



Connections

April 21, 2024

A Publication of First Fremont CRC




Connected through Prayer

- Pray for those we know who are recovering from accident, illness, or surgery.
- Today, pray for **Betty H** who is at Green Acres.
- **Wilbur K** and **Rich D** continue at Newaygo Medical Care in rehab following falls.
- **Irene B** is home and feeling better.
- **Edie D** fell this week suffering cuts, bruises, and a broken thumb. Pray for healing for Edie.
- Continue to pray for families who are grieving.
- **Pastor Bob P** has returned home following heart surgery. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he recovers.
- Always keep in prayer those members and friends who are dealing with long-term health concerns.



Connected through Celebration

We look forward to being able to celebrate these birthdays this week:

April 26 Carol B



Connected through Worship:

Worship notes for this week:

- Welcome to worship today! **Our worship time is 10:00am and is available in many ways:**
 - In-Person
 - Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.
 - Remain in your car and tune in via FM radio at 87.9. **Worship materials are available inside the building or online.**
 - Follow the link on the website for the video on the following day.

Our offerings on Sunday are received in-person in our offering boxes, through the mail, or through your bank will be put toward **Church Operations.**

Community Evening Worship will be here at First this evening at 5:00pm with Pastor Drew Sweetman leading.



Connected through Events:

The “**First CRC Connection**” Zoom meeting is happening this week. We look forward to connecting over a short devotion and prayer! The link will be sent to you, or you may dial in on the phone.

Weekly Calendar (4/21-4/28)

Sun (21)	10:00am	Worship @ First; THRIVE1 class
	11:15am	Coffee Fellowship and THRIVE2 Class
	5:00pm	Community Evening Worship
	7:13pm	FYSH Activity @ Second CRC
Tue (23)	6:30pm	GriefShare
Wed (24)	5:45pm 6:30pm	Single and Parenting GEMS and Cadets @ First Reformed Church Connections
	7:15pm	
Thu (25)	8:00am	Men's Bible Study
Fri (26)	3:30pm	Discipleship Team meeting
Sun (28)	10:00am	Worship @ First; THRIVE1 class
	11:15am	Coffee Fellowship; THRIVE2 class

	5:00pm	Community Evening Worship
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Connected through Faith Formation

Ascending Leaders Discipleship

- The Discipleship Team continues in their work of strengthening the discipleship path of First Fremont. We have several things we are working on!
- Check out the definition of discipleship here at First!

Discipleship is a daily process through the seasons of life where we accept Jesus' invitations to grow toward maturity in Him through knowing and experiencing His love and forgiveness and responding to it through engaging God's Word, worshiping, praying, and serving together.

- Small group ministry is happening! Pray that God would work mightily through those groups!
- We meet together as a team this Friday, April 26, at 3:30pm.

Encounter, the online Bible reading plan/blog that will lead you through scripture and discussion is finishing up this week! We will complete reading through the entire Bible as we finish with Ezekiel.

Men's Bible Study and Men's Prayer Time are important ways to connect with God and with each other. Join us on Thursdays at 8:00am!

THRIVE classes for grades PK-5 meet during the second half of morning worship. THRIVE for middle and high school students meets following morning worship for mentoring and lessons on Women of the Bible.

FYSH (high school): meets on Sunday evenings at 7:13pm for Bible study and hanging out at Second CRC. There are other activities throughout the year.

OASIS (middle school): meets every other Wednesday at Fremont Christian School from 6:30-8:00pm for Bible study and fun activities! Check the calendar for more info!



Connected through News and Information

Church office hours:

- Tuesday: 10-12
- Wednesday and Friday: 10-3

Pastor Drew and our delegates, Ron Bielema and Keith Bultman, will be attending the meeting of Classis Muskegon this week Thursday, April 25. Pray for a fruitful meeting.

Council Notes (4.15.24):

- Reviewed and approved the financial summary for 1st quarter, 2024.
- Received updates and report from the ministry teams, Care Coordinators, and the Pastor.
- Noted that some outdoor maintenance on the building (power washing and entry door painting) will be done in late May and early June.
- Reviewed potential nominees for elder and deacon and will finalize the slate of nominees at the May 20 meeting.
- Received a letter from the Living Hope Ministry, noting their decision to discontinue the ministry. A celebration of this ministry will take place soon.

ELEVATE Your Sport and Your Life! We are excited to announce that Elevate Sports Camp will be happening again this year! Our dates for Camp are **July 22-25**. Put that on your calendar and begin to consider how you might volunteer!

We continue to be in need of 3-4 people to be on the coffee committee, **servicing after-church coffee**. Please contact Ed Bell or the church office to volunteer.

Do you like to make spaces warm and welcoming? Do you like to decorate for holidays and special occasions? Consider being part of our new **Creative Team!** To learn more, sign up [here](#) or at the Welcome/Coffee center.

Hunter Safety will be meeting at First on the evenings of April 29, May 1, and May 3. (that's

next week!) We are looking for two to three people to welcome and interact with our guests and to serve them refreshments. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

We welcome any adult who has lost a loved one to attend our **GriefShare** group. This non-denominational 13-week course offers support to those who are grieving. The materials are updated and very worthwhile. Each class is special and different. A \$10 fee is for your personal workbook which will guide you in your healing. Although you aren't required to attend each session, you are encouraged to do so. There is an open-door policy; join anytime. Sessions are on Tuesdays, from 6:30-8:00pm here at First. Register online at griefshare.org or call the church office.

Our GriefShare group is looking for volunteers to help with refreshments. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Please check it out and choose a time that is convenient for you. Thanks for your willingness to be the hands of Christ in this ministry.

Rooms of Refuge in Newaygo County is a ministry whose goal is to provide emergency housing at host churches throughout the county on a rotating basis. **First CRC is participating in this ministry, and we need your help for our week to serve: April 28-May 6. Dinner preparation/serving and overnight hosts are needed. Contact Greg Hoekman for more information. Below are the job descriptions:**

- **Overnight Host:** arrive at the church no later than 8:00pm, bring your own bedding, be available during the night in case families need assistance to let in late shift workers, set our breakfast items for guests by 8:00am, make sure guests are ready at 9:00am to go to the day center.
- **Meal Prep Volunteers:** prepare dinner for up to 15 guests plus volunteers (should be served by 6:00pm), set aside meals for late shift workers, clean dishes, clean kitchen area, and take garbage out.

Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center.

HAND2HAND Update:

The Hand2Hand ministry in Fremont is currently serving 188 students at a cost of approximately \$5.20/week/student. That's nearly **\$1,000/week of weekend food provided to students and families in need.** The financial need is great due to the increased costs of groceries. Here are the needs right now:

- **Remember to bring your fruit cups and applesauce cups! They are in high demand between now and the end of the school year!**

Mission Trip Opportunity! Do you have a heart for sharing Jesus with others and helping in a tangible way? Greg and Janiece are planning a mission trip for 10-12 people to work with Vision 3:16 (www.eyeglassvision316.com) in Mexico. The trip would be from November 2-9, 2024. Please check out the flyers under the mailboxes and on the bulletin board for additional information. Contact Greg (231-519-0006) or Janiece (231-519-6686) to learn more about this amazing opportunity!

PUZZLE LOVERS! We have a puzzle exchange in the church library. Bring a puzzle, take a puzzle without the need to fill in a card! Check it out on the right-hand side of the library toward the window. Enjoy!

Giving Update:

- We are blessed by your continued and generous giving! Offering boxes are available at the doors during worship. You may give on the way in or on the way out. Giving may also be done by US Mail, or electronically through your bank.
- Giving through the month of March was 94% of budget need. Thanks for your continued generosity.
- A quarterly financial statement is in your church mailboxes as well as sent out via email.



Connected to our community and your neighborhood

Our Community Bulletin Board, right outside the

church office, has information about many happenings around town and in our region.

Bridge Newaygo is a network of Newaygo County churches (First CRC is an integral part of this ministry!) working hard to give hope and help to single moms. In order to provide more resources and reach more moms, Bridge Newaygo needs your help! Please visit our Facebook page by searching "Bridge Newaygo" on Facebook and "Like" our page. We also invite you to "share" our posts and spread the message that the Christian community is here to support single moms by sharing Christ's love and providing resources to those in need. Please visit our website at bridgenewaygo.org for more info on our organization. Thank you for supporting our work!

We are a praying church. The CRCNA Prayer Team invites you to join online in monthly Prayer Gatherings. We will meet virtually on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00am EST for one hour of prayer led by the CRC Prayer Team. Our goal is that this is not the only prayer opportunity for CRC members/groups. We would like this to be a grassroots effort that includes many more people than we can host in one session per month. We encourage you to lead your own prayer group at a time and place and in the language that works best for you. We will provide you with Prayer Guides and even set up a zoom meeting if needed. If you have questions or comments, please contact us by emailing Prayer@crcnapartners.org.