

SECOND'S MATTERS

December 16, 2020



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Pastor's Desk

We are well aware of the disruptions and adjustments in our lives in this long and deadly season of COVID, and we understand it as great trouble, which it is. It also has me thinking of Joseph who had his plans greatly disrupted when, quite apart from anything he did or planned, Mary became pregnant. Could Joseph just suddenly reconfigure all his expectations for what he wanted? An angel used a dream to tell him to let God handle this.

I wonder if our present disruptions are being used by the Spirit to change our assumptions, our very lives, and how the local church functions — telling us to let God handle this. I wonder what ordinary notions of what church and faithfulness we might need to leave behind in order to welcome and embrace the new things that the Spirit is birthing. Sounds like trouble to have to change our assumptions. Are we willing to leave the security of the way we expect things to happen in order to receive what God may bring unto us? I wonder.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

The other night Lizzie and I listened to the Voice and heard one of the contestants sing the song "In Color," originally sung by Jamey Johnson. In it, Johnson describes a memory he has of looking through old photos with his grandfather. Some of my favorite memories involve sitting around the kitchen table at my grandparents' farm talking about the way things used to be. I can see Grandpa sitting there drinking Mountain Dew and smiling as he describes another story. I bet many of you know what it feels like to vividly remember somethings; it's like we are there all over again.

As humans, it is so easy to forget. We forget where we leave the keys, we forget to grab another gallon of milk at the store, and we can forget to look for God in our world around us. For me, the most important part of Christmas is reflecting on what it means for God to be "Immanuel" (God with us). It overwhelms me every year to think about how much God loves us that he came to Earth to die, so we don't have to. This year Christmas won't be the same, but we can remember. We can remember what it feels like to sing "Peace, Peace" and light candles. We can remember the rush of emotion as we hear Luke 2 read. We can remember that no matter what God is with us, he is Immanuel. This year I will remember, and I hope you do too.

Sunday Worship, December 20, The Fourth Sunday of Advent – live stream. tinyurl.com/2ndcrlive
For the Fourth Sunday of Advent the gospel reading from the Revised Common Lectionary will be Luke 1:26-38 and it will be the text for Pastor Doug's message, "Wide-eyed Wonder."

Our Church Family

Dee Rauwerda will be moving from the hospital to a rehabilitation facility in Arizona today. Prayers are requested as she continues to recover and heal.

Janesis (Schipper) Smalligan (Marleen Frens' sister) health has improved a lot since she moved into her daughter's house. She is getting stronger and starting to eat. Please continue to pray for strength and healing.

Congregational News

From the Administrative Team

Worship: Second Church will continue with no in-person worship on Sunday, December 20, and on Christmas Eve (7 pm). These services will all be live-streamed only.

Finances: At the end of November, our church is behind on our budget by roughly \$25,000. The financial reports should be distributed this week. As you plan your year-end giving, please consider giving to 2nd Church to help cover this shortfall.

Advent Resources

Our Student Ministries Committee has obtained the following devotional for our congregational use during Advent: [Advent devotional](#) If you do not have a printer at home, we have some copies available at church that you can pick up or that we can deliver.

Christmas Greetings to One Another

Send to Pastor Doug -- PastorDoug@SecondCRCFremont.org -- a short (horizontal, 20 second) creative video clip from your household with your Christmas greetings to everyone at Second Church: Read part of the birth narrative from scripture; show us your Christmas tree, or Advent candles, or Jesse Tree, or a snowman you built; let us see your smiles as a family you sing a stanza of a Christmas carol; show us your dog with a bow on his head, or whatever! – be creative, have fun, let your church family see a bit of you and your Christmas world.

Church Office Hours

For the next two weeks, the church office will be open from 9-12, Monday – Wednesday. If you have an announcement for Second's Matters, please have to the office by Tuesday noon. Any announcements for the bulletin should be to the office by Wednesday, 5 pm. Thank you

1976 Second Church Quilt

In 1976 when Rev. and Mrs. Hoogstrate left Second Church, they were given a red, white, and blue quilt (it was our nation's bi-centennial year) with 156 squares from the various households which made up our congregation back then. The Hoogstrates both passed away many years ago. A couple of weeks ago their daughter, Deborah, sent the quilt back to Second Church. For now, it is hanging in our church lobby where you can come and take a nostalgic look at the names from that time in our church history.

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:

Dec 20 – Christian Education Fund

Dec 27 – Love, INC

Stock the Pantry

For the month of December, the requested food items are soup and crackers. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth

A Quote from a book I read: --Pastor Doug

"The Lord has come – he will come. The life of the Christian church is located and lived at the intersection of those two advents. And in the meanwhile – "the Time Being", as W. H. Auden calls it – we stay awake, like the doorkeeper, by watching for signs of his presence in the most unlikely places and the most unlikely people. It will take us by surprise every time, but we will be ready to recognize him when he makes himself known."

-Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once & Future Coming of Jesus Christ* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2018) pg. 267

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

600 Apache Drive, Fremont, MI 49412

(231) 924-0170

www.secondcrcfremont.org

office@secondcrcfremont.org

www.facebook.com/SecondCRCFremont