

## **SECOND'S MATTERS**

**May 4, 2022**



**Second Church  
of Fremont**

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

### **From the Interim Pastor's desk**

I was so glad to read in this week's prayer guide that "Good insights and thoughts for the future were shared" at our second "town meeting" last Sunday morning. Behind that sentence are some things for which I am very thankful to God: First, the fact that the Council members are fully engaged in working hard together to address the things we need to do to move forward to our goal of being ready to call our next pastor; second, that the Council is providing ways to hear the thoughts and input of the congregation; and third, that the congregation is giving their input. These three things are the difference between success and failure in my mind, and the fact that God has enabled us to achieve these three essential breakthroughs is an even bigger reason for hope. Keep praying! God is hearing and answering our prayers.

Another reason for my thankful heart right now is that the STM conference was very helpful and inspiring -- by far the best I've experienced since becoming an STM. The combination of this conference and these major breakthroughs in our work of transition have resulted in my feeling a renewed sense of calling to STM work, and to Second Fremont CRC. The road ahead is surely not going to be easy, but with God's help in answer to our prayers, I am far more confident than I was six weeks ago that God is going to bring us to a very good place as a congregation.

I was taking a walk last Thursday evening and tripped and fell, cutting my forehead. Late last week Mary got a very bad cold, and a couple days later I got it. We didn't get much work done in continuing the remodelling of our house. However, I had a lot of time for prayer and meditation, and it really strengthened my spirit. God is good!

### **From Your Student Ministries Director's desk**

Last Sunday night, FYSH held its annual nerf war, which is an excellent time of fellowship, exercise, and ruthless competition. I LOVE getting to spend time with these kids, especially when we can throw a little competition in there. For a little over an hour, you likely wouldn't have recognized the church basement, with doors randomly opened and closed, nerf bullets strewn everywhere, and a good-sized group of teens running through and shouting. Then in about 5 minutes, we mostly returned the church basement to the quiet and uniform place it generally is.

I've been reflecting a lot on the Capital "C" Church and what it is supposed to be recently - specifically where we have gotten things right and where we have gotten things wrong. Some stuff is easy to spot, i.e., The Crusades were not great, The Reformation was pretty good, etc. The problem is that not everything is so easy to categorize. I wonder if we miss the whole point of the church when we focus on too many silly things - instead of coming together as a community to seek Jesus and have a relationship with Him. I've been reminding my students lately that we have been called to love God with all we've got and to love our neighbor as ourselves. So Sunday night, as we ran around like crazy people, you might not have expected to see little examples of the Capital "C" Church, but they were there. Where do you see examples of the Capital "C" Church? How are you working to build or pray for the Capital "C" Church?

### **Worship Service, Sunday, May 8, 2022**

**Seminarian Jodi VanWingerden** will be leading us in worship. Her message "Blessed" is based on Matthew 5:1-12.

### **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.

Please take a few minutes before the morning service begins to come into the sanctuary to quietly pray or read scripture or the words of a hymn. Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet your mind, fill your heart with His presence and prepare you for worship.

## Sermon Note Sheets

Do you like to take sermon notes or think you'd like to start? You'll find blank 5x7 note sheets on the literature ledge by the bulletins and at the welcome center for that purpose. Help yourself!

## Our Church Family

We thank you for your expressions of love and concern over the passing of our Mom, **Helen Veenstra**. Your kind words, cards, and above all, your prayers, were greatly appreciated. "May the Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord...." (Ruth 2:12)

### The Broekemas

**Josie Visser** is still at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids. Please pray for her.

Pray for **Wayne Homan** who has heart and kidney issues. Pray for Marian too as she cares for him.

**Rich Kraley** needs our prayers as he continues in his battle against cancer.

## Community Announcements

The **Wednesday afternoon Bible study** meets at 2:30pm today and will continue their study in 1 Timothy 6. Please join us.

## 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: May 8, 2022 – Christian Education Fund*

*May 15, 2022 – Ferris University Campus Ministry*

## Stock the Pantry

For May, the requested food items are spaghetti sauce, pasta, and rice. Donations can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

## The Prayer Corner

The Prayer Corner is taking a bit of a different turn today, because this is what the Lord has laid on my heart. Church family, we need to pray deep, honest, soul searching prayers for our survival. Yes, those are jarring words, but they are true words! We cannot stay where we are. We must either actively pursue a different path or fall apart. The status quo is not an option.

## The Lost Recipe

I love to bake and I know that I have to follow the recipe to get the expected results. If I don't put in the right ingredients or the right amounts of the right ingredients my finished product will be disappointing. It certainly won't taste good and could look pretty awful too.

Recently I was talking with a friend in another state who told me of a once thriving congregation that had had an average weekly attendance of 250 people. Tragically it had dwindled down to 35 people and was now merging with a healthy congregation... its only option for survival. How very sad! As my friend relayed this account, she added, "they lost the recipe. They lost their first love."

Second Church, pray and trust the Lord like you've never done before. Follow His plans (His recipe), surrender your pride, your will, your desire for revenge, your need to be correct, your way of doing things or whatever it might be. Surrender them all! Don't lose the recipe, Second Church.

## SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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