

SECOND'S MATTERS

March 2, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Interim Pastor's Desk

As I talk to more people about their hopes for the congregation going forward, I am getting the strong impression that the congregation as a whole is very eager to increase the sense of Christian community that we experience together from week to week. That encourages me, because I know how important that is in the Christian life and in the health of a congregation.

So how can we deepen our sense of community as a congregation? I'm thankful for the ongoing efforts of the Discipleship Team to get input from the congregation about their experiences of and desire for small groups. I encourage all of us to give them the input they seek from us.

I'm also planning to use our Adult Discussion Time this Sunday from 11:00 -11:30 to get your thoughts on the subject. I would also like to get your input on some of the things I am considering as ways in which I can help the congregation make progress in further developing this important component of our congregational life.

From Your Student Ministries Director's Desk

I have been walking around with a heavy heart for days now. When I first saw the news of how Russia was invading Ukraine, my heart sank. Since then, I have seen stories about babies being born in subways turned bomb shelters instead of hospitals. I've felt good about my wife going to school and not worrying if her students had their blood type sewn into their clothing if the unimaginable happened. I've seen reports from the 33 staff, 637 volunteer leaders, and 73 ministries based in Ukraine. I met with my YL students this Monday night, but they didn't. These real-world stories are so much more important to me than the gas price because each of these stories represents lives upended by this conflict.

It is inevitable that when some world crisis, like this, happens that tough conversations pop up in student ministry. Students might ask things like, "Why does God let bad things happen?" "Can Christians condone war?" "So what happens next?" Some students might not say anything, but at the same time, not be themselves. And some students won't know what's going on or pretend not to know. It's hard to navigate. So what can we do? We pray. We pray for calm minds and balm for souls. We pray for justice where there is injustice and love where there is hate. We pray for hope and moments of peace. We pray for those displaced by the posturing of people in power. And most importantly, we pray Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!

Sunday Worship, March 6, 2022

Pastor Dan's sermon "Properly Recognizing the Body" is based on 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

Lent 2022

During this season of Lent, the banner displays the three crosses of Calvary with a mosaic of fabrics representing the wide variety of people and nations for whom Christ died. The parament has one mosaic cross displayed. Purple is the traditional liturgical color for repentance and is draped on the cross representing why Jesus journeyed to the cross.

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

Jud Afman came home Monday. He did not get admitted to a rehab facility. Jud will continue the therapy he received before he was hospitalized. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. We pray there will be no more hospitalizations this winter.
Jud and Evie Afman

Thank you very much for all your prayers, cards, and well wishes during my recent hip replacement surgery. My recovery is going well.
Ken and Jane Wolffis

Community Announcements

During Lent a new song is being introduced to our congregation called *Graves Into Gardens*. It has a wonderful message as we enter the Lent season. It is on our church Spotify account to listen to and become more familiar with it. Also, there are copies of the song on the literature ledge for music readers. You can listen to the song [here](#)

Easter Flower Fundraiser – Orders Due by March 14 for guaranteed delivery!

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.

FYSH Fundraiser for True North

Thanks so much to all who support the FYSH fundraiser for True North. We donated 706 pounds of food and 88 Personal care items to the food bank. When we dropped off the items, the food bank director said, "We are thankful to have students like this in our community. We couldn't do what we do without support like this."

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: March 6, 2022 – World Renew Disaster Relief
March 13, 2022 – Love, Inc
March 20, 2022 – Hand2Hand
March 27, 2022 – Fremont Christian School

Stock the Pantry

For March, the requested food items are peanut butter and jelly. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

The Prayer Corner

George deVuyst, a missionary with his family in Ukraine under Resonate Global Mission is the author of this Prayer for Ukraine. Please join with Christians around the world who are praying for Ukraine as they are the target of war atrocities waged by Russia.

Prayer for Ukraine

Heavenly Father, we come to you with heavy hearts as we see war in Ukraine. We pray that you would be merciful on the people of Ukraine and Russia and end this war. Grant wisdom to world leaders to effectively stop evil. Allow for the truth to be known, for lies to be shown for what they are, and for evil-doers to be thwarted.

Lord, we pray for those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. Comfort and provide for the needs of those who have been displaced and seek refuge. Lord, we ask for mercy and we seek justice. We pray that you would be at work in both.

We pray for the day when all wars will cease and when your peaceful reign will come fully. But in the meantime, we pray that you would use us to facilitate the coming of your kingdom here and now. Help us to take action to bring peace, to care for the victims of war, and to work for justice. Help us to live according to the principles of your Kingdom today, and to remain faithful until your Kingdom comes fully at your return. Grant courage to your church in Russia, in Ukraine, and here to speak truth to power and to prophetically proclaim the truths of your Kingdom as well as the day of grace that still remains for those who repent.

Lord, we pray for Vladimir Putin. We pray that you would change his heart and work your miracle of salvation in his life. If he continues in his wicked ways, we pray that you would restrain his evil and have mercy on those who suffer because of it.

In all these things, we trust you, because you are our loving Father. We ask that you would keep us faithful by the power of your Spirit and that you would be with your church in Ukraine – that in times of war it would faithfully follow you and represent you before the nations. Heal the wounds, we pray, both physical and the wounds of the heart. Reconcile the nations with you and with each other by the power of the cross of our reigning Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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