

SECOND'S MATTERS

February 23, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Interim Pastor's Desk

What is our strategy for witnessing to our neighbors? How about “each one reach one”? That seems to make sense, since we all have any number of people in our lives who don’t know Christ. Why don’t each of us do what we can to develop a relationship with one of them, and then wait for God to open a door to share the gospel with them?

Could that really work? What if God made it work by providing an open door for us, and then giving us the right words to say at the right time. Perhaps all we need to do in taking up this call is to start by praying that God will open a door.

Paul writes these words from prison in Rome:

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. (Philippians 1:12-14)

Paul shared the gospel with the total strangers who guarded him. Normally, these pagan Romans would have nothing to say to a Jewish prisoner, and little reason to listen to what Paul had to say. But it appears that in the long hours they were forced to spend with Paul, and in the absence of smart phones to occupy their time and attention, they began to converse with each other.

I’m sure Paul did his part to show interest in them, to listen to them, and generally be the kind of person they would start to like as they got to know him. In a very natural way, over time, as one thing led to another, Paul had opportunity to share the gospel with them.

And he did. No doubt many of them heard and believed. God’s Word does not return empty. Other Christians heard about Paul doing this kind of witnessing, and began to believe they could do it too, with whoever God happened to stick them with.

And here we might have thought that when Paul was carted off to prison, his days of preaching to the Gentiles were done. Silly us.

Ask God to open a door for you to “reach one,” and then be ready to follow his lead when he does. I just wonder how effective that might be over time.

From Your Student Ministries Director’s Desk

I grew up the child of a hairstylist, and not just that, but a salon owner. That kind of childhood leaves a mark on you. We were never to put on a hat in a store because what if someone who tried before you had lice. Haircuts were a rhythm; if your hair started getting too long, you got forced into a chair for a cut. Professional products were the right solution, and you had to make sure your hair was set before a big event. Some of you may have noticed that my hair was getting too long – between scheduling conflicts and sickness, my hair cut had been delayed almost three weeks, well past the recommended 6-7. (Some of you may be reading this and wondering if I am ever going to get to a point – trust me, we are almost there.)

After my cut, my stylist shampooed my hair and had an interesting question for me. One of the times they were trying to reschedule my haircut was during a varsity home basketball game, and the salon owner said that wouldn’t work for me. My stylist wanted to know why. The truth is she has been cutting my hair a little bit, and we’ve talked about my job occasionally, but I never went into it too deeply. I explained that as a Student Ministries and YL Leader, I often went to sporting events to support my students. I explained that the old youth ministry model had been replaced by a student ministry model that focuses on going to the students instead of hoping they come to us. By attending these games, I shared that students who I might not meet otherwise build a relationship with me and realize that I am a real person, not just one of those “Jesus people.”

This new model, I shared, goes beyond just telling them about who Jesus is and hoping they change; it has you walk alongside them and show them who Jesus is. So, it is crucial to watch shows and movies that kids watch, listen to some of their music, and show up at their games and events. By telling them that they are important enough for me to know what is going on in their lives and change my schedule, I can build up a rapport with them. After a year or two or four, that rapport earns me the right to be heard by them as I explain who Jesus is. In the meantime, as they see me in the community and supporting them, they start to see who Jesus is by how I live my life. Are you disciplining someone or praying that they come to know Jesus? How are you meeting them where they are at? Are you engaging in their life and walking through it with them, or are you only speaking into it and hoping for change?

Sunday Worship, February 27, 2022

Pastor Dan's sermon "A Prayer Vigil with Power" is based on Daniel 2:1-30.

Pre-service Prayer

Do you long for a few moments of meditation, quiet and prayer before the Sunday morning worship services begins? Join us in the Fireside Room/Library each Sunday morning at 9:05am for a short reading from God's Word and a time of prayer and leave refreshed.

Our Church Family

Dear Second Church family,

Thank you – Our family was touched by your out-pouring of love and support after Delores' death. Our lives feel vacant without her presence. Delores said our lives are in God's hands and she was ready to be called home. Thank you for supporting us and loving us these many years.

Vern Machiele and family

Please be in prayer for **Jud and Evie Afman**. Jud was hospitalized Tuesday with pneumonia in both lungs while still trying to regain strength from Covid.

Community Announcements

From the Council:

Council has accepted the resignation of Rachel Pinkston from her role as an Administrative Deacon due to personal reasons

February 16 Council Notes

1. Thank you to those members who have met with Pastor Dan and council members to share thoughts on our church. We encourage more to engage in this sharing.
2. Council had a lengthy discussion with more to follow on our
 - a. Council structure
 - b. Priorities going forward
 - c. Efficiency of operations, functionality
 - d. Openness of communication

Clerk, JPM

UPDATE TO EVENT: Winter Fun, This Sunday, February 27

Due to a lack of snow and an abundance of ice, we are moving this event to the church fellowship hall. We will have some yard games set up indoors and board games available in the fellowship hall to play. We will still serve a hot dog lunch at 12:30; this event will be open-house style, so feel free to come and go as needed – we hope to see you there!

Easter Flower Fundraiser

Our Student Ministries Team is again selling 6" Easter lilies, hyacinths, and tulip pots for \$15. The proceeds will go towards helping students to be a part of a summer service or discipleship experience. You will have the option to take your plant home during Holy Week or leave it to help decorate the church sanctuary for Easter. Order forms are in your church mailbox and on the literature ledge.

Library News

We have some great new books from some of your favorite authors and new authors. You'll find them on the table in the lobby! Newest Christine Caine, Dave Frazee, Chip Gaines, Chip Ingram, Dr. David Jeremiah, Tim Keller and Jen Wilkin books are ready to be checked out and enjoyed. Be sure to grab a scripture bookmark from the table too. More great adult titles and new kids' books are in the Fireside Room/Library.

After Church Discussion Time

Do you have questions about the Bible, current issues or other topics that you would like to discuss in an informal setting? Join us in the old nursery upstairs on Sundays from 11-11:30am as together we explore questions from God's perspective.

Small Group Surveys

Our Discipleship Team is looking for your responses to a small group ministry survey. You can fill out that survey by [clicking HERE](#) or by filling out a paper copy (available on the literature ledge) and returning it to the Church Office. We hope to get small group ministries up and running again as a vital part of our worship here at Second CRC.

Midweek Bible Study

Join us for a Midweek, Wednesday Bible Study that will be walking through 1 Timothy. There is no preparation needed, just come when you are able. The study will start at 2:30 with a time of fellowship beginning at 2:00. Questions? Connect with Pastor Dan or Bette Wagenmaker.

Advanced Notice for GriefShare

This non-denominational 13 week course which offers help and support for the grieving and is open to any adult who has lost a loved one. Each class is special and different, focusing on a DVD featuring grief experts and real-life stories. The \$10.00 fee is for your personal workbook, which you will use in the program to help and guide you in your healing. Although you might not be able to attend each week, you are encouraged to do so. This is an open-door policy so new people can join at any given time. Sessions will be on consecutive Tuesdays beginning March 8, 2022, from 6:30-8:30p at First Fremont CRC (721 Hillcrest, Fremont). You may register online at www.griefshare.org or call 231-924-2460.

Preregistration is helpful for planning but not required.

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.

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: February 27, 2022 – Community Closet
March 6, 2022 – World Renew Disaster Relief
March 13, 2022 – Love, Inc*

Stock the Pantry

For February, the requested food items are macaroni and cheese and canned meat. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

The Prayer Corner

Prayer

Prayer is so simple;
It is like quietly opening a door
and slipping into the very presence of God
There in the stillness to listen to His voice.
Perhaps to petition, or only to listen.
It matters not.
Just to be there in His presence is prayer.
Author Unknown

Dear friends,

As you slip into God's presence in prayer enter with awe, love and reverence. You are in relationship with the Almighty God. He longs to speak with you, to hear your words of praise and confession as well as your requests for His help. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you.

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