

SECOND'S MATTERS

November 3, 2021



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

Being married to a preschool teacher, my life looks a little different than you might expect. It is not abnormal for children's books to be all over the house; there is consistently a glue gun on my counter and scraps on the coffee table from cutting out things for tomorrow's craft. We often will watch kids' movies, so she is caught up on all of the lingo. One of my favorite kid's movies (and books) is *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day*. I don't know about you, but I have had a few "Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Days." Days were it feels like it would just be easier to curl up in bed and go to sleep. The dryer stops working, you get rear-ended, the computer magically makes your document disappear, you spill your coffee – you get it. You've probably lived it.

I've been walking through the book of Numbers with the high schoolers in FYSH, and we've been seeing the Israelites as they experience a series of "Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Days." They've been burned in a fire, run out of food and water in the desert, died from bad quail, experienced plagues, and made some questionable choices. I have to imagine that they are at a VERY low point in their emotional, spiritual, and physical journey through this wilderness. I think, like us, they get to the end of this "Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad" season and wonder, "what comes next?" The Israelites, just like us, are looking for that elusive thing we call hope. Hope makes us feel safe, at peace, and like all is (or will be soon) right in our world. Hope is one of the hardest things to find in seasons that are terrible and very bad.

As Christians, we are supposed to be people of hope, yet we know that sometimes it just feels too hard to hope. Here's the truth that's ok. I'm sure, if you're like me, you feel a lot of guilt about the times when it is hard to hope. I believe that even Jesus struggled with hope when He asked God, "if you are willing, take this cup from me." (Luke 22:42) So, this is where I like to tie this little message up with a bow or give you some questions to think about – I don't think either of those will work today. Instead, I want to leave you with a promise from the book of Philippians for days where hope feels elusive: Our God is relentless and good, he is incapable of doing something that isn't good, so he who began this work in you will stay by your side until it is finished. In that promise of companionship and faithfulness, we can find hope.

From Your Music Director's Desk

Whenever Bobby Sue and I go out on the trail with no other horses and riders, she is very alert because she does not have the security of a "herd" around her. She is a good girl and listens to me, but every few minutes, she will whinny, crying out to her stablemates. There are natural instincts in horses that we will never be able to "domesticate" out of them. In the wild, horses have security and protection from predators when they stay assembled. Predators will prey on an animal that is alone because it is vulnerable and does not have the security of many numbers. A predator will not be as likely to attack an entire herd of horses because they have power and strength and are able to defend themselves better by staying together. If the predator can get them scattered where it can attack one that has been separated from the herd, that is the one that it goes for. Bobby Sue's instincts are screaming at her to run back to her herd, but she is learning that I will not lead her to a predator.

"let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (Heb. 10:24-25). The predator of our souls wants to do just that: scatter and separate us, so we do not have our church family to encourage, protect, and hold us up in prayer. There is strength in numbers, but when we are detached from our assembly, we lose the lifeline of encouragement and protection. We become vulnerable spiritually and easy prey for the enemy to devour. We all have our own opinions and idiosyncrasies, but we are a family with one common goal: To encourage one another as we strive to invest in God's kingdom as we go throughout our lives, making a difference for Him as we stay unified. May you feel God's security this week as you stay with "the herd."

Sunday Worship, November 7

Pastor Dan Brouwer will be leading us in worship. His message "A Wonderous Love" is based on Hosea 11:1-11. Join us in the Fireside Room at 9:05 am to pray over the service, our church, and the world.

Sunday Worship, November 7

Pastor Nate Kooistra will be leading us in worship.

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)

Congregational News

Daylight Savings Reminder

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour this weekend – if you show up early, we will have you join the praise team for rehearsal.

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!

Cookie Makers

We need bakers willing to bring four dozen cookies on Sunday mornings for fellowship following the service. We would like to have two people each Sunday, so we have a total of 8 dozen cookies. The sign-up sheet is on the counter in the kitchenette area.

Service opportunity:

Jennifer McDonell, a resident at Dallas Darling Home on Baldwin, and Janet McNulty, a resident at Deerfield on Meadow Hills Lane, desire to worship with us regularly. However, to do so, they are dependent on rides to church. Is this a service you would be willing to offer to these ladies? You would be assigned a month and asked to provide transportation at least once during that month; if you're willing to do more, that would be wonderful. If you have any questions or are willing to do so, please get in touch with Karen Admiraal (335-2285) or Bruce Essebagers (923-8723).

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.

Evening Worship At First CRC – Time Change

Starting November 7, evening worship at First CRC will be at 5:00p. Please note, this is a different time from previous weeks.

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 4 – World Renew

November 11 – Western Michigan Christian High School

November 21 – Newaygo County Compassion House

November 28 – Fremont Christian School

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.

Of Interest: Breuker Baptism Dress

50 years ago, when Gary and Mary Breuker had their daughter, Heidi baptized, in a gifted baptismal dress. Over the years, another 17 girls wore that dress for baptisms – all at Second Church or connected to Second. If you wish to read more about this interesting piece of family history, [CLICK HERE](#) to check out the Banner's write-up.

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