

## **SECOND'S MATTERS**

**February 15, 2023**



**Second Church  
of Fremont**

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

### **Sunday, February 19, 2023**

Pastor Dave Brower will be leading us in worship. His message "First Things First – Our Purpose" is based on Matthew 28:16-20. The children's noisy coin offering is for Ukraine. Greeters are John and Helen Mellema

### **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.

**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:** February 19, 5:00pm.

### **Our Church Family**

Thank you for all the prayers and concerns for **Wyatt Kaastra**. He has completed his chemo treatments and is doing well. The **Kaastra** and **DeKuiper** families

Please pray for the students and families affected by the shooting at MSU.

Please continue to pray for healing and health for **Darlene Beadle**, **Marilyn Wever**, **Kyle Walcott**, and **Madi Folkema's** grandfather, **Mike Schneider**. .

### **Community Announcements**

**Pastor Dave Brower** will be making visits and calls on Tuesdays. He should arrive at church at about 10:00 AM and be available for visits with him at church or visits with you at home. If you would like to talk or visit, please contact him at: email -- [djbrowr@outlook.com](mailto:djbrowr@outlook.com) Telephone / text -- 712-348-2430

### **Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, February 22**

First Fremont CRC welcomes you to attend an Ash Wednesday soup supper at the church on Wednesday, February 22 from 6:00-7:30pm. Following the supper will be a brief reflection to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. Everything provided. Looking forward to beginning this season together!

### **Sunday Fun Day, March 19**

The Fellowship team will be having a Sunday Fun Day, March 19 at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall. Table games, cornhole tournament, and other activities for all ages. There will be soup and chili dogs available to eat. Please sign up on the table in the lobby so we can plan how much food to prepare.

### **Council Service**

If you would like to suggest yourself and/or someone else to serve on council beginning in July 2023, please give your suggestions to any council member. An updated council handbook is on the literature ledge for all to look through.

### **FYSH Leaders Needed:**

Do you have a heart for building relationships and helping high school students grow in their relationship with God? Are you looking for a really fun way to get involved in a growing ministry? Our High School ministry (FYSH) is in need of 2 adult leaders who would be willing to invest in the lives of our students. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nate Kooistra at [natekooistra@gmail.com](mailto:natekooistra@gmail.com). or Ashley Luchies at [amluchies@yahoo.com](mailto:amluchies@yahoo.com)

## Mission India Update

A few months ago, you received an email with the video story about a 14 year-old boy who was martyred in the same part of India where the church planters sponsored by Second Christian Reformed Church are working. And then in December, you received some updates to this video story. But here are even MORE updates...

- One believer had hot coals forced into his mouth to prevent him from sharing about Jesus. *Please pray for those opposing the Gospel that their eyes would be opened to God's incredible love and who Jesus is.*
- Local authorities have dropped all charges against the pastor that you saw in the video who was being falsely accused by the village Hindu priest of violent acts. *An answer to prayer – Praise the Lord!*
- A **second mass baptism** of new believers in the area has just taken place!!!! *God is moving! Although opposition to the Gospel continues, new believers are remaining steadfast, hearts are softening, and lives are being transformed.*

Meanwhile, your church planters are continuing to faithfully share the good news. They have passed the halfway point in their training and their progress reports are ready so will be mailed out this week. May you be greatly encouraged to see that several have already responded to the Gospel during these first few months. Thank you for helping to make an eternal impact in India. Keep praying!

*"...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."- Romans 8:37*

## Ukraine Update

We have submitted form I-134A to the department of homeland security. This is a form that the US Citizenship and Immigration Services needs for us to offer sponsorship to our Ukrainian family. After we receive a letter stating that they accepted the form we then have to wait two weeks to 30 days for approval. Once it is approved then both, we and the beneficiaries will be able to set up a joint USCIS account and share information and wait for final approval. Once we receive final approval, we have 90 days to fly the family to Fremont.

We have been sharing information about the Fremont area and in particular our church, they are so very grateful for what we are doing for them. When the war started, they were living in Kyiv, but the shelling was so bad. They moved back to a smaller city where they were born, near the Hungarian border. Every day they lose their electricity and Internet for about six hours. They have an alarm that sounds when they should head for a bunker for safety.

As Maryna said to us. "This is a big deal, thank you from the whole family. Everything is in the hands of the Lord".

Please keep **Adrian, Maryna, Danilo, and Timothy** in your prayers.

**Housing Needed:** Second CRC is sponsoring a Ukrainian refugee family seeking asylum to the United States. They are a family of 4 with children who are 8 and 1 ½ years old and are planning to move to Fremont in the middle of May. We are looking for a furnished house to rent for at least 6 months and up to 2 years for their stay here. If you are aware of a house that could meet these needs, please contact Dave Breuker at (231) 924-6610.

## Dallas Darling – Deerfield Transportation

The church is still in need of driver(s) for Dallas Darlings – Deerfield starting February 5. There are 12 weeks that we need a driver for. The signup sheet is on the literature ledge in the lobby. Sign up for as many weeks as you would like. The driver would be picking up one person at each location, bring to church, and bring them back home after church. Contact Nanci Nieboer with any questions (924-6838).

## 2023 CRC Denominational Survey

Have you been heard? Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the 2023 CRC denominational survey. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please visit [crcna.org/survey/6912](https://crcna.org/survey/6912) to answer the survey questions by March 31.

## 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 February are:*

*February 19 – Kids Hope*

*February 26 – Ferris State Campus Ministry*

## Stock the Pantry

For February, the requested food items are macaroni and cheese and canned meat. Items can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

## Prayer Corner

In Ezekiel 37 the Lord sent Ezekiel out to the middle of a valley filled with dry bones. The Lord asked Ezekiel if these bones could live and Ezekiel replied "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know." As Ezekiel prophesied to the bones, there was a noise, a rattling sound and the bones began to come together, bone to bone. Tendons and flesh appeared and skin covered them, but they lacked breath and life. Ezekiel prophesied as the Lord commanded and a miracle occurred...breath entered, and the bones came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Can you picture such a strange scene? Thousands and thousands of bones coming to life at the command of the Lord through Ezekiel's prophecies. Can you comprehend the power of the Sovereign Lord to raise up these bones and breathe the breath of life into them? Impossible for us...but not impossible for God! In this description of the "valley of dry bones" we read these words in Ezekiel 37:14, "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it", declares the Lord.

What are you seeking for the Lord to do in your life? What "valley of dry bones" are you wanting Him to fill with life? Don't give up on the difficult situations that you face? Instead, turn to the Lord in honest heartfelt prayer, acknowledge His power in your life and trust Him to bring the results that are according to His will. Only God can bring life to dry bones and difficult situations. Trust Him today!

For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.  
Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me,  
and I will listen to you.  
You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.  
I will be found by you. declares the Lord,  
and will bring you back from captivity.  
Jeremiah 29: 11-14a

## SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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