

# SECOND'S MATTERS

April 3, 2024



**Second Church  
of Fremont**

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

## **Sunday, April 7, 2024**

Pastor Adam Sculnick will be leading us in worship. The sermon Sunday is 'Dear Church ... You are Loved, So Be Loving based on 1 Corinthians 13. The greeters are Kathy Shira and Louise Slager.

### **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, April 7, 2024 – Evening Community Worship Service at First CRC at 5pm**

### **Hey Family!**

I am so excited to be writing this letter. Not that every week I don't enjoy the opportunity to share with you all that's on my heart and all that is going on here at the church, but this week my heart is especially full. For the last several months as I have prayed about and planned for the Good Friday and Easter services I have been warned/encouraged by many of you (and thank you by the way, in case I didn't say that already) that these services tend to trend on the smaller side as a result of the vacation schedules of the schools. And each time someone told me about it I always responded with something like, "that's ok, God is on the move and whomever is here is meant to be here." Well as some of you know, we began tracking attendance back in September as one way of measuring the impact of our outreach efforts and I am beside myself with how God showed up at those two services.

The Good Friday service was attended by nearly 60 people (about twice as many as I was told to expect) and the Easter service was attended by 150 people, which is the second largest worship service since I began pastoring here last August. I had a chance to speak with many of those in attendance Sunday who were new faces to me and while many were family members of our family here at Second Church who have home churches of their own elsewhere in Michigan, several families were searching for a church home here in Fremont and are excited to join us again next weekend. He Is Risen and He Is Moving!!!

Just a few quick announcements for you to keep track of as well. Public Reading of Scripture is back this Sunday, 6pm here at the church. Bring a bible, or just bring yourself and listen to God's Word along with others in our church family, followed by an informal discussion about what you just listened to. It is one of the most soul-enriching times of my week and I'd love to have you join me. Also, as you may have noticed Sunday, the offering plates were not passed around. We mentioned it in Seconds Matters last week but I wanted to take the time again to point out that this is something we are trying out and will likely move towards as a permanent step in improving our worship service. Studies repeatedly show that the offering plate being passed around is at the top of the list of reasons that non-believers who are seeking a church and examining Christianity are turned off by their experience. This is likely the result of the false narrative out in the world that churches, and pastors in particular are money hungry, and the offering boxes are a way to combat that narrative. You can drop your offering on your way into the service or out. I'll continue to mention it at the close of the service and we will still have the noisy coin offering in the format it's always been on the third Thursday of each month.

I will be praying for those things nailed to the cross at our Good Friday service throughout the week and then removing them and disposing of them and I assure you no one (including myself) has looked at anything that was written. God knows and I lift them up to Him, trusting in His finished work. See you Sunday.

In Service To The King,  
Pastor Adam

**FYI: We will no longer be passing plates for an offering. Instead, you will have the opportunity to present your tithes and offerings in the offering boxes located at the entrances to the sanctuary. You may do this as you enter/exit worship.**

**The noisy coin offerings will continue to be taken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month by the children.**

### **Our Church Family**

Please keep **Kim Hayward, Nanci Nieboer, Josie Visser, and Doug DeKuiper** in your prayers as they continue to recover from their recent surgeries.

### **Community Announcements**

#### **Mobile Food Truck, April 17, 2024**

On Wednesday, April 17, 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.



#### **Highlights from the March 2024 Council Meeting**

- Kit Powell was present to go over the proposed budget and answer questions
- Music Director report, Care Group reports, Treasurer report, Ministry Team reports were received for information
- Minutes were approved
- Advertising possibilities were discussed and will be revisited later
- We have been offered personal training for church leadership which we will possibly use in May
- We discussed the Wish List, what has been given, used and still needed
- Elder and deacon nominees were finalized
- Pastor Adam will seek a license to exhort from Classis Muskegon at their April meeting
- A meeting with the congregation is scheduled for April 28 to update everyone on Pastor Adam's status as a candidate

#### **Christmas Shoeboxes**

Did you know that now is a great time to begin buying items for your shoebox for Appalachia Reach Out? Yes, that's right! Start your Christmas shopping now. Boxes will be out in early November but buying throughout the year is fun, makes good sense and takes the rush out of buying in a hurry. Buy for a boy or girl and then just pick up the gift tag in November. We have plenty of boxes so please think about filling more than one!

#### **CALLING ALL COOKIE BAKERS (and buyers)!**

The Fellowship Committee is looking for people to provide cookies or other baked goods for Sunday morning coffee time following the service. Please add your name and email to the signup sheet at the if you are able to help.

Thanks, The Fellowship Committee

#### **From WMC**

Western Michigan Christian is nearing the end a visioning process for a long-range infrastructure plan for the school and all of its many facets, including, but not limited to, the school building and property. Objectives have been prioritized, creative minds have stirred, pen has been put to paper, and models are being built. All of this coming together with a common goal in mind that includes a realistic, achievable vision for WMC over the next 10+ years. **The Vision Team is planning on a full presentation to the WMC community in collaboration with our spring Community Forum on April 17, 2024 at 6pm in the Big Room at WMC.** On that night you will see what WMC can become as we move forward to educate with excellence, integrate faith with knowledge, and equip students to work and serve Christ in their communities.

## From Grace Adventures

Grace Adventures is hiring for all four campuses as we seek to impact people with Jesus Christ. We have some year-round roles as well as season positions which can be found here: <https://graceadventures.org/employment/>.

In the Fremont area, we need staff to help serve our guests at The Shack, a Christian Conference and Retreat Center, for specific roles and to apply please go to the website: <https://shackcountryinn.com/employment/>

## 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:* April 7 – GEMS  
April 14 – WMCHS  
April 21 – Christian Education Fund  
April 28 – CIA

## Stock the Pantry

For April, the requested food items are canned fruit and vegetables. Items can be dropped off at church or directly at TrueNorth.

## Prayer Corner

Jesus's Love for Peter

We have just observed Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday and our prayer is that we have experienced these familiar accounts in a new way. As we have thought about the terrible treatment that Jesus received before His crucifixion we also see a very different side of Peter from what we saw earlier in the gospels. We see a fearful, defiant Peter, off by himself in a courtyard and disconnected from the One he had walked with so faithfully. His shoulders slumped, perhaps, his voice harsh with rough cursing words. Who is this Peter? Do we even know him? Can we relate to him at all? Then... "Immediately a rooster crowed. Peter remembered the words Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he (Peter) went outside and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26: 74b-75.) Peter was now a broken disciple because of how he had failed his Lord. His bitter weeping tells it all.

But, praise God, the story doesn't end here. In John 21: 15-17b we read these words: "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord" he said, "you know that I love you," Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again, Jesus said, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me? He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Did you notice that Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him...one time for each time Peter disowned him? Did you notice how lovingly Jesus reinstated Peter and brought him back into His fellowship? Take some time and think about Peter. Think of him as the one Jesus said was "the rock" of the church. Though Peter failed his Lord at a critical time Jesus forgave him and brought him back into fellowship. When you fall short or fail the Lord, His love for you doesn't end. He doesn't turn His back on you. He reinstates you for His glorious purposes...to share His love with others. Thank the Lord for His love for you today. Stand tall for Jesus today.

## SECOND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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