*wife Beth, children Ava, Adie, Gabriel*)  
CMR 415 Box 8155  
APO, AE 091140082  
United States

## Congregational News

### From the Council

In caring for one another and our community and with respect for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' three week "Pause to Save Lives" order, the Council has suspended all in-person church events for three weeks. Our Sunday morning worship services will continue to be live-streamed from our sanctuary each Sunday morning at 9:30. Our prayer is that our Lord will honor this temporary sacrifice of gathering for in-person for worship, that we can still worship together even if only remotely, and that we can get through this difficult time together.

## Thanksgiving Video Compilation

This week, members and friends of Second Church are invited to record and send a 20 second (or shorter) video clip of what you are thankful for to Pastor Doug at [PastorDoug@SecondCRCFremont.org](mailto:PastorDoug@SecondCRCFremont.org). Next week we can enjoy seeing one another being grateful!

## Church Office and Staff availability

During the three week "Pause to Save Lives" order recently Issued by the MDHHS, we intend to continue our church office hours of Monday – Friday, 9 - noon. Pastor Doug will be working primarily from home and readily accessible by phone and email. All church staff continue to be available by telephone or email.

## Meal Train for Roger and Mary Folkema

As the Folkema family focuses on time together as Roger is home and continues his health battle, the deacons are inviting our Second Church family to show our love and support by providing meals for them. Freezer meals and gift cards to local restaurants are also helpful to the family. You can sign up to provide a hot meal or certificate for a meal by clicking on this link <https://mealtrain.com/rw78ml> to our Meal Train. Please contact Nanci Nieboer to make arrangements for meal and gift certificate deliveries. If you need help with signing up for a date on the Meal Train, please contact Audra Powell [231-414-1820](tel:231-414-1820) or Stephanie DeKuiper [231-414-5141](tel:231-414-5141).

## Christmas Shoe Boxes for Appalachia Reach Out

It's time to fill Christmas boxes for children in Inez, KY served by ARO. The boxes are on a table in the lobby with information on ages and necessary instructions. Boxes need to be filled, wrapped, tag attached to the outside, and returned by Tuesday, December 1. Remember you just need to wrap the container but not the individual items in the container. Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ to children in Kentucky who will be delighted to receive a box of fun things...just for them.

## Grace Encounters

Grace Encounters are those times when we feel God close to us, when Christ is truly made known to us and we feel his presence in a profound way. These encounters may be specific moments or the consistent presence of God in our daily lives. These stories of people "knowing Christ" will be recorded on video and presented in our services soon; the videos will also be available on our website. If you are willing to share your experience, we would love to have you be part of this project. Please contact someone from the Discipleship Committee: Joni Boeskool, Chelsea Breuker, Mary V. Folkema, Ann Pell, or Zach Van Wyk.

## Karin Medical Clinic update:

Please follow the link below for an update from Hope Okeny and other staff members of Karin Medical Clinic. We ask that you continue to keep Karin Medical Clinic in your prayers. <https://youtu.be/vFxIw2QFjMc>  
Outreach Committee

## Offerings

Our Deacons welcome our support for our congregation's financial obligations with our offerings. Donations can be mailed to the church at 600 Apache Drive or submitted online via bank account, or card at this link: [Online Giving](#). If you wish to give to Christian Education or Faith Promise online then, download the "GivePlus" app. Special envelope offerings are: Nov. 22 – Bethany Christian Services, Nov. 29 – Young Life

## 2021 Giving Envelopes

Your giving envelopes for 2021 are in your mailboxes in the lobby. If you would like yours to be mailed to you, please let Valerie know at [office@secondcrcfremont.org](mailto:office@secondcrcfremont.org).

## Stock the Pantry

For the month of November, the requested food items are spaghetti sauce, pasta, and/or rice. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth

**From the CRC Denominational Office:** The following thank you note is in the context that Second CRC's General Fund budget for this fiscal year includes \$50,132 as a contribution to our denominational ministries!

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).

## SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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