

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

November 15, 2022

Volume III No. 45

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Frontera de Gracia

-Hunter Brumels, TRC Youth Director

Personally, I have never been a great host. Whenever guests come, attending to coats, table placements, and asking the proverbial question, “would you like anything to drink? We have...” are frequently forgotten. Now, this is not to say that I don’t think about others, but just operate from the mindset of “what is mine is yours,” if you would like a drink the refrigerator is open!

Honestly, this isn’t very hospitable (and is something that I am working on). Assuming that individuals would take the initiative in a new place and context is presumptuous and vain. But how often do we do this?

How often do we just assume that people would feel welcome? Or that they should learn to feel welcome on their own? How often do we have our guests “set the table” for themselves?

Over the past few days, since my trip to Juarez, Mexico and Frontera de Gracia, I have been thinking about the scriptural idea of hospitality. What does it mean to be hospitable? And more specifically, what does it mean to “set the table” for our guests? In the book of Genesis, Abraham offers us an example of hospitality: “God appeared to Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was the hottest part of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing. He ran from his tent to greet them and bowed before them. He said, ‘Master, if it pleases you,



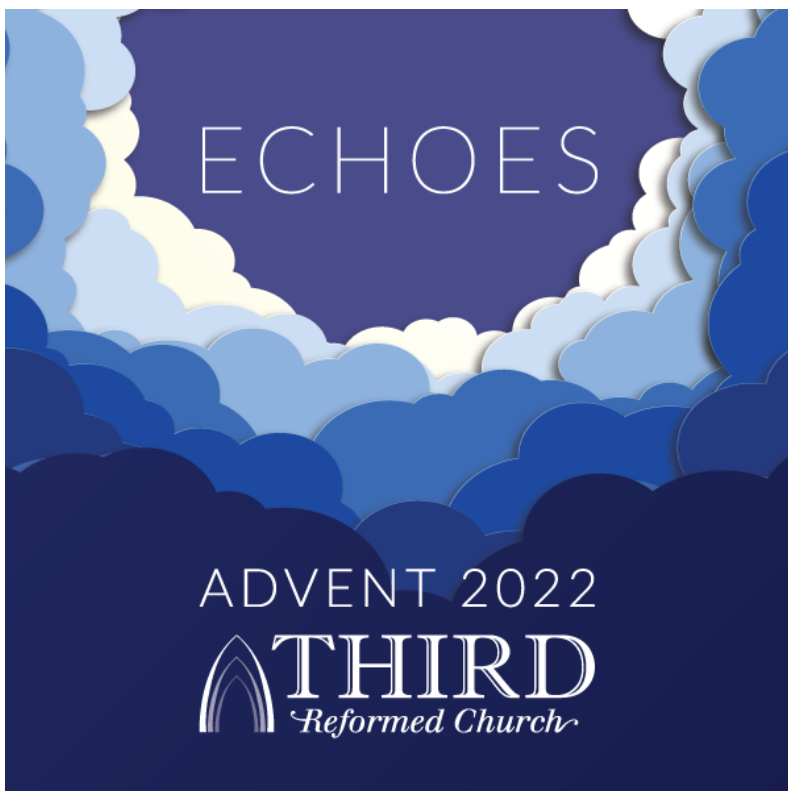
stop for a while with your servant. I'll get some water so you can wash your feet. Rest under this tree. I'll get some food to refresh you on your way, since your travels have brought you across my path" (Gen. 18:1-5, MSG).

In this scene, Abraham "sets the table" for these strangers. He doesn't know who they are, only we are privy to the identity of his guests. Abraham just does what he can: He sets the table, allowing *foreign spaces* to become *shared spaces*!

One individual that we met in Juarez, the director of a government organization tasked with assisting migrants coming into the city, mentioned that the idea of "setting the table" and transforming *our space* into *shared spaces* to be the most important aspect of welcoming the stranger or other. He mentioned that in the midst of changing policies and political landscapes at the border, the one constant is our ability to open up our table and set it. Transforming our table and space into a shared table and space, allows for relationships to be built, and the love of God to be shown. We do not have to provide the context of our "meals" together or why we are gathering in the first place, that comes naturally once space is provided. Our call is to open our space and "set the table" because isn't that what Jesus asks for when he says, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home" (Luke 19:5-7, MSG).



THE 23RD ANNUAL
RIETBERG CONCERT
featuring
DR. JULIA BROWN
NOVEMBER 21, 6:30 PM
WITH THE MUSIC OF
BUXTEHUDE, SWEELINCK,
SCHEIDEMANN, BACH,
OSTERLAND, AND COUPERIN



ECHOES
ADVENT 2022
THIRD
Reformed Church

What if those writing the stories down were still just as awestruck as we were when we first heard it?

Did you hear what the shepherds said?
Is the promised Messiah really here?
Could it really be true?

When the early church was looking for words about what was happening in their midst, they leaned into the prophets. They turned back to the scriptures to remind themselves of the hope God gave them when they were in their darkest moments of exile. When things were still being formed, the faithful found the echoes of those that had gone before to ground them in what God was doing in their midst.

Do we still hear the echoes of the scripture in what God is doing among us?

Are we still open enough to hear it?
Are we willing to unplug from all the

other distractions and listen to the echoes of the prophets again as they call to us to remember the promise of Emmanuel?

Join us this Advent and Christmas as the prophets speak to us again of the promise of the Messiah.

Consistory Update for November 2022

Hey Friends,

Last night the consistory of the Third Reformed Church met. Janelle led us in a reading of Isaiah 66 and asked us to listen for what we heard of God and what we heard about ourselves. After devotions, we received our reports. One of the reports was from the financial team. Jeff Beird gave us a verbal report of our current financial picture which continues to trend in a positive direction. Consistory encourages you to remember Third Church in your year end giving to help us finish strong.

After the financial report, the consistory approved the budget that was presented to the congregation at our meeting this past Sunday. The budget was approved unanimously.

Next, the consistory took up the matter of the Housing Logistics Team. Team was one of the teams proposed in the vision document that would have a holistic approach to helping our people with housing at TRC. The summary from the vision document is:

This team will work on the housing needs in Holland by thinking both on a small scale like sustaining the homes that we own, finding living solutions for some of our members and so forth, as well as the large scale by researching ideas such as buying new homes, providing emergency shelter in the church basement, buying an apartment building, and/or partnering with community organizations.

This team will be formed over the next few weeks to begin a feasibility study of housing people that need shelter here at TRC, as well as investigating

other options for their housing needs. This group will also attend to the houses that TRC already owns and develop strategies to work with those families for support as well. When the names of that group are finalized, the consistory will be invited to affirm the group and form the team.

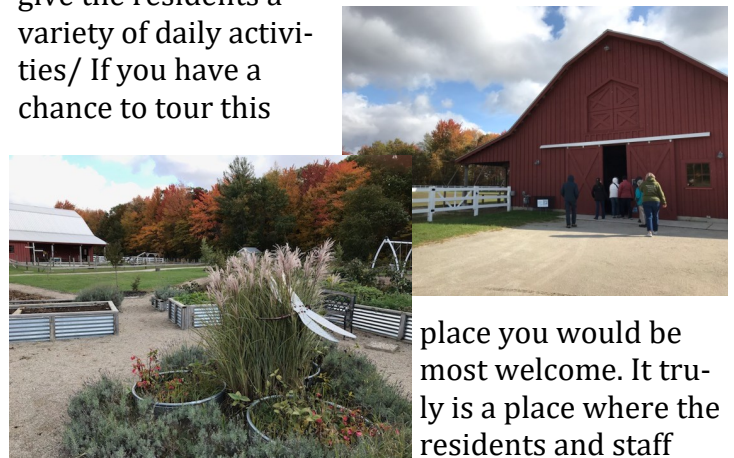
The consistory closed with prayer.

Pastor Ryan

Women's Ministries Visit to Benjamin's Hope

-Mary DeWitt, WMTR Board Member

Eight women from TRC toured Benjamin's Hope on Oct 15. The group is supported with our funding, so we wanted to see the campus. We enjoyed learning about the start up of this place through a mother's dream for her autistic son. There are six furnished houses for residents needing care. We saw the farm where animals are housed like Llamas, goats, chickens, and a rooster. The residents help care for these animals every day. A large building housing activities like soap making, llama balls and herb growing give the residents a variety of daily activities/ If you have a chance to tour this



place you would be most welcome. It truly is a place where the residents and staff are loved every day.

Your Help Is Needed This Holiday Season

Third Reformed Church will be hosting many events over the next six weeks. We hope you will be willing to show your hospitality to both our congregation and community members by providing

Christmas cookies/bars. Please call the church office to let us know if you're willing to help in this way. Please mark on your container if your dessert has nuts or is gluten-free.

We, also, are in need of volunteers to set-up, serve, and clean up for these events. Please call the church office to let us know if you're willing to help in this way.



Announcements

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Service Schedule Change

Beginning on Sunday, November 27, we will move to two worship services on Sundays - one at 10 a.m. in English, and one at 11:30 a.m. in Spanish at our El Encuentro gathering. Sunday education hour will continue to be at 11:15 a.m. Please give a warm welcome to our members who have been attending the 8 a.m. service when you see them at church.

Sunday Morning Education Series

NOVEMBER 6, 13, & 20, 2022

WE THREE KINGS

Rev. Dr. Steve Stam, Current Member and Former Pastor of Third Reformed Church (Retired)

This three-week series will focus on the lives and times of Saul, David, and Solomon whose reigns are often referred to as Israel's golden age. These were the years of the united Hebrew kingdom, before it was split into two nations: Israel to the north and Judah to the south. Our study will be informed both by Scripture and the archaeological record and will seek to offer a deeper understanding of the historical background and the politics of the time.

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

WHY CHRISTIANS NEED TO READ BANNED BOOKS

Mark Hiskes, Holland Christian High School English Teacher (Retired) and Deb Van Duinen, PhD., Arnold and Esther Sonneveldt Associate Professor of Education, Hope College

Great literature is honest about our sinful world, not by celebrating sin but by offering visions that somehow transcend it. Reading such literature can leave us more human and hopeful. In this session, we'll discuss literature that does this and explore ways to read and respond to such stories.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Corinthian Correspondence: The Cross Changes Everything. A study with Rev. Dr. George Hunsberger.

This study takes place in room 22 on the lower level.

Please note that there will be no education classes for children and youth on Sunday, November 27.

However, both Adult Education classes and El Encuentro will continue with their regular schedule

CUSP Community Thanksgiving Service

CUSP (Christians Uniting in Song and Prayer) invite you to a community-wide Thanksgiving Service of music and prayer on Sunday, November 20, at 5:00 p.m., at Third Reformed Church. In addition to vibrant congregational song, music will be provided by the Holland Ecumenical Choir, with the DeSales Brass, three additional instrumentalists, plus Rhonda Sider Edgington, organist; Robert J. Batastini, music director. The service will be led by Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes and Rev. Dr. Daniel Griswold, preacher.

Thanksgiving Day Service

There will be a Thanksgiving Day Worship Service on Thursday, November 24, at 10:00 a.m. Our Thanksgiving offering is designated for Community Action House. Dr. Steven Stam will share the message on Psalm 100 that morning.

Mitten Tree

Women's Ministries will again put up a "mitten tree" in December but want you to be thinking ahead of what you may like to make or donate for this cause. Some of your gifts will go to Third Reformed Church people, the rest will be distributed by Community Action House free to those in need.



Micro-Pantry Needs

The Micro-Pantry continues to be in great need of the following items:

Canned spaghetti sauce, Canned stews, Soups, Canned fruits, Canned Potatoes, Cereal, Toilet paper, Paper towel, Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Hand wipes, Snack items

Third Church Family News

Thank You

Thank you so much for the lovely service you provided for my father, Herb Dakin. It was a wonderful time of remembrance for our family. We appreciated the coffee/cookie reception as well. It was perfect.

Mary Beth and Jeff Serdahely

Third Church Family:

Thank you brothers and sisters for all your sweet and powerful prayers for my recovery from foot surgery. Please continue to pray that the spirit brings me back to church fully recovered. Again "WOW" who sweet and great you all are and may the peace of the heavenly father rest upon you all.

Amen and blessings,
Reno Lamania, Sr.

Dear Third Church Family,

Thank you for the many cards and words of condolences on the recent death of our brother-in-law, Fines Bass. They were a source of comfort during time our sorrow and new directions.

With Gratitude,
Willis and Ella Weymon

Welcome New Members

Bailey Brumels
Mary Klaaren
Vicki Mast
Curtis, Madison & Isla Pierce

Sympathy

to Shelly, Scott, Gabe, Noah, Jonah, and Faith Millen in the death of Shelly's father, Pete Westers, on November 14.

Address

Tom & Joyce Bolhuis
525 Springlane Dr.
Holland, MI 49423

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following:

- Anne Bakker and Tom Davelaar in the death of Anne's father, Jerry.
- Makayla Ramos (Angela's daughter) dealing with health issues.
- Steve and Dawn Van Ark and their son Adam
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos and Lois Jalving
- New Members: Bailey Brumels, Mary Klaaren, Vicki Mast, Curtis and Madison Pierce and baptized daughter Isla.

Remember in our prayers:

Reno Lamania, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Don Maatman, Larry Loss, Lucille Schroeder, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, Betty Van Wyngarden, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Tom Norman, Dee Bechtel and Alan Beagley

Prayer Spotlight: Maple Woods - Muriel Bolhuis, Beth DuMez, Dennis DeWitt; The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village-Martha Beld, Jack Kuiper, A.E. Lacy, Mary Heideman

Missionaries: Linn G. (Asia), Cheryl Barnes (Malawi), Lubna Y. (Asia).

UPCOMING SERVICES AT THIRD REFORMED CHURCH

November 20, 5:00 PM
CHRISTIANS UNITED IN SONG
AND PRAYER

A community service

November 21, 6:30 PM
23rd Annual
RIETBERG CONCERT

Dr. Julia Brown, Organist.

November 24, 10:00 AM
THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

November 29, 6:30 PM
A DIFFERENT KIND OF
ADVENT

December 6, 11:15 AM
HOLLAND HIGH'S VOCAL
DIMENSIONS

followed by a dessert reception

December 11, 6:00 PM
CHOIR CAROL SERVICE

December 18, 4:00 PM
A VERY MIXED-UP CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT

followed by a holiday pizza dinner

December 24, 5:00 and 11:00 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 25, 10:00 AM
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

January 1, 10:00 AM
NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

11:30 AM in Spanish

12:30 PM Brunch for the
whole congregation



 **THIRD**
Reformed Church

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