

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

January 17, 2023

Volume IV No. 3

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This Coming Sunday, January 22

Pastor Ryan will be preaching on I Corinthians 1:10-18 and Matthew 4:12-23.

Answering the Call

Last week, TRC received an urgent reach-out from a local non-profit. An Afghani family of 6 arrived in Holland around Christmas time, and partners, mentors and friends are needed to meet with them and help them get settled. They are not able to qualify as refugees as so many other families from Afghanistan do, and so there are no resources earmarked to help them make their way.

In response to the call, the deacons have pulled together a team under the leadership of Roger DeYoung (Third Reformed Church) and Bev Stevenson (from Intersection Ministries) and obtained very short term housing. This will not constitute official sponsorship as in other seasons, but sharing the resources, networks, and friendly support we have to help them get established. Others also sharing in this network of support are Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates, and RCA global mission, who has given a one-time grant of funds for TRC deacons to administrate for basic needs such as housing, medical needs, groceries, clothing and transportation. The family is made up of mostly adults, most of whom are highly skilled professionals and have so much to offer in the years ahead!

It feels meaningful that this occurred in the same week in which we could rejoice and the reunion of another family in the ways that God provided for their needs and longings. Would you also pray for this new family, and for the ways that they are searching to make a home in Michigan?

COMING THIS FRIDAY!

THE STUDENT SPONSOR-THON 5:30-7:30 PM



The Youth of TRC are preparing for middle and high school retreats and mission trips this year. This Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, the Youth will be hosting a Student Sponsor-thon (see above graphicS).

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

Thank You Kids Hope Team!

January is Volunteer Month, and our Kids Hope Director, Beverley Rannow, has this to say about the Kids Hope team at Third:

The Third Reformed Kids Hope Team is awesome! We appreciate their commitment, encouragement, investment and involvement in our Kids Hope program. The following people serve as Kids Hope Mentors: Hunter Brumels; Stephanie Brumels; Phil Coray; Jane Dalman; Mary DeWitt; Carl Folkert; Katherine Hunsberger; Loretta Sue Krieger-Baxter; Kathleen Ludeman; Kathy Miedema; Gretchen Munroe; Kara Nguyen; Mike Rannow; Dan Rooks; Jacquie Sewell; Maria Urrea; Dave Vanderwel; Ella Weymon.

The following people serve as Kids Hope Prayer Partners: Nina Albers; Jan Benningfield; Rich Bishop; Bailey Brumels; Eunice DeWitt; Harvey Doorenbos; Marj Hoekstra; Charles Hunt; Reno Lamania; Marilyn Norman; Laurie Orlow; Debbie Rooks; Greg Sewell; Karen Stam; Marta Stanley; Sandy Stielstra; Lee & Milly TenBrink; Barb Tenpas; Mary VanVoorst; Crystal Walvoord.

The following people have jumped in to drive the bus for us or serve ice cream: Roger DeYoung; Steve DeYoung; Jeff Munroe.

A Big Thank You!!

Registration Time is Almost Here!



Keep your eyes peeled. First three people to register win a prize!

Wondering about Membership at Third?

If you are brand new, or even already quite familiar with TRC, you may have questions about what it would look like to take the next step of membership commitment. We would love to hear how God has been leading you, talk through any questions, and share with you about our Reformed faith tradition, church organization, and ways you can get involved!

We intend to offer an evening Inquirer's Series for prospective new members starting in mid January 2023, with a small group already forming, and room for more! The specific dates will be arranged between the pastors and interested participants. To sign up or ask questions, please email Pastor Janelle at janelle.lopezk@trcholland.org.

Gifts and Memorials Exterior Inventory Questionnaire

The Gifts and Memorials Committee is updating their inventory list and is hoping you can help. If you know of a plant/tree/other exterior item that was given as a gift commemorating something, or a memorial for someone, please take a moment to call the church office with any information you have. Thanks!

Living Green

—Mark Faga, Lead Custodian and Green Team Member

Welcome to 2023 friends. We have made it past Christmas, jumped into New Year toasts and resolutions, survived a blizzard and are now ready to compost. Right? Or is that just me? I've mentioned getting to this in newsletters past and we are finally here. Ready?

Composting is not something that I do at home. However, I, like many others I'm sure, are tired of throwing food away. On one hand we need to make sure that we only prepare what we need or enjoy leftovers. There is however food waste that comes from preparing our meals. Egg shells, watermelon rinds and lettuce stems to name a few. It's time to stop throwing these items away as 21% of our landfills are food waste alone.

Fortunately we have options...

1. Compost at home. You can do this by setting aside an area in your yard to dump your waste. You can buy or build a bin. You can also purchase a compact composter like the Lomi Composter that will fit on your counter.
2. Use your local compost drop-off program. We are very fortunate in Ottawa County to be able to collect and drop off our compostable food waste at the Ottawa Resource Recovery Center on Quincy here in Holland. I have begun using this program and it is very easy.

Just head to miottawa.org/compost to:

- find out what composting is,
- find out why composting is so important,
- get information on how to compost at home,
- enroll in the drop off program,
- find out if your business should think about composting.

So let's kick 2023 off right with our next step to Living Green.

And for this month I leave you with a quote, *"Twenty five years ago, people could be excused for not knowing much about climate change. Today, we have no excuses."* Desmond Tutu

Announcements

Learning Trip to Frontera de Gracia

The next RCA trip to Frontera de Gracia is February 16-20, 2023. Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where Frontera de Gracia is located, is across the border from El Paso, Texas. For more information on how you can be a part of this missional work and accompany the group on this trip, please contact Pastor Angel at alopez@rca.org.

Upcoming Mosaic Classes

January 22, 2023

A Migrant at the Lord's Table: Migration, Home, and the Christian Life

Dr. Alberto La Rosa Rojas

Dr. La Rosa Rojas's scholarship lies at the intersection of systematic theology and ethics, focusing on theologies of migration and home. His family recently moved to Holland where he is the 2022-23 Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics. Dr. La Rosa Rojas received his Th.D. in Theology and Ethics from Duke Divinity School (2022) with a dissertation titled, "God's Journey Home: Toward a Theology of Migration and Home from the Americas." He's a graduate of Western Theological Seminary and Trinity Christian College. He is also a licensed candidate for ordination in the RCA.

January 29, 2023

Living into our God-Given Gifts and Calling

Liz Testa

Rev. Liz Testa is a pastor, artist, visionary leader, innovator and community builder who is passionate about encouraging and equipping others to live into their God-given gifts and callings. She currently serves the Reformed Church in America (RCA) as the denominational executive leader for Women's Transformation and Leadership. Rev. Testa serves on the New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees and is a doctoral student in Transformational Preaching. She is honored to be a 2022 recipient of Christians for Biblical Equality (CBE) International's Lifetime Achievement Award for her sacrifice, courage and vision in advancing the bibli-

cal basis for gender equality.

Rev. Testa will also be the guest preacher that Sunday, at the 10:00 a.m. service.

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.

Third Church Family News

Sympathy

To the family of Lois Jalving on her passing on January 13.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following:

- Rebecca Rannow who is having difficulties with her pregnancy.
- Condolences for the family of Lois Jalving, who passed away on January 13.
- Steve and Dawn Vander Ark and their son Adam.
- Betty Lou Voskuil recuperating from surgery.
- Those at the border waiting to cross into the U.S.
- Hospice Care: Sue Ten Hoeve

Remember in our prayers: Reno Lamania, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Don Maatman, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Tom Norman, Lucille Schroeder.

Prayer Spotlight: Maple Woods - Muriel Bolhuis, Beth DuMez, Dennis DeWitt; Freedom Village Inn or Assisted Living - Martha Beld, Esther DePree, Margaret Doorenbos, Mary Heideman, Jack Kuiper, A.E. Lacy, Herb Pollock, Eileen Resch

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