

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2023



December 7, 2023

Volume IV No. 49

Advent 2023: The Two Stories

"The Eagle and the Dove"

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes on Mark 1:1-8

December 10 at 10 AM

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**This Week Only:
TRC Advent
Puzzles for Order!**



A note from Pastor Ryan:

Hey Friends,

For this Advent and Christmas we are focusing on two stories. The story that was being told by the Empire of Rome and the story that was being told by the people of God through the scriptures.

Both the prophets and the Gospel writers insist that there is an alternative story to the story Rome is telling. Each week we are focusing on the story scripture tells us through symbols and metaphors used in the passages of our lectionary. To amplify these symbols and stories, our artist-in-residence, Joel Schoon-Tanis, has created an art piece encompassing this dramatic

scene. We have turned that art piece into a puzzle and we invite you to order one for you or your whole family.

We have also written a devotional to accompany these puzzles that focus on each week as well as Christmas. Each devotion has the scripture readings, some questions for reflection and prayers.

This is a high-quality, 500 piece puzzle that is approximately 19" x 15" when completed. Cost per puzzle is \$35. Use the order form below or call the office to place your order. Happy Puzzling!

**All orders must be in by
Wednesday, December 13.**

Vocal Dimensions Concert

Next Thursday, December 14, Holland High School's Vocal Dimensions will perform a short Christmas Concert in the Fellowship Hall at 11:10 AM. Don't miss this great concert with talented students including some Third Reformed Church students - it's a great celebration of the holidays.

Living Green

—Mark Faga, Head Custodian and Green Team Member

What a wonderful season we are in. Advent, the season of waiting and preparing for the coming of our Lord and Savior. Christmas, the culmination of that waiting as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a time of love, a season for giving. Parties, dinners, celebrations, gift giving, decorations, and concerts. These are all part of the season we are in. So why bring this up in an article about Living Green?

Baking, shopping, decorating and gift giving all come at a cost to the environment so this is a friendly reminder to give back to creation as well. How do we do this? I'm so glad you asked.

Gift giving is such a big part of the Christmas holiday. But all of the packaging and wrapping and even the gifts themselves are often harmful to the planet. So gift wisely. Wrap responsibly. Let's list a few ways we can do this...

- Give the gift of an experience. Requires no wrapping or packaging...Yay
- Give an edible gift. Tasty and thoughtful.



- Give a sustainable gift. Toys, food, clothing etc. can all be bought with sustainability in mind.
- Shop second hand.
- Do a little DIY (do it yourself)
- Buy local
- Shop at a farmer's market
- Enjoy a craft fair or holiday market
- Wrap with reusable fabric, recyclable paper and learn how to wrap without tape

For everyone on your list there will be a very suitable, sustainably made gift that they will absolutely love.

And for this month, besides wishing you the Merriest of Christmases, I will leave you with a quote... *"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."* – Edward Everett Hale

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.



Announcements

Zoom Event: The Israel Hamas War in Context

Bart Den Boer has notified us of a follow-up opportunity to the November 19 Mosaic class offered by long-time RCA missionaries Marlin and Sally Vis, along with current RCA Global Missions staff Josh Vis and Chris DeBlaay.

- Zoom Event: The Israel-Hamas War in Context
 - Presenters: Josh, Sally, and Marlin Vis, ChrisDeBlaay. The Vises have almost 20 years of experience connected to this struggle between two people groups living a strained and often violent existence. Chris DeBlaay is Josh Vis's Global Mission co-worker.
 - Description: Who is Hamas? What do we mean by the term "settler colonialism" and what does this have to do with anything? What sources can we trust with accurate information? And finally, how does this ongoing conflict affect us?
 - Dates and Times: December 10 and 17, from 6:30-8pm EST. (Two identical 1 ½ hour sessions, limit 20 participants/session)
- Registration: Email Marlin Vis at marlinpvis@gmail.com
- Cost: \$25 donation for Josh Vis and Chris DeBlaay's Global Mission (Reformed Church in America) support.

Book Purchasing Opportunity: "The Food of God for the People of God: Reconnecting Food to the Eucharist" by Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes

There has been a lot of discussion surrounding communion at Third Reformed Church. Pastor Ryan mentioned in a recent Mosaic class that a book based on his dissertation is available for purchase. We will soon be placing an order for his book, "The Food of God for the People of God: Reconnecting Food to the Eucharist." If you would like a copy of the book please let Kristen in the church office know by December 20. Cost of the book is \$14.

Mosaic Class

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

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 convictions 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 until 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

New Address

Bob & Elle Kuiper
12300 Quincy St. #120
Holland, MI 49424
616-298-9608

Prayer Requests

Condolences:

- Mark and Lauren Genzink, Kate and Luke Panning on the death of Mark and Kate’s grandmother.
- Alma, Litzi Karyme, and Azul Reyes in the death of Alma's mother in Atoyac, Guerrero, Mexico.

Pray for the following:

- Carl Folkert who is in Holland Hospital.
- Eleanor Creegan (Lynne and Mark Bonnette’s granddaughter) who has returned home from the hospital.
- Phyllis Brown who had a fall last week.
- Steve Van Grouw who is at the Inn of Freedom Village.
- Bill Helder recuperating from hip replacement surgery.
- 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.

- Hope in this world, peace among people and nations.
- For all the Advent and Christmas activities during this month.
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos

Prayer Spotlight

Home: Bill Charlton, Barb Mummert. Out of Town: Lucille Schroeder, Ellen Rieck, LaVerne Lievense.
Royal Park: Phyllis & Harley Brown.

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

John & Lynne Hubers (Ethiopia), Angel López (Mexico).



TRC Mission Fundraiser

Agenda

Dinner Learn about
Skill/Gift Auction student trips!

JOIN US!
Friday, January 19th, 2024
@6:30pm to 8:30pm
Third Reformed Church

CONTACT US IF YOU WANT TO HELP!!
WE NEED FOOD AND DESERTS!

616-834-1822
hunter.brumels@gmail.com

The poster features a background with abstract shapes in yellow, green, and teal. At the bottom, there is an illustration of seven hands of various skin tones, each holding a small red heart.



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.



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