

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

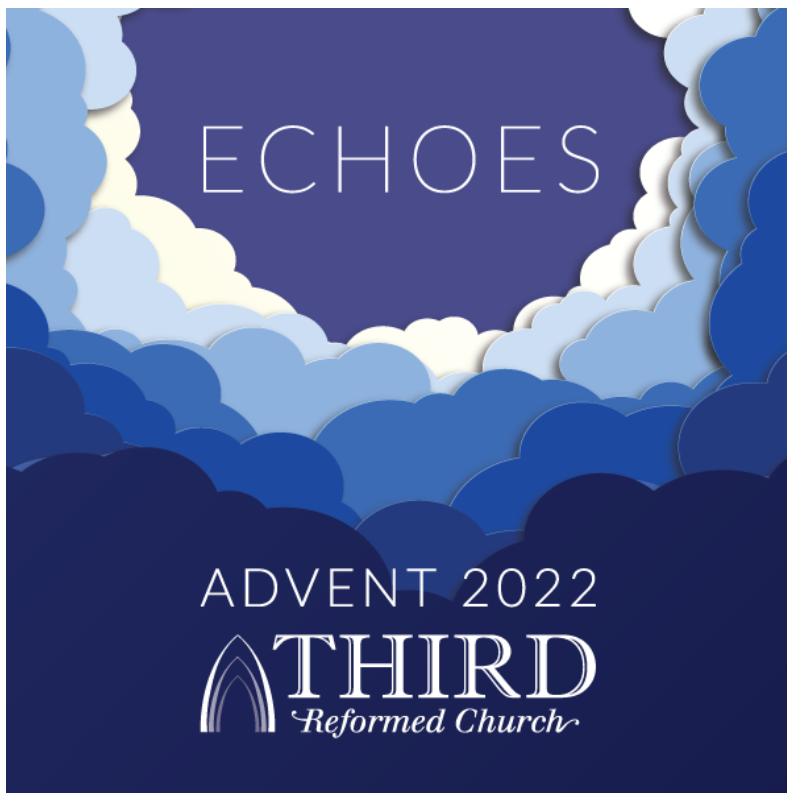
CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

November 22, 2022

Volume III No. 46

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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.

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

Service Schedule Change

Beginning this 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 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.

December 4, 2022

OUR INTERCONNECTIVITY WITH GOD'S CREATION

Dr. Debra Rienstra, Calvin University English Department

Deb is the author of "Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth" (Fortress Press, 2022). The High School youth Sunday School class will join the Mosaic class in hearing from Deb about spirituality and the environment, and our interconnectivity with God's creation. Deb is a professor of English at Calvin University, and the author of several books relating to spirituality, the human experience, and Christian faith.

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

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:

toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, hand wipes
canned meats, baked beans

Please: No more peanut butter or jelly until the spring. Apparently freezing weather does bad things to these items.

Third Church Family News

Sympathy

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

Phone Number

Barb Feenstra
616-283-1178

Prayer Requests

Pray for the following:

- Condolences to Shelly Scott, Gabe, Noah, Josiah, and Faith Millen in the death of Shelly's father Pete Westers.
- Don Triezenberg who had surgery in Grand Rapids on Tuesday, Nov. 22
- Steve and Dawn Vander Ark and their son Adam
- Grayson Sievert (Randy Rusthoven's grand-nephew) who has health issues and is in Holland Hospital.
- Carla and Larry Sue who are dealing with health issues.

- Hospice Care: Lois Jalving
- The people in Indonesia who suffered from an earthquake.
- Those who are traveling this week.
- Those crossing borders to seek safety and work.
- All those dealing with difficult situations
- Organizations both locally and worldwide who help people
- Linda Strouf, the choir members, bell choir and all who assist with the church music.
- The Young Levites who are practicing for the Christmas program.

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 and Dee Bechtel

Prayer Spotlight: Home - Bill Charlton, Don Maatman, Barb Mummert, Ruby Steketee; Out of Town - Lucille Schroeder

Missionaries: Wayne & Miho Jansen (Japan), Rowland Jr. & Jane Van Es (Kenya), Victor Kanyi (Kenya).

A Different Kind of Advent

This event is not meant to replace your traditional Advent observations rather it is a contemplative addition to your Christmas season. It will be an art experience of bizarre sounds and jarring visuals that will challenge our notions of Christmas. Join us because art can help us grow in faith.



11.29
6:30 PM

**Third
Reformed
Church**
Holland, MI

scapegoatarts.org/advent

Dr. David Keep and Prof. Greg Lookerse from Hope College

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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