



THIRD CHURCH NEWS

2022 HOLIDAY EDITION

December 22, 2022

Volume III, Issue 48

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.*

—Isaiah 9:2

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Snow!

By now we are sure you've heard about the big snowstorm headed our way later today. Currently, between 17 and 24 inches of snow are forecasted for our area. Wow. And ugh. And, what about all our services???

We will communicate through our website, text message, and email, regarding any closures, in addition to news outlets Wood TV, WZZM, and HCTV.

If needed, our communication schedule will be as follows:

- 2:00 PM decision about the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service.
- 7:00 PM decision about the 11:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service.

- 8:00 AM decision about the 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service.

We recommend checking your email or our website at those times. As always, please use caution when deciding to come out in inclement weather.

If the Christmas Eve services are cancelled, we will not have an alternate. However, if the Christmas Day service is cancelled, we will have a walk-in service at 10:00 AM and Zoom will be available for that service. Please note that if we are having a walk-in service, the bus will not run.

Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 11 PM

Reception to follow the 5 PM Service.



Start the New Year with Great Food, Fun, and Fel- lowship!

All Kids Who Would Like to be in the Live Nativity

Please plan to arrive by 4:45 for the 5pm service.

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.

Join us on
Sunday, January 1
for a delicious
International Brunch
at 12:30, following the
El Encuentro service.

There's no obligation
to bring anything,
but if you have a
favorite dish
you want to share,
please email us at
office@trcholland.org,
to let us know.

*We hope to
see you there!*

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

Consistory Update for December 2022

Dear Friends,

We are closing in on the last few days of Advent and rejoice with the Lord coming near. Many of us have a few to-do's and shopping list items to pick up yet as well as some events that we are looking forward to to prepare for our Christmas celebration. Last night, the governing board of TRC also met to finish its work for the 2022 calendar year. And it was a big night.

We began our evening with a reading from Psalm 98 and reflected on the invitation that is given for all creation to sing and offer praise to God for the wonderful things God has done. Let us praise the Lord with joy for the gift of our Messiah this season. After devotions, the consistory received reports from various committees about their latest meetings as well as receiving an update on where we stand with our HVAC project. Things continue to move along as we gather information and work with Steve Hamstra and E&V construction as they help us diagnose water issues in the basement and possible equipment for geothermal heating.

After this, the governing board discussed five motions that were before the group for decision. The first was a motion from the governing elders to approve a change in language in the organizational handbook to the worship committee. In accordance with the new vision document, the worship committee will now be the Creative Expressions team. Good discussion was had in the room around how the function of this group would concentrate on equipping TRC for worship and hand off a lot of the supervisory responsibilities of worship to the governing elders. There was also a question raised about how El Encuentro fit into this group. The motion was amended to reflect that question and was approved to read: **Motion to approve changes in the operations manual to reflect formation of Creative Expressions team (formerly worship committee) further to charge the team to answer the following: how is it that our El Encuentro service and ministry fits into this team or if at all.**

Then the governing board discussed a motion from Elzinga Volkers construction to inspect the storm

sewer lines as part of the HVAC/Geothermal work that we are investigating as a solution to our current HVAC system. That motion was approved. The Governing board also approved two separate proposals for improvements in audio/video for the sanctuary and fellowship hall that will improve the zoom experience at TRC, give better audio visual support for events and worship in our fellowship hall and have a better amplification system for our choir and organ in the balcony. These proposals come at a cost of \$6,200 and \$4997 respectively and will come out of the future fund. The motions were both approved.

The governing board also took up a proposal solicited from architect Andy Baer to investigate the feasibility of turning part of our basement into a temporary housing alternative for members of the new immigrant community with whom we are developing relationships. A bit of background on this: When the vision document came out this fall, one of the items in the one year plan was to investigate what it would take to turn part of our basement into a shelter, thus having TRC become a mixed use building. At our November meeting, we considered using some of our future funds for egress windows. The consistory decided that, rather than spend the money, we do some investigative work on whether or not it was feasible to house people in our church basement. We reached out to the city of Holland to ask what we would need to do to investigate this and they recommended a short list of architects that they work with that could answer our questions. After researching those names, we followed up with Andy and set up a walkthrough of our basement with him. Pastor Angel, Pastor Ryan, Linda Jacobs, and Dave Boes were present for the walkthrough. After that walkthrough, Andy agreed to write up a proposal that we could look at together as a consistory and that is the proposal that the governing board took up last night. There was a lot of passionate discussion about the proposal and also about the idea of having the church used in this way. Some members, while deeply passionate about the matters of housing, weren't sure that this use of the church was a good idea. Others were in favor of the idea and still others expressed a desire to know more before they would say whether they were in favor of the idea or not. Overall, the governing board expressed a desire to have more information about the project and further, to have alternative ideas presented. It was noted that we already currently own buildings and we should al-

so give those relationships and houses more attention. After all that discussion, the governing board approved the motion as it was amended: **approve the motion from Andy Baer and further will immediately form the Housing Logistics Team by Jan 16, 2023 to have them investigate a variety of ways that we can address the housing issues that are confronting us. The team will also address the existing homes we own as well in order to provide more support and accountability for people we already help.** The amended motion was approved. Linda Jacobs will follow up with Andy to make sure there is language about feasibility study in the proposal so that he is aware of our need to go back to the consistory and the congregation before any decision is made on whether or not to house people in the church. Also, in the spirit of what the governing board agreed to, the Housing Logistics team will wait to initiate this contract with Andy Baer until we have an opportunity to engage other options for housing alternatives.

I write all this background and share all of this with you so that you can have as full of a picture as possible. I also write all this to assure everyone at TRC that this is about feasibility. I want to do this because some of us are still feeling the hurt of not being heard recently about things that have mattered a great deal to us. Others are frustrated with the prospect that some might derail a potential solution to housing issues and further drive the false narrative that the building is more important than people. These feelings are still real for some of us and so I want us to pause together a minute. No decision has been made regarding housing people in the church. This approval is only about us having all the information to make an informed decision, about which we will all have an opportunity to share our thoughts and ideas. To engage in something this big we need all of us at TRC to be on board. And there may be other ways which better address this issue than housing people in the church. Consistory is open to any and all ideas. This is simply our opportunity to gain information and think through ways to address the very real need that is in our midst every day.

Thank you for taking the time to read this very long consistory update. I want to leave you all with one final personal word to end 2022. I am so thankful for each member of TRC's consistory. Each person brings passion, knowledge and wisdom to each and

every agenda item. That's hard to do every month. This consistory has held a lot of big issues over the last year and done it with a humility and unity that is truly a gift to the church. Moreover, I am grateful for all of you, members of TRC. Sharing life and ministry with you this past year has been so energizing and life-giving. I am so optimistic for 2023 and all that God will do here through us to the praise of his Glory.

Grace and Peace to you.

Pastor Ryan

The Youth are Going Away!!!

The Youth are going away!!!!....on mission trips and retreats! The Youth of TRC are preparing for middle and high school retreats and mission trips this upcoming year. On January 20th, 2023 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, the Youth will be hosting a Student Sponsor-thon! Students have been training hard, honing their skills, and preparing to offer their gifts to the highest bidder! Everyone, and we mean EVERYONE, is invited to this fundraising event to help the youth of TRC! Come join us for a time of hors d'oeuvres (fancy word for appetizers) served by the youth, a program on the various trips youth will take, and.....drum roll, please.....bid on youth provided skills such as babysitting, shoveling, baking, dog walking, and so much more, during the silent auction portion of the event! Our goal is to raise \$6,000!

Please consider donating to help the youth of TRC experience the love of God through service, learning, and community, as they take part in the retreats and mission trips both domestically and internationally! Please contact Hunter Brumels, hunter.brumels@trcholland.org, if you would like more information.

Trips include:

- Middle School Retreat - Camp Geneva, January 27-29th, 2023
- High School Retreat - Grace Adventures, February 24-26th, 2023
- High School Mission Trip to Juarez, Mexico - Mar. 31st to April 5th, 2023
- Middle School Mission Trip - Hope House Detroit -June 26-30th, 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

No Sunday School until January 8

Intergroup Dialogue Participation Sign Up

The JET committee wished to give you one final invitation for the intergroup dialogue that will begin in the new year! If you haven't signed up already, please do so here: <https://forms.gle/ngphZRiTxXVGQm1AA>. We wanted to let you know that our slate of facilitators for this conversation are:

- Elissa Lappenga
- Jim Neevel
- Ellen Awad
- Dan Rooks
- Vicky Mast
- Tim DuMez

These small groups will be facilitated in teams of two. So the number of sign ups we are looking at having three good size groups. Thank you to those that agreed to facilitate these conversations!

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.

Your Gift, in Pictures

Pastor Kent and Miss Joyce have sent us these pictures of the beautiful bookshelves and cabinets we gifted him upon his retirement. Design is by Amy Hagoood, and build is by Dale Dykema.



Third Church Family News

Happy Anniversary

to Willis and Ella Weymon who celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 23.
to Dean and Kathy Miedma who will celebrate their 54th anniversary on January 5.

Happy Birthday

to Jacob Van Duinen who turns 15 on December 23.
to Beatrix Schoon-Tanis who turns 10 on December 31.
to Eli Van Duinen who turns 12 on January 2.
to Elaine Tanis who turns 87 on January 5.

New Address

Esther DePree
145 Columbia Ave. #223
Holland, MI 49423
616-820-7784

Thank You

To all Third Church Members:

I would like to express my gratitude for all the loving support I have received from so many members of TRC. I very much appreciate all the cards and well wishes. I am dealing with Parkinson's and memory issues and now live at Beacon Hill Memory Support, 1845 Boston SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506.

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

Love,
Lucille Schroeder

Prayer Requests

Condolences:

- Adriann Divozzo on the death of her sister-in-law.
- Esther Vande Bunte on the death of her sister-in-law.

Please pray for:

- Herb Pollock in Zeeland Hospital.
- Makayla Zamudio Ramos in hospital.
- Mary Boersen has moved from the hospital to rehab.
- Jaime Amaro whose surgery has been postponed a few weeks.
- Tom Ten Hoeve
- Lucille Schroeder.
- Steve and Dawn Vander Ark and their son Adam.
- Larry and Carla Sue health concerns.
- Jerry and Betty Van Wyngarden grandson's difficult surgery.

Those who have moved:

- Assisted Living at FV: Eileen Resch and Esther DePree.
- Vista Springs: Sue Ten Hoeve and Barb Piaget.
- Hospice Care: Lois Jalving, Sue Ten Hoeve.
- Those who are trying to get across the border before it closes. Pastor Samuel who is helping with the chaos at the border.

Those in El Encuentro who are missing their families at Christmas time.

We remember in our prayers: Reno Lamanía, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Don Maatman, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Tom Norman, Elvira Garcia

Prayer Spotlight: American House - Ed & Jane Westerbeke; Appledorn - Bob Kuiper, Donna Prins, Ellen Rieck; Maple Woods - Muriel Bolhuis, Beth DuMez, Dennis DeWitt.

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