

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

December 13, 2022

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December 18 at 4:00!



This fun pageant, which will take place in the sanctuary, will be followed by a pizza dinner for all!

Christmas Eve Services at
5 and 11 PM

Reception to follow the 5 PM Service.

Our Advent Series, Echoes, continues in our 10:00



Remember: Christmas is on a Sunday

We will have our regular 10 AM worship service on Christmas Day. This will be a combined service with Spanish translation available.

Start the New Year with Great Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

Yes, we are having a brunch to ring in the New Year! Sunday, January 1 at 12:30, following the El Encuentro Service.



Living Green

—Mark Faga, Lead Custodian and Green Team Member

By now you should have recovered from your Thanksgiving meal food coma and moved on to checking that "list" ...twice. In this season of one holiday after another it gets very easy to slack a little (or a lot) on remembering what it means to live a green life. With the stores full of holiday sales and the TV ads flooding our minds with the next greatest thing on the market that we CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT, I get it. But what if we took a minute to slow down, to renew our spirits and be at rest.

I know in the November issue I mentioned that we'd talk about food waste and what we could

begin doing about it. Then, as it so often happens, I read an article and decided that something else should be thought about this month. It's an article from Earth911 that talks about "making the holidays more sustainable." Feel free to enjoy the article yourself if you'd like but I will take just a minute to summarize it for you.

The article talks about 3 main points to consider when gifting, celebrating and decorating. Here they are...

Greener gifts - second hand gifts, non-material gifts or...

For your pocketbook and the planet look at your local second hand store or shop yard sales. Gift movie tickets or museum passes. Or if you need to shop, shop local and support the community and small businesses.

Sustainable Celebrations - menu, dinnerware, leftovers and...

When planning your menu, make just the amount you need. For recycling and health reasons make sure to use reusable non-plastic dinnerware. If there are leftovers or you plan on that to send food home with guests, invite your guests to bring their own reusable containers. And then remember less meat is better for you and the environment.

Sustainable holiday decor - use the outdoors, thrift shop and your tree...

Why not bring the outdoors in for your decor. Greenery, pinecones and poinsettias are great ideas. If nostalgic decor is your thing (it certainly is mine) then once again visit the thrift store. And if you need a new tree, maybe it's time for a new tradition. Try creating a tree from materials you already have at home.

Most importantly, remember that this season isn't supposed to be rushed. Stockings don't need to be filled with things we don't need. Enjoy this season for what it is. Be with your family and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

And for this month I leave you with not a quote but a note....

The United States, with only 4.3% of the world's population, generates 15% of global greenhouse gases.

Coming to a Third Reformed Church Near You: STAYTREAT 2023!

Keep your eyes peeled for the Staytreat 2023 sign up sheet, coming soon. We're super excited about it, and you should be too!

Announcements

Banned Books List

This list is from the "Why Christians Need to Read Banned Books" Sunday School Session by Mark Hiskes and Deb Van Duinen. Contact the church office for a printed copy of the list.

No Sunday School until January 8

But be sure not to miss the great children's pageant this Sunday at 4!

Intergroup Dialogue Participation Sign Up

The consistory invites you to congregational conversation about human sexuality and gender identity using the practice of intergroup dialogue. This practice is about listening and understanding. ***The goal of these groups isn't to change anyone else's mind or to make a public statement.*** These groups are about having honest conversations with one another about these topics because we care about one another and want to show that we care for all of God's people. Therefore we invite you to sign up via this form: <https://forms.gle/ngphZRiTxxVVGQm1AA>. The sign up will be open through December 21st.

These groups will begin to meet the week of January 9th (date and time forthcoming) and wrap up before the end of February. They will be led by two facilitators each who will receive training with Elissa Lappenga who is our main facilitator for these sessions. Elissa comes highly recommended by members of our congregation who experienced her work on intergroup dialogue at Freedom Village this past summer.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will not have reception hours the week between Christmas and New Years. While staff will be working, it will be both from home and in the office and on varying schedules. If you have need to visit the church the week following Christmas, please make arrangements ahead of time so a staff member can meet you. Also, please note the office is completely closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday; as well as Friday, December 30, and Monday, January 2, for the New Year's holiday.

Third Church Family News

Happy Anniversary

to Harry and Mary Boerson who celebrated their 50th anniversary on December 9.

Happy Birthday

to Gene Jekel who turns 92 on December 19.

New Address

Eileen Resch
145 Columbia Ave. #222
Holland, MI 49423

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

- Mary Boersen has moved from the hospital to rehab.
- Jonathan McMullen who has undergone testing and is awaiting test results.
- Jaime Amaro whose surgery has been postponed a few weeks.
- Tom Ten Hoeve in Resthaven for rehab.
- Sue Ten Hoeve is now at Vista Springs.
- Steve and Dawn Vander Ark and their son Adam.
- Larry and Carla Sue health concerns.
- Jerry and Betty Van Wyngarden grandson's difficult surgery.
- Eileen Resche is now in Assisted Living at Freedom Village.

- Esther DePree is moving to Assisted Living at Freedom Village.
- Lucille Schroeder
- Dennis De Witt
- Hospice Care: Lois Jalving, Sue Ten Hoeve.
- Children who will be participating in the Christmas program on Sunday.

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

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

We remember in our prayers: Reno Lamania, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Don Maatman, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Borsen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Tom Norman, Elvira Garcia, Herb Pollock.

Celebrate WITH US

This Sunday, December 18, we will be celebrating Linda Strouf, Minister of Music, and Mark Faga, Lead Custodian, for their 25 years of service to Third Reformed Church. Please join us for cake, coffee, and punch after the 10 AM worship service.

Linda Strouf
Minister of Music



Linda has been serving Third Reformed Church for over 25 years - but her 25th anniversary fell right in the middle of the

COVID closures. Every bit of beautiful music you have enjoyed at Third has been made possible through her work.

Mark Faga
Lead Custodian

Mark's 25th anniversary with Third came this past August. If you've ever attended an event at Third, from worship to meetings to receptions, Mark has helped make that possible.

