

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

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In this issue:

- This Coming Sunday, February 5 •
- It's Time! Register for Staytreat '23 Today! •
 - LIFT This Week •
 - Disability Concerns •
 - Breakfast with Baby •
- Gifts and Memorials Exterior Inventory Questionnaire •
 - Calling All Pickleball Players •
 - Announcements •
- Third Church Family News •
 - Prayer Requests •

This Coming Sunday, February 5

Pastor Ryan will be preaching on Isaiah 58:1-9a and Matthew 5:13-20 in his sermon on "More Righteousness."

It's Time! Register for Staytreat '23 Today!

Yes! Today you can register to attend Staytreat '23! This is a fun-filled weekend that brings us joy, laughter, learning, delicious food, and wonderful fellowship. The weekend will kick off with a community meal on Friday, March 10, followed by some you-don't-want-to-miss-it entertainment and introduction to the weekend's themes, which will center on the vibrant life in engaging in God's Word. On Saturday things begin with a breakfast meeting for the Consistory, and we will all come back together for a noon meal. Following the afternoon activities, we will enjoy dinner together and some bang-up talent and entertainment that evening. On Sunday we will come together to worship the Lord at 10 AM and thank him for our time together. Sound like fun? You bet!

In the registration form you'll find an opportunity to volunteer to help set up/clean up/provide activity supervision and more. Additionally, while this weekend is being provided for you at no charge, if you would like to contribute something towards the cost of food and supplies, there's a spot on the form to indicate that as well.

Finally, remember that the first three people to register (the person doing the registering, not their entire family) win a special prize!



Disability Concerns

Amy Kenny, the author of "My Body is Not a Prayer Request" and speaker at the Calvin University January Series this year, is very critical of the way many people think of and treat people with disabilities. Many assume that disabilities can be overcome by praying enough or getting the right medical treatment, that normality can always be achieved. Some people are assumed to be faking their condition. Some have commented that she should bathe with Epsom salts to draw out the disability or try jogging (she uses a cane or wheelchair to move.) Other comments she has received: "You'll be healed if you just believe." Others say they feel uncomfortable seeing her." I'd rather be dead than disabled."

She attended a school that had a large campus, which caused her to be 3 minutes late for class and get many tardy slips. One day a week she would be put through many painful and ineffective treatments in a laboratory and treated with little concern for how she hurt. At the department of motor vehicles applying for a disability plate the employee said she doubted Amy would be able to drive.

She has critical comments about how churches relate to people with disabilities. When the Americans with Disabilities Act was being developed, church leaders lobbied for and received exemptions because it would impose burdensome costs and needless injury to their religious exercises.

Kenny discusses a number of issues Christians have had and still do concerning disability as punishment for sinning. She cites the story in John 9 about Jesus healing the man born blind, explaining that the man or/his parents sinning caused the blindness, but that "the works of God should be made manifest."

She writes at length about the idea that people with disabilities may retain the condition in the afterlife, sensing that it is so much a part of their existence. Also, there is the question of whether God suffers.

For people interested in discussing her book there will be a series of zoom meetings in February and March. A number of free print, electronic or audio copies of the book will be available. If interested please let me know.

Phil Coray, 616-396-2060, pjcoray@att.net

Breakfast with Baby

Third Church is responsible for Breakfast With Baby on Feb. 11th from 9:15-11:15 at the Boulevard Church. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Place for volunteers to help serve, make egg casseroles, muffins or sweet breads or to provide fruit. Thanks for your help.

Jane Dalman

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 contact the church office with any information you have. Thanks!

Calling All Pickleball Players!

There will be pickleball at 10 AM on Fridays. If a conflict arises, the church calendar will be changed and, if possible, a notice will be placed in TCN.

There is no need to worry about level of play - just that you're prepared to have a good time!



Announcements

Ordination Service for Hunter Brumels is on February 19

On February 19, our Director of Youth Ministries, Hunter Brumels, will be ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church. The service will take place here at 4 PM and will be followed by a celebratory reception.

Upcoming Mosaic Classes

February 5 and 12, 2023

A Two-Part Series on African Americans Who Helped Save Democracy

Dr. Fred Johnson

Dr. Fred L. Johnson III has taught history at Hope College since 2000 and was recently named to the Guy VanderJagt endowed chair of the history department. 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

Sympathy

to Jeanette Beagley-Koolhaas on the passing of Alan Beagley, her husband, on Saturday morning, January 28, 2023, and to the Lopez-Koolhaas family on the loss of their beloved uncle and great uncle. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, February 4, at 3 PM here at Third.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following:

- Condolences to Dan Bolhuis in the death of his mother, Muriel, on January 24
- Condolences to Jeanette Beagley and the Lopez-Koolhaas family in the death of Alan Beagley on January 28.
- Dennis DeWitt is in Holland Hospital.
- Jaime Amaro has been readmitted to the hospital with complications following surgery.
- Linda Strouf and her continued recovery from surgery.
- The Kroll family.
- Bill & 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: Appledorn - Bob Kuiper, Donna Prins; Vista Springs - Barb Piaget.

Missionaries: Jaime and Martha Amaro (Mexico), Albino and Sandy Rodriguez (Peru).