

## **SECOND'S MATTERS**

**May 11, 2022**



**Second Church  
of Fremont**

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

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

I was so glad to return from vacation on Wednesday for the weekly staff meeting, and to find out that the staff has made a lot of progress in organizing things as necessary for others to do what Wendy Kops has done in putting our worship services together. Tyler Cook and I have discovered over the past weeks that Wendy did a whole lot! It is a big challenge to fill in the holes that result from her absence. I'm thankful that God is enabling us to meet that challenge.

I was also happy to hear that the town meetings so far have gone well. It is so good that the Council and congregation are communicating!

The staff members briefly discussed what they hope to address as a congregation in future conversations as members and leaders of Second CRC. Conversations about our worship services are important because our worship services are the anchor of our congregational life. But what about the ways that we live and serve the Lord together between Sundays?

For example, how can we build and deepen our experience of community as a congregation? How can we be more effective in bringing the gospel to our neighbors in this community? How can we effectively fold them into our fellowship when by God's power and grace they start coming to church? Should "personal witnessing" be something to which we pay a lot more attention going forward? How would we go about doing that? Should we pay more attention to growing in our own personal discipleship? (We can't lead others to places we haven't arrived ourselves.) How can we improve the faith formation of our children and young people?

These are some of the big questions about our congregational life that Jesus himself wants us to take seriously going forward. We've got some necessary conversations started. Let's trust Jesus to help us find some answers and direction as we keep talking and praying together!

### **Worship Service, Sunday, May 15, 2022**

Pastor Dan Brouwer will be leading us in worship. His message "Measuring One Another by God's Yardstick" is based on 2 Kings 5:1-19. The children will be taking a noisy coin collection for Hand2Hand.

### **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.

You are invited to use the sanctuary before the morning service begins as a time for quiet meditation and preparation.

### **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**

Our deepest sympathies to the family of **Rog Rauwerda** who passed away yesterday. May they feel God's presence during this difficult time.

Pray for healing and strength for **Josie Visser** as she under goes chemotherapy treatments.

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

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

## Community Announcements

Today, Wednesday, May 11 is the last Wednesday afternoon Bible study till fall. We meet at 2:30pm today. Please join us.

### Council update

1. Council met with Classis Oversight representatives Pastor Drew Sweetman and John Huyser to discuss our first four and a half months of work with STM Pastor Dan. Pastor Drew and John will now follow up with a meeting with Pastor Dan.
2. Council passed a motion to stay with the order of worship we have utilized in the past and not go with the format which was used in the April 25, 2022 service.
3. Oversight representatives saw no need to return to address our past challenges. They were approved by council, the oversight committee, Classis Muskegon and denominational classis, now move forward.
4. Council approved financial support for three students to attend summer camp experiences. Two have signed up for Young Life Summer Camp and one for Wyldlife Summer Camp.
5. Annual Congregational Meeting is set for May 18, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Clerk, JPM

### Church Office

The church office will not have regular office hours for the next two weeks. If you have an announcement for Second's matters, please email ([office@secondcrcfremont.org](mailto:office@secondcrcfremont.org)) or call (924-0170) the church by Tuesday, 5pm or for the bulletin by Thursday, 5pm.

### Combined Worship, May 29

On Sunday, May 29 (Memorial Day weekend), our church will be participating in a combined outdoor worship service at Veterans' Park beginning at 10 am. We are looking forward to worshipping together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Golf carts will be available for those needing assistance entering the park from their parking location. Please bring your own lawn chairs and/or blankets. A Kids Korner will be available for kids ages 4-10. Fellowship is encouraged following worship and will include refreshments and kids' activities. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/FirstCRCFremont](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCRCFremont).

### Challenge for Life 2022

Insight Pregnancy Services is hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Challenge for Life fundraising event. Participants can choose to walk 2.5 miles or canoe/kayak 6 miles down the Muskegon River. We encourage families, individuals, and even teams to join in! Location: Nawaygo High School, 200 East Street, Nawaygo. You can register online ([InsightPregnancy.com/challengeforlife](https://InsightPregnancy.com/challengeforlife)) call or text (231) 335-2413 or email: [Madison@InsightPregnancy.com](mailto:Madison@InsightPregnancy.com) if you have any questions.

### 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 15, 2022 – Ferris University Campus Ministry  
May 22, 2022 – Insight Pregnancy Services*

### 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**

Last week while shopping in Muskegon I came across a decorative plaque with the words **Pray, Wait Trust**. It caught my attention. This is what 2nd Church has to do...Pray, Wait Trust. Did you notice how the word pray came first and then wait and trust? That isn't a mistake. That's the way it has to be for us to clearly see what's dividing our church. We must pray together so that we wait and trust together.

**PRAY** - When you and I pray we are kept focused on the Lord and on His priorities for 2nd Church. It's very difficult to trust and wait when we haven't prayed first. Remember how Jesus asked His disciples to come away and pray with Him so that they would not fall into temptation? If we don't stay connected to Him through prayer we will be tempted to complain, to be unforgiving, judgmental or hypocritical. We cannot allow Satan to get the upper hand with our thoughts, words and actions. Too much damage has already been done.

**WAIT** - Yes, that's right. Wait on the Lord! But if we aren't willing, in the waiting process, to truly LOVE each other, forgive, address deep wounds, work hard on restoring broken relationships and building new ones we are like "noisy gongs and clanging cymbals," and we won't get anywhere. Hard words to hear, but so true!

**TRUST** - What does it really mean to trust the Lord? It might mean that things don't go the way we'd hoped, wanted or expected, and it might take us way out of our comfort zone. But, the Lord has plans for 2nd Church that WILL ONLY be accomplished as we are willing to come together, LOVE each other, forgive and deal with the past under the power of the Holy Spirit. Then and only then will we be empowered to move forward as a united body of believers.

PRAY, WAIT, TRUST

### **SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

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