SECOND'S MATTERS



November 10, 2021

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

This weekend I had the opportunity to spend some time with some friends who are near to my heart. We didn't do anything special; we grabbed dinner and went and saw the new Marvel movie. I am thankful to have the friends I do. Kate and Colin are up for anything and always ready for a lively debate. Josh and Katie encourage me and call me out when I need it. Nate is always there for a phone call like no distance separates us, and it was just vesterday we chatted. Truthfully, there are many people I could list here, many people that I have chosen to be in relationship with - I am thankful for the ones I mentioned and the ones I didn't. There is just something about friendship - a relationship you aren't forced into and a relationship that isn't designed to give you something. Friendship is a choice: it's inviting someone into your life and them choosing to stay when life isn't easy. If I didn't have my friends, my chosen family, I don't know where I would be today.

November is a complicated month for me, it holds some stressful and painful memories, yet it invites us to be thankful and to prepare for the holiday season. It's a "yes and" kind of time for me. I don't know about you, but it is easy for me to think about difficult things. I remember when a friend said something that made me mad, a time I wasn't invited, or a plan fell through. When this is my mindset, it would be easy to think Kate and Colin just like to argue with me. Josh and Katie want to make me feel bad, and Nate is too far away. Instead of believing that they want to make me better and get to know me deeper. I'm thankful when I believe the latter instead of being overwhelmed by the fear of the former. In the days and weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, I will try to set my mindset on being thankful. On seeing the good, in all situations. Will you join me? Will you look for the Lord in people and situations? Will you find the good? I hope I can.

From Your Music Director's Desk

Since winter is forecast to give us a preview of things to come, Roger and I have been working on getting things put away and winterized around our place. Lawnmowers, motorcycles, barn, the RV section of my horse trailer, hoses put away, etc. I seem to struggle with a heavy heart when things are prepared for winter. It means a closing door of the season doing the things that we thoroughly enjoy when the weather is warm. These preparations are necessary if we want our things to be preserved and useable for the next season. Things will be damaged and costly to repair if we didn't prepare and protect them.

Preparing our hearts and keeping a close relationship with the Lord is essential in keeping our hearts from becoming damaged. The Lord is constantly healing us and helping us to be prepared for when harsh winters in our lives come and go. If we are not prepared, we can become frozen and break apart. But in "winterizing" ourselves in the Word and communicating with Him, we can stay safe and protected. May you have a wonderful week as you "winterize" your hearts to keep them soft and unfrozen. That is the only kind of heart God can work with.

Sunday Worship, November 14

Pastor Nate Kooistra will be leading us in worship. His message "What Will Jesus Do In Jericho?" is based on Mark 10:46-52. Join us in the Fireside Room at 9:05 am to pray over the service, our church, and the world.

Sunday Worship, November 21

Calvin Seminary Student Rebecca Hall will be leading us in worship. Her message "Christ Our Eternal King" is based on 2 Samuel 23:1-7.

Thanksgiving Worship, November 25

We will be holding a special service at 9:30 am on Thanksgiving day to thank the Lord for the many blessings we have been given.

Church Family

Please continue to pray for **Dani Vogel**, her family, and the doctors. She remains in ICU in Washington D.C. If you wish to send a card, please send it to their Fremont address (6726 Lake Drive, Fremont)

Joyce Hoad passed away on Sunday, November 7. Visitation will be from 1–3 pm on Friday, November 19, 2021, at the Kroeze-Wolffis Funeral Home, and a graveside service will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery in Fremont.

Congregational News

From the Council - Interim Pastor Update

We are happy to announce that council has approved Pastor Dan Brouwer as our interim pastor. He will begin leading worship services on Thanksgiving Day and focus on preaching and becoming more acquainted with our congregation through the end of the year. After the new year, we will begin to focus on the transitional work in which he specializes.

Poinsettia Fundraiser – Last Week To Submit Orders For Guaranteed Delivery

Our Student Ministries Team is again selling poinsettias to help support sending students on service and discipleship trips. This Sunday is the last week to submit orders for guaranteed delivery before Thanksgiving.

Christmas Shoe Boxes for Appalachia Reach Out

It's time to fill Christmas boxes for children in Inez, KY, served by ARO. The boxes are on a table in the lobby with information on ages and necessary instructions. Boxes need to be filled, wrapped, tag attached to the outside, and returned to the church by **November 28**. Remember, you just need to wrap the container, not the individual items in the container. Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ to children in Kentucky who will be delighted to receive a box of fun things just for them. Contact a member of the Outreach committee if you have any questions.

Worship Participation Opportunities

Are you interested in learning more about how we plan worship? Are you willing to help us plan worship? Do you have a gift of instrumental or vocal music that you wish to share with your church family? Send Wendy an email or talk to her on Sunday to get involved!

District #10 Health Department COVID Reminder

Due to an increase in the current COVID positivity rate in Newaygo County, the Newaygo County Health Department and the CDC recommend the use of masks in indoor spaces.

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: <u>Online Giving.</u> If you wish to give to Christian Education or Faith Promise online, then download the "GivePlus" app.

Special envelope offerings are: November 11 – Western Michigan Christian High School November 21 – Newaygo County Compassion House November 28 – Fremont Christian Schoool

Stock the Pantry

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

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