

SECOND'S MATTERS

June 22, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Student Ministried Director's Desk

I love VBS - growing up, it was one of my favorite weeks of the summer. Each year of middle and high school, I would help in some capacity at Camp Iwilligoway at my home church. I loved the conversations with Ranger Dax, the crafts we made with Miss Sandy, and the time spent telling 5th graders how much they are loved. I will never forget how Jan Jungling, Cindy Van Weelden, and Laurie Nieboer would lead our teams to make an excellent VBS experience. Last week it was an honor to help out at Treasured VBS and see the work of people like Helen Bowyer, Carla Proctor, and Lizzie bring a VBS program to life. They reminded students of the truths that God hears, comforts, knows, forgives, and chooses us - we are treasured by God. That message is so important because I think it is one we often don't believe, don't remember, or aren't convinced is true.

Everywhere we look, we are confronted by ads, images, and influencers that tell us we are something less than ideal. We don't drink the right drinks, eat at the coolest restaurants, vacation in the right spots, or wear the right clothes. The truth is in some ways they are right. We read scripture and learn that we are not enough, but it is through the grace of God, despite the mistakes we make or the good we do, that God sees us as enough. I am the kind of person who is constantly asking the question, "How can we do that better?" or "What improvements can we make?" I find myself asking that a lot about the people around me too - I admit that I am not perfect at making space for people to be themselves, the way God created them. I don't think I am alone in that struggle, and I have to imagine at some time or another each of you have had similar thoughts.

I have been finding myself wondering how we make space for people to be exactly who God created them to be - flaws and all. How do we make space in our churches for people who don't think or live like us? How do we make space in our lives for people who don't believe exactly what we believe? How do we open our eyes to see people as God does, and not how they are different than us? The truth is, the kingdom is not monolithic, it is a complex and diverse tapestry woven together of people from tribe, tongue, and nation; every background, relationship status, and socio-economic level. That's what stood out to me last week at VBS - not once did we look at how we were different, instead we celebrated being treasured, as we are, by God. Scripture tells us that humans look at the outward appearance, while God looks at our hearts. How can we be more like God, and pay attention to people's motives this week? How can we see others not for their differences, but for the ways that God has created them? How do we embrace those who are different as an act of living out our God given call to be people of love?

Sunday Service, June 26, 2022

Pastor Bob Broekema will be leading us in worship. His sermon "Light Wins!" is based on John 1:1-8. We will be welcoming Mike and Heather Love and children to the Second Church family.

Sunday, July 3, Community Worship

On Sunday, July 3 (July 4 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.

Our Church Family

Praise the Lord for the positive PET scan results for Josie Visser last week. The cancer is responding to the chemotherapy. Pray for Josie as she continues with her treatments.

Pray for Rich Kraley as he was to begin a new chemotherapy round last week, The plan is allow his one marrow to recover so that he can continue with a U of M clinical trial or possibly go directly for a transplant.

Keep Wayne Homan in your prayers as he battles heart and kidney issues.

Community Announcements

Church Picnic, June 26

Join us Sunday the 26th, after church for a picnic. Everything will be provided, all we ask is that you bring a small dish to pass. Hope to see you there! There will be games for the kids to play!

Baby Shower Crib: The Folkema Family

The 'shower' crib will be set up in the lobby until July 11 to welcome Oliver Folkema to the Second Church family and 'shower' him with gifts.

From the Council

1. Council will be sharing with the congregation regarding the new council structure and need for involvement.
2. Council is seeking members for the Youth Director search team.
3. Council is finalizing a report to Classis regarding the items they requested we address following our separation with Pastor Doug.
4. Council approved the following for office bearers for church year 2022-2023
President – John Mellema
Clerk – Mariel Poel
Treasurer – Wayne Vogel

Clerk - JPM

From the Worship Committee

On Sundays we worship together as the body of Christ. Consequently we would like to involve more members of our body in that worship. If you would consider reading Scripture, giving a children's message, leading a liturgy (or perhaps you have another idea), please contact Pastor Dan or Karen Admiraal (335-2285). All ages are encouraged to participate.

Summer Get-Away

Ladies...this is for you! The word is out! We are planning a special morning summer get-away at The Shack in White Cloud on August 13 just for ladies! We'll plan to car pool from Fremont. It's open for high school gals and ladies of all ages, so mark your calendar now and plan to come and join us. You won't want to miss out!

More information will be out later. Got questions? Check-in with Gretchen Kronsbein, Michele Van Soelen, Tori Wilkinson, Vicki Gilliland or Bette Wagenmaker. See you at The Shack on August 13!

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: June 26, 2022 – Bible League

Stock the Pantry

For June, the requested food items are soup and crackers. They can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

The Prayer Corner

Last week I was reading an article in The Covenant Companion, the publication of the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. It was written by a female pastor in Anchorage, Alaska who wrote about how God called her away from all of her responsibilities as a staff member at ChangePoint, Alaska's largest church into a totally new ministry of transformation. She and others began to pray earnestly about how to make a difference in their city. As they prayed, God began to open incredible doors of opportunity. The ministry began to take a huge turn. Because a group of people humbled themselves, prayed and were willing to step out, God began to move. Transformation had begun in Anchorage!

But, here's the statement that caught my attention: "I knew that any transformation had to start with me," That's it! It has to begin with me! Did you catch it? It has to begin with me. Let's put that statement into the context of 2nd Church right now. We are on a journey, a difficult journey with bumps and turns along the way. But, the Lord is our guide. He is calling each one of us to serve Him at 2nd Church. The commitment to transformation has to start with me, not the person next to me, but with me.

Dear friends, I hope that you got what that pastor in Alaska said. The commitment to transformation has to start with each one of us. If 2nd Church is going to survive and revive, each of us has to step up and say "yes" to what the Lord is calling us to do.

Pray earnestly for His direction.

Call on me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.
Jeremiah 33: 3

Ask the Lord where He wants to use you at church.

Step out in faith and say "yes"

Trust Him for the results.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV

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