

SECOND'S MATTERS

January 12, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Interim Pastor's Desk

In one of our recent prayer guides, we were encouraged to recommit our lives to serving God. The Holy Spirit moved me to take that to heart, and before God I committed myself to serving Jesus and His Church better in 2022 than I did in 2021.

But I got to wondering how to make that more specific, with something that would focus my mind more than a big generality like "serving Jesus and His Church better." What would I actually do to make good on that commitment?

I know from experience that it generally doesn't turn out well when I make grand plans to do this and that better. I generally end up weeks or months later feeling frustrated with myself for not following through very well. Can you relate to that?

I have often tried to comfort myself with what Paul writes in Romans 7:14-24. But I've learned that this is not what Paul is holding out as the way our lives should be, or need to be. It's rather a description of what living under law and not under grace looks like.

The better way to which we are called as New Covenant people is summed up in a nutshell in Romans 6:14, "For sin shall not be your master because you are not under law, but under grace." Paul elaborates on that in Romans chapter 8, where he starts with justifying grace, and moves on to enabling grace.

Remembering all this led me to commit to start each day of work by reading the Apostle Paul's grateful and triumphant words in Colossians 1:24-29.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Perhaps you have a passage that might focus your spiritual life in the same way this passage is helping me focus mine. If you do, I'd love to talk to you about it.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

In January and February, I spend A LOT of time going to High School basketball games and wrestling meets. My goal is to go at least once to a student's event, which when you have students on eight different teams at two schools can be a bit of a scheduling nightmare. Last night Lizzie and I made our way to Muskegon to see the WMC Girls Varsity basketball team take on Tri-Unity. We got into town early, grabbed some dinner, and then killed some time in Barnes and Noble. I absolutely love bookstores – they are one of my favorite places. For me, it is a comfortable place – Lizzie would much rather kill some time in a Hobby Lobby, Joann Fabrics, or Target. Those places are fine, but not quite the same to me.

I think about worship similarly; at times, parts of worship are right in my wheelhouse; they make me comfortable. At other times, parts of worship take a little more work for me to stay engaged and are therefore less comfortable. I bet many of you have experienced something similar. For several years now, in some capacity or another, I have been involved in worship planning – either as someone invited into the meeting, an interim music director, and as the regular liturgist. At Second we have been

practicing a worship style called blended worship. Blended worship is where you take worship practices, liturgies, and songs that cross generations and denominational traditions and combine them for a more rigorous and potentially rich worship experience. You might have noticed this in the type of music we select; we pick songs from four categories: Hymns (think "Come Thou Fount of Many Blessings"), Spiritual Songs ("He is Exalted"), Praise and Worship Music ("Shout to the North" and "10,000 Reasons"), and Contemporary Worship Songs ("Build Your Kingdom Here"). Sometimes we use different instruments like the organ or the electric guitar, and other times we vary the liturgy by including responsive readings, instrumental music under prayer, and grace encounters.

All of that is good, but you might be asking yourself, "why?" or "what is the point?" When we gather for worship on a Sunday morning, we gather with people who have had vastly different weeks than us. Some people might work 9 to 5's, while others work 12's. Some are busy young parents, some have older kids, and some have never been parents. Some of us prefer older music, and some prefer newer. The point is that we are all not the same. So while some may find "Amazing Grace" on the organ comforting, others experience it as something that makes them feel stretched. Some love hearing the bass guitar and drums on "Freedom," while others prefer we quiet down. Worship is supposed to make us feel comfortable at times, but it is also meant to cause us to grow spiritually, and if we are always comfortable, that probably isn't happening. So on Sundays, when a song or a liturgy is out of your wheelhouse, instead of checking out, I invite you to try to follow along; maybe God will meet you in that moment. I will try to do the same.

Sunday Worship, January 16

Pastor Dan's sermon "God's Light in a Dark Nation" is based on Jeremiah 29:1-14. There will be a noisy coin offering for Camp Tall Turf.

Our Church Family

Congratulations to **Kyle and Jessica Folkema** on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Wilco, on Jan. 7.

Jud Afman is still receiving care for COVID and its complications in a hospital in Arizona. Please continue to pray for him and **Evie** as they navigate this and for healing to his body.

Stan DeKuiper is at Regency for rehab following an illness. Please pray for him and **Pat** as they navigate this and for healing to his body.

Community Announcements

Mobile Food Truck, Wednesday, January 19 – Volunteers Needed

On Wednesday, January 19, we will again offer drive-thru pick-up. Recipients will stay in their vehicles, and prepared allotments of food will be placed in their cars. Thankfully, we can serve our community with this vital food resource that is needed more than ever. Volunteers are needed - please sign up by emailing Audra Powell (audrascott@hotmail.com) or on the sheet on the literature ledge. Please arrive by 4:15 to help. If you have plastic bags you would like to donate for the distribution, drop them off at the church office.

Oasis (Middle School Youth Group) 2022 Meeting Schedule

Our first Oasis event for 2022 is TONIGHT, January 12, at FCS from 6:30-8:00 pm. Nate Kooistra will get a full schedule out soon! Also, don't forget to sign your student up for camp asap! Spots are filling up! The dates for camp are Feb 4-6. If you have already signed your student, more info will be sent on registering with the camp.

Calling all Cookie Makers, and Enjoyers

Again, we are asking you to sign up to make/bring cookies for our Sunday Fellowship time. We hope to have two people willing to bring four to five dozen cookies for fellowship following the service on Sunday mornings, so we have a total of 8 to 10 dozen cookies. The sign-up sheet is on the counter in the kitchenette area.

Warning Lights – Human Trafficking Awareness Presentation

Fremont Christian welcomes Jenn Amos, Founder, and CEO of Warning Lights, to speak to the Fremont community about human trafficking and how it's affecting kids, teens, and young adults within our community and the surrounding areas. This event will take place on Thursday, January 20, from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts. This program is aimed for high school-age teens and older, especially those who work with and love teens as teachers, mentors, parents.

A Message about Kid's Hope

"Nikki was in 2nd grade when Ms. Ellen met her. Nikki lived with her dad through the week and with her mom and grandparents on the weekend. The family situation was very strained. Nikki needed a loving person to be a friend and an encourager, and Ms. Ellen was exactly that. They played games, read books, and looked forward to their time each week. Nikki knew that Ms. Ellen was there just for her and only her.

There are children like Nikki at our local elementary school who could use our unconditional love and attention. They may be experiencing such things as the loss of a parent, family separation or divorce, bullying, or academic or social challenges. There are a variety of situations that can be extra challenging for a child. The reason doesn't matter, but the child does. Each child is referred by a parent or teacher as someone who has great potential but could use a little extra one-on-one attention to blossom and grow.

So that's why I'm sharing it with you today. Our school is asking for more Kids Hope mentors. People willing to walk alongside a child - play, read, do a craft or maybe even throw a football. It's simple, really - just be a friend. The time commitment is only one hour a week during the school year. You'll be trained and well-supported as you faithfully serve a precious child. If this is something you would be interested in, please reach out to one of us! We would love to talk with you about the difference you could make in a child's life!

- Stephanie DeKuiper and Chelsea Breuker, Kids Hope Directors

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:

January 16, 2022 – FYSH Can Drive for True North

January 23, 2022 - Western Michigan Christian High School

January 30, 2022 – Cadets main office

Stock the Pantry

For January, the requested food items are cereal, pancake mix, and syrup. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

The Prayer Corner

These verses remind us how we are to pray and the power available to us through prayer. You are encouraged to meditate upon these verses this week and let their words dwell deeply in your heart.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions
with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind,
be alert and always keep on praying
for all the Lord's people.”

Ephesians 6:18

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

James 5:16b

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