

SECOND'S MATTERS

July 6, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

From Your Student Ministried Director's Desk

My head has been swirling a little bit lately. Between controversial synod decisions, mass shootings, holiday weekends with disrupted schedules, supreme court decisions, and what feels like 35,000 other big, important, and consequential things vying for my attention, I think it is easy to feel that way. In moments like this, I find it difficult to know where to start – it is far easier to see all of the possible bad outcomes than the good. I am sure many of you reading this have felt similarly. If this were a Marvel movie, at this point in the story, a superhero would come out of nowhere and save the day, or the protagonist would realize they had some power they didn't know they had. Unfortunately, our lives aren't Marvel movies, and we aren't guaranteed a superhero story. It is a frustrating thought. I have recently found myself drawn to the book of Ecclesiastes as I have been reflecting on all of this.

"Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"

...

Everything is wearisome beyond description. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content.

...

What is wrong cannot be made right. What is missing cannot be recovered."

-Ecclesiastes 1:2,8,15

On one level, this book is sad, depressing, and honestly really frustrating – it isn't the kind of thing you want to hear preached from on a Sunday morning. It sure does feel honest, though. I grew up believing God desired us to live happy lives and that following him would give me just that – my experience tells me either I am bad at following him or that it isn't something he promised us. The truth is, he promised that we would have trouble in this world, but ultimately he had overcome it. So is the author of Ecclesiastes right in telling us nothing can be made right? Kind of. Without Jesus, everything is meaningless, but with him, we can help bring shalom, or restorative justice and peace to this world and its people. So here's the question I ask us all, where are you creating restorative justice and peace? How are you tearing down systems of injustice and oppression at Jesus' side? How are you inviting in the social outcasts, the people who don't look or believe like you, or those who live differently? When we do these things, we are following in Jesus' footsteps to the foot of the cross, where we have the opportunity to experience the goodness of God.

Sunday Service, July 10, 2022

Candidate Jodi Van Wingerden will be leading us in worship. Her sermon "Rest" is based on Matthew 12:1-14.

Our Church Family

Change of Address: Jean Sneller

Thrive

37 Brock Drive #302

Lookout Mountain, GA 30750

Please continue to pray for the **Faith Promise** programs which we support:

Appalachia Reach Out, Inez, KY, Dwayne Mills, director

Growing Hope Globally

Haiti Foundation against Poverty

Karin Medical Clinics, Gulu, Uganda, Hope Okeny director

Mission India reaching families and individuals with God's Word

S.O.S. Ministries, Matamoros, Mexico under the direction of Paul's Gonzales' family members

Community Announcements

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.

Mobile Food Truck, July 20 – Volunteers needed

On Wednesday, July 20, we will again offer drive-thru pick-up. Recipients will stay in their vehicles, and prepared allotments of food will be placed in their cars. Thankfully, we can serve our community with this vital food resource that is needed more than ever. Volunteers are needed - please sign up by emailing Audra Powell (audrascott@hotmail.com) or on the sheet on the literature ledge. Please arrive by 4:15 to help. If you have plastic bags you would like to donate for the distribution, drop them off at the church office.

Women's August 13 Getaway

Have you been wishing for a few hours to get away from the busyness, responsibilities and routines of life? Have you been wanting to connect with other women and gals but working it into your schedule is sometimes just too tricky. Have you wanted quiet, uninterrupted time alone with the Lord to read, pray and meditate? If your answer is "yes" to any or all of these questions we have something just for you!

Since we believe that women desire to be together in community and to spend quality, quiet time with the Lord, we are planning a focused, yet low-key getaway at The Shack near White Cloud on August 13 from 8:30-11:30am for high school gals and women of all ages. We hope that you will plan to come and join us! A car-pool option will be available for those who would like it.

Times of worship, a self-guided time of meditation/journaling between just you and the Lord, a time of being with others in small groups, a time of fellowship with snacks will fill out our three hour getaway. If meditation/journaling is new to you, take heart! No one will be checking up on you, there's no right or wrong answers or there's not one particular way to spend that time. Part of your meditative/journaling time could be spent taking a walk or just enjoying The Shack's beautiful surroundings. One more thing...you don't have to share your thoughts in the small group time unless you want to.

Sound interesting? We hope so. Registration will begin soon. Questions? Contact Vicki Gilliland, Gretchen Kronsbein, Michele Van Soelen, Bette Wagenmaker or Tori Wilkinson.

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: July 10 – Young Life Campership
July 17 – True North Tools for School
July 24 – Community Closet
July 31 – Fremont Christian School

Stock the Pantry

For July, the requested food items are cereal, pancake mix, and syrup. They can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

The Prayer Corner

I have the opportunity of serving on the virtual prayer team for this year's Speak Up Writers and Speakers Conference held at the Prince Center at Calvin University from July 7-9. Tonight I attended a live chat with Carol Kent, Bonnie Emmorey and several other conference speakers. Each speaker shared scripture, thoughts from their chosen scripture and closed with prayer. I realized how many of their thoughts apply to 2nd Church as we revive and rebuild under the power of the Holy Spirit. I would like to share a couple of the scripture portions with you and I trust you will be encouraged and blessed by these words.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Corinthians 14:33

God is not a God of disorder, but of peace.

Come with your hands open
Don't cast away your confidence
Do what God has appointed you to do
God is in the details. Give Him all the details.
Stay focused. It's all about building His kingdom.
Believe Him to give the increase and stay consistent.
Don't allow fear to get between you and God's leading
Lay aside every weight - stay focused and run the race.
Reach out and experience the depths of what God can do

Our foundation is Jesus Christ as we pray together, trust Him and live in unity.

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

600 Apache Drive, Fremont, MI 49412

(231) 924-0170

[WEBSITE](#) | [FACEBOOK](#)