

SECOND'S MATTERS

October 6, 2021



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

I am a bit of what you would call a coffee snob – but I don't mind a nice cup of tea either. As an anniversary gift, Lizzie bought me a beautiful mahogany tea box. I'll admit I am hard to surprise and even more challenging to shop for. (Generally, I am not a person who "wants" things. Also, I usually research an item to death before deciding I do "want" it.) I absolutely love it, but unfortunately, it was too big to fit in our buffet, it was awkward to fit in our cabinets, and our coffee bar was packed. So it has floated between the top of the buffet, the counter, the kitchen table, and coffee bar since June. A few weeks ago, I decided I could build a little wooden shelf that could go into our coffee bar that would match and expand the space so the tea box would fit. (I took shop 1 in high school; what was I thinking?) This project turned out to be a lot more complicated than I expected, and I wasn't very good at it.

When was the last time you did something you knew you weren't good at? Most Americans choose not to do something unless they know they can do it and do it well. We've convinced ourselves that we have to be experts at everything. This week I've been ruminating on Romans 12. In it, Paul calls us out for being insincere in the way others, and commands us to bless our enemies, and then reiterates in case we didn't understand the first time, we are to bless our enemies. The phrase I keep coming back to is "Never be lazy... Rejoice in confident hope, be patient in trouble, and keep on praying." (11a, 12) I am ok a being hopeful, I am disciplined in prayer, and I am terrible at being patient, especially when the world feels like a dumpster fire.

When I was struggling to make this shelf, I considered giving up. (often) Honestly, it would have been the easier and more fun option. Instead, I pushed through and trusted the process, knowing that the end result would be worth my temporary anger.

I think Paul knows that when we push through our uncomfortability and learn to trust the process the Lord has for us, an excellent end result could show up. We have never been promised that the process would be easy or straightforward; in fact, Romans 12 implies it will be hard. Friends, this life is full of difficult and terrible things, but we know that God is there in the midst of it all, and we are not alone. I encourage you to trust the process, to be hopeful for a good outcome, to be patient when it feels like it will never end, and to never stop trusting in the Lord – for "He who begins a good work" will see it to the end. I say this to myself as much as you.

From Your Music Director's Desk

The last time I was asked what I wanted for a gift, my response was, "a battery-operated chainsaw." What in the world would you do with that, you ask? Well, I have beautiful trails that I hike and ride Bobby Sue on behind our house, and once in a while, the wind blows, and a tree will topple over and block the trail. I can walk back to the blockage, zip, zip, zip, and the obstacle is removed, clearing the way. (By now, I am sure you are convinced that I am the weirdest human being you have ever met.) What happens when the battery on my chainsaw goes dead? Well, it would not be operational, and the blockage of my trail would stay there, keeping me from easily traversing the trail.

Isn't that how it is in our spiritual walk with the Lord? Keeping the avenue clear between ourselves and the Lord takes a constant "clearing" of that trail. We need to ask God to remove the blockages that keep us from being incomplete and constant communication with Him. If our "batteries" go dead because we have not kept ourselves recharged in His word and praying, we become ineffective and unproductive. Our spiritual survival depends on open avenues of communication with our Savior. "Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him. (Col. 2:6 NASB)

May you feel God's presence this week as you keep your batteries charged.

Sunday Worship, Oct 10

Pastor Bruce Ballast will be leading us in worship. His message "What's Going On Beyond What's Going On" is based on 2 Kings 6:8-19.

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

Sunday Worship, Oct 17

Pastor Dan Brouwer will be leading us in worship. His message "Our Living Hope" is based on 1 Peter 1:3-9

Church Family

Roger Rauwerda has been transferred to a rehab unit in his complex. He is required to wear a new leg brace which prohibits his walking without extreme pain. He hopes this will be no longer than a couple of weeks. Please pray for a quick recovery!

Jack Grasman will have a biopsy on October 13 at Spectrum Health in GR. Please be in prayer for him and the doctors.

Congregational News

Prayer Partners

On Sunday, we will have a meet and greet for prayer partners and their students. Please meet inside the sanctuary shortly after the service to have a chat with each other. Thank you again for your care and encouragement of our young people.

Interim Pastor Update

Our search committee, staff, and Council have each met with Pastor Dan Brouwer. On October 17, Pastor Dan will lead us in worship, and we will have a congregational meeting following that service allowing time for any questions the congregation has for him.

Pastor Dan has over 20 years of experience leading various Christian Reformed Churches and is endorsed by the CRCNA as a Specialized Transitional Minister (STM). He has spent the last six years working as an STM. We ask for continued prayers in our search for an interim pastor and are encouraged in the relationship we've started building with Pastor Dan.

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.

From the Council – S.O.S. Ministry

Our Council is working with other local churches to financially support Tere Gonzales, wife of our recently passed missionary Paul Gonzales. Please issue a check to Church of the Living Christ and write in memo line Tere if you would like to contribute. You can mail a check to Kathy Painter 560 Middle St. Newaygo, MI. 49337.

Free Flu Clinic

The Health Department is hosting a Flu & Covid19 shot Clinic on Wed, Oct 20, from 9-11 a.m 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 10 – Christian Education Fund
October 17 – Bethany Christian Services
October 24 – Hand2Hand
October 31 – Muskegon Angel Community Church (member of
Classis Muskegon)*

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.

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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