

SECOND'S MATTERS

December 9, 2020



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Pastor's Desk

Imagine seeing one another's smiles and hearing the voices of our church family extending Christmas greetings! This year it's not happening like other years in the church lobby or sanctuary. So how about on a video? Instead of a Christmas pageant this year I'm wanting to put together a Christmas buffet – sorry, not food – of a wide assortment of greetings, readings, songs, smiles, trees, candles, and whatever. Send me 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 us see a bit of you and your Christmas world.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

Growing up, it was very common to find my mom up late in December working on wrapping presents. The presents she would wrap always looked so perfect. Through many years of trial and error (and my getting frustrated and rewrapping a few boxes), I finally learned how to wrap presents like my mom. To be honest, I really enjoy wrapping gifts now. Last night as I sat at the kitchen table wrapping a few gifts, I wondered; who started this practice? Why do we spend so much time wrapping presents just to rip it off a few days or weeks later? Isn't it what is inside that counts?

So much of our time is spent making things look good on the outside when what is inside is what matters. I wonder how much our lives would look different if we spent as much time working on our internal "stuff" instead of making sure we look good to those around us. I can almost guarantee you that my life would look different. This advent it has really been laid on my heart to focus on the heart of the Christmas season instead of all the kerfluffle that I am so busy missing. This Christmas is quieter for Lizzie and me, but I think it just might be richer. I encourage you to really dig into the Advent story this season and reflect on just how special it is that our guiding light came to Earth as a baby. For we know that "this baby boy would grow to be a man and one day die for me and you. Hallelujah."

Sunday Worship, December 13, The Third Sunday of Advent – live stream. tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive

This year our Advent anticipation - as we look toward Bethlehem - is guided by the Gospel readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. The shared use of these texts joins us with the worldwide church and in solidarity with a world enduring this pandemic. This Sunday we will light the Third Advent Candle, a student will read from Isaiah 61:10-11, and the Buchanan boys will sing "God Is So Good." The scripture text for Pastor Doug's message is John 1:6-8; 19-28 where John is pointing to Jesus Christ.

Our Church Family

Our sympathies are extended to **Jacob Finner**, whose mother **Becky Riddle**, passed away Friday, December 4.

Our sympathies go out to **Sharon and Lewis Blohm** and **Lou and Paula Meeuwenberg** in the passing of their brother, **Jim Meeuwenberg** last Saturday, December 5.

Dee Rauwerda is being transferred back to the rehab facility today. Please continue to pray for her healing.

Congregational News

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.

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.

Love Offering

An envelope has been placed in your church mailbox labeled "Love Offering" to show our goodwill and appreciation for our church staff this Christmas season. If you would like to participate, please return your offering to the church office or to Audra Powell by December 13. Please specify how you intend your gift to be dispersed. If you like you can drop off the love offering envelope to the church. There is an offering plate in the lobby specified for love offering. Please, no cash. Contact Audra Powell (231.414.1820) if you would like the envelope dropped off at your home. Please Note: any late offerings that come in following December 14 will be added to the General Fund.

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 13 – Wellspring Adult Care Services
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

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

600 Apache Drive, Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 924-0170

www.secondcrcfremont.org
office@secondcrcfremont.org
www.facebook.com/SecondCRCFremont