

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

ORDINARY TIME 2023

October 19, 2023

Volume IV No. 42



"Dark Days and Waiting for Good News"

Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas on Genesis 8
October 22 at 10 AM

In this issue:

- Harvest Party Next Wednesday!
- Harvest Party Helpers are Needed!
- Nov. 5: One Service and All Church Lunch
- Renewing Our Congregational Care Ministry
- Women's Ministries Bible Study Invitation
- Tech Team Update
- Fragrance in the Sanctuary
- Announcements
- Third Church Family News
- Prayer Requests

Harvest party helpers needed!

The Harvest Party is here, and we need your help! This year the Harvest Party is going to be filled with fun, and we cannot do it without you! Sign up in the Gathering Place to help with this fun evening. Whether you come during the day to help set up, run a carnival game, are a part of the clean up crew, we need you! Email Reghan Harms at reghan.harms@trcholland.org with any questions!





Renewing our Congregational Care Ministry

—Pastor Janelle

Over the last year the consistory of TRC has been discerning and working to reorganize our model of congregational care. Our values have always pointed us to a robust network of coordinators working with those called to care for others across our congregation, divided into four geographic quadrants, and overseen by the pastors. In the most recent past, the caregivers were all installed elders, with additional consistory duties and meetings—a big job! Many in our church have faithfully carried out this ministry, and we are so grateful! However, each year, we were challenged to fill open seats when terms ended. It became clear that a new approach needed to be explored that could separate folks’ clear gifts and enthusiasm for caring, from governance responsibilities. At the same time, thanks be to God, new members have been joining our church family with gifts and experience that we want to celebrate and incorporate as soon as possible!

Thus, this year Consistory discussed and approved a reorganized model for Congregational Care Teams that are headed by one current, installed Care Elder, and made up of lay volunteers and in some cases former Care Elders (from the “Greater Consistory”). These 4 teams will carry out much of the same kinds

of caring that have been cherished in the past, with some new creative ideas, and can focus their time and attention on outreach to members. The Coordinating Care Elders will continue to meet monthly with pastoral staff, carry out consistory duties, coordinate and communicate with their team, and offer care to congregants.

Here are our newly organized CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAMS, organized by Quadrant (Care Elder names in bold):

- Northeast: **Eleanor Van Dyke**; Peg Van Grouw, Marcia Calliccoat, Phil Coray
- Northwest: **Mary De Witt**; Jane Dalman; Sandy Stielstra, Ruth Sill
- Southeast: **Loretta Sue Krieger**; Maggie and Kent Franken, Lynne Bonette
- Southwest: **Jeanette Beagley Koolhaas**; Linda Fulton, Charles and Judy Hunt, Robin Klay

If you do not know to which Quadrant you belong as a member, feel free to reach out to our church office or a pastor for more information. You may also see this on your ShelbyNext (online directory) profile. Each team will be working hard to contact and connect with members, so stay tuned to hear from them, and don’t hesitate to reach out to the care elders directly if you have a need of prayer, a visit, or communion. Your pastors continue to offer pastoral care for members, along with our calling pastors.

If you are curious, or interested in getting to know more about Care Ministry at Third, please contact Pastor Janelle.

Women's Ministries Bible Study Invitation

The Women's Ministries of Third invite all women to join one of our Bible studies.

Available Bible Studies are:

- **Miriam** - Second Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. - TRC library
- **Hannah/Elizabeth** - Second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. - TRC library
- **Ruth** - Second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. - individual homes
- **Lydia** - Second Tuesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. - TRC library
- **Rachel** - Second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. - TRC library
- **Martha** - Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. - TRC library

Other studies for women:

- Women's Bible Study - Weekly on Monday at 9:00 a.m. - Zoom
- Women's Bible Study - First Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. - TRC library

If none of these times work for you please contact Gretchen Munroe, Women's Ministries Board Chair, to see other options might be made available.

We hope to see you at one of our studies.

Tech Team Update

—Amy Lunn, Church Administrator

If the Tech Team had a motto, it would be "Constant Improvement."

They are always asking themselves: how could we do that better/make that better/present that better? Through weekly meetings, WhatsApp communications, and Sunday morning rehearsals they are continuously fine-tuning skills and product: sound quality, picture quality, experience capture, and more. They do this through three

things: education, group problem-solving, and equipment.

Education: Every week the team members train on the different duties of the tech team. From camera control, to sound board work, to directing, to Zoom, they practice at rehearsal, and have tutorials at their weekly meetings.

Group Problem-Solving: Perhaps the thing that makes the team work best is that they work together to come up with solutions to needs and problems. Every week our congregation benefits from a group that ranges in age from 15 to 70+ who have worked out the best ways to deliver sound to the sanctuary, projection as necessary, sound and picture to Zoom, and the Mosaic class to Zoom as well. Through their thoughtful problem solving we've been able to enjoy seeing the kids interactions with the pastors at children's time; we are able to watch past services on YouTube; and many of those who would otherwise be unable to attend can join us on Zoom.

Equipment: The team also works on ensuring we are using the right equipment for the right thing, and doing it in a fiscally responsible manner. For example, we've been able to switch our over-ear microphones from a brand that charged \$400 to one that is a quarter of the cost - all with no loss of sound quality. New, low-cost cameras were identified and purchased for the chapel so we could move the Mosaic class back to that space while keeping it accessible to Zoom attendees.

In addition to all of this, the Tech Team is always open to new members! If you like all things techy, or if you prefer to help behind the scenes, this could be the right group for you. Interested in learning more? Contact Amy Lunn at amy.lunn@trcholland.org. You can schedule a Sunday to sit in the tech both and observe them work during a service.

If you see a Tech Team member in the next few weeks, let them know they're appreciated! As administrator, I am incredibly blessed through this team: Steve Orlow, David Krieger, Mike Rannow, Marj Hoekstra, Curtis Pierce, Jack Bolt, Aspen Boes, and Sam Lunn. They are dedicated, conscientious, and always helpful. Thank you, Tech Team!

Fragrance in the Sanctuary

Several congregation members, including members of the choir and church staff, are adversely affected by strong scents. When asked about their experience, one choir member stated the following:

"I have a very difficult time with fragrances; they cause me to cough excessively which makes singing very difficult.

"Walking through the gathering place, into the sanctuary to go up to the choir loft will start the coughing. It doesn't take much; even lingering fragrance on clothing will be enough to trigger the cycle. I take two medications to control the coughing; I also take a water bottle and cough drops with me up to the choir loft.

"To me, as I cough through the service, it feels like I am a distraction to my family during worship.

Please be considerate when preparing to be in group situations, and save that special scent or cologne for when you're not at church. Thank you in advance for your help and understanding!

Announcements

Mosaic Class

October 22

THE THEOLOGY OF I.J. HESSELINK

Dr. David Komline, Associate Professor of Church History, Western Seminary, and Humboldt Fellow, University of Heidelberg (2022-2023)

Dr. Komline will share his research on the theology of Third's own I. John Hesselink. Dr. Komline has recently written an article on this topic for the print edition of the Calvin Theological Journal, and even more recently has spent the year in Germany with a research fellowship.

Corinthian Correspondence, Part Deux

This class takes place in room 22 on the lower level (up by the Centennial Room). All are welcome; prior attendance is not required.

Fall Classes and Events Catalog

Download the PDF of our [Fall 2023 Schedule of Classes and Events](#). Physical copies are available at church, but are limited in an effort to be environmentally and fiscally responsible.

No More Pew Cards...

You most likely have noticed we no longer have sign-in cards in the pews. Instead we have a QR code in the bulletin where you may sign in, and we also have sign-in books available in the back. We'd love for you to sign in when you come to let us know you were here. Thanks!

Church Office Hours

Just a reminder that the church office will close at noon on Fridays for the rest of the calendar year.

Third Church Family News

Sympathy

to Mike and Beverley Rannow on the passing of Mike's mother, Geraldine Rannow, October 17 in Racine, Wisconsin.

Thank You

Thank you everyone for your prayers for my mother and our Rannow family. I am grateful that I was able to make a final visit with her last week. Our family is also pleased that she died in her sleep in her home of 66+ years. We thank God for her life.

—Mike Rannow

Prayer Requests

Condolences:

- Mike and Beverley Rannow on the death of Mike's mother in Racine, Wisconsin.
- Larry and Carla Sue on the death of Larry's father in Hawaii.

Pray for the following:

- Jonathan McMullen who was at Mayo Clinic for testing of his kidneys.
- Tim DuMez recuperating after a successful surgery.
- Charles and Judy Hunt who are in Florida to care for Kathleen, daughter of Charles.

- Steve and Laurie Orlow who are traveling to England to be with their son Jeremy and his family.
- Janelle Sievert who has been diagnosed with cancer; surgery has been scheduled.
- Carl Folkert as he continues with treatments.
- For all migrants and refugees throughout the world. Pray for the new families that have arrived in Holland. Pray for housing for all migrants and refugees.
- For peace in the countries dealing with war.
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos

Prayer Spotlight

The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village: Martha Beld, Esther DePree, Mary Heideman, Shirley Hoskbergen, 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 Boersen, Bob and Elle Kuiper, Barb and Gordon Mummert, Tom Norman, Linda Parchert, and all others who find themselves in difficult and lonely situations.

Missionaries

Jaime & Martha Amaro (Mexico), Albino & Sandy Rodriguez (Peru).