SECOND'S MATTERS

January 6, 2021



From Your Pastor's Desk

Today, January 6, is Epiphany. Following the twelve days of Christmas the church year progresses to the life of Christ beginning with Epiphany (which means manifestation, or appearance, or revealing). During this season Jesus is being revealed to the world and his earthly life will culminate in his passion and resurrection (Lent and Easter). Christ is made known, in part, through the various names that are given to him – each name conveying a divine reality about him. This year our sanctuary banner contains many of those names in the shape of the cross where all his names converge to reveal him as Savior. Look for the new banner this Sunday.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

I don't know about you, but I am a little apprehensive about this new year. I have a lot of questions I want answered. How is COVID going to change things? What is going to happen next? How do I prepare myself for it? Should I start hoarding toilet paper and Diet Coke? The list could go on and on. I bet many of you have some of the same kinds of questions. I think it is in our nature to want to have all the answers; at the very least, it is mine.

This weekend I saw a tweet (of all places) that reminded me of some truth, and it was from Christine Caine. She said, "If you can trust Jesus with your eternity, why not start by trusting him with your 2021." It seems so simple. A lot of these questions come from fear, not trust. What do you think? I wonder if we trusted just a little bit more, how our lives could look different? I'm not saying trust doesn't require us to act. Just look at the Magi; it took a lot of trust and action to get to that first Epiphany. This year it is my prayer that through a lot of trust and faithful action we get to see Jesus even more in our world. I pray that we find him in the expected and unexpected, in small ways and big ways. I pray that the work of Jesus softens hearts and brings healing to this world. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Sunday Worship, January 10, in-person (masks required) and live stream: <u>tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive</u>

We provide for in-person worship this Sunday, January 10. We value in-person worship and the safety of all who would gather for worship. 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 welcome **Rev. Ron Fynewever** to lead us in worship. His message "God loves the World" is based on John 3:1-17, text John 3:16.

Our Church Family

Tim Boeskool was in a snowmobile accident last weekend and has broken his leg. He has been in the hospital in Marquette, MI and anticipates coming home today. Surgery will be scheduled soon in Grand Rapids. Please pray for healing.

Kay Wolters continues to be cared for in the ICU at Spectrum-Gerber hospital. She is making slow progress and will require several weeks of rehabilitation and therapy. Thank God for her progress.

Lewis and Sharon Blohm and **Lou and Paula Meeuwenberg** would like to thank the church for your kind thoughts, prayers, and cards at the recent loss of their brother Jim in New Orleans.

Congregational News

FYSH Food Drive Benefitting True North

Did you know that January and February are the leanest months at food pantries around the world? Each January FYSH collects donations and pop cans to purchase much needed supplies for the food pantry at True North. This year we intend to do the same. This **Sunday**, **January 10**, the special offering will be used to benefit this important outreach opportunity. If you would like to donate pop cans or donate after the offering date please reach out to Zach via email or by calling the church office.

Sunday Morning Children's Ministries Update

With our return to in-person worship we return to in-person Sunday morning Children's Ministries. Nursery and Story Hour will be offered during the service. Nursery will continue to function as normal. Story Hour will be a temporary replacement for Children's Worship and Kid's Own that seeks to offer an age-appropriate worship option. Story hour is for Children PreK to Fourth Grade and will last from the Children's Blessing to the end of the service. If you have any questions about either of these programs, please reach out to Zach via email or by calling the church office.

Mobile Food Truck, Wednesday, January 20

On Wednesday, January 20, we will again arrange for drive-thru pick-up. Recipients will stay in their vehicles and prepared allotments of food will be placed in their vehicles. Thankfully, we can serve our community with this vital food resource that is needed more than ever. Volunteers are needed please sign up by emailing Audra Powell or on the sheet on the literature ledge.



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 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 January, the requested food items are cereal and pancake mix and syrup. 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 Institute of Christian 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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