

# THIRD CHURCH NEWS

ORDINARY TIME 2023

September 7, 2023

Volume IV No. 36

## Beginnings

A Genesis Series | Fall 2023

*"I Am Not My Own"*

Rev. Janelle López-Koolhaas on Genesis 2

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### LIFT Next Wednesday!

Next Wednesday, September 13, is our first fall LIFT of the season. Join us for Walking Tacos at 5:30, and then the following activities:

6:15 PM

- Activities for Kids 4 - 5th Grade
- Middle School Youth Group

6:30 PM - Classes for Adults

- **CETI Class:** CETI is an acronym in Spanish—Comunidad de Estudios Teológicos Interdisciplinarios. This curriculum was created in Argentina and speaks to these very real questions about what it means to gather together with a perspective that's new and fresh for us as we continue to grow together as a community that is represented by more than one culture.
- **Art Activities:** Open Art Studio for High Schoolers & Adults. Folk Art Activity on Week 1. If you'd like to participate in the Folk Art activity, please sign up on the Gathering Place or email us at [office@trcholland.org](mailto:office@trcholland.org).
- **Tech Team Meeting:** If you've been interested in what the Tech Team does during our Sunday worship services, or if you'd like to learn all about cameras, switching, and sound boards - please feel free to join us for our first fall meeting at 6:30 in the Tech Booth in the sanctuary.

# Backyard Bash was a Splash of Fun!

A big thanks to everyone who came out and helped, and to all our Dunk Tank volunteers and volun-tolds!



# The Corinthian Correspondence – Part Deux

During the past year, a dozen of us in the congregation explored the relationship between the Apostle Paul and the first century church in Corinth in the southern part of Greece. In the letter called 1 Corinthians, we heard Paul play out the implications of the gospel he had been sent to announce among the Gentile peoples of his day— "that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." Paul showed how those who believe that message—in first century Corinth or 21st century North America—are taken by the Holy Spirit on a journey as the people of God. Our identity and our practices are formed by that message.

You are invited now to join us on the next part of the journey. This fall, we will explore Paul's fourth letter to Corinth, commonly called 2 Corinthians. Uhh, yeah, about that. In 1 Corinthians he mentions that he had written them an earlier letter, which we unfortunately do not have. So, 1 Corinthians was at least his second one. And the same thing happens in the letter we call 2 Corinthians. He mentions another letter sent just prior to it. So this letter is neither the Second nor even the Third letter in the correspondence, but the Fourth one that we know about. But being the second one that we have in our New Testament, we'll call it 2 Corinthians. In any case, we will discover there what Paul has to say about things like Comfort in the midst of distress, Purpose for our lives, and Hope for the future.

We meet weekly at 11:15am on Sundays beginning on September 10. This time would make it especially convenient for parents of children who

are in their own Sunday School classes at that time. We meet in Room 22 on the east corridor in the basement level. Come and give it a try!

—George Hunsberger, Tour Guide

## Women's Ministries of Third Reformed Church Kickoff Event

The Women's Ministries of Third Reformed Church Kickoff Event is September 12 at 7:00 p.m in the Gathering Place. Refreshments will be served following a short program describing TRC's Women's Ministries. Our Bible study subject this year is Luke-Acts. All women are invited to join one of our study groups and join us for the kickoff.

## Register for Intergroup Dialogue

### First things first: What is Intergroup Dialogue?

Intergroup Dialogue is a practice developed at the University of Michigan which trains participants to have difficult conversations well. Small groups meet regularly over a set number of sessions with the goal of developing trust, common language, communication skills, a shared understanding, and a commitment to serving their community. At Third, we have been using this practice to help us learn to talk about human sexuality and gender, and we're excited to continue our learning with another session of dialogue this fall.

### Is the goal to get everyone to think the same way?

Far from it! The best dialogue happens when people who think very differently about a topic, or who have had very different experiences, come together. The goal of dialogue is to come away

with a deeper understanding of and respect for one another's experiences and perspectives, not agreement. We hope to have a wide variety of our Third community join us.

### What if I can't attend all the sessions?

Because we will be sharing our stories and learning new communication skills together over the course of the program, it's important to have consistent participation. If you anticipate needing to miss more than one session, we recommend you wait until another offering is scheduled.

### If I was part of the first dialogue cohort, can I participate again?

Absolutely! Your experience will be a valuable addition to the group, and you will have the opportunity to learn from those you didn't get to dialogue with in the first cohort.

Intergroup Dialogue sessions will take place Wednesdays after the LIFT dinner. It will begin on September 20th and run for 8 weeks. Please email the office at [office@trcholland.org](mailto:office@trcholland.org) if you're interested in participating.

## Announcements and Dates to Remember

Church Program Year starts this Sunday!

Education hour is from 11:15 to 12:15. The following classes will take place:

- Middle School Sunday School in the Couch Room on the lower level.
- High School Sunday School in the Youth Room on the lower level.
- Kid's Sunday School (4 years old - 5th grade) in the Children and Worship Rooms on the lower level.

- Corinthian Correspondence Class in Room 22 on the lower level.
- Mosaic Class in the Chapel on the main level.

## Mosaic Class

September 10

God Is Never Far Away: The Presence of God In The Created Order

Dr. Tom Boogaart, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Western Seminary

In this session, we will engage in a slow reading of the creation account in Genesis 1. We will see how God's word creates the world and how God's breath sustains it. In the process, we will see how the account of the Exodus is a representation of the creation account and how this ancient cosmology corresponds to the modern one in interesting ways.

## Third Church Family News

### Thank You

Join us this Sunday, September 10, to thank Andy and Jane Zoerman for their years of faithful service to Third as our nursery attendants. There will be a cookie and punch reception following the 10 AM service.

### Happy Anniversary

To Bill and Nella Kennedy who celebrate 63 years of marriage on September 10.

# Prayer Requests

## Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Give thanks for the safe arrival of Jesus' family last Thursday, and a very happy family reunion.

## Pray for the following:

- For Steve and Laurie Orlow who are in England with family. Pray for their son Jeremy who has cancer.
- For Henry Ploegstra who was hospitalized following a fall.
- Those recuperating at home; Sandra Ter Haar, Al Osman, and Carl Folkert.
- For those who are dealing with weather related events, hurricanes, or heat waves.
- For those who need justice and peace.
- For children and youth who are beginning school in a new country. Help all in adjusting to a new place and language.

For plans being made for the fall activities:

- Fall Lift beginning on Sept. 13
- Sunday School on Sept. 10
- Sunrise Saints on Sept. 17
- Bible study groups that will resume.

- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos

## Prayer Spotlight

The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village: Martha Beld, Esther DePree, Mary Heideman, Jack Kuiper, A.E. Lacy, Linda Parchert.

## Remember in Our Prayers

Reno Lamania, Joanne and Jack Kuiper, Larry Loss, Dennis and Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Borsen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Barb and Gordon Mummert, Tom Norman, Linda Parchert, and all others who find themselves in difficult and lonely situations.

## Missionaries

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