

SECOND'S MATTERS

January 26, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Interim Pastor's Desk

It's been frustrating to have Covid disrupt my plans recently, and I could tell you all about that. But you no doubt have your own stories to tell along these lines, and we're all pretty tired of the whole business. So let me talk instead about some good things that are coming together, because God is with us and working out his good plans for us – plans to prosper us and to give us hope.

Bette Wagenmaker and I have been praying, thinking, and talking together extensively in recent weeks about how we will go about starting and co-leading a new version of the Wednesday Bible study at Second CRC. Everything is somewhat experimental as we begin, but this is where and how we have decided to start.

We will meet every Wednesday at 2:30 pm in the old nursery room. At 2:00 pm coffee and cookies will be available in the old nursery for those who arrive early. We will end at 3:30 sharp so that those who need to go somewhere can do so. Of course, there may be others who choose to stay and visit together after the Bible study is done.

We plan to study I Timothy, starting with 1:1-18. We won't have a published study guide. No preparation is necessary, and it won't be a problem if you have to miss a session or two – just attend again when you have the next Wednesday afternoon free for it.

Bette and Vicki Gilliland have just finished going through I Timothy together without a study guide over the last few months, and they have found that the Holy Spirit sparks their discussion and leads it into often unexpected but always helpful areas of life. Bette and I are trusting and praying for that same kind of presence and guidance from the Holy Spirit in these sessions.

Bette and I know that such a format will likely lead us into areas where we may need to go back to our commentaries and do some research because we haven't learned everything yet. But that's all part of the adventure of allowing God to speak into our lives through his inspired Word. We will be eager to share what we learn with the rest of the group in the next week's session.

ALSO, this Sunday is the first Sunday when we will have an open discussion time in the old nursery room, 11:00 -11:30. I am looking forward to that. When I preach, I can see your faces, and sometimes your faces reveal that you are thinking hard about something. But I don't know *what* you're thinking. I am looking forward to finding out.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

Just last night, I finished putting together a cart for our kitchen that I designed and built myself – I am pretty proud of that accomplishment since it fills a need in our home. Now let's be honest, you won't see this mass-produced or for sale anywhere. Truthfully, it isn't perfect, and it would have been way easier to buy the version I saw on Amazon that wasn't quite the correct dimensions. But there is something satisfying about making the cart myself, spending the time in the garage, solving problems as they came up, and knowing that the nick here or mark there has a story to it. To me, at least, there is something beautiful about the imperfection of it all.

I think this could be a great metaphor for our lives. Nothing about our lives is perfect – we blow our lids, stub our toes, and do silly things all the time. Yet, I think those moments can lead to some of the best parts of the human experience – a heartfelt apology to a friend, a reminder that we have a toe to stub, or an occasion to help us learn how to be better. On this side of the garden, we know that our world will be full of trouble, disappointment, and hurt feelings – it is a given. So do we live lives depressed by that fact? Not at all! Instead, as Christians, we are called to speak love to hate, bring justice where there is injustice, and peace to conflict. In our little ways of doing that, we join God in his work of creating order from chaos. Where can you do that in your life? How can you join God in reconciling all things to him? How will you be different after this work?

Sunday Worship, January 30

Pastor Dan's sermon "How Does Prayer Change God and Us?" is based on Exodus 32:7-14. This Sunday will include a story of God's grace from Charlie DeKryger.

Community Announcements

Council Nominations

Our Council is currently seeking names for potential council nominees for the term beginning July 1st, 2022. If you're interested in serving on the council, please get in touch with any current council member for more information.

Baby Shower Crib: The Love Family

Congratulations to Mike and Heather Love on the birth of a son, Lucas, on Friday, January 7. The crib will be set up in the lobby until February 14 to welcome Lucas to the Second Church family and 'shower' him with gifts.

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.

Insight Pregnancy Services Bay Bottle fundraiser

Insight has started its baby bottle fundraiser drive for 2022. If you wish to participate, grab an empty bottle from the display in the lobby and fill it with change, paper money, and/or a check. Return the baby bottle to church by February 20. Last year the bottles raised over \$20,000, and Insight hopes to reach that goal again.

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.

Medical Care Facility

We will **NOT** begin the Sunday afternoon church service at the facility at this time. It has been decided it would be better to wait a while longer.

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 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

Dear friends,

We are commanded to pray daily and specifically for others and ourselves. As you do so, first be sure to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20) that you will be able to withstand the attacks from Satan.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

We do not know what we ought to pray for,
but the Spirit himself intercede for us with groans that words cannot express.

Romans 8:26

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2

The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked,
but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

Proverbs 15:8

2nd CRC - Financial Update			
Contributions Compared to Budget Needs			
	Contributions in December 2021	Budgeted Income Needed	Difference POS/(NEG)
General Fund	\$40,342.00	\$30,917.00	\$9,425.00
Chr. Ed Fun	\$6,970.00	\$8,846.15	(\$1,876.15)
Faith Promise	\$3,015.00	\$1,615.38	\$1,399.62
	Contributions YTD as of December 2021	YTD Budgeted Income Needed	Difference POS/(NEG)
General Fund	\$185,693.00	\$185,502.00	\$191.00
Chr. Ed Fun	\$32,110.00	\$43,798.00	(\$11,688.00)
Faith Promise	\$18,033.00	\$13,461.54	\$4,571.46
Expense Compared to Budget Needs			
	Expenses in December 2021	Budgeted Expense for December 2021	Difference POS/(NEG)
General Fund	\$25,469.00	\$30,922.00	\$5,453.00
	YTD Expenses as of December 2021	YTD Budgeted Expenses	Difference POS/(NEG)
General Fund	\$193,419.00	\$185,532.00	(\$7,887.00)

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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