

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

THE SEASON OF EASTER 2023



April 13, 2023

Volume IV No. 15

THIS COMING SUNDAY,
April 16:

Second Sunday of Easter

"Living by Faith"

Dr. David Moffitt preaching

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NEW TIME! NEW TIME! NEW TIME!



SPRING CLEANING PARTY

Saturday, April 15

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

RSVP TO OFFICE@TRCHOLLAND.ORG

We will finish the day with hot, delicious pizza for everyone!

Living Green

—Mark Faga, Head Custodian and Green Team Member

So after last month's article concerning chewing gum and if it was good for you and the planet or not I thought we'd have a little fun again this month. As it is Earth Day on April 22nd I thought we'd test your ECO I.Q. with another riveting quiz. This comes from the HGTV magazine (you don't think I come up with this stuff on my own do you? haha). There will be 10 questions and 5 T or F for you to test your skills on. Good Luck.

Happening This Saturday!
See you there!



LIFT Next Week,

April 19

Fajitas for dinner! Dinner is at 5:30 and activities for kids, youth, and adults begins at 6:15. See you there!

New Hebrews LIFT Bible Study

Please join us during LIFT for a three-week study on the priestly work of Jesus in Hebrews! This study will be led by Dr. Madison Pierce, and it will offer some additional opportunities to engage with Hebrews. Each week we will focus on Hebrews 4-10 and answer a question (or two) related to atonement: Who? (April 12); where and when? (April 19); and why? (April 26). Dinner is at 5:30, and the study begins at 6:15.

1. Which items can go in the recycle bin?
 - A. Milk cartons
 - B. used paper plates
 - C. metallic chip bags
 - D. wood chopsticks
 - E. cloth rags
 - F. aluminum foil
 - G. plastic cutlery
 - H. plastic containers
 - I. aluminum cans
 - J. plastic shopping bags
2. Which fixture or appliance uses the most water?
 - A. sink
 - B. shower
 - C. washing machine
 - D. toilet
 - E. garden hose
 - F. dishwasher
3. What's the name for the vortex of trash stretching from the western North America to Japan in the Pacific Ocean?
 - A. The Oceanic Wasteland
 - B. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch
 - C. The Floating Dumpster Fire
 - D. The Pacific Trash Trap

4. What is "vampire power"?
A. the name for electronic devices that you charge overnight
B. a way to save energy by running HVAC systems after sundown
C. energy that appliances consume even when off
D. energy that you source on you own, through solar panels or other means

5. Which U.S. state is the most energy efficient?
A. Vermont
B. Montana
C. California
D. Oregon

6. Which household appliance uses the most energy?
A. dryer
B. Wi-Fi router
C. television
D. refrigerator

7. Which item does NOT belong in the compost pile?
A. citrus peels
B. eggshells
C. coffee filters
D. pizza boxes
E. banana peels

8. How much does the average American household spend annually on electricity?
A. \$900
B. \$1,500
C. \$3,600
D. \$8,500

9. What's the most common cause of household leaks?
A. faulty dishwashers
B. running toilets
C. drippy faucets
D. loose hose connections

10. The EPA suggests you set your thermostat to a difference of ____degrees when you leave your home.
A. 0-leave it alone
B. 2-3

C. 7-8
D. 11-12

11. Cooling your house requires more energy than heating it. True or False?

12. Taking a 10-minute shower is better for water conservation than taking a quick bath. True or False?

13. The best time of day to water your lawn is early morning. True or False?

14. A full refrigerator requires more energy than an empty one. True or False?

15. America consumes more energy than any other country. True or False?

The answers to this quiz are at the bottom of this email. Here's to hoping you all did awesome. If you'd like deeper answers to the questions please feel free to google HGTV magazine, Eco IQ, or to stop into the church office and see me. Happy Earth Day everyone.

Announcements

Micro Pantry Needs

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!

Upcoming Mosaic Classes

April 16, 2023

Rev. Dr. Don Bruggink: A Biographical Interview

Conducted by Nella Kennedy

Nella Kennedy will sit down with Don and facilitate a discussion around his years of experience in teaching and preaching. Reverend Dr. Donald J. Bruggink received his A.B. from Central College, Pella, Iowa, in 1951 and his B.D. from Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan, in 1954, and Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh in 1956. He was licensed and ordained by the RCA Classis of Wisconsin in 1954 and served as pastor of the Fordham Manor Reformed Church, Bronx, New York, from 1957-1962, after which he joined the faculty of Western Seminary in 1962.

Don's books and publications include *Guilt, Grace and Gratitude: A Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism* (1963), *Christ and Architecture: Building Presbyterian/ Reformed Churches* (1965), *When Faith Takes Form: Contemporary Churches of Architectural Integrity in America* (1971) and *Worship the Lord* (1987).

April 23, 2023

Hebrews: An Overview

Dr. Madison Pierce

Dr. Madison Pierce, member of Third Reformed Church, is an Associate Professor of New Testament at Western Theological Seminary. Her areas of expertise include the book of Hebrews, the use of Scripture in Scripture, and the Catholic Epistles. Her Ph.D. dissertation, *Divine Discourse in the Epistle to the Hebrews*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2020.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Corinthian Correspondence: The Cross Changes Everything.

A study with Rev. Dr. George Hunsberger.

Third Church Family

News

Sympathy

Jay and Carol Carpenter on the death of Jay's father in Washington.

Prayer Requests

Condolences:

- Phil and Janeth Coray on the death of Phil's brother in California.
- Mary DeWitt, Karin Ashcroft and family on the death of Dennis.

Pray for the following:

- Phyllis Brown who is now at the Inn at Freedom Village, recuperating from hip surgery.
- Kathy Van Tubbergen who begins therapy, this week for a pinched nerve in her neck.
- All those suffering because of mass shootings.
- Give thanks for all who attended our Easter Service.
- Margaret Doorenbos, who has entered Hospice care.

Remember in our prayers: Reno Lamanian, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen,

Bob and Elle Kuiper, Barb and Gordon Mummert, Tom Norman, Lucille Schroeder.

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

Missionaries: Wayne & Miho Jansen (Japan), Rowland Jr. & Jane VanEs (Kenya), Victor Kanyi (Kenya).

March Financial Update

—Dave Vanderwel, Assistant Treasurer

The difficult news is that we are still running a greater deficit than we planned (\$59K v the \$25K planned in the budget for the end of March). The positive for this month is that the picture has improved slightly over the past month. Last month we were \$40K under budget; now we're \$35K under budget with three months to go in this shortened fiscal year. We'll have to narrow that deficit more quickly than we have thus far.

You'll note in the table below that our income is on par with last year but our income expectations for this year were higher than last year. Thus our operating income year-to-date is \$27K under budget. Our expenses, however, are tracking close to budget this year (+\$2K).

Here is a quick look at the comparative numbers through March 31:

Category	Actual YTD	Last Year YTD	Budget YTD
Operating income	\$247,180	\$247,470	\$274,000
Designated gifts	\$10,956	\$18,573	\$12,500
Total Income	\$258,136	\$266,043	\$286,500
Operating expense	\$293,387	\$240,794	\$291,475
Designated gifts	\$16,121	\$29,288	\$12,500
Transfer to reserves	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500.00
Total expense	\$317,008	\$277,582	\$311,475
Net Income	(\$58,872)	(\$11,538)	(\$24,975)

Some of the potential questions triggered by the above information can be answered as follows:

- Why did we expect income to go up as much as we budgeted? Our budget was set last October. At that time giving was up 5% over the prior year and we anticipated that income growth continuing. November and January giving, however, fell far short of plan and we're still trying to dig out of that hole. January general fund giving was \$33K under budget, but February was +\$13K compared to budget and March was just -\$1K.
- Why don't the designated gifts shown as income balance with the designated gifts shown as expense? While these are basically pass-through accounts (gifts designated for particular mission programs such as Lubna Y. and Frontera de Gracia which we collect and send on to them), we usually hold funds collected and send them once a significant enough amount has been accumulated so the wire transfer fees don't consume a major percentage of the gifts. When the amount shown as expense is greater than that shown as income (as in this year), that indicates there are some 2022 gifts we've carried over from last year before sending them this year.

- Why were last year's expenses so low? There are multiple reasons, among them are the timing of paying mission shares and insurance premiums, and lower staffing costs as we were shifting staff roles and hadn't fully implemented those staffing changes at that stage of the year.

With just three months remaining in this budget year (ending June 30), we are looking forward to congregational members stepping up their giving during these months to help us meet our budget goals for this year. If your pattern is to make your gift to the church at the end of the calendar year, we hope you will make a portion of that gift during this transition year to assist us with our budgeting and cash flow. Thanks for your consideration.

Living Green Quiz Answer Key

1. A, F, H, I 2. D 3. B 4. C 5. C 6. D 7. A 8. B 9. B
10. C 11. False 12. True 13. True 14. False 15. False