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**First
Fremont**
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

February/March 2020

A Publication of First Fremont CRC



First's Fruits



Jason Gray Returns to Fremont!

Worship & Fellowship with Jason Gray

Singer/Songwriter Jason Gray is returning to Fremont on Sunday, February 9 for an evening of worship and fellowship, beginning at 6 pm. Sponsored by CureUs Ministries and hosted by First Fremont CRC, the evening will include Jason's most popular songs as well as your requests.

Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served afterward, where you will have the opportunity to meet and greet Jason Gray.



Games Provide Winter Fun

Winter days in Michigan can be long and cold and dreary. What better way to add some fun to winter than playing board games together on a Saturday afternoon?

What started out as a one-time event soon became a monthly event last winter and is back by popular demand this winter.

Originally brought as an idea at a Council meeting, Marilyn Sharp took the idea and ran with it, providing

multiple game options and lots of food to snack on.

Our first Game Day was cancelled due to predicted icy weather. The next two Game Days are scheduled for the first Saturday of the

month: February 1 and March 7.

"On cold and dreary winter day, this gives you something different to do," said Marilyn. From dominoes to Scrabble to Tenzies to Jenga, there are always lots of options.

For Justina Sweetman, she has a whole different motivation

for coming: "The snacks are great!"

If you're not a board game fan, bring a handcraft or other activity. The goal is to help us

connect and to add some fun to the winter days.

Be sure to ask Pastor Drew about his experience playing dominoes!



Middle School & High School Ministries>>>

Oasis

Oasis is continuing to flourish as a 4 CRC middle school ministry. Pastor Nate Kooistra and I are working through questions that the middle school attendees ask us, and we're able to point them toward the Gospel in that process. It's a wonderful experience to wrestle with hard questions we have, even when

we don't always know the answer.

Pray for us, as we are attending our annual winter retreat soon. We will be travelling to CranHill Ranch and will be there from February 7-9. It's a weekend full of games, activities, worship and small group time.

On March 20, Oasis will have a special outing to Rebounderz, a trampoline park. The event will begin at 5:30 with pizza at First Fremont CRC. The group will return by 10:30 pm. -KM



FYSH

Our high school ministry recently rejoined FYSH, Second CRC's high school ministry. Zach Van Wyk and I are co-leading that as a joint First Fremont and Second CRC ministry, and it is off to a great start.

Like Oasis, Zach and I are working through questions that students often wrestle with regarding faith, the Bible, the person of Jesus, and our belief in God.

FYSH will be attending a high school conference in March, called Genesis 2020. Please be praying for our students and leaders as we prepare for that.

We also collected 452 pounds of TrueNorth's "most needed" food items for their pantry as a service project! -KM

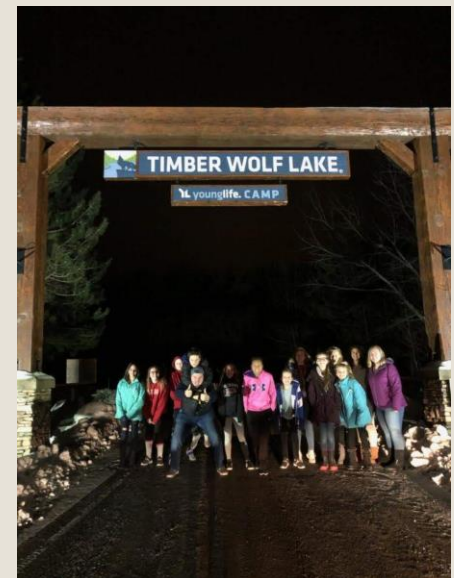
WyldLife

The new year is off to a busy start, but that means more time with students. From January 31-February 2, my WyldLife leaders and I took 12 students up to Young Life's Timber Wolf Lake for our yearly Winter Weekend trip. I'd love to tell you all about it, so make sure to ask!

We had a record number of 37 students at our most recent club, and it was such a fun time. We're constantly meeting new students, and we can't wait to grow in Christ with them.

We're on-boarding a new leader for WyldLife as well, Mychelle Nicholas! We're so excited to have her with us, and

we know the kids are as well. Pray that we continue to see God move in our lives and students' lives as well. -KM



Ministry Focus

Cadets Win Snow Derby

The First/Reeman CRC Cadet Group placed two teams in the annual Snow Derby on January 25 at Camp Echo and took home first and second place.

The snow derby consists of moving from one station to another using a compass. This year's course included the additional challenge of navigating around some water that is typically frozen during this time of year.

Cadet leaders Justin Taylor and Gil Taylor, along with Roger Deters helped to guide the boys along to their first and second place finishes.

First CRC Cadets, Blake Cunningham and Max Deters (competing in his first Snow Derby) were part of the winning team.

Cadets is a ministry for boys that teaches them a variety of life

skills – such as knot tying, wood crafts – in a setting where faith is both taught and caught.

A key component to Cadets is the relationship between the boys and their counselors. We are thankful for the leaders who faithfully meet with the boys, teaching them both faith and life lessons.

Cadets meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at the Club House. For more information, please contact Gil Taylor.



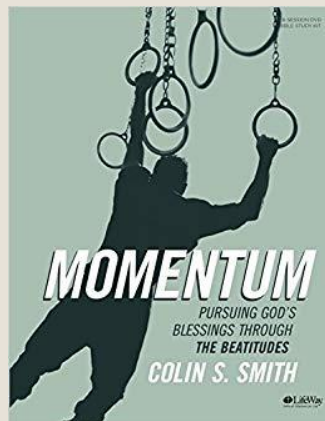
Adult Core Class

Our Sunday Core classes provide learning and growing opportunities for people of all ages. For our winter session of Core, our adult class is doing an in-depth study of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) using the study, Momentum, by Colin Smith.

Smith has a unique perspective on the Beatitudes. According to him, they represent how we gauge growth in our Christian life, each one building on the previous one. We move from one area of growth to the next, similar to the swinging on rings to move across a space. It's easier to move to the next one as you swing from the first.

Last week, we discovered how being poor in spirit means we look seriously at our need for God and his mercy and grace. In doing that we find ourselves free to continue to grow in that relationship with Christ.

This is a great opportunity to learn and grow together! If you'd like to know more about the study, please contact Kelly Minasian.



NEW MEMBERS!

First Fremont Welcomes the Homrich Family

We are delighted to welcome the Homrich family to First Fremont CRC! Ben and Carrie, along with their children, Mayson and Eli, come to us from Resonate Church.

Ben is a driver with the Newaygo County Road Commission and Carrie is a registered medical assistant with Spectrum Health.

Mayson is a 4th grader at Fremont Christian School in the



Spanish immersion program and enjoys art, reading and gymnastics. Eli is in the Kindergarten Spanish immersion class and enjoys P.E. and playing outside with his friends.

As a family, they love spending time outdoors. They live along the Muskegon River and enjoy swimming and fishing.

Welcome, Homrich family!

From the pastor....

Gray Days and God's Faithfulness

Winters in West Michigan mean lots of cloudy, gray days. I heard recently that we have had only 4% of the possible sunshine in January. That's a lot of time under the clouds!

A few days ago, another article caught my attention: "West Michigan: Closer to the Sunshine than You Think." The writer of this article pointed out that the clouds above us, formed with moisture off of Lake Michigan, are only 1,000 feet above us. Above this thin layer of clouds is the sun! And blue skies! All you have to do is get in an airplane to see it.

There are times and seasons when the clouds of our lives keep us from seeing God at work in our lives. Clouds like the loss of a loved one, a financial crisis, a broken relationship, a stressful job

can lead us to question whether God is really there.

The good news is that God is closer than we think. God isn't even 1,000 feet away. He is always right with us. Whether times are challenging or going really well, God is always faithful.

The Bible says this in Lamentations 3:22-23 – *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* The book of Lamentations was written under the cloud of a nation falling apart. In the midst of chaos, the people were reminded that God is closer than they thought.

The skies may be gray, but God is closer than we think. Great is his faithfulness! -DS



coming soon >>>

Mark your calendars

February 1 – Game Day

February 7-9 – Oasis Winter Retreat to Cran-Hill

February 9 – Jason Gray Worship and Fellowship – 6:00 pm

February 26 – Ash Wednesday worship – 6:30 pm

March 7 – Game Day

March 28 – IF Gathering for Women @ The Dogwood Center – 9am-3pm

March 29 – Last day of Core classes

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

- 04 Anna Sweetman
- 05 Brenda Wever
- 07 Judy Luchies
- 10 Estella Deters
- 10 Raelynn Peterman
- 11 Mark Hall
- 11 Brian Maynard
- 14 Abby Sweetman
- 16 Robin Moore
- 18 Lauren Ferris
- 19 Kristi Bartolameolli
- 19 Roger Frens
- 24 Michael Minasian
- 25 David Spoelman
- 27 Ron Bielema
- 28 Joyce Bunce

MARCH

- 01 Jeremy Chrystler
- 02 Dan Van Sweden
- 04 Sidney Luchies

- 04 Marvin Witte
- 05 Dave Wolfsen
- 06 Theresa Nelson
- 07 Kimberly Ames
- 09 Michael Powers
- 11 Laurel Breuker
- 12 Ann Luchies
- 13 Henry Terpstra
- 16 Austin Zmrzlik
- 18 Elaine Powers
- 20 Norman Weaver
- 20 Brian Miller
- 20 Dale Wever
- 21 Jess DeYoung
- 21 Gladys Scott
- 22 Karen Berens
- 22 Sally Bielema
- 23 Carolyn Kempf
- 24 Max Deters
- 25 Les Kolk
- 28 Rachel Andrews
- 29 Carolyn Hansen
- 31 Howard Witte

ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

- 28 Gord & Charlene Luchies

MARCH

- 05 Roger & Kate Deters
- 06 Don & LouGene Pell
- 06 Dale & Brenda Wever
- 27 Keith & Jan Breuker



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