

SECOND'S MATTERS

January 5, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Interim Pastor's Desk

After about 6 weeks of being your "Pulpit Supply Plus" pastor, as of January 1, I am your Interim Pastor. I am eager and ready to assume this role full time. I've been at a number of staff meetings, and am very enthused about working with Zach, Wendy, Mary and Val. I am very grateful that we have begun our work together with a good sense of solidarity and personal rapport. I have begun the process of recognizing faces and family groups in the congregation, and the names behind the faces are starting to stick in my mind.

The Council and I have worked out a weekly work schedule. I'll work from my home in Caledonia, MI on Mondays, and have my day off on Tuesday. On Wednesday mornings I will ordinarily drive to Fremont and be in the church building at 9:00. I'll stay overnight in the Harrington Inn Wednesday and Thursday nights, and return to my home in Caledonia on Friday afternoon. On Sundays I will drive up in the morning before the worship service, and return to Caledonia Sunday afternoon.

I'll make it a point to be in the church building from 9:00 - 12:00 every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I will often be in the church building from lunchtime to supper time on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, but that is not going to be consistent. I drive a red Lincoln MKX, and if you see that vehicle in the parking lot, then I'm in the church building somewhere. I won't be doing anything that can't be interrupted, so stop in during these "office hours" to talk. My cell phone number is 641-629-6544 if you want to make an appointment. I have always enjoyed meeting people for breakfast, lunch and supper.

I'm very much looking forward to getting to know you all.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

The last number of weeks have been... interesting. Since this week of Thanksgiving, I've spent just about as much time in Pella for the holidays and to be with family following the passing of my Grandpa. It is normal for me to get nostalgic while traveling to and from my childhood home. As a teenager, my mom and I would go on opening weekend to catch the latest Harry Potter movie. It became a thing we did and is a memory I will cherish for the rest of my life. For those unfamiliar with the series, it is a story of the fight between good and evil, light and darkness set in a fantasy world. This weekend the 20 year Harry Potter reunion aired, which in addition to making me feel old, like an old blanket, reminded me of those fond memories.

Tomorrow is the day that the church universal celebrates Epiphany or the visitation of the Magi to the Christ Child. (This interesting story is found in Matthew 2: 1-12.) What I think is interesting is that the Magi were following a light and expected to end up at the feet of the child king, Christ, and instead, they ended up in Jerusalem, with Herod. Only then, the star reappeared and led them to Bethlehem to Jesus. Through a bit of a winding path, they got there. When we celebrate Epiphany, we observe that Jesus, the light of the world, has entered into our world of darkness to fight against it. Additionally, we are thankful for the Love that Jesus demonstrates for us in this.

In her 2011 Banner article titled, "Harry Potter and the Way of Jesus," Sylvia Keesmaat says, "How does the Christian face evil? With love, the Bible tells us, with love. J.K. Rowling gives us a small insight into what that love can look like in the life of one person. And, in so doing, she gives us the chance to imagine what that love might look like in our own lives and relationships as well." As you celebrate the light of Epiphany tomorrow, I encourage you to reflect on the Love of God in the gift of light that He gave us and how that love might start or continue to change you, the people you are in relationship with, and our world.

Sunday Worship, January 9, Epiphany Celebrations

Pastor Dan's sermon "God's Light in a Dark Nation" is based on Jeremiah 29:1-9. The church recognizes Epiphany for when the Magi, guided by a star, came to worship the Christ child. Our Epiphany banner and parament of stars remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Our Church Family

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 illness. Please pray for him and **Pat** as they navigate this and for healing to his body.

Congregational News

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 will be Wednesday, January 12 at FCS from 6:30-8:00pm. 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 already signed your student more info will be sent this week on how to register 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.

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 9, 2022 – FYSH Can Drive for True North

January 16, 2022 – Western Michigan Christian High School

January 23, 2022 - Crossroads Bible Institute

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

As a part of our church's emphasis on prayer, **The Prayer Corner** will become a regular addition to 2nds Matters. The format will be simple. A prayer quote or a Bible verse on prayer will be shared each week. That's it! How you use them will be your choice. You may decide to print them off and place them on your desk at work or home, at your kitchen window sill, on your bathroom mirror, by your computer, or another spot where you'll see them throughout your day. Prayer isn't easy...it's hard work! Your enemy knows the power in prayer, and that's why he tries to distract and hinder you and minimize the importance of prayer. Flat out, he doesn't want you to pray. Don't give in to these attacks.

The hope is that you will find the quotes and verses useful as you think about the place of prayer in your life and that they will challenge you to persevere in prayer as an act of obedience to your Lord.

This week's prayer quote is:

Prayer is not an argument with God
to persuade
Him to move things our way,
but an exercise
by which we are enabled
by His Spirit
to move ourselves His way.
- Leonard Ravenhill

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