

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

January 24, 2023

Volume IV No. 4

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This Coming Sunday, January 29

Rev. Liz Testa, our guest preacher, will deliver her sermon entitled "The Power of Encouragement" on Luke 1:1-45.

Rev. 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.

Consistory Update for January 2023

Dear friends,

Last week Tuesday the consistory of Third Reformed Church met for our January meeting. We reflected together on Isaiah 60 for the Epiphany season and opened the meeting with prayer.

After our opening, we received reports and gave thanks to God for all the work being done at TRC. Next we had our items for discussion.

- We finalized our slate of elders that will represent TRC at Holland Classis meetings this year. They are Joyce Magee, Ellen Awad, and Mike Rannow. Mike will also be the elder delegate to regional synod along with Pastor Ryan who will go as a delegate in May. Thanks to those that stepped up!
- We formalized the nominations committee that will begin work on finding new elders and deacons for the coming term. A list of eligible people will go out soon so that we may also solicit nominations from the congregation. The members of this team are: Jim VanderMeer, Linda Jacobs, Mark Hiskes, Laura McMullen, Dan Bolt, Pastor Ryan and Pastor Janelle.
- We filled out a consistory inquiry from the Holland classis. This is a yearly survey we turn into clas-

sis updating them on our ministry.

- We received a financial update from our Treasurer Jeff Beird. We closed the year strong and were \$11,755 short of achieving our budget. This is an improvement of a \$40k shortfall last year. We give thanks to God for being faithful and for the congregation which continues to give so generously.

Finally, we had three items for decision:

- The first was to approve the nomination of Mark Hiskes to be the next VP of consistory.
- The second was to approve the ordination contract of Hunter Brumels. Hunter earned his MDiv last year and will be commissioned here at TRC as an ordained minister. While his is not an installed position, the soon-to-be Rev. Hunter Brumels will continue to serve Third as our Youth Pastor under contract.
- Two items were signed which changed our bank from Huntington to West Michigan Community Bank. This was done to build a relationship with a local bank rather than a national bank as we seek financing for our HVAC project.

All of these items passed unanimously. We then closed our meeting in prayer. If you have any questions, or would like more information about any of the above topics, please do not hesitate to reach out to a pastor or member of the consistory.

Pastor Ryan



Thank you so much to all that came out and gave on Friday for the TRC Student Sponsor-Thon! What a wonderful time! Events such as this show the love of Christ to our students! It was so encouraging to have our students be so supported as they prepare for retreats and mission trips where they will learn about and serve God!

Thank you to all who helped make food, serve, set

up and take down! In ONE night we were able to raise over \$5,353 towards our \$6,000 goal! Praise be to God! This will help to send groups to two different countries - a total of 29 student participants on 4 different retreat and mission trips!!

We, as TRC youth and leaders, wouldn't be able to make these trips a reality without all of your support, prayers, and donations! Thank you again for being willing to support our youth in such a tangible way! Please continue to pray for all of our students as they prepare for their retreats and mission trips this year!

Grace and Peace,
Hunter

Next Week it's Registration Time!



Remember: First three people to register win a prize!

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!

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 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 biblical basis for gender equality.

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

February 5 and 12, 2023

Classes led by Dr. Fred Johnson

Dr. Johnson has been featured before in our adult education series, presenting on "Reckoning with Our History", "Racial Stereotypes", and "African American Artistic Contributions."

Dr. Fred L. Johnson III has taught history at Hope College since 2000. Dr. Johnson's primary field of study is 19th century U.S. history, specifically, the Civil War. His other areas of expertise are 20th century U.S. history, U.S. military history and African

history. Dr. Johnson formerly served in the United States Marine Corps.

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

Happy Anniversary

To Steve and Dawn Vander Ark on January 30 - 54 years.

New Addresses

Temporary: Ed & Jane Westerbeke
145 Columbia Ave. #309
Holland, MI 49423

Ellen Rieck
Morning Pointe #121
1015 Generations Way
Franklin, TN 37064
616-994-3215

Sympathy

To the family of Muriel Bolhuis, who passed away today, January 24, 2023. A private graveside service for family members will take place on Thursday.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following:

- The family of Muriel Bolhuis, who passed away earlier today.
- Kroll family
- Alan Beagley
- Lucille Schroeder
- Bill and Roxanne Helder who are both dealing with health concerns
- Ellen Rieck who has moved to Tennessee
- Rebecca Rannow who is having difficulties with her pregnancy
- Steve and Dawn Vander Ark and their son Adam

- New refugee/asylum families who have moved to Holland
- 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: Home - Bill Charlton, Barb Mumert, Ruby Steketee; Out of Town - Don Maatman, Ellen Rieck.

Missionaries: John and Lynne Hubers (Ethiopia), Angel Lopez (Mexico).

