

## **SECOND'S MATTERS**

**May 12, 2021**



**Second Church  
of Fremont**

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

### **From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk**

This week as I sit down to write this intro, I am sitting at a picnic table in my parents' back yard, eating a plate of leftovers. (Thanks, mom, for sharing your orange chicken bowl!) My parents live on a few acres just outside of Pella, Iowa, and I think it is one of the most beautiful places in the world. In the last week, I have lost a dear childhood friend for a seemingly random reason, and my family has received some disappointing news regarding my dad's cancer diagnosis. So, an Iowa backyard, some comfort food, and some family time feels like putting on your favorite pair of jeans or an old sweatshirt – it is just the right amount of nostalgia and comfort to make you feel a little better. In tough times like this, my grandma will often say, “at least we know God is still in charge, and it must be his will.” Every time I hear that, I agree with the sentiment, but the phrase makes me frustrated. It can feel like it is trying to simplify or make light of whatever situation is going on. It isn't simple that cancer is back in my dad's body. It isn't simple that Stephen is no longer on this Earth.

I believe wholeheartedly that these things are a result of the thief that comes to “steal, kill, and destroy.” (John 10:10) God did not intend for cancer to spread through our bodies; God did not create us to die untimely deaths. As I drove the 7+ hours to my childhood home, I had a lot of time to think about this phrase and why people say it. I think it's for the same reason that I am sitting outside with my leftover orange chicken bowl. It brings us comfort in times that are too hard to understand. God might not have created all of the evils of this world, but he did make a great plan of restoration. Tomorrow is Ascension Day – the day Christians have historically celebrated Jesus' return to Heaven following his resurrection. Friends, it wasn't an accident that Jesus came, died, and was resurrected – it was intentional. It was the plan so that while in this life we might have trouble, God's love still shines through. I don't know what attack from the thief you are facing today, but I know that Jesus died because God loved you enough to bring his plan of restoration to your life. Today that is enough for me, and I pray that you can find comfort in it too. You are loved.

### **From Your Music Director's Desk**

Roger and I have successfully raised four children between us. When we married in 1986, he had a son, and I had a son and daughter from a previous marriage; then Brian came along and tied us all together. We indeed have a “his, hers, and ours” situation. Orchestrating a blended family is a big challenge, and many families cannot endure it. Somehow, we managed successfully, and they are all productive adults raising their own families. In measuring success, we had not been asked to bail any of them out of jail, and not one is living in our basement at forty years of age. But allow me to be transparent: there were many times I wanted to hog-tie each one and drag them down the driveway behind my horse. Would they have deserved it? Absolutely! Never mind that CPS would have taken action (only if the neighbors would have reported me), at least they would have paid the consequences of their actions.

Psalms 127:3 “Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” (NASB). In all seriousness, little ones are a precious gift. We sacrificially love, nurture, lead, and discipline our children in the way they should go so they will have the spiritual foundation to sustain them throughout their lives. Whatever role you are in loving on children, whether a parent, teacher, student leader, etc., you are investing in the kingdom of God. I love the picture of Jesus blessing the little children in Matthew 19:14 “But Jesus said, “ ‘Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ “ What a thought! They are our future leaders, and we have a huge responsibility to teach them according to God's Word. God bless each and every one of you this week.

### **Sunday Worship, May 16**

Rev Bob Pohler, a retired CRC pastor, will be leading us in worship. His message, “Bear With and Forgive,” is based on Colossians 3:15-15. Masks are recommended, and social distancing

measures are in place. Some of the chains have been removed to accommodate more people. Nursery and Story Hour are offered. We welcome your worship participation in-person or via our [livestream](#).

### **Sunday Worship, May 23**

Seminarian Jodi VanWingerden will be leading us in worship. Her message, "Singing Our Story," is based on Exodus 14:29-15:24. We will recognize our 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, and college graduate's accomplishments during this service and pray over them.

### **Advanced Notice for Worship, May 30**

On Sunday, May 30, we will join in worship with other area churches for an outdoor worship celebration. Location and time information will be forthcoming.

### **Our Church Family**

Our sympathy goes out to **Mary Folkema, Phil and Rachel Pinkston**, and extended family in the recent passing of Mary's mother, Martha Waters.

### **Congregational News**

#### **Request from Seminarian Jodi VanWingerden**

Hello, Second Church! Thanks so much for the warm welcome you have extended when I've joined you all for worship a couple of times recently. I have been so blessed by the opportunity to get to know you just a little bit. And I'm looking forward to being with you all again on May 23! In thinking about the message I will bring that day, I wondered if you might be willing to help me out. If you have a story to share about people helping or supporting each other during the past (Covid) year, would you be willing to share it with me? It doesn't have to be something earth-shaking (although those stories are welcome!)—I'm interested in the small things too that made an impact/impression in the moment. You can message me at [jfv075@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:jfv075@calvinseminary.edu). Thank you! — Jodi VanWingerden

#### **Save the Date – June 12**

Fremont Young Life is holding its annual Golf Outing Fundraiser on June 12 at Water's Edge Golf Course in Fremont. Join us for a great game of golf and to support a wonderful ministry. Email us at [fremontyl@gmail.com](mailto:fremontyl@gmail.com) or talk to Zach to get registered to play or to become a sponsor.

#### **Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, High School & College Grads:**

If you haven't responded yet, please, make sure that you check your email for a note regarding the upcoming Graduate Recognition service and booklet. Zach needs this information ASAP.

#### **Library Thank You**

A big thank you to those who have recently donated books to our library. They are much appreciated! There's always room for more donations, especially kids' picture books, Bible storybooks, non-fiction, chapter books, and DVDs.

#### **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](#). If you wish to give to Christian Education or Faith Promise online, then download the "GivePlus" app.

Special envelope offerings are: *May 16 – Fremont Young Life*  
*May 23 – Christian Education Fund*

#### **Stock the Pantry**

For May, the requested food items are spaghetti sauce, rice, and/or noodles. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

#### **SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

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