

SECOND'S MATTERS

November 24, 2021



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

By the time you read this, I will have had both (yes 2) of my Christmas Trees up in my house for over a week. I LOVE Christmas, especially the twinkle lights that come with the season. Interestingly enough, I dislike most Hallmark movies but love a good "real-life Hallmark moment." The twinkle lights, hot cocoa, a light snowfall, a wool sweater – it is exactly what I look forward to each December.

I don't know if you know this, but we start talking Christmas around the church office in the summer. We mull over ideas about decoration ideas, themes, and songs for months. This August, we started talking about a theme we were calling "The Coming Light." In September, the new copy of *Reformed Worship* showed up with advent service ideas for a theme called "Waiting for Light." In October, the devotional company (She/He Reads Truth) announced their 10th Advent devotional, "*The Everlasting Light*." I believe that the Lord is inviting us to consider what it means that he is the light of the world. You will see this theme in everything from the decorations to the liturgy, the music, and the sermons. Each week as we get closer to Christmas, more and more of the coming light and celebration will break into our worship space.

When you look at pop culture, literature, music, everyone from April Kepner (*Grey's Anatomy*) to Dumbledore (*Harry Potter*) to Shakespeare and Robert Frost has something to say about the relationship of the darkness to the light. I think this dualism that transcends time and place speaks to our innate knowledge of the creator. Christ is our light in the midst of the darkness of our sinful world. We are going to celebrate that this Advent. We are going to look to the light and find Jesus there. We are going to celebrate the here and not yet reality of the Kingdom of God. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in it for us.

From Your Music Director's Desk

"When I grow up I want to be a Marine". These are the words of my grandson Alex when he was in grade school. I wondered if that was just a fleeting thought, or if it was a serious dream. As he grew older it became apparent that this was something he truly wanted to do. It stuck with him and as soon as he graduated high school he went to South Carolina for basic training. As most teenagers do when they go through high school, he was a little too know-it-all for his own good but at the same time possessed a wonderful, kind heart. He just needs to have a little bit of "life" happen to him then he will realize there is much to learn and that he has only just begun. I anticipated attitudes would be re-adjusted once he went through basic training. Were they ever!

The kid we said goodbye to before he left for basic was a man when the graduation ceremonies took place thirteen weeks later. The way he carried himself in that uniform was a wonderful sight to behold. We could see the sense of accomplishment and pride he felt in himself and his platoon. He loves our country and he has promised to be "Always Faithful" (Semper Fi). But the most important blessing is Alex loves the Lord.

This Thanksgiving season, along with you, I have so many things to be thankful for. We could never name them all. I'm amazed at God's goodness because we do not deserve one blessing, let alone the many He has bestowed on us. Every year I hold off putting the Christmas tree up until after Thanksgiving weekend because I want to focus on thanking God for our blessings. Sometimes life can feel like basic training. As we walk through the challenges and hard lessons of life, we must remain faithful and diligent, because when we receive eternal life it will be worth it all.

May you have a wonderful week as we march along, doing our best to be Always Faithful.

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.

Sunday Worship, November 28: The First Sunday of Advent

Pastor Dan Brouwer will be leading us in worship. His sermon "Mary's Exemplary Faith" is based on Luke 1:26-38.

Sunday Worship, December 5: The Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor Dan Brouwer will be leading us in worship. His sermon "Mary's Celebration of God's Goodness" is based on Luke 1:39-56.

Congregational News**Pray for Uganda**

Please be in prayer for Hope Okeny, the Karin Medical Clinics, and the Agape Christian School. Kampala, the nearest large city to the clinics and school, was the site of a terrorist attack very early Tuesday morning, November 16. Schools have been closed, and there is chaos everywhere. These attacks are possibly connected with ISIS. This information is shared with us from Hope through Rog and Joan Sikkenga.

Advent and Christmas Decorating

Our Worship Committee and Worship Planners have been busy preparing for Advent and Christmas. But, we need your help – are you willing to help decorate the church for the season? Contact Jane Wolffis (janewolffis@gmail.com) to find out more about the logistics of preparing our church for the season.

Poinsettia Orders

If you ordered a poinsettia to take home, they are on the table outside Zach's office door and have been labeled for you. If there is an issue, please email zach@secondcrcfremont.org

Reading the Book of Luke in December

Beginning on Wednesday, December 1st, you and your family are encouraged to read one chapter in the book of Luke each day. There are 24 chapters. By the time you reach Christmas Eve you will have read the entire account of Jesus's life on this earth. You will wake up on Christmas morning knowing WHY and WHO we celebrate. Spend some time on Christmas Day in prayer thanking God for sending the priceless gift of His Son for our redemption.

2022 Giving Envelopes

2022 giving envelopes have been placed in mailboxes. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Valerie in the office.

Christmas Shoe Boxes for Appalachia Reach Out

Please return the ARO shoeboxes by **Sunday, 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.

32ND Annual Gift Fair, December 4

The Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church of Fremont will be having their 32nd Annual Christmas Gift Fair (formerly Christmas Shopping & Home Tour - no Home Tour this year). Come to fellowship hall on Saturday, December 4 from 10:00 am - 3 pm, and check out the Christmas Crafts and Plum Pudding Shoppe (holiday foods) for purchase. For more information, call the church at 924-4710 or Gail Cooper at 924-2126.

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

*Special envelope offerings are: November 28 – Fremont Christian School
December 5 – Fremont Young Life
December 12 – Karin Medical Clinic*

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.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank You God for being faithful to us.

Lord we pray that we
become people after your own heart.

May we remember who you are and what you have done for us.

Thank you for being the God that cares for each of us as your children.

AMEN

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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