

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

Thursday
11 January 2024
Volume V, Issue 2

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

"Only Good Things Come From..."

Rev. Hunter Brumels
Sunday, January 14
10:00 AM

Scripture

John 1:43-51
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

In this edition: LIFT Next Week | Winter Weather Cancellation Policy | Author Dr. Anna-Lisa Cox to Present on the Revolutionary Roots of Equality in America | New Key System Installed | Youth Fundraiser | Honoring Our Ties that Bind | Financial Update | Global Connections | New Book Club | Third Church Family News | Announcements | Prayer Requests



LIFT Resumes January 10

Join us at 5:30 for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. We will have a delicious beef and chicken dinner, followed by Middle School Youth Group, activities for children 4-5th grade, and groups for adults as well!

Please note: we are watching the weather closely and will make a decision on canceling/postponing this event at noon on Friday.

The Justice and Equity Team of Third Reformed Church Presents

Faith, Freedom and the Founders: The Revolutionary Roots of Equality in America

Saturday, January 13, 2024 @ 7 PM

In the current debate around the founding values of this nation, important facts about the founding citizens of this nation and Michigan have been lost, including their actions towards freedom and equality. In this inspiring talk, Dr. Anna-Lisa Cox, a Non-Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, will detail new historical discoveries that reveal the ways that people of faith and the churches of the Revolutionary era were involved in moving those values forward, and how we can look to this past to give us hope for the future.

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

During the weekdays, Third Reformed Church will follow the Holland Public Schools cancellations to determine whether we will be having daily and evening activities. For weekend events and Sunday service: if we cancel services, text and email messaging will be used, and it will be announced on the church web site on the home page. There will be a walk-in service at 10 AM for any Sunday service cancellations.

New Key System Installed

Your Key Will No Longer Work on Exterior Doors

We have made a major upgrade in security and accessibility this week by installing an RFID lock to our main parking lot doors. These doors will now unlock with card access, which we can customize to days, times, and hours for special events or access needs, and also allows us to set open and close hours automatically. As a part of this process, we have rekeyed the rest of our exterior doors for full security. If you currently have a key to the church, please turn it in to the office. If you have a need for church access outside of the regular office or Sunday hours, please contact the office and we can help you.

Financial Update: We Are in a Good Place

—Dave Vanderwel, Church Financial Officer

We've reached the half-way point in our fiscal year and things are on track and we're ahead of budget.

You may remember that we anticipated some challenges in achieving a balanced budget for the year and did some tightening of expense projections in our planning. At the end of the second quarter of the year, our income is up \$26K over last year (and \$32K over budget) and our overall expenses are \$6K under budget and \$22K under last year. That means that our net revenue (income less expenses) is \$38K better than budget and \$48K better than the comparable months in 2022. That's a very positive picture and worth celebrating. The numbers look like this:

	Actual YTD	Last Yr YTD	Budget YTD
Total income	\$654,328	\$627,741	\$622,300
Total expense	587,792	609,704	593,430
Net revenue	\$66,536	\$18,037	28,870

That's not a totally accurate picture, however, as our income includes some significant year-end gifts to Frontera de Gracia which have not yet been sent to Pastor Samuel and gifts toward the establishment of the Maria y Jose fund which have not yet been spent. Thus there is \$32K of designated income with no corresponding expense as yet. If we factor this into the picture, our net revenue YTD then becomes just \$6K better than budget. That's still a positive place to be as we head into the last half of the fiscal year.

We enter the next two quarters with a surplus YTD of \$66K which will help us weather the next six months during which our monthly expenses are normally greater than our income. We are ahead of our plan at this point, but will see that "surplus" or net revenue shrink between now and June 30 when the fiscal year ends.

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



Hey there! Pastor Hunter has a message for you about this fundraiser.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help with this fundraising event! In having some conversations with staff and others, I would love to open up the opportunity to provide gifts or skills to parents/adults who would care to support the youth group.

As I was thinking about this, I thought that it might be cool to have parents and adults offer their own skills or contributions on behalf of their students! In no way does this absolve students from providing their skills and gifts, but hopefully it will increase the amount of items individuals can bid on and the amount of funds we can raise.

So, with that being said, if you (parents and adults) have some contribution, please feel free to sign up at this link: [Skills/Gifts](#)

Students please also continue to sign up your skills/gifts at the same link!

Honoring Our Ties that Bind

—Pastor Janelle López-Koolhaas

It's not hard to notice that Third Reformed is a congregation with a tender heart to pray for one another, and for the world, and to lift each other up in the Lord in sickness and in grief. We include the sharing of prayers for one another in the sacred vows we make in the covenant of membership. We dedicate time to prayer in Bible study, youth group, in worship, and in our congregational care ministry. It's also just as true that our pastors and elders regularly receive much more closely held prayer requests, with instructions for privacy without publicizing. Given the deep and abiding friendships of the church, certainly needs are heard and prayed by friends in the Lord, without much more knowledge beyond that. The office and pastoral staff of TRC take seriously both the responsibility to pass along information for support and care as requested, and we also hold discretely the many delicate layers of care and understanding that are going on at any time in the lives of our members! We continue to grow and learn, even as our practices, technology, and expectations evolve.

We want our congregants to be assured of the following guidelines:

- Prayers for our church members that are published or said in the worship service have been received or checked personally by a pastor, calling pastor, care elder or our office administrator. We take care not to go by second-hand information, or to unduly share information in the course of praying, and certainly not without an individual or family's consent.
- If you desire to be added to a prayer list, we'll do our best to do so in a timely manner; this may depend on the timing in relation to the printing of our weekly newsletter or bulletin. Regardless, the info will be shared immediately with pastors.
- If you express a desire to have time in prayer with a pastor or elder, we welcome this! This is what we are here for!
- Condolence messages are shared via email for members, and immediate family of members; information may be shared about a former staff member, or mission partner.
- If you, or anyone in our congregation asks for personal information not to be published or

made known, or does not inform our office directly, we honor this as carefully as possible. This is uniquely and implicitly true when members transfer out of our church, out of respect and discretion.

In our day and age information is shared at a rate and breadth that might make it seem like our careful ways are out of touch. That said, we work to ensure trust and good confidence as far as it depends on us, and for our active membership.

Global Connections for January 2024 (India)

—John Hubers, Retired Missionary and Third Church Member

Third supports mission efforts in various parts of the world, some of which require a high level of security in online communications that means not being able to share full information about the work they are doing.

One of these is, perhaps to the surprise of many, India, which we often associate with a kind of universal Eastern spirituality. What is less known is that the predominant form of religion in India – Hinduism – also has its fanatics who, in this case, believe that



Hinduism is the only valid form of religion for Indians. And right now those who think this way are in positions of political power.

What this means is that the particular mission project we are supporting needs to be careful about what is shared online. And this is why (from a recent newsletter from this mission):

“Persecution of Christians in India has been on the increase. Teachers and staff have been

threatened to be beaten by the local police and they have been chased out of villages while on home visits to the school children’s families.

Churches have been vandalized, and pastors and families chased out of town. The largest democracy in the world provides incentives for Christians to revert to Hinduism based on the premise that all Indians should be Hindus with the belief that it’s not only a religion but also their culture. Please pray for our loving co-workers as they face these challenges.”

Praying for those who are engaged in ministry in this challenging environment is so important, at least partly because the work they are doing is empowering those who are living on the margins of society, people like this young woman:

“Sara (name changed) age 18, wanted to finish her studies, but due to a difficult home situation, she had to drop out of school in the middle of 9th grade. Both of her parents have low-caste menial jobs. Her father is absent from the family and does not provide the necessary care or financial support needed to meet their needs. Sara heard about our program from her mother who said the skills training would help provide an income for their family. So Sara traveled by bus each day from her village, 6 miles from the location of the program. Now, as a recent graduate, she recalls how the teachers equipped her to successfully manage her business. Sara’s main customer base is within her village where she meets their needs by sewing sari blouses, skirts, and children’s clothing. The income generated from the sale of these products provides for her family’s needs and brings dignity. Sara says with gratitude that going through the training program showed her the way to find her life.”

Those who work with this program express their deep gratitude to Third for providing the support they need to carry on this ministry in the name of Jesus. Please pray for those who work with the program, particularly in the challenges they are facing in a difficult socio-political situation.

son's cancer treatment, and our newborn grandson's surgery. Thank you for surrounding us with care.

—Steve and Laurie Orlow

Announcements



You are invited to join a new book club!

It is tentatively titled the **Intergenerational Classics Book Club**, started by Aspen Boes, Mark Hiskes, and Harper Schoon-Tanis.

Other current members include Megan Boes, Lorna Cook, and Kathy Schoon-Tanis.

The first meeting will be Wednesday, January 17 during LIFT.
The first book is *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.
Please join us!

Mosaic Class

January 14

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ART AND LAMENT
MOLLY CURRENS

Molly Currens is a local artist and artisan from Holland, MI. Molly will share about various artist expressions and practices and how they can guide in spiritual practice and navigating emotions and experiences.

Permanent Office Hours Change

Our office will be closed to the public on Friday afternoons going forward. The church is still available for use, and meetings can still be scheduled for that time frame; however, the office will not be open for regular business.

No Camp Scholarships for 2024

We will not be offering camp scholarships in 2024 as we are looking at ways to best steward our budget and resources.

Third Church Family News

Sympathy

- To Barb Folkert and family on the death of Carl on Jan. 5
- To Jon Bechtel and the Bechtel family on the passing of Dee Bechtel on January 6. Dee was a former member of our church and church staff.

Thank You

Dear Friends,
We are so very grateful for your prayers, cards, and support regarding Laurie's father's death, our

Pastor Ryan Out of Office

Pastor Ryan will be out of the office January 16 through January 21. Please contact Pastor Janelle or Pastor Angel if you are in need of pastoral care during that time.



Prayer Requests

Condolences:

- To Barb Folkert and family on the death of Carl on Jan. 5
- To Jon Bechtel and the Bechtel family on the passing of Dee Bechtel on January 6. Dee was a former member of our church and church staff.

Pray for the following:

- Phyllis Brown who is now at Vista Springs.
- Marcia Callicoaat medical tests
- Dean Miedema recuperating from hip replacement surgery
- 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 confirmands and their mentors as they go through the profession of faith process:
- Anna Stewart - Kay Stewart
- Lucy Green - Chris Walvoord
- Faith Millen - Anna Beird
- Kimia McMullen - Susan Boes
- Rilla Carpenter - Madison Pierce
- Lucy Carpenter - Laura Baer
- Jana Honeycutt - Jane Dalman

- Remi VanFarowe - Megan Boes
- Miriam Lopez-Koolhaas - Kathy Schoon-Tanis
- Lorena Lopez-Koolhaas - Bethany Bulhuis
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- For Marcia Callicoaat'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 Gaza and all countries dealing with war.
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos

Prayer Spotlight

The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village: Martha Beld, Esther DePree, Charlotte Garlough, Mary Heideman, Shirley Hoskbergen, 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, Steve Van Grouw and all others who find themselves in difficult and lonely situations.

Missionaries

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