SECOND'S MATTERS Oct 13, 2021



From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

When was the last time you talked to a teen or young adult? I mean, like really talked with them? What kind of assumptions do you have about these young people? Do you assume they spend too much time on their phones? Do you worry that they don't have a work ethic like the good old days? Do you think that they are too sensitive? When you look at the statistics, this generation is very different than previous generations. They are far more diverse (almost half are some combination of Hispanic, black, Asian, or biracial), they are digital natives (they have little to no memory of the pre-smartphone world, let alone pre-internet), and they are most likely to be the best-educated generation (with a majority of people attending some post-high school institution.)¹

I hope you are still reading because here is why this matters to all of us, especially those of us who love the church. The way we've always done things doesn't work like it used to, because the people we are trying to reach are not the same as we were at their age. (and just to clarify, I am still a relatively young person who grew up without the internet and remembers a pre-9/11 world.) So what does this mean for us? Do we give up talking with teens and young adults because we have a hard time understanding them? Absolutely not! I think our best path forward is to hold on to truth but to share it in a way that is different than what's been done before.

It matters that our lives are shaped by the Bible, and we spend time in community with other Christians, but maybe our bible study time needs to change from 9 am to 7 pm. Perhaps, it's time to study something that's a little more accessible to people who didn't grow up in the church. Maybe we should engage with teens and young adults not as people who have it all wrong, but as people raised in a world different from the one we were raised in. Every week I hear from students who are disappointed that adults won't hear them out or give them credit where credit is due – or I hear from students who are shocked that the opposite happened. Let's be the kind of church that is intentionally engaging with young people in a way that shows them they matter, their opinion has weight, and that we want them around. Because when they know, they are important to us, then they are willing to listen to us talk about Jesus, who he is, and why he should matter to them. So this might mean that we have to change a little, or sacrifice a few things – is our comfort more important than engaging the next generation?

From Your Music Director's Desk

The injury on Bobby Sue's leg turned out to be minor, and we are back on the trail. Fall is my favorite time of year when the trees are showing off their beautiful leaves. It takes my breath away when we ride through the woods. I savor it as much as I can because winter is coming, and these public trails will be closed until spring. How can we not see that God is amazing through nature? Our time on Earth is very short, and as we seize every opportunity to enjoy our lives with God's help, we can enjoy the journey. Let's live every day to the fullest because we do not know when our life will end. The opportunities of today may not be there tomorrow. God, Himself is our strength, and He is our wisdom.

God bless you this week as you enjoy our beautiful fall.

Sunday Worship, October 17

Pastor Dan Brouwer will be leading us in worship. His message "Our Living Hope" is based on 1 Peter 1:3-9. There will be a congregational meeting following that service allowing time for any questions the congregation has for him.

Join us in the Fireside Room at 9:05 am to pray for the service, our church, and other requests.

Sunday Worship, October 24

Pastor Ron Fynewever will be leading us in worship.

Church Family

Jack Grasman will have a biopsy today at Spectrum Health in GR. Please be in prayer for him and the doctors.

Marv Folkema is still at the rehab/nursing facility in Big Rapids. His mailing address is: Mission Point of Big Rapids, 725 West Fuller, Room 53, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Congregational News

Wellspring Adult Care Services "Fill the Well" Auction, Thursday, Oct 14

Wellspring Adult Day Services "Fill the Well" Auction will be held tomorrow, Thursday, Oct 14, at Reeman Christian Reformed Church. The silent auction will begin at 5 pm, a soup dinner will be served from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, and the live auction will start at 6:45 pm. Items up for auction include; an octagon deer blind from Hometown Convenience, a Blackstone grill, a 12-foot trampoline, Apple AirPods, gift certificates for family-friendly activities, and many handmade items. All proceeds will help support this valuable program. If you have any questions, please call Tammy Cowley at 231.638.8786 or email wellspringtammy1@gmail.com.

Mobile Food Truck, Wednesday, Oct 20 - Volunteers Needed

On Wednesday, Oct 20, we will again offer 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 with this vital food resource that is needed more than ever. <u>Volunteers are needed</u> - please sign up by emailing Audra Powell (audrascott@hotmail.com) or on the sheet on the literature ledge. If you have plastic bags you would like to donate for the distribution, drop them off at the church office.

Faith Promise Update

We received \$25,300 in pledges for this year's Faith Promise. Thank you for your continued support for the ministries we support through the pledges and your ongoing financial contributions to this fund. We ask that you continue to keep these missions in your prayers.

SOS Ministries has informed us that they will not need our funding due to a lack of building supplies and their inability to secure them. The decision was made to use these funds and increase the quarterly payments to the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty in response to the recent unrest there.

Free Flu Clinic

The Health Department is hosting a Flu & Covid19 shot Clinic on Wed, Oct 20, from 9–11 am at the Congregational Church. This clinic is walk-in only, and parents must accompany minors.

Offering Information

Our Deacons encourage our support to our congregation's financial obligations through 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: October 17 – Bethany Christian Services

October 24 – Hand2Hand

October 31 – Muskegon Angel Comminity Church

Stock the Pantry

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

¹ the statistics are from the Pew Research Center

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