

# THE ADVANCE

Second Congregational UCC 2020

FACEBOOK: Second Congregational UCC, Grand Rapids

## MARCH

### STEPPING INTO LENT ... EXHAUSTED OR REFRESHED

In the next few days we step into Lent. I wonder what that means to you. Is it a time to attend a few extra religious services, where we allow a cross of ashes to be placed on our forehead, a season that culminates in the dramatic contrast of Good Friday's darkness and Easter Sunday's light?

I'd like to suggest that this season we think about doing less, less activity, less TV, less going, less mixing with people and MORE quiet reflection.

Thomas Merton a marvelous spiritual mentor wrote: "Some of us need to discover that we will not begin to live more fully until we have the courage to do and see and taste and experience much less than usual... There are times when in order to keep ourselves in existence at all, we simply have to sit back for a while and do nothing."

It is tempting to us to be drawn completely out of ourselves by our activity and our expectations and our worries. In such times it becomes almost impossible to sit still and rest and do nothing at all. The very act of resting is the hardest and most courageous act such a person can perform.

### REST

During this Lenten practice the discipline of doing nothing except to listen for God. With the Holy Spirit as your guide, prayerfully review the sources of spiritual exhaustion that can diminish our lives:

- Living out of an inordinate sense of ought and should.
- Finding it difficult or even humiliating to receive help from others.
- Living more as a performer than the person God created me to be.
- Always feeling we should be doing more because there is always more to do.
- Carrying the burden of unhealed wounds –sadness, unresolved tension, toxicity in relationships.
- Information overload.
- My own willfulness to have life center around me.

Do any of these have a grip on your heart that causes you to live in spiritual frustration? Why not take time each day of this Lenten journey to review them and allow God to speak to you.

Here's hoping that our journey toward Easter will be meaningful and powerful.

Steve Armfield  
Interim Pastor

## Search Team Update

The Search team has been diligently meeting weekly since the beginning of the year. The team now has an email address - [search@2ndchurch.com](mailto:search@2ndchurch.com) - and a mailbox in the church office should you have any questions or comments you would like to share with the team.

The team is working on the profile for the selection of a called pastor with a goal to have a draft for Governance Board review by late March/early April. Once approved by the GB, a copy will be available for congregation review.

Please continue to pray for the Search team as we discern and listen deeply to what God has planned for Second Church.

Search team members include Cheryl McCarthy, Terry Guinnup, Cindy Leonard, Garth Mann, Dave Sharp, Vicki Tingley, Pat Wolcott, and Jim Yates.

## Chocolate Sale Results!

Anderson-Rebekah Guild wants to thank everyone for a wonderfully successful chocolate sale on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Donations totaled \$224 – our most successful sale in a number of years! As is our custom, money was distributed within our church, locally and globally in the following manner:

Within our church: donation for sanctuary updates

Locally: donations to Second Stitchers for the *Family Promise* quilt project and to the Mission Team for their *Feeding America* food truck

Globally: Church World Mission blanket project

Thank you again for your support. We'll see you at next year's chocolate sale on Sunday, February 14, 2021 – Valentine's Day!



## Sanctuary Committee Update

As we look forward to spring, it is exciting to consider the wonderful change that will take place in the Sanctuary starting June 1! We are still in need of the last little bit of help to complete this project. If you haven't donated yet, or would like to add a little more to your donation, it would be so greatly appreciated. Please and thank-you to all you have helped—and to those who will!

~ The Sanctuary Committee

## SECOND COFFEE HOSTS

### March

- 1 Music/Choir
- 8 Worship Life/Stewardship
- 15 Second Stitchers
- 22 Library
- 29 Governance/Property



### April

- 5 The Connect Team
- 12 Worship Life/Stewardship
- 19 Mission Team
- 26 Women's Fellowship/Fireside

## Mission Team—Heifer International



Your Mission Team is partnering with Heifer International this Easter Season to put a little “Hop and Tweet” in the lives of families around the World!! Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing, and HOPE to millions of impoverished families worldwide. They are working in 20 countries, in areas where hunger and despair prevail. Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities through livestock, training, and education.



For 4 Sundays, March 15, 22, 29, and April 5, we will be selling Bunnies and Chicks or maybe a cute little lamb!! It will be a gift to a family around the world that can provide food, jobs, income and a way out of poverty.

Put a little “EASTER LOVE” in your Easter Basket!!  
~ Thank you, Your Mission Team

## FROM YOUR MISSION TEAM

The support is greatly appreciated and the Mission team thanks you!!!

### Loose coin

January \$88.82  
February: \$62.26

### Pop cans

\$3.00  
\$40.00

Mission Sunday POP UP BRUNCH Feb. 19—we collected \$103.00. Thanks to all!


### HELP NEEDED

Could someone in our congregation please help us deliver items to IN THE IMAGE, 1823 S. Division, 456-6150. Hours: Mon-Friday 9:00-4:00; Saturday 9:00-noon.

Also, Jim Hunsberger needs help picking up items for our Metal for Missions. Please call him at 401-8926 or talk to him at church (no men are on the Mission Team to help).

As always, remember your Family Fare receipts, pop cans, food for NECM, and also In The Image donations. You are appreciated and the Mission Team thanks you.

# March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 Community Service  Service at 10:00	2 <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong 7:00 GLMen's Chorus	3 9:00 Calder City Band 10:00 Lenten Series 6:30 Search Team	4 8:00 Breakfast 9:30 2nd Stitchers 10:00 Staff  6pm Governance 7pm Ministry Council	5   6:15 Cheshire Ringers 7:30 Chancel choir	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7  Time to Spring Ahead
8 Service at 10:00	9 <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong 7:00 GLMen's Chorus	10 9:00 Calder City Band 10:00 Lenten Series 6:30 Search Team	11 10:00 Staff Mg  1:00 Book Club	12  6:15 Cheshire Ringers 7:30 Chancel Choir	13 <i>Office Closed</i>	14  Baby Shower
15 Service at 10:00	16 <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong 7:00 GLMen's Chorus	17 9:00 Calder City Band 10:00 Lenten Series 6:30 Governance 6:30 Search Team	18 8:00 Breakfast 9:30 2nd Stitchers 10:00 Staff Mg	19 <b>April ADVANCE Deadline</b>  6:15 Cheshire Ringers 7:30 Chancel Choir	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 7:00 CNA Pancake break- fast
22 Service at 10:00	23 <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong 7:00 GLMen's Chorus	24 9:00 Calder City Band 10:00 Lenten Series  6:30 Search Team	25 10:00 Staff Mg  11:00 Operation Stork	26  6:15 Cheshire Ringers 7:30 Chancel Choir	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28
29 Service at 10:00	30 <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong 7:00 GLMen's Chorus	31 9:00 Calder City Band 10:00 Lenten Series 6:30 Search Team				

## Giving Envelope Reminder

Please remember that if you are giving cash, you should put your name on the envelope if you would like the amount credited to your account.

JOIN US IN WISHING THE FOLLOWING  
PEOPLE A VERY **HAPPY MARCH** BIRTHDAY!

- 02 Jill Smith
- 05 Cindy Leonard
- 07 Tom Cole; Ryann Gladding
- 10 Joe Heinz; Madison Jalacki
- 12 Cheryl McCarthy
- 18 Marlene Bard; Don Curtis
- 19 Michael Maresco
- 20 Maryann Couter
- 22 Matt LaMore
- 29 Candy Marz
- 31 Pam Chambers



## Women's Fellowship Lenten Series

Every year during Lent, Women's Fellowship hosts a series of Lenten services. The first Lenten Series was held in 1949. It is now 2020 – 72 years!!!

Beginning on Tuesday, March 3, the services will be held in our Chapel at 10 o'clock. Each service is followed with fellowship and refreshments in the Drawing Room. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Bring a friend.

Our speakers will be:

Tuesday, March 3 – Pastor Dawn Scott Damon, Tribes Church

Tuesday, March 10 – Pastor Lindsay Small, Fellowship Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan

Tuesday, March 17 – Pastor Beth Ernest, Redeemer Covenant Church of Caledonia, Michigan

Tuesday, March 24 – Ms. Kim Murphy, Heron Manor

Tuesday, March 31 – Second Stitchers

Tuesday, April 7 – (White Breakfast) Ms. Gayle Campbell

## **Lenten Preaching Schedule 2020**

### **“CROSS WORDS”**

Writers and pundits search for new words to describe the vitriol, hostility and opposition of our day. Cross words, words of anger and separation swirl around us like debris in a wind-tunnel. But cross words are not new to our day, they are found everywhere in the shadow of the cross of Christ. Scathing, hateful, anguished and confusing words abound if you and I follow Jesus to His cross. But in those cross words, whether spoken in anger or agony, there lies profound truth that if embraced is life-changing. At Second this

Lenten season, we will listen to those cross words and hopefully hear a enduring word that will bring an understanding of the cross, that will be both humbling and majestic

“Get Behind me, Satan!”

March 1, 2020

Text: Matthew 16:21-23

“Why this waste?”

March 8, 2020

Text: Matthew 26:6-13

“Be quiet!”

March 15, 2020

Mark 10:46-52

“I am innocent of this man’s blood.”

March 22, 2020

Matthew 27:11-26

“He saved others himself he cannot save.”

March 29, 2020

Matthew 27:32-44

“Hail, King of the Jews”

April 5, 2020 (Palm Sunday)

Matthew 27:24-31

“Let this cup pass from me”

April 9, 2020 (Maundy Thursday)

Matthew 26:36-46

### **Lenten Services in April**

April 5—Palm Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

April 10—Good Friday Service 12:00 noon

April 9—Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 p.m.

April 12—Easter Sunday Service 10:00 p.m.





## ARTS and MUSIC Festival and Celebration Sunday, April 26, 2020



Let's fill the church with our Art and Music.  
Let those creative juices flow !!!

Paint  
Watercolor  
Pen/ink  
Crayon  
Clay

Rice Krispy Treat art

Cake, cookies

Quilt, knit, sew

Photography, cross stitch, embroidery

Use YOUR imagination and create "ART FOR SECOND"!

You have until April 15!

Have fun with this!!!

### Spring Second Best Sale

Though we are still dealing with the snowy days of winter; your Second Best Team is anticipating SPRING and our wonderful sale May 14th and 15th.

With that in mind, and the season approaching, while cleaning closets, drawers, cabinets etc. please think about donating your excess items to our collection. We love wonderful, salable, outgrown, clean, unwanted clothing. Books, toys, household goods, shoes, Holiday Trim, tools, jewelry.... We love it all!

The cart for your donations is placed outside of the choir room awaiting your treasures.

Many thanks,  
Anne, Pat and team

Time Change!  
March 8, 2020  
Don't forget to  
set your clocks ahead  
Saturday night



**Don't forget to set all  
of your clocks one  
hour ahead!**

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
525 Cheshire Dr. N.E.  
Grand Rapids MI 49505  
616-361-2629  
[www.2ndchurch.com](http://www.2ndchurch.com)



Guest WiFi for Second Church is:  
Sign-in: 2ndChurch-Guest  
Password: 2ndCGuest159



