

The Advance

Mission Sunday 2016!

Mark your calendars! Mission Sunday 2016 will be celebrated on Sunday, January 24th.

This year's theme is to raise awareness and involvement in the issues faced by orphans in the world today. We will have several representatives on hand from the Orphan Ministry Alliance which is an alliance of churches, individuals, adoption agencies and other related organizations dedicated to expanding orphan and adoption ministry in the local church.

Their stated mission is to encourage and empower the Church to live out God's mandate to care for orphans and bring them the hope of Jesus Christ.

Dirk Bakhuyzen will be our guest speaker that Sunday at both services; he and the other members of his team will be available between services and after the second service to distribute literature, answer questions and provide more information about the cause.

In honor of the Orphan Ministry Alliance and Mission Sunday, the loose coin collected during the offertories in January will be dedicated to the Orphan Ministry Alliance.

Keep an eye out for more details regarding Mission Sunday, 2016!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated clothes, personal care items, toys and other items to the Dégagé Christmas Store! On Wednesday, December 9, the Mission Team filled the back of a pick-up truck and delivered the items to Dégagé on Division, where it took three trips with a hand cart to get everything into their building.

The people at Dégagé were quite ecstatic to receive all those items and kept thanking us profusely. Our generosity at Second enabled a lot of Dégagé's clients the ability to have a pleasant and dignified Christmas.



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Supper House

Our last time to serve at Supper House this year was on Dec. 3rd. Six members of our church served around 125 people a delicious dinner of Chili, salad, veggies, rolls and cake for desert. Those that served were Ruta Buckingham, Jim Hunsberger, Carla Plank, Glenn Preston, Jill Smith and her cousin Lolayne.

A big thank you to all our members who served this year, especially the 4 or 5 that showed up every time. Our next opportunity to serve is not until March 1. A new sign-up sheet will be put on the board month.

"Dot, Tom, and the Tock family would like to thank those who sent cards and e-mails following the death of Norm Tock. It was good to see so many friends at either the visitation or funeral for Norm."

Ho Ho Ho Again!

Thank you again, to all who helped decorate for Christmas. Second Church has never looked so beautiful. UnfortunatelyWhat goes up..must come down :(...so we are looking for helpers to un-decorate. We will be having a Subway lunch and then get to work after church on Sunday January 3. Please let Katie or Laura know if you can help.
Thanks, Katie and Laura

Meet Hilary Guter

My name is Hilary Guter and I am delighted to join the staff of 2nd Congregational Church.

I was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland and am the youngest of three girls. I started piano at the age of nine and was always fascinated with the organ in the Episcopal (Church of Ireland) church we attended as a family.

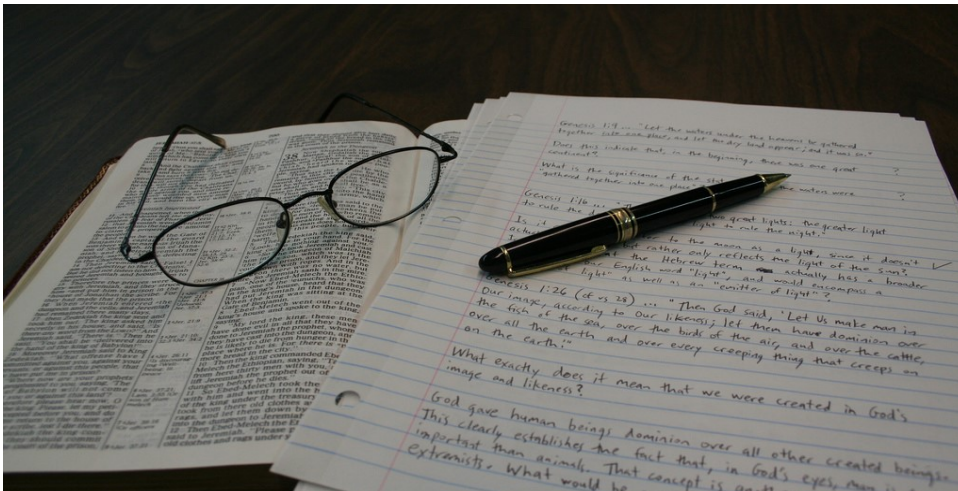
In my teens I achieved many piano and organ diplomas from colleges in London, England. The icing on the cake was a music degree from Trinity College Dublin where I also was the 1st female organ scholar.

In 1985, I moved to Amsterdam to further my organ studies. It was there, while I was Director of Music in the Scottish Presbyterian Church that I met and married Frank. He was an intern at the church for a year from Calvin Seminary. In 1989, after we got married, I moved to the US and lived in Grand Rapids while Frank finished seminary. Our lives have taken us to Canada, England, Ireland, California and New Jersey; so our story is long and complicated! In all these places I have worked in churches and played many concerts. This summer Frank was appointed Chaplain at Breton Woods by Holland Home. We are so happy to be back in Grand Rapids. Frank's parents, sister and brother live here and two more brothers live further North. Its good to be near family again.

I look forward to getting to know you over the coming months and thank God for this opportunity to minister at 2nd Church.

Blessings

Hilary Guter



A Note from the Second Stitchers

Our overworked steam iron has finally “given up the ghost” and we are in need of a good quality (new or used) steam iron for use in making our quilts. If you have one that you would be willing to donate, please contact Mary Pontremoli at 616-784-1979 (email: pont-mar@yahoo.com), or Cindy Leonard at 451-9007 (email: ben4len@gmail.com)

In addition, Family Promise has asked for donations of **new pillows** for their residents.

The Stitchers have donated a dozen pillows, plus about 150 pillowcases. If you would like to donate a pillow or several pillows, please contact Mary or Cindy at the above numbers. We'll arrange to get the pillows from you and make the delivery.

As always, *Thanks Sew Much* for your ongoing support!

From the Pastor

The “RE”-wording season. Probably many people do this, but my mother-in-law was the only one I have known who would toss a string of Christmas lights away if, when she got them out of the box of decorations and plugged them in, they didn’t light. With the cost of miniature lights as low as it is, it may make sense from a time management perspective just to go out and buy new instead of doing the tedious work of examining every socket and testing every bulb to try to “save” the light string.

But most of us would prefer to fix what is broken rather than just buy something that replaces what we had the year before. At least we like the idea of fixing things and somehow getting the most out of the money we spent on something. I like the idea too, but if my mother-in-law were alive today, I think she would enjoy teasing me about the number of strings of lights I keep around that have not been working for years and yet I haven’t gotten around to the bulb by bulb inspection. She may correctly claim that I never will get around to it, and that I should just pitch the nonworking strings and start afresh.

As sensible as that advice probably is, I am here to proclaim that the work of God is more about fixing what is broken and less about starting all over. God’s Christmas message is that we will be redeemed and will return to full service, no matter what has faulted within us. Christ didn’t come down at Christmas to usher in a new humanity, but to spiff up the old humanity and put it back in service.

In the course of observing Advent, celebrating Christmas and the New Year, you will hear a lot of words that begin with the letters “R” and “E.” Christ came to redeem us and restore creation. Christ calls us to repent, return to faith and receive the Good News. The message of the season can be seen in a broken string of Christmas lights. God is the repair person who will do whatever it takes to rekindle the light within us that may have gone out. God will reaffirm our worth, and we may resume our life of faithfulness. We are thus recharged and ready to make resolutions to reform and reimagine a better and more faithful way of life for us in the year to come. God’s blessings go with us, helping remake ourselves. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Peter

Baby Care Kit - \$39 Value

In areas of extreme poverty or following a natural disaster, Baby Care Kits help young mothers care for their newborn babies.

To assemble a Baby Care Kit you will need:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be handknitted or crocheted)

Two receiving blankets (one can be a handknitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins. Please include \$2 to cover the processing/shipping cost.

OCWM Kits for Church World Service

Church World Service Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers from congregations like you. The contents of each Kit are simple, small things – new pencils, washcloth, toothbrush, cleaning supplies – but having or not having them can make a world of difference in an ongoing development program or when disaster strikes. Because Kits matter, please follow exactly the instructions presented here. The contents of each Kit have been selected with care based on years of

experience to make them as useful as possible, wherever and whenever they are sent. Cash donations in lieu of assembled Kits also help provide much-needed supplies. **Please bring your completed kit to the church office or to the tub marked “Kits” in the front hallway by March 4th.** If you would like to make a monetary donation, write “OCWM Kit” on your offering envelope and include a check or cash in the amount for the kit you wish to provide.

School Kit—\$15 Value

School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

Pack all items inside the cloth bag. Include \$2 to cover the processing/shipping cost.

Hygiene Kit - \$10 Value

In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Include \$2 to cover the processing/shipping cost.



Emergency Clean-up Bucket Kit - \$56 Value

These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

To assemble an Emergency Clean-up Bucket you will need:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol)
- One 25 oz. bottle liquid

disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)

- One package of 48-50 clothespins
 - Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
 - Five dust masks
 - Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®)
 - One pair work gloves
 - 28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)
 - One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)
- Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new materials. Place all items in the plastic bucket and seal lid with packing tape. Please include \$3 to cover the processing/shipping cost.





Women's Lenten Series

We are very excited about the upcoming Women's Fellowship Lenten Series. Be sure to mark your calendars for every Tuesday during Lent, beginning with February 16, 2016, and ending with the White Breakfast on March 22, 2016. Our service will be held in the Chapel beginning at 10:00am. Please be sure to invite your friends, neighbors and relatives to attend

with you. Refreshments will follow each service.

We have a very robust roster of speakers who will be sure to inspire and challenge us in *Opening Our Lives to God*.

"Opening our lives to god."

Blankets...

February is Blanket Month. As always, there is much need. For \$5 you can bring comfort, shade or a way to haul good. Your help is needed and much appreciated. Please keep Blanket Month in your mind!

~ Women's Fellowship

Dates for Women's Lenten Series

February 16	Kim Murphy, Heron Manor
February 23	Diane Sherlock
March 1	Reverend Ruth McCarty, Covenant Village
March 8	Reverend Beth Rodenhouse, Pilgrim Manor
March 15	Reverend Helen Havlik, North Park Presbyterian
March 22	White Breakfast, Reverend Jody Betten, UCC Conference

If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Gaetano, (616) 581-6764. We look forward to having you join us for this exceptional fellowship experience.



Financial Status

Thru November, we have received 89% of expected income and spent 84% of our budget. Detailed figures are available on the Governance Board bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you for your generous contributions in supporting Second Church!

Memorials

The Outreach Trust Fund received memorials for Roger Dykhuis from Maurie Slayton, Mark Leonard, Berta Dykhuis, Christy & Clark Zimmerman, Karen VanderLaan, Michelle Kimmel-Fors, Jack & Susan Lake, Maurice Kimmel, Eleanor Schmidt, Ellen & Rich Wicks, Lee & Rich Zee, Lois Arnold

In memory of Norm Tock, **the Outreach Trust Fund** received gifts from Gavin and Teresa Simon, Betsy Flory-McCoy, Cindy Leonard, and Ruth Roggow.

In memory of Jean Day, **the Outreach Trust Fund** received gifts from Eleanor Schmidt, Ellen & Rich Wicks.

The Library Fund received a gift from Garth & Sue Mann in memory of Jean Day.

The Music Projects Fund received a gift from Marjorie Streb in memory of Roger Dykhuis.

The Music Projects Fund received a gift from Else Sorenson in memory of Norm Tock.

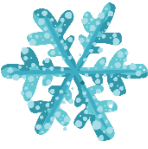





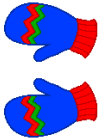



Maintaining God's House received a gift from Don & Marilyn Long in memory of Roger Dykhuis.

Maintaining God's House received a gift from Joan Niles & Bill Souter in memory of Norm Tock.

Heritage Trust Fund received a gift from Bill & Sharon Clark in memory of Roger Dykhuis.

The General Fund received a gift from Dick & Arleen St. Clair in memory of Norm Tock.

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1</p>  <p>Office Closed</p> <p>2</p>	
<p>3 8:30 & 10:30 Services</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>7:00 Barbershop Chorus</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Calder City Band 9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:30 2nd Stitchers 1:00 Retired Clergy 6:00 The Living Room 7:30 Ministry Council</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 Cheshire Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>9</p> <p>9:00 – 12:00 DeColores Mtg.</p>	
<p>10 8:30 & 10:30 Services</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>7:00 Barbershop Chorus</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 Calder City Band 9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:45 Women's Lunch 1:00 Book Club 6:00 The Living Room</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 Cheshire Bells 7:00 Mission Team 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>ADVANCE DEADLINE</p> <p>16</p> 	
<p>17 8:30 & 10:30 Services</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> <p>7:00 Barbershop Chorus</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Calder City Band 9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Pilgrim Manor Luncheon 6:30 Governance Bd. 7:30 The Ridge Ministry</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:30 2nd Stitchers 11:30 Laynie Mahacek 6:00 The Living Room 6:30 Governance Bd.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 Cheshire Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>23</p> <p>9:00 – 9:00 Barbershop Chorus</p>	
<p>24 8:30 & 10:30 Services</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 Faith Formation 7:00 Barbershop Chorus</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Calder City Band 9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Adult Education</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30 Operation Stork  6:00 The Living Room</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 Cheshire Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>7:30 p.m. River City Jazz</p> <p>30</p> 	
<p>31 8:30 & 10:30 Services 2:00 DeColores Mtg.</p>						



January

Join us in wishing the following a very "Happy Birthday" for January!!

- 1 Cheryl Shaffer
- 2 Frank Smith
- 6 Susan Pease
- 8 Jane Burch, Fred Merizon, Patricia Siereveld
- 9 Marian Ganzevoort, Steven Plank
- 11 Maribeth Albertson
- 13 Betty Pease
- 14 Judy Pierce
- 16 Marjean Brillhart
- 18 Lois Ginebaugh, Joseph Kunst
- 20 Mary Brillhart, Brad Day
- 21 Laura Van Skiver
- 25 Bob Chamberlain, Mary Ann Fase, Riley Jalacki
- 27 Jeff Gielniak
- 28 David Kelly, Aaron Place
- 29 Kendall Anderson, Nicole Zuidema
- 30 Kenneth Jerome, Ben Larsen, Shirley Noble
- 31 Patricia Chapin



Please note...if your birthday is listed incorrectly or is not listed at all, please contact the Church Office, 361-2629, so that we can put your very important date in our computers! Thanks!

Attendance Totals

November 15	153
November 22	133
November 29	126
December 6	142

Serving Our Members in January

Membership: Hank Swart
Friendship Pads: David Schultheiss
Head Usher: Don Zinman

Principal Leadership Called to Serve You

Senior Minister:

peter@2ndchurch.com

Rev. Peter St. Martin

Director of Music Ministries:

Hilary Guter

Director of Children's Ministries:

bill@2ndchurch.com

William Bode

Senior High Youth Director:

M@2ndchurch.com

Em Kelley

Advance; Tech Coordinator:

dianna@2ndchurch.com

Dianna Martin

Governance Board:

Brian Place, *Moderator*
Dave Vande Kopple, *Treasurer*;
Cheryl McCarthy, *Clerk*
Members at large: Betsy Flory-
McCoy, Joe Martin

Prayer Chain:

Donna Atkinson, Joan Beebe,
Janet Van Geison