

# THIRD CHURCH NEWS

THE SEASON OF LENT 2023



March 16, 2023

Volume IV No. 11

THIS COMING SUNDAY,  
MARCH 26:

*"Twenty Miles  
Is Halfway"*

*Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes on  
Hebrews 6:13-20*

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# Holy Week Schedule

We have a full Holy Week schedule coming up.

- April 2, 2023, at 10:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship in the sanctuary.
- April 2, 2023, at 11:30 AM El Encuentro Worship in the Fellowship Hall.
- April 6, 2023, at 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday All-Church dinner of soup and salad followed by a worship service in the Fellowship Hall at

*Member, Lorna Cook offers encouragement on returning to in person worship.*

## On Being Here

—Lorna Cook

I remember when I first heard the phrase ‘flatten the curve’ in early 2020, when Michigan essentially shut down amid the thrum of anxiety and fear. Now, I am grateful every day we move further past the pandemic, and when I walk into the sanctuary of Third Reformed Church and see familiar faces.

Like all churches, ours on Twelfth and Pine is just a building, but it’s also a specific one designed to be different from our homes and other places, to impart the sense that we’re here to worship, together. It’s a visceral experience. We’re attuned to the ritual, the quiet, and to others rustling around us. The music reverberates. Light filters through stained glass. We pass the peace; walk forward to take communion together; greet friends and visitors afterward. It’s alive and organic.

Of course, Zoom remains a great option for those who are shut-in, traveling, or under-the-weather. But with Covid no longer depriving us of gathering in person, I am thrilled to turn off Zoom and be in church. Here, I sense hope in ways that aren’t definable; the Holy Spirit moving in and among us. When I walk out again into the world, I feel changed. It may not be in huge or profound ways every Sunday, but it matters. In this season of Lent, I believe that sermons and hymns and sacraments are particularly more meaningful in person than via computer screens. In the words in Psalmist, “I was glad when they said let us go to the house of the Lord.” So I get out of my own house, and go. I hope you will too, if you are able.

6:30 PM.

- April 7, 2023, at 12:10 PM Good Friday Ecumenical Worship service in the sanctuary.
  - April 9, 2023, at 7:00 AM Easter Sunrise service beginning outside (weather permitting)
- April 9, 2023, at 10:00 AM Bilingual Easter Sunday Worship in the sanctuary. Children will receive an Easter Gift Bag to take home with them. No Sunday School or Adult Education this week.

## Consistory Update for March 2023

—Mark Hiskes

This month’s Consistory meeting was held on Saturday morning during the TRC Staytreat.

Pastor Janelle opened with a devotional reflection on John 13:1-3, where Jesus washes the disciples’ feet. We, too, must have that same attitude of humility and service toward one another.

A motion was made and passed to make Ellen Awad and Dan Bolt the interim Clerk of Consistory, since Meg Frens was granted her request for a release of her position as Clerk and Governing Elder. When the new Consistory is seated in June 2023, a permanent Clerk will be appointed.

Two items came up for discussion. First, we discussed the Intergroup Dialogue sessions. The group agreed that it was important to practice good dialogue, and that the sessions themselves provided a great small-group setting for members to reconnect after the COVID isolation. It was suggested that the format could be further adapted to include more weeks, more frequency, and perhaps a hybrid model with an intensive Saturday session.

Finally, a motion was passed that since Intergroup dialogue was such a beneficial process, we ask that JET provide a proposal that will help us continue with intergroup dialogue and that JET give guidance on scope and substance.

The second item for discussion was financial. It was noted that there appeared to be a big change in the giving from January to February. We will follow up with Dave Vanderwel for a possible explanation.

There was one item for decision. A motion was passed to adopt the Care Elder Proposal as written. This Proposal has come through the care elders as a way to encourage the broadening of a Congregational Care team. The full proposal can be found following this article.

March 6, 2023

### **Proposal: Reorganizing Care Elders & Envisioning a Congregational Care Team (CCT) (Revised)**

The following reorganization is proposed for future Care Elders offices, and development of a network of lay congregational care at Third Reformed Church:

Reasons:

- To reduce the burden of nominations and recruitment for 16 care elder positions
- To reduce the burden of meetings regarding governance to which care elders may be obligated as voting members of the Consistory
- To allow spouses eager to serve to be on the consistory, without hindering gifts for caring that a family member could offer.
- To allow for new church members to participate earlier than the requisite two years of membership for installation in offices, and hopefully better prepare a pool of future care elders who are experienced and knowledgeable.
- To allow for development within our congregational care model that includes, and ministers to Spanish speaking participants at Third, by Spanish speaking members and adherents.

### **Care Elders**

4 Care Elders, nominated and elected according to existing procedures. Each would lead a Congregational Care Team of 3 lay persons, serving as a Quadrant Coordinator. The Care Elders would

hold the full responsibilities of consistory membership including meeting attendance (both Care Team meetings and full consistory), voting, opportunities to participate in working committees, and serving communion.

[Those currently serving as a Care Elder through June 2025 will maintain all rights and responsibilities as members of the consistory, and will transition to the greater consistory upon the end of term.]

Care elders will be asked to participate a minimum of once during their term in an annual (or every second year) review of membership rolls, (approx. 2 meetings, + calls and communications) OR nominations committee (approx. 2 meetings plus calls and communication).

### **Congregational Care Team**

4 teams of at least 3 active members of the congregation would be nominated and approved by consistory to participate in the ministry of caring for our congregation through visitation, phone calls, as well as written messages, meals or other forms of support as worked out in the quadrant care team under leadership of a care elder.

Congregational Care Team (CCT) participants would be asked to serve a minimum of two years.

### **Procedure**

The Nominations Committee will provide names of nominees for CCT to the consistory for its approval, in tandem with the annual nominations process for consistory officers.

Emphasis would be given to placing team members in the quadrant where they live if that is a preference, and if possible, based on willing nominees.

### **Expectations for Congregation Care Team Participants**

The CCT should meet 4-6 times per year under the coordination of the pastors and Care Elders.

Care Elders will attend monthly meetings for care elders.

CCT: At least 4 quadrant meetings, led by a care elder with their specific CCT.

This would include responsibility to pay visits, make phone calls for all many of recognizing life occasions, to offer celebration, sympathy, prayers and support on behalf of the congregation. Manner of support may be reflective of a CCT participant's own gifts and interest to offer to others (i.e., baking bread; English tutoring; celebrating a sports or music achievement for students, etc.) CCTs should prioritize making use of Shelby Next for recording care notes and updates. Training will be provided at the annual consistory orientation meeting, and tech support available as needed. This provides helpful information to elders and pastors for pastoral care. Our goal is—Ongoing, regular, interactive contact to be recorded for as many members of quadrant as possible throughout the year.

Occasionally, under the coordination of the Care Elders (and/or pastors) a CCT may be asked to help organize particular support to meet the needs of members. This can include, as one is able, meal delivery/organizing, transportation, or help around the home/yard. A protocol and suggestions will be offered during the annual consistory orientation workshop.

## Spring Clean Up Day - April 15

Bring your kids, bring their friends, on Saturday, April 15, 8:00 AM to noon. We'll have donuts and coffee. Then we'll rake a bit, clean a bit, to celebrate spring and being together. Sidewalk chalk, basketball hoops, and other games available for kids. Just email [office@trcholland.org](mailto:office@trcholland.org) if you can come.

## LIFT Next Week, March 29

Next week it's breakfast casseroles for dinner! We hope to see you all there for dinner at 5:30 and kids activities, Middle School Youth Group, and adult bilingual Bible study as well as lots of opportunities for fellowship after the meal at 6:30.



## Micro Pantry

I imagine you have seen the headlines about the reduction of food stamp benefits that help those living in poverty and ALICE families (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) during the pandemic. Though everyone understood that when the pandemic ceased to be a concern food stamp benefits would be reduced, no one predicted that this would occur at a time when grocery prices would increase 10% over the past year. The timing is terrible. The Micro Pantry has consistently provided emergency food to our neighbors over the past year and with this reduction in benefits is likely to be needed even more.

The Micro Pantry is in desperate need of more supplies. If you take a stroll by the boxes lining the hallway wall you will see that the boxes with the following labels are completely empty: canned meat, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, rice. You will also notice that the following labeled boxes are very low: soup; tomato diced; tomato sauce; tomato paste; baked beans; peanut butter; noodles; and snacks. On the health product side we need: paper towel; soap; shampoo; tissues; hand sanitizer; toothpaste **but we don't need toothbrushes.**

I know that this is a big ask in an environment of higher costs, but any and all donations are much appreciated!

## Announcements

### Dishes Needed for Maundy Thursday Meal

Please sign up by calling the church office to bring either Soup, Salad, or Bread for our Maundy Thursday meal.

### Easter Celebration

Let's celebrate Easter together following the 10:00 AM Easter worship service. We invite you to bring cookies, bars, or a finger food to share with each other as we praise our Risen Lord. Items may be brought to the church by noon on Friday, April 7 or Sunday morning, April 9.

## Flowering the Cross

We invite each family to bring a long stem flower, on Easter Sunday morning, symbolizing loved ones who have died or a person who has touched our Christian faith. The flowers will be put on a wooden cross during both morning services. The cross will be processed only at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

## Upcoming Mosaic Classes

**March 26, 2023**

***Approaching the Bible with Artist Eyes***

**Bryant Russ**

Come discover what we might see when we explore the Bible through artists' eyes. We will play with familiar texts alongside some of Church history's most famous interpreters—and we might be surprised by what we find!

Bryant is the Director of Faith Formation at Holland Christian Schools.

**April 2, 2023**

***Islam***

**John Hubers**

John currently serves as a professor and consultant for the Christian-Muslim relations program at the Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. John and his wife Lynne have also served as RCA missionaries in Bahrain, and John was a member of the religion faculty at Northwestern College. John and Lynne are members of Third Reformed Church.

## 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.

## Third Church Family News

### Sympathy

To the family and friends of Herb Pollock who died on March 20. A service in memory of Herb will take place on Saturday, March 25, at Dykstra Northwood Chapel - 295 Douglas Ave., at 2:00 PM.

## New Address

Mary Toppen-Palma

145 Columbia Ave. #752

Holland, MI 49423

## Prayer Requests

### Condolences

- Family of Herb Pollock who died on March 20.
- Bob and MaryAlice Ritsema on the death of her sister, Ravell Rayne in Arizona.

### Pray for the following:

- Etta Hesselink who is in Holland Hospital for testing.
- Grayson Sievert who is in DeVos Children's Hospital with a respiratory virus.
- Milly Ten Brink recuperating from knee surgery.
- Elmer Parchert who will be moving to memory care at the FV inn.
- Dennis De Witt who will be returning to his apartment on a trial basis.
- Continue to pray for Arshad Amiri (17 yo) contracted bacterial meningitis. He has moved to Mary Free Bed. There will be lots of transportation needs for family to visit him.
- John Hubers who is returning home from Ethiopia this week.
- For the children and youth and their families of Third Church.
- For the church services leading up to Easter.

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

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

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