

SECOND'S MATTERS

January 19, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Interim Pastor's Desk

Last week I read Zach's contribution to Second's Matters, and I thought it was spot on. I am in complete agreement with what he writes there about the songs in our worship services, and particularly as it applies to the sometimes problematic area of the songs we sing in worship services.

So that's how Zach and I see it. I know there are others who would basically agree with Zach and me. But what is the position of the elders of the church? That is an important question, especially given that the Church Order says that the worship services are to be "regulated" by the elders. There is strong Biblical support behind this Church Order provision in the Church Order.

To my knowledge, the elders have not adopted a position on the matters Zach addresses in last week's Second's matters. In my last meeting with the Admin team, and following that with the whole Council, I proposed working together over a period of months to develop a 300 word written statement that incorporates the input of as many of the congregation as possible, which will serve as our authoritative guide to dealing with many of the questions regarding our worship services that continually arise in any congregation. May God help us all to participate in this important congregational discussion.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

I might be a Millennial, but the online world of social media is not my natural home. Truthfully, I despise Facebook, occasionally engage with Instagram and Twitter, and get sucked into Tik Tok. One of my favorite podcasters is active on social media, and she repeatedly talks about how Social Media can be terrible and a place where discipleship can take place. It is a sort of "Yes, and" mentality. As I was checking in on a few friends on Instagram the other day, I saw a repost of an image that I can't get out of my head. It shared dialogue between two imaginary people that said: "Aren't you terrified of what 2022 could be like? Everything is so messed up..." / "I think it will bring flowers." / "Why?" / "Because I'm planting flowers."

This weekend I started teaching through a series in FYSH I am calling "Scripture Revisited." We are engaging with passages that are favorites for things like graduation cards, Hobby Lobby signs, and for pulling out of context. Our goal is to better understand the verse in context and apply it to our lives more accurately. We started with Jeremiah 29:11. (Neither Dan nor I planned to teach on the same passage on the same day – isn't it beautiful when God shows up like that.) The thing we kept coming back to was that Jeremiah 29 was not as shallow and cutesie as graduation cards would lead us to believe. It really is God reminding us that he has it handled – the message puts it this way, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out." So, yes, this passage gives us hope, not because it will all work out, but because God has worked it out. It's a subtle shift but a significant one. So as I think forward to this new year of life, ministry, and adventure, I know it won't be easy, but I also can expect flowers because I know God sees the bigger picture, and I have planted tulip bulbs.

Sunday Worship, January 23

Pastor Dan's sermon "How Does Prayer Change God and Us?" is based on Exodus 32:7-14.

Our Church Family

Congratulations to **Mike and Heather Love** on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Lucas, on January 7.

Jud Afman has returned home and will continue his rehab and healing from complications from COVID in Arizona. Please continue to pray for him and **Evie** as they look for in-home PT and that God would heal his body.

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

Community Announcements

Administrative Team/Council Brief

Beginning this month, Second's Matters will be having an informational section of Admin Team/Council Brief just highlighting some agenda items.

1. Classis representatives for February 24, 2022 will be Pastor Dan Brouwer, elder Mariel Poel, deacon Dave Poel.
2. Received staff reports from Zach, Wendy, and Mary.
3. Thank you to the congregation for the year-end giving.
4. A healthy discussion with Pastor Dan of his role and staff roles going forward took place.
5. Council welcomed suggested nominees for our next year council teams.

clerk JPM

Mobile Food Truck, Wednesday, January 19 – Volunteers Needed

This afternoon, we will again offer drive-thru Food Truck 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 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.

FYSH Food Drive For True North

FYSH, the high school youth group of all 4 Fremont CRCs, is holding a pop can drive to benefit True North. Did you know that January is one of the leanest months for food pantry donations? Do you have pop cans or some excess non-perishable food and personable care items you are willing to donate? Please drop it off outside Zach's office door.

Calvin January Series

The January Series, sponsored by Calvin University, continues through January 28 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. The free lectures can be video streamed live at the Dogwood Center or from the comfort of your own home by accessing www.calvin.edu.

Warning Lights – Human Trafficking Awareness Presentation (TOMORROW)

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.

Medical Care Facility

The Newaygo County Medical Facility will begin having the Sunday afternoon church service on February 6. There are a few guidelines that the MCF has asked us to go by.

- 1) Please limit your attendance to only the speaker and a piano player if you would like it.
- 2) You must come in the back entrance, have your temperature taken upon entering and leaving, wear the mask (N95) which they provide the whole time you are there, wear the goggles/shield/ or safety glasses (if you want to bring from home) the whole time you are there

Schedules are in the mailbox for those who are scheduled to be the speaker.

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 23, 2022 - Western Michigan Christian High School
January 30, 2022 – Cadets Main Office
February 6, 2022 – Fremont Young Life
February 13, 2022 – Bethany Christain Services

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

Today's prayer quotation is from the pen of Oswald Chambers, an early-twentieth-century Scottish Baptist evangelist, and teacher aligned with the [Holiness Movement](#). He is best known for the daily devotional [My Utmost for His Highest](#).

It is impossible for a believer,
no matter what his experience,
to keep right with God
if he will not take the trouble to spend time with God.
Spend plenty of time with Him;
let other things go, but don't neglect Him,"
- Oswald Chambers

Be joyful always;
pray continually;
give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- I Thessalonians 5:16-18

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

600 Apache Drive, Fremont, MI 49412

(231) 924-0170

[WEBSITE](#) | [FACEBOOK](#)