

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2023



November 30, 2023

Volume IV No. 48

Advent 2023: The Two Stories

"The Sword and the Staff"

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes on Mark 13:24-37

December 3 at 10 AM

In this issue:

- Parent's Night Out Next Week
- Volunteers Still Needed! Third Reformed Pop Up Volunteer Teams
- Christmas Cookies Needed
- Women's Ministries Giving Tree
- Cassette Player Donation Needed
- Announcements
- Third Church Family News
- Prayer Requests
- Advent events and services

Parent's Night Out Next Wednesday

Next Wednesday, December 6, is our annual Parent's Night Out event. Drop your kids off at 5:30 for dinner and fun and games, and go get some things done (or just enjoy the quiet)! Pick up is at 7:30. Help us out by letting us know who you're bringing.



Volunteers Still Needed!

THIRD REFORMED POPUP TEAM VOLUNTEER

Then Third Reformed Pop Up Volunteer Teams are just right for you! At different times of the church year we have special events or meals where we sure could use some volunteer help, and we are hoping this is an easy way for people to step in and help out.

Coming up *very soon* we have three events where we need volunteers to help:

- Wednesday, December 6 we need volunteers to help with Parent's Night Out. This will include helping with activities and serving food/refreshments.
- Sunday, December 17 at 6 PM is the Choir Carol Service. Volunteers will put out cookies and punch, refill platters, and bring the empty/dirty dishes back to the kitchen.
- Our Christmas Eve Service and Children's Pageant is at 7:00 PM, and volunteers will again be needed to help put out cookies and punch, etc. This year there's only one Christmas Eve service because it is on a Sunday.

If you're interested in helping out at one of these events (or two, or all!), please let Kristen in the church office know!

Christmas Cookies Needed!

Keep them coming!

A big thank you to those who have already brought cookies, but we are still in need of more Christmas cookies for upcoming events. Please bring cookies ready to be frozen (i.e. packaged in a freezer bag or in an appropriate freezer container) so that we can keep them fresh all month. You can drop them off in the church office, or place them directly in the freezer on Sunday morning with a note on them that states they are for Christmas events. PLEASE NOTE: If your cookies contain tree nuts or peanuts, please pop a note on them stating this so we can let our members

with allergies know. Thanks!

Women's Ministries Giving Tree

The Women's Ministries of Third Reformed will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves, socks and underwear to be donated to Community Action House. Donations will be accepted at the "Giving Tree" from Sunday, December 3 through December 17.



Cassette Player Donation Needed

Do you have a working cassette tape player or stereo cassette component that you would like to donate to the church for digitizing cassette tapes in our archives? Please bring it in to the office or contact Mike Rannow (phone/text 616-392-3417). Thank you.

Announcements Mosaic Class

Our Mosaic Class offerings have an updated schedule for the remainder of this calendar year. It is as follows:

December 3

VISION AND CURRENT CONSISTORY WORK
UPDATE

Pastor Ryan

Pastor Ryan will give us an update on progress towards our Vision goals we set out a while back, and bring us up to date on the current work of our consistory.

December 10

IN SEARCH OF HUMILITY

Dr. Daryl Van Tongeren, Associate Professor of Psychology and Director, Frost Center for Social Science Research, Hope College

We will think about the development of intellectual humility with particular consideration given to "hot-button" issues (politics, religion, science, education) to which people have strong convic-

tions and/or commitment to a group or position that makes it difficult to change minds. Dr. Van Tongeren will share results of his research on humility and related aspects of human experience.

December 17

HELPING WHILE IT HURTS: ONE INTERCONNECTED WORLD

Jim Padilla DeBorst, Missional Consultant

Jim "Santiago" Padilla DeBorst, is a missionary with the CRCNA's Resonate Global Mission, and is serving for 2 years as a missional consultant with Third Reformed Church.

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.

Office Closing

The week between Christmas and New Year's the church office will be closed. The staff will be working a flex schedule throughout the week, however, the door alarms will not be turned off. Please plan on waiting till the following week to come into the office, or visiting us prior to Christmas week. Of course, pastoral staff is always available by email or, in time of need, by calling the office at 616-392-1459

Third Church Family News

Thank You

Thank you for all the loving concerns expressed to me at the passing of my husband, Jack. The prayers, cards and visits are surely the hands of Jesus.

Joanne Kuiper

Dear TRC Community,

Thank you so much for all of the care and support you have offered me and our family over the past few months. Your prayers and notes have carried me through my diagnosis, surgery, and recovery.

We are so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Gratefully,
—Janelle Sievert

Prayer Requests

Pray for the following:

- Eleanor Creegan (Lynne and Mark Bonnette's toddler granddaughter) who is hospitalized with RSV.
- Bill Helder recuperating from hip replacement surgery on Monday.
- Those recuperating from surgery: Janelle Sievert and Carl Folkert.
- Dean Miedema who will have hip replacement.
- Jonathan McMullen for healing.
- Kathleen, daughter of Charles Hunt dealing with advanced cancer.
- Steve and Laurie Orlow's son, Jeremy, dealing with cancer.
- For all migrants and refugees throughout the world. Pray for the new families that have arrived in Holland.
- For Marcia Calliccoat's son who is currently serving off the coast of Israel on an aircraft carrier and others who are serving in the military.
- For peace and justice in Israel and Palestine and all countries dealing with war.
- For those who are hungry and homeless.
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos

Prayer Spotlight

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

Remember in Our Prayers

Joanne 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

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

Help Hungry Kids at Holland West Elementary.

Aaya Kikuchi, a freshman student in Susanna Childress' composition course at Hope College, has reached out to us as part of her service learning component for that class. Susanna and her family are active participants in our Wednesday evening LIFT program, and know many in our congregation, which is how we came to be one of the recipients of Aaya's request for help. Excerpts from Aaya's letter are below, along with information on how we can help.

An Introduction to Aaya and the EL Students at West Elementary

"My name is Aaya Kikuchi. I'm a Hope College student and am currently tutoring EL students at West Elementary. EL students are those who learn English as a second language and some of them come from different countries to the US. I have decided to volunteer at West Elementary because I'm also studying English as a second language and experiencing difficulties being in a different country with a different culture and language. Therefore, I wanted to contribute to the students having a better experience in school. I currently visit several classrooms twice a week to assist EL students. They have spent two years or less at the

elementary school. There are 48 EL students in West Elementary, and 28 of them are refugees. Many EL students have large families who have financial difficulties. I am writing this letter to ask you for a helping hand in supporting these students."

Snacks are an important part of the school day. They keep hunger at bay and help the students focus. Aaya writes that many students, especially in the EL group, are unable to bring snacks to school because of their financial situation. Some teachers provide snacks to students, but must use their personal money for that as they do not receive snack funding. And while there are some organizations that help with food outside of school, they don't provide food during the school day, and additionally some families cannot eat that food as many are practicing Muslims who observe halal, so they cannot have food that includes animal products.

Our Hope Over the Next Week

We invite you to bring in snacks from the list below between now and December 6. They are shelf-stable, and will last past the holiday break. Please note these products have been specifically chosen because of their ingredients, so please do not purchase generic or off-list brands. That will keep these donations accessible to all the students who receive them.

- Mott's fruit snacks
- Gusher's fruit snacks
- Annie's Organic snacks
- Teddy Grahams crackers
- Goldfish Crackers
- Nilla Wafers
- Lays Honey BBQ Chips (the North American recipe)
- Cape Cod Original Kettle Cooked Chips (the North American recipe)
- Frito Original Chips (the North American recipe)
- Lay's Original Baked Potato Chips (the North American recipe)
- Rold Gold Pretzels original (the North American recipe)
- Sensible Portions Garden Veggie Straws Sea Salt flavor (only this flavor)
- Fruit Cups
- Keebler Chips deluxe Original cookies
- Kroger Animal Crackers
- Great Value Honey Graham Crackers
- Motts Applesauce
- Santitos Yellow Corn Tortilla Chips and White Corn Tortilla Chips

All donations may be dropped off at the church office. Thank you in advance for your generosity towards these children.



THIRD REFORMED CHURCH

Advent 2023

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

The Two Stories: The Sword and the Staff

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes preaching; 10:00 AM

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

El Encuentro: La Espera. Servicio de adoración a las 11:30 AM

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

The Two Stories: The Eagle and the Dove

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes preaching; 10:00 AM

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

El Encuentro: La Espera. Servicio de adoración a las 11:30 AM

Wednesday, December 13

Middle School Youth Group

Christmas Party

5:30 to 7:30 PM

Thursday, December 14

Holland High Vocal Dimensions

Christmas Concert

11:10 AM

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

The Two Stories: The Ashes and the Garland

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes preaching; 10:00 AM

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

El Encuentro: La Espera. Servicio de adoración a las 11:30 AM

Sunday, December 17

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Third Reformed Church Choir; 6:00 PM

Reception to follow.

High School Youth Group

Christmas Party

6:30 to 8:30 PM

Saturday, December 23

El Encuentro Fiesta Navadeña

Fellowship Hall/Gimnasio a las 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Two Stories: The King and the Virgin

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes preaching; 10:00 AM

Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55; Luke 1:26, 38

El Encuentro: La Espera. Servicio de adoración a las 11:30 AM

Christmas Eve Service

The Two Stories: The Palace and the Manger

Las dos historias: el palacio y el pesebre

Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas preaching; 7 PM

Servicio de Nochebuena con traducción al español

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20. Escritura: Lucas 2:1-20

With children's singing and tableau. Reception to follow.

Con coro de niños y participación. Convivio después del servicio.



trcholland.org



@trcholland



@trc.holland



@trcholland