

SECOND'S MATTERS

December 21, 2022



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

Combined with 1st CRC Sunday, December 25

Pastor Ben Olivera will be leading us in worship. His sermon "The Light has Come" is based on John 1:1-18.

Pre-Service Prayer

Everyone is invited to join with others in the Fireside Room/Library at 9:05 am each Sunday morning for prayer. We share requests, read a portion of scripture, and have a time of silent and verbal prayer. Praying silently or out loud is your choice and no one is made to feel uncomfortable. If this is something you would like to try, please join us. We want you to know how welcome you will be.

Greeters Sunday, December 25 are Brad and Vicki Gilliland

Just a reminder: The Council has asked that members/visitors please sit in the pews close to the front of the church in either the middle or east section (over by the organ) of pews. Thank you

The Community Evening Worship: There will be no evening worship on December 25 and January 1, 2023.

Our Church Family

Please pray for the shut-ins during this holiday season.

Give thanks to the Lord for a successful knee replacement surgery for **Mike DeKuiper**. Pray for a complete recovery for him.

Continued prayers for **John Van Hekken** in his journey through cancer.

Prayers for **Michael Dimkoff** as it is anticipated that he will be released from the hospital this week to spend his first Christmas at home with his parents Josh and Beth and his sisters and brother.

Community Announcements

Christmas Caroling

The Christmas Caroling event at the Newaygo County Medical Care Facility on Thursday, December 22nd has been cancelled.

Meal train for the Hyrns family

We rejoice with Nate and Annelise Hyrns as they welcomed Esther Diane to their family on Wednesday, November 23. Please consider helping us serve the Hyrns' with meals as they welcome Esther and adjust to parenthood! You can click on this link to sign up <https://mealtrain.com/4mngz6> or contact Stephanie DeKuiper at 231-424-5141. The signup dates will be later in the month. If you would like to bring them a meal or restaurant gift card prior to those dates, please contact Annelise.

Church office hours

The church will not have office hours on Friday, December 23 and Friday, December 30. Please have announcements for the bulletin to the church office by Wednesday 5pm of those weeks.

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 for December are:

December 25 – Love, INC

January 1, 2023 – Insight Pregnancy services

January 8 – Community Closet

January 15 – Western Michigan Christian High School

January 22 – Crossroads Bible Institute

January 29 – Cadets (main office)

Stock the Pantry

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

Prayer Corner

As we continue reading the book of Luke through December the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is part of this week's readings. How often do we think about Holy Week during Advent? Often our thoughts put the events of Palm Sunday and Holy Week in the springtime when we are approaching the celebration of Easter. But, think for a minute how appropriate it is to focus our thoughts on the triumphal entry as we approach Christmas.

If Jesus had not come to earth as a tiny human baby, rubbed shoulders with others day in and day, taught as one with authority, performed miracles and be willing to obey His Father completely, there would have been no triumphal entry; no Holy Week; no death on the cross or resurrection. But thank

God, Jesus did surrender and modeled for us a life of devotion, full surrender, and obedience. May these words from Luke 19:28-31, 37-38 cause joy to well up in our hearts today as we too seek to live a devoted, surrendered and obedient life.

"After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" tell him, "The Lord needs it."

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Did you catch those last words of verse 38, "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest" and how similar they are to the declaration of the heavenly host after Jesus's birth? "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests," Luke 2: 14

May the prayer of our hearts be one of praise, honor and glory to God, for He alone is worthy.

SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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