

SECOND STORY



TRANSFORMED
& Transforming

Second Reformed Church Newsletter

June 2020



We are excited to announce that we will be gathering for corporate worship in the church building on **Sunday, July 5th**.

After three months of gathering remotely for worship, we are making plans to adapt yet again as we prepare to worship in-person. This letter is to address the initial plans going forward. Please read carefully as there will be some significant changes for the time being.

We will be offering **two Sunday worship services, one at 9 and the other at 10:30 am**. Two services will provide us the space to maintain social distance without requiring sign ups or having to turn anyone away who comes to worship. We are planning to offer **nursery at the 9 A.M. service only**. Parents who use the nursery must recognize that we will not be able to maintain social distance in that setting. Church pews, bathrooms, and other commonly touched surfaces will be disinfected between services. Nursery toys will be cleaned week to week.

We will only be using the east entrance by the ramp to the church. You will be seated as you arrive beginning from the front of the church to the back. It would be helpful if you arrive 10 to 15 minutes early so that we don't have a rush right as worship starts. Yes, you will be seated somewhere you are not accustomed to sitting. **THIS JUST GOT REAL!**

Masks will be optional. Given that we will be able to space people out, we will include singing as part of the service. Instead of passing the plate for the offering, there will be a place for you to deposit your offering at the entrance as well as continuing to give electronically. We will not be using paper bulletins.

We recognize that we all are eager to be back together and to connect with one another. To help facilitate two services and the quick turnaround time between services, we will dismiss by rows from front to back. There will be no coffee fellowship but if you choose to congregate outside on the lawn, you are welcome to do so. You may want to give someone a hug or a handshake. Before you do, please be courteous and ask them whether they are comfortable with that.

We will continue to livestream the service (9 a.m. in July) and encourage you to worship from home if you're not feeling well or if you aren't ready to gather publicly.

On Behalf of Consistory,
Pastor Scott



During this "downtime", we have continued to work on several consistory initiatives. Here's an update on some of those initiatives.

My One, Our One: The Kingdom of God grows one person at a time. There was a time not too long ago when church was at the center of community life. If the doors were open, people came. That's no longer the case. Today, the entryway for many people into a loving relationship with God is not through a church door but rather through a friendship with a Christ-follower. The "My One" team has been working hard to find ways that we might create a culture at Second where we are all encouraged and accountable to befriend at least one person who may not know Jesus. In

September we will formally kick off the My One Initiative with a sermon series and a number of related events. No need to wait though. This summer is a great opportunity to get started. Take some steps to befriend someone with the love of Christ.

Mission - Vision - Values: The greatest responsibility for the leadership of the church is to be crystal clear regarding our God-given mission, what the vision for the implementation of that mission is in our context, and what are the key values that will guide our decision making along the way. The Frontline Team has been reimagining our church structure within the polity of the Reformed Church so that once defined, we can make sure that we as a church are staying true to the mission and vision. In the past we have had an Executive team in addition to the Elders and Deacons. Moving forward we will eliminate the Executive Team and create two different teams of Elders, Shepherding and Governing Elders. The Governing Elders will function similarly as the Executive Team and the Shepherding Elders will be responsible for congregational care and spiritual oversight of the membership. Deacons will continue to be responsible for the property, finances, and benevolent ministry of the church. Consistory members may elect to serve a second term after the completion of their first term. This will enable us to better sustain the mission and vision from year to year. Our hope with all of our teams is to provide more defined responsibilities and greater empowerment to work within those defined parameters.

Other irons in the fire:

Leadership Training: In an effort to raise new leaders and sharpen existing leaders, we will be offering leadership development modules beginning in the fall of 2020.

Improving our Online Presence: Covid 19 forced us to press the gas pedal on this initiative. Even when Covid 19 is behind us, in order to fully engage our mission we can't neglect the digital mission-field.

Renaming The Church: It's time. We recognize this is a sensitive issue to many as Second is more than just a name; it's a significant part of our heritage. What's also a part of our heritage is making difficult decisions for the sake of reaching the next generation with the gospel. This is one of those difficult decisions that we've wrestled with for close to ten years now. We don't have a new name identified but are committed to the course of selecting a new name for the church.



WORSHIP IN THE PARKING LOT

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 & SUNDAY, JUNE 28

10 A.M.

Inner Perimeter: Bring your own lawn chair, park on the street

Outer Perimeter: Stay in your vehicle



“One generation shall tell of your works to the next generation.”

Psalms 145:5

Several years ago the consistory stepped out in faith to launch a capital

campaign so that Second could address many of the obstacles related to the facility. We were advised, based on our annual giving, that we could expect to raise \$450,000. We were also advised that congregations usually end up giving 75% of what they actually pledge. Because of the scope of what we wanted to accomplish, we set an ambitious goal of \$650,000. \$640,000 ended up being pledged and remarkably, 94% of all that was pledged was given. This has enabled us to not only accomplish the original goals but to also add a few more to the list. We will be adding acoustic sound panels to the gathering place, replacing flooring on both sets of stairs inside the 14th Ave. entrances, and hopefully replacing our ramp leading up to the main entrance. Thank you so much for sacrificially giving to this campaign and more importantly, for giving to the mission of our church.

Rocky Railway Virtual VBS



A virtual VBS will take place June 22 – 26 at 10 AM
For more information or to register visit
secondreformedchurch.net/rocky-railway-vbs-2020

Pre school—5th grade

Register to reserve your activity packets today!
VBS will be live on our Facebook page and on
YouTube @ Second Reformed Church Fulton.

Second Reformed Church
Church Office
701 14th Ave.
Fulton, IL 61252

Contact Us

Second Reformed Church
703 14th Ave.
Fulton, IL 61252

Church Office (mailing address)
701 14th Ave.,
Fulton, IL 61252

(815) 589-3425

Pastor Scott Stephan
pastorscott@secondreformedchurch.net

Nathan Johnson, Director of Student Ministries
nathan@secondreformedchurch.net

Susan Phillips, Secretary
secretary@secondreformedchurch.net

Visit us on the web: secondreformedchurch.net

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