

SECOND'S MATTERS

April 21, 2021



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

I grew up in a household where we were often told that "if you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say anything at all." Every time this came out of my mother's mouth, I would roll my eyes and say it back to her in a mocking tone. I was convinced that my mom was trying to keep the peace and get us to be quiet. (I can't imagine why. I am sure that I was a perfect gem growing up.) I was convinced that this mentality didn't work in the real world. Sometimes you have to call out things that aren't fun or aren't right. You can't always be nice.

For the last few weeks, I have been reflecting on a quote by Annie F. Downs: "Even in your uncertainty, you can be kind." I was shocked when this reminded me of what my mom used to say to me. I think it is a part of human nature to want to "clap back." We like to say a witty comment, or mouth off sarcastically, or respond in kind to people who aren't so nice to us. In some ways, it makes us feel good. How often do you catch yourself saying something that you wish you hadn't? How often do you wish you had been a little kinder? How often do we let our mouths or our social media posts get away from ourselves? I know that I catch myself doing all of these things. I am convinced that Jesus invites us to be the starting point that makes our world a little kinder. Jesus calls us to call out what is wrong, stand up for the "little" people, and correct issues in our communities, but to do it in ways that reflect our heart for people. We won't do this perfectly, of course, but I think that we can make a start. Also, I should probably say it publicly - mom, you were right.

From Your Music Director's Desk

I am a plant killer. Whenever a person is getting ready to give me a plant, I can imagine it screaming, "Not HER! Anybody but HER!" One Mother's Day plant that was given to me I literally killed in a matter of weeks. I tossed the "dead" plant into the woods by the edge of our yard, gave the chunk of potting soil a good kick, and forgot about it. Next year, it sprouted. Now it is a beautiful ground cover that comes up year after year, adding beauty to our yard. The lesson learned? Throw my plant gifts in the woods.

I appreciated the visual that Rebecca Hall gave us last Sunday with the potted plants and how a seemingly insignificant little seed would die, only to produce beautiful flowers for all to enjoy. John 12:24 says: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (NIV) As we do our best to live our lives for Jesus, we are planting seeds everywhere we go. Yes, we make mistakes and falter because we are human, but I believe God heals those gaps we cause in our humanness, and His seeds are still planted in spite of us. I hope you are having a wonderful week planting seeds. Literally and spiritually. God bless

Sunday Worship, April 18

Seminarian Jodi VanWingerden will lead us in worship. Her message "Unsettling Grace" is based on Luke 12: 13-21. Masks are recommended while in the building, and social distancing measures are in place. Nursery and Story Hour programs are offered during worship. We also livestream the service and welcome your worship participation in-person or via our livestream:

tinyurl.com/2ndcrclive

Sunday Worship, May 2

Joseph Fox will be leading us in worship.

Our Church Family

Jim Beadle's condition continues to improve, and he is able to be up and get out a little more. Thank you for your continued prayers.

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of **Barbara Vander Band**. Barb passed away Monday, April 19, in her sleep. Relatives and friends may meet the family Monday, April 26, from 4-7 pm at Matthysse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Home (Grandville) 4145 Chicago Dr. SW.

Congregational News

Praise Team Rehearsal This Saturday – All Are Invited

Just a reminder that there is a practice at the church this Saturday, April 24, for new music that will be introduced in the coming months. It's at 10:30 am, and all praise team members are invited. This is a great way to socialize and become more acquainted with each other because, on Sunday mornings, we are focused on the service.

We are also inviting anyone who would like to be a part of the praise teams as a musician or singer or who just wants to spend time singing these songs together. Water and cookies will be provided. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Mobile Food Truck, Wednesday, April 21

TODAY 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 cars. Thankfully, we can serve our community in this way. Volunteers are needed - please be at the church by 4:00.

Mother's Day Ad in Hi-Lites

Mother's Day is the perfect day to honor those who gave us life. If you would like to thank your mother, grandmother, or any special woman for choosing life, place their name on the list on the literature ledge in the lobby and enclose \$2.00 for each name. They will be printed in the Hi-Lites on Mother's day, May 9, by Newaygo Right to Life. Every life is precious and designed by God.

Seminary Student Evaluations:

Each time we have a seminarian come and do pulpit supply, they need to solicit a few evaluations to receive credit with the seminary for preaching. Are you interested in filling out a sermon evaluation and helping out these students? Email Zach at zach@secondcrcfremont.org to be added to the list of evaluators.

Offering Information

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](https://www.secondcrcfremont.org/giving). If you wish to give to Christian Education or Faith Promise online, then download the "GivePlus" app.

Special envelope offerings are:

- April 25 – Young Life Campership*
- May 2 – Insight Pregnancy Services*
- May 9 – True North*
- May 16 – Fremont Young Life*

Stock the Pantry

For the month of April, the requested food items are canned fruit and vegetables. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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www.secondcrcfremont.org
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