

## **SECOND'S MATTERS**

**December 8, 2021**



**Second Church  
of Fremont**

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

### **From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk**

Some of you may know that Lizzie and I have a small labradoodle named Nyx. She is the absolute best, and I adore her; at the same time, when it snows, she is possibly the most annoying thing in my life. Nyx loves the snow - almost too much. So last night, when it started snowing again, she was begging at our slider door to go out and play. After 15 minutes of whining and ringing her bells, I relented and let her out. She sprinted through the snow, jumped to catch flakes, and rolled around in it. Honestly, it was like a Hallmark movie witnessing her joy in the snow.

I like it when it snows, but I hate the puddles that come in with the dog. Nothing irritates me more than when a puddle of melted snow ruins my warm wool socks. Yesterday, for a variety of reasons, I was in a bit of a funk, and a puddle of melted snow threatened to set me off. Instead, for some reason, unbeknownst to me, I laughed. I thought it was hilarious. I have to believe it was because that something that, on some days, feels so big felt pretty insignificant yesterday.

I think that's the thing about Joy. In the absolute worst of times, we can have Joy because it doesn't have anything to do with our happiness. Joy is about believing the best is yet to come, and this is a stepping stone to what comes next. I think that is why we are invited to consider things like suffering joy throughout scripture because while pain may last a night, joy comes in the morning. This is why we light a candle of Joy during Advent. Jesus came to Earth to help us trade our suffering for joy, our pain for blessing. That might be hard for you to hear today; it is for me – thanks be to God that we are in a community of believers that support each other through it. Let us join together as we pursue a life of Joy.

### **From Your Music Director's Desk**

It is amazing to me that Mary, being "great with child," could ride a donkey for many miles. I can only imagine the discomfort she felt during that long journey into Bethlehem. When I ride Bobby Sue for many miles, my muscles will start aching around ten miles, and I have to stop, dismount and take a break. I imagine that Mary's journey took a long time because there would need to be many breaks for her.

The song that I played for offertory last Sunday, *Breath of Heaven* (written by Amy Grant and Christ Eaton), describes what must have been on Mary's heart. She was both extremely uncomfortable and in wonder at God's plan all at the same time. She had traveled many moonless nights according to the words of the song's author's imagination. She waited in silent prayer, frightened and feeling alone. I can only imagine the fear she felt not only as a member of her community but physically carrying a baby in her womb that defies all the laws of biology.

There is no amount of explaining she could do to convince those critical of her that this was ordained by God. But this is where Mary amazes me: She trusted God. What an amazing young woman! To possess that kind of faith in our walk through life would be special indeed. May you walk with the Lord in faith this week, even if things are hard to explain and seem out of control.

### **Sunday Worship, December 12: The Third Sunday of Advent**

Pastor Dan Brouwer will be leading us in worship. His sermon "The Darkness Fights to Extinguish the Light" is based on Revelation 12.

During this season of Advent, a time of anticipation, we're focusing on the coming Light. Each week we will add another candle to the front of the church; this week, the candle of Joy. As each week we light another candle, we celebrate a little more light breaking into the darkness of our world until Christmas Day when we will experience that Light in its fullness.

## **Sunday Worship, December 19: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

This Sunday will be our Children's Christmas Program. Pastor Dan's sermon "Why the Shepherds Were Afraid and Why They Didn't Need to Be" is based on Luke 2:8-14.

## **Congregational News**

### **Reading the Book of Luke in December**

Join us in reading a chapter of the book of Luke each day leading up to Christmas. There are 24 chapters. By the time you reach Christmas Eve, you will have read all of Luke's account of Jesus's life on this Earth as a preparation to celebrate his birth.

### **Love Offering**

As an opportunity to show our goodwill and appreciation for our church staff this Christmas season, a "Love Offering" envelope has been put in your church mailbox. If you would like to participate, please put your envelope in the offering plate, give it to Audra Powell, or bring it to the church office by December 12. Please note that offerings following December 12 will be added to the General Fund.

### **Oasis Update for TONIGHT**

Our next Oasis event is moved to next Wednesday, December 15. The location will also be different for this event. We will be meeting at First Christian Reformed Church (721 Hillcrest Ave.) from 6:30-8:00 pm. This event will be our Christmas party and will be tons of fun. There will be no Oasis event tonight.

### **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 using 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:* December 12 – Karin Medical Clinic  
December 19 – True North  
December 26 – Fremont Service Committee

### **Stock the Pantry**

For December, the requested food items are soup and crackers. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

## **SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

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