

SECOND'S MATTERS

December 30, 2020



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Pastor's Desk

This past Sunday morning the twelve of us who were in the sanctuary to provide a live-stream worship service were joined by an additional two dozen worshipers. I thought you might be curious to know how many attended since you don't see how many are in the pews when viewing the service on-line. We know that indoor gatherings are ill-advised, and it is expected that people who chose to attend would be responsible, yet it is good for us to have the base-line provision of live-streaming. We can all be thankful for those who funded and who weekly volunteer to make it happen.

Living with uncertainty is uncomfortably common these days and the forecast for what in-sanctuary worship will look like for us in the months ahead is simply impossible to predict. There are too many factors that are beyond our control. Yet, "...one thing remains. Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me."

From Your Music Director's Desk

Have you ever fasted? I mean in the biblical sense by abstaining from certain foods for a planned period of time? A few years ago, I committed to fasting for 21 days in January, essentially eating a vegan diet. Now it has become something I automatically observe for 21 days starting on the first Sunday of the month.

Isaiah 58:6-11 beautifully describes the benefits of fasting. There are promises in there that will be fulfilled if we take time out and spend it in His presence. Verse 8: *"Then your light will break out like the dawn. And your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard"*. Verse 9a: *"Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am'..."*. Verse 10:9b: *".....your light will rise in darkness and your gloom will become like midday"*. Verse 11: *"And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."* (NASB)

Most importantly, it gives my heart and soul a chance to cleanse and detox, especially from the roller coaster ride of 2020. I admit that I have not spent time with my Savior like I should have. Yes, I have prayed throughout the year, but it's mostly been about ME. I've asked the Lord for THIS, I've asked the Lord for THAT, but when I ask myself how many times have I spent a few minutes just loving on Him, my heart hurts.

I journal throughout the fast, and on the first day I seek God's leading for topics of prayer from Day 1 through Day 21. Year 2020 has given us many sources of topics, such as God's leading in our lives, careers, our church, our nation, family issues, etc. The only thing I ask for myself is forgiveness of times I have neglected my spiritual walk, and to start afresh this new year with a clean slate; that my heart will open to His presence and I allow Him to cleanse me and lead me. It sets the tone for the coming year.

Would you consider joining me? If you commit to fasting for a period of time, your fast does not have to look like mine. Ask the Lord what your fast should look like according to His leading.

Sunday Worship, January 3, in-person (masks required) and live stream: tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive

We provide for in-person worship this Sunday, January 3. We value in-person worship and the safety of all who would gather for worship. Therefore, **masks are required** inside the building at all times, and we keep every other pew roped off for social distancing. We also value choices for health and safety and therefore, we will livestream the service and welcome your worship participation via our livestream.

This Sunday we begin the new year rejoicing with Simeon who in seeing the baby Jesus declared "my eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:28-32).

We will also share in the Lord's Supper so if you will be worshipping via live-stream prepare to have something available for participating with us from home.

Nursery will be available, but there will be no Kids' Own or Children's Worship.

Our Church Family

Our sympathies are extended to **Rog Rauwereda** following the death of his wife, **Dee**, this past Sunday evening in Arizona. The family is having a small private service for her this week.

Tuesday **Kay Wolters** was taken to the hospital, diagnosed with COVID-19, and placed in the ICU. Wednesday morning Dick gratefully reports that, although she will remain in the ICU, she is making notable progress, and he is most thankful for the prayers of the congregation.

Congregational News

FIRST 25+ YEARS OF SECOND CRC MEMBERSHIP RECORDS:

During COVID-19 isolation, Fred Bultman completed a project of putting the data from the decaying paper pages of the original 2nd CRC membership record ledger book onto an EXCEL spreadsheet. This data dates from our church's beginnings in 1914 into the first year of World War II, and covers the 1,090 individuals who were 2nd CRC members over that time period. If you would be interested in having a digital copy of this spreadsheet transmitted to you, send an e-mail to Fred at fbultman3@comcast.net.

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:

January 3, 2021 – Bible League
January 10 – FYSH Food Drive for TrueNorth
January 17 – Fremont Christian School
January 24 – True North
January 31 – Fremont Young Life

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

Calvin University

January Series – January 6-26, in 15 free weekly, lunchtime lectures from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. with topics ranging from the future of the Supreme Court, climate change, the era of intelligent technology, civil discourse, racial tensions, the arts as a healing balm and so much more by top experts in their fields. This year, due to the realities of COVID-19, the January Series will have a completely virtual audience. For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites and to register for personal viewing, visit www.calvin.edu/january

Calvin Worship Symposium - You are invited to register for a free online learning experience held January 6-26, 2021, on key themes in worship and the Christian life. Register for free at worship.calvin.edu/symposium/. This experience is designed for all kinds of learners: students, artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, teachers, worship leaders and planners, and all worshipers around the globe.

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