

SECOND'S MATTERS

March 22, 2023



**Second Church
of Fremont**

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Pastor Dave Brower will be leading us in worship. His message "Mountain Top Experiences – Mt. Olivet" is based on Luke 22:39-53. Greeters are Roy and Jo Cook. The baptism of Oliver Folkema, son of Ian and Madi Folkema will take place during the morning worship. The Children's Choir will be singing during the morning worship service.

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.

The Community Evening Worship: March 26, 5:00pm at First CRC

Our Church Family

Thank you so much for all of the thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, and visits following Dirk's passing. I am very thankful to be part of the Second church family.

Bev Kolk

John Mellema's sister-in-law, Debbie Mellema, was diagnosed with a brain tumor earlier this week and is currently at Butterworth Hospital. Please pray for the family as the doctors determine the next steps in her care.

Please keep **Andrian, Maryna, Danilo, and Timofey Platzer** in your prayer's.

Community Announcements

Oasis, TONIGHT

Oasis will meet tonight at Clubhouse Arcade at 7020 W 48th St. Please drop off and pick up at the arcade. This event will start at 6:30pm and end at 8:00pm. If you are able to pitch in \$10 per student that will help offset the cost a bit.

Council Update

Highlights from the March 2023 Council Meeting

- Jeff gave us a report from the February Muskegon Classis Meeting
- The treasurer reported that we are not meeting our budget but since expenses are down we are still doing okay
- The Outreach Team is looking at the possibility of partnering with Upward Sports
- Shared Ministries (4 CRC's) is entertaining the idea of hiring a shared Director of Youth Ministries for Oasis and FYSH
- We discussed possible ideas for the sale or use of the acreage owned by the church
- We reviewed names for elders and deacons

If you have any questions, please talk to a council member and remember you are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The Property Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 29th at 7:00 PM

Card for Leah Sweetman

The Outreach Committee is asking our church family to sign a card for missionary Leah Sweetman, serving in Nicaragua under Resonate Global Missions. The card will be available in the narthex on Sunday, March 26. If you signed the card last week, you won't need to sign it again. Leah is

the daughter of Pastor Drew and Becky Sweetman, from First CRC, Fremont. A short video will be shown during the service on Sunday, March 26 to acquaint you with Leah and her work. Click [Here](#) to watch the video.

Letter from the Platzer family

To members of Second Church,

We live in the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine. It is very different from other regions of Ukraine. First of all, our language is one that no one but the residents understand. This language has words from many countries, as it was previously conquered by Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Poland. As a result, our language is made up of different words. We speak Ukrainian but residents of other regions do not understand Transcarpathian language. When living in Kyiv, the people of Kyiv did not understand our language.

Transcarpathia is also famous for its vineyards. The climate here is ideal for growing different varieties of grapes, just like in Crimea. These are 2 regions where wine is made. We have many wine makers who have their own vineyards and make their own wine. Mostly this wine is exported to other countries. There are winemakers who have recipes for wines no worse than French wines. We also have developed agriculture, sunflower, potatoes, wheat, and barley. In addition, there are many vegetable gardens where apples, plums and pears are grown and natural juice is made from them. Juice concentrate and purée are also sold abroad. We have few factories, mainly agriculture. Our soil is not chernozem but is also fertile. Black earth soils in central Ukraine, where the layer of fertile soil has a thickness of one to one and a half meters. Our soil is mostly acidic, and farmers add organic fertilizer to balance ph and enrich it. Organic fertilizer is bought from farms and poultry farms which we also have.

There are also many greenhouses in our region, where strawberries, cabbage, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes and much more are grown and supplied to various regions of Ukraine. The most important feature and difference are people. We follow the traditions handed down to us by our ancestors from time immemorial and pass them onto our children. At Christmas, we must sing carols for three days, and there are certain dishes that we prepare at this time. Children prepare plays about the birth of Jesus, and go to everyone's house and show these plays. Other children come and sing carols about the glory of Jesus and our Lord. For this they are given treats. We have a tradition of gathering together with the whole family for major holidays. We value family ties much and always try to help our relatives.

There is also a bad feature, which is a large number of smugglers who smuggle cigarettes abroad. Many people are engaged in this, and when Zelensky became the president, they began to fight against it and are quite successful. Until now, while there were other presidents, smuggling was a business that made millions of dollars. Only in the last three years, something began to change for the better and the ways of illegal sales are blocked and criminals are punished.

We have many forests including oak, beech, spruce and pine trees. Unfortunately, many of these trees have illegally been cut down and taken abroad. Because of this, we often have floods and rivers overflow beyond their limits.

We also grow many mushrooms. The Transcarpathian region supplies all of Ukraine with dried boletus mushrooms. We add them to many different soups and sauces. We have such a rich region but such poor people, even though they are hardworking. This is very sad and unfair.

Finally, you asked about TV. Yes, we have it, but we don't watch it often. The children sometime turn it on. I prefer reading, I don't like it when something makes noise under my ear. Andrian doesn't really understand it but he puts up with it.

Ukraine Update

Housing update: Our work is coming to fruition. Dave Breuker's housing group has secured a two-bedroom apartment at Stony Pillars Apt for the Platzer family. The location is perfect, and it is another answer to prayer. Their expected date of arrival at this time is May 1st. They will be traveling from Ukraine by train to Budapest, from Budapest they fly to Frankfurt, from Frankfurt to New York, from New York to Detroit. I can only imagine how tired they will be when they get to Detroit. They have all necessary visas and travel authorizations and will book their flights in the near future. One thing that concerns Maryna, is her birth date is incorrect on the I-134A form. USCIS have assured me this was a computer glitch and will not be a problem for her, nevertheless she finds it worrisome. Please pray that everything continues to go well, and they won't be too stressed.

In addition to securing an apartment for the Platzer family, our committee has added 2 new members: Karen Vogel and Sue Baar. They will be working with Mary Breuker to get furnishings and necessities for the family's arrival. We will be assessing needs for both the apartment and clothing in the next few weeks after we have visited the apartment. We will then communicate specific needs to the congregation via 2nd Matters for consideration. We are limited in storage space and ask for things to not be dropped off at church but rather contact one of the 3 members. We appreciate the eagerness and willingness of the many who want to donate but we cannot deal with overload. If items are donated that are later found to be in excess, they will be passed on to community resale stores. If you have larger item such as beds, sofas, dressers, etc. that you are planning to get rid of, we ask that you hang on to them for a few weeks if possible until we know what we can use. We are eager to get started and feel God's blessing on our project!

Mary Breuker (231- 327-2106), Karen Vogel (231-750-9615) Sue Baar (231-373-4009)

Rehoboth High School Choir

The Rehoboth High School Choir from northwest New Mexico invites you to one of their three evening West Michigan concerts as they share choral music celebrating the theme "All Things New." A free-will offering will be taken.

March 26- 6:30 pm Harderwyk CRC, Holland

March 27- 7:00 pm Grace CRC, Kalamazoo (preceded by Navajo Taco Dinner at 5:30pm. Please rsvp by Sunday, March 26 to Sarah Dirksen at dirksen6roofers@sbcglobal.net or (269) 217-0237.

March 28- 7:00 pm Calvin University Chapel, Grand Rapids

For more information visit <https://www.rcsnm.org/admissions/schools/finearts.cfm> or email Cindy Ippel at cippel@rcsnm.org.

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. or Ashley Luchies at amluchies@yahoo.com

Encouraging our Faith Promise Missionaries

The Outreach Committee believes that it is important for us as a church family to encourage our Faith Promise missionaries. A good way to do this is by sending them cards of encouragement. Leah Sweetman, daughter of Pastor Drew and Becky Sweetman from 1st CRC in Fremont, is serving in Nicaragua under Resonate Global Missions and will be the first one to receive a card from Second Church. Here's where we need your help. On Sundays March 19 and 26 there will be a greeting card on a table in the narthex. Just sign your name. It's that simple! Let's fill Leah's card with our names so she knows we are thinking about her and praying for her. In future months we will be sending cards to more of our Faith Promise missionaries. Thank you Second Church family for being encouragers!

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 March are:

March 26 – Hand2Hand

Stock the Pantry

For March, the requested food items are peanut butter and jelly. Items can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

Prayer Corner

Mark 13: 32-37

“No one knows about the day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away. He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tell the one at the door to keep watch.

Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone.: Watch!

Christ is coming again! Are you ready?

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