

SECOND'S MATTERS

November 15, 2023



Second Church
of Fremont

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

Thursday, November 23 -

Second Church, combined with Trinity CRC, will be having a Thanksgiving Day worship service at 9:30am. Pastor Adam and Pastor Richard (from Trinity) will be leading the service. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. Greeters are Jason and Stephanie DeKuiper

Sunday, November 26

Pastor Adam Sculnick will be leading us in worship. He will be starting a new series on the book of Malachi called "**how have YOU loved us.**" The sermon Sunday is 'Problems' and based on Malachi 1:6-2:9. The greeters are Matt and Jenn 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.

Sunday, November 26- Community Worship Service at 5:00p at First CRC.

Our Church Family

"Hey church family,

Rather than my usual letter full of announcements, I thought it might be more appropriate this week to slow down and just share my thanks to each of you for being part of the family of God and for welcoming my family to yours. As we enter Thanksgiving weekend and then Advent and Christmas, it is easy for transplants like Amber, the kids and I to feel alone. But that isn't what's happened. You have welcomed us in with open arms and it is not lost on us. Thank you so very much. I am thankful in this season for the love of Christ, shown to my family through each of you. Have a blessed week until we see each other tomorrow at the Thanksgiving service, or until Sunday.

**Hidden in Christ,
Pastor Adam"**

John Van Hekken is undergoing his second round of chemo this week. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Wayne Vogel has returned home and continues to have rehab. Please pray for continued healing for Wayne.

Community Announcements

Reading through Luke in Advent

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. Our church family is invited to read a chapter of Luke each day beginning with December 1 through December 24. As we read the account of Jesus's birth, public ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection, we are reminded again of why He came to earth.

Highlights from the October and November 2023 Council Meetings

We did not meet in October but met November 5, 12, 15, 2023.

- November 5 was a special meeting for discussion of our vision and mission. We came up with an **Identity Statement:** *We seek in everything we do to be a church that embodies these 3 ideals:* "Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known", "Equipping the Found, Finding the Lost", "A place for you to join our family to be a part of God's family".
 - Tyler Yonker's membership was transferred to Trinity CRC Fremont
- November 12 we discussed the position of a Music Director and made changes to the job description.
- November 15 was our monthly meeting

- We reviewed Staff reports, Call reports, Treasurer's report and Ministry Team reports.
- Pastor Adam presented an outline for a New Member's Class which was approved.
- We adopted our Identity Statement.

Christmas Shoeboxes for Appalachia Reach Out

It's Christmas shoebox time. Get your shoebox while they last! Check out the display which will be up by Sunday, November 5th, grab one or more boxes, a list of suggested items and the grade of the boy or girl you are buying for. We will have a Bible verse for each box and are asking that you place it just inside the cover, so the first thing the child sees is God's Word, just for them!

Boxes must be returned no later than **Saturday, November 25th** in order to be included in this year's shipment to ARO in Inez, KY. You do not need to wrap individual items, but please wrap the shoebox itself and put the boy or girl tag with their grade on the outside. We have 75 boxes to fill, so families, singles and couples or Sunday School classes can all get in on the action to make Christmas brighter for the kiddos of ARO. Be blessed as you share the love of Christ with others!

Christmas Decorating Party, November 26

The fellowship Team welcomes everyone to a Christmas Decorating Party on November 26 at 4:30 PM. We will be assisting the Worship Team with decorating the church and end with a light supper. The children will be decorating a tree in the Fellowship Hall. Also if you are available after the season we will need help taking down the decorations. A sign up paper is on the table in the lobby for helping, how many attending and if you will be available for take down. "Many Hands Make Light Work!"

Property Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 29 at 7 PM

Christmas Caroling at the Newaygo Medical Care Facility, December 3

Let's join together and bring some Christmas joy to residents at the Newaygo Medical Care Facility on Sunday, December 3. Meet at care facility at 3:20 pm for caroling which begins at 3:30. Christmas cards are being made by kids in the GEMS and CIA programs for the residents. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Ladies Christmas Tea, December 5

The Fellowship Team is hosting a Ladies Christmas Tea on December 5 at 11:30 am. Along with a light lunch there will be singing and games. Please sign up in the lobby so we can plan on food and set up. If you would like to host a table please see Helen Mellema or Vicki Gilliland for details. Optional: bring a food item for the food bank at True North.

Prayers for Food Truck Families

If you would like to join with others in our church family to pray for requests given to us by people receiving food at the October 18th food truck email Bette Wagenmaker at bettecarlson62@yahoo.com or see her at church. What a privilege it is to reach out to our neighbors.

34th Annual Christmas Shopping and Plum Pudding Shoppe December 2

It's that time of year once again - our crafters, bakers and woodworkers have been very busy and are ready for the 34th Annual Christmas Shopping and Plum Pudding Shoppe. Saturday, Dec 2, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 714 Hillcrest, Fremont.

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: November 26 – Western Michigan Christian High School

Stock the Pantry

For November, the requested food items are spaghetti sauce, pasta/rice. Items can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

Prayer Corner

As you sit down to a Thanksgiving feast with family or friends take time to thank the Lord for His bountiful provisions to you. While He blesses us abundantly and far beyond what we need or deserve remember the vast numbers of people worldwide who lack the basic essentials of life. Ask the Lord how you personally and our church family can become more attuned to the physical needs of those in need locally and far beyond.

These selected verses from Psalm 145: 13b-18 and 21 are filled with reminders of God's faithfulness.

The Lord is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does.

The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,

and you give them their food at the proper time.

You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways and faithful in all He does.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.

Let every creature praise His holy name for ever and ever.

Thanksgiving Blessings!

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