

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

Thursday
14 March 2024
Volume V, Issue 11

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

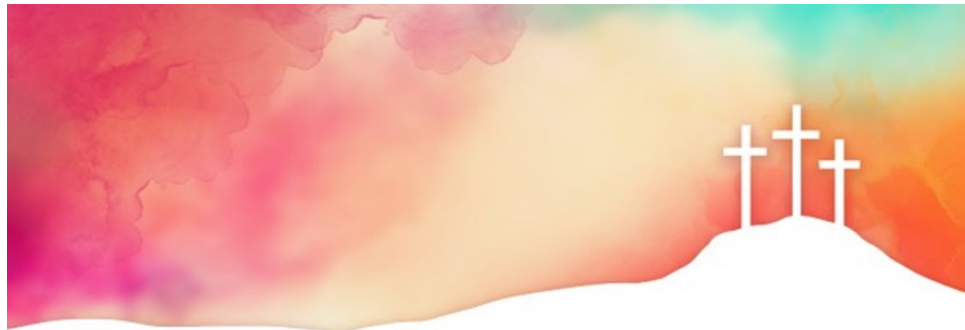
“Images of Love: Priorities”

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes
Sunday, March 17
10:00 AM

Scripture

John 12:20-33

In this edition: Retreat Recap | Memories, Show & Tell Items On Display | A Third Place Where You Belong | Financial Update | Holy Week Offerings | Offering of Letters | River Bank Run Benefitting Kids Hope USA | LIFT Next Week | Third Church Family News | Announcements | Prayer Requests | Winter Weather Cancellation Policy



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

March 24
10:00 AM in English
11:30 AM in Spanish

Maundy Thursday

March 28
5:30 PM dinner
6:30 PM service in English with translation to Spanish available.
Communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday

March 29
12:10 PM Ecumenical service in English in our sanctuary.

Easter Sunday

March 31
10:00 AM in English
11:30 AM in Spanish
Communion will be celebrated.
No Sunday Education hour on Easter.

Retreat Recap

This past weekend around 100 of your fellow Third Church members experienced a wonderful weekend of hospitality and learning with our presenters from the RCA. We will have videos of the addresses edited and available soon.

The staff want to send out a hearty **THANK**

YOU to all the people who helped: to the WMTRC and others for their baking, to the amazing congregational members who made the delicious meals, and to the tech volunteers who pulled together all the A/V things. Your work was very much appreciated!

This week we're sharing some photos of the retreat with you - enjoy!



Memories, Show & Tell Items On Display

This Sunday you will have the chance to view the memories and items people brought in for our celebration of five decades of women being ordained in the RCA.

A Third Place Where You Belong

—Mark Hiskes, Vice President of Consistory

It came into being during Third's weekend retreat, between Friday night's session on "whole-hearted hospitality" led by Pastor Liz Testa and Saturday afternoon's session on "Intergenerational Hospitality" led by Anna Radcliffe and Ruth Langkamp.

Specifically, it took place on Saturday morning in the living room of the Schoon-Tanis home, where host Kathy welcomed twenty or so church members into her living room. With the aroma of coffee, we breathed in hospitality. We sat on couches and chairs and every floor space in between, spilling onto stools and benches in the foyer. Close as it was physically, it became even closer spiritually.

Our retreat leaders would later dub such a space a "third place," where people of all generations can interact together and where each and all feel they belong.

A big deal because "to belong," as Pastor Janelle would remind us on Sunday morning, is what each of us hungers for when we come to worship and to partake of Christ's table.

During our workshops we learned that in third places we feel three things: needed, safe to be ourselves, and free to openly share. For this old elder those three criteria were clearly met as we sat in the Schoon-Tanis home to witness four profes-

sions of faith.

Hunter Brumels, our Youth Pastor, whose deliberate teaching was once again evident during the meeting, opened with a prayer, and then invited each of the young confirmands to share her personal faith statement. Their older mentor-friends sat close by, along with the parents and several elders who were blessed not to have missed it.

At first, emotional "good order" prevailed, the kind us seasoned Reformed folk expect. But these four statements of belief were so thoughtful and honest, so full of Christian wisdom and love, so emphatic about the need for the church to be a place of welcome and belonging—that we all gradually let our stupid guards down and gave in to the obvious presence of the Holy Spirit. We might have made it with dry eyes to the snack table afterwards if one member hadn't asked a question of one confirmand: how has your faith helped you through the life struggles you and your family are going through?

She had no words, just tears, and tears flowed among young and old as more honest words of love and encouragement were spoken to the confirmands. Kleenex boxes were passed. More good words were spoken and more honest tears were shed. What began as an eclectic gathering of Third Church members became, through the crafty work of the Holy Spirit, a community.

It became, in other words, a "third place"—whole-hearted and intergenerational.

For me, a quote from Paul Tillich sprang to mind and helped me understand what was going on: "Here and there in the world and now and then in ourselves is a New Creation, usually hidden, but sometimes manifest, and certainly manifest in Jesus who is called the Christ."

That new creation was all over that living room where, as Pastor Janelle would put it in her sermon the next morning, “the voices of four young women were beckoning us to the table.”

A table where no one is excluded. Not one. No matter who they are, how they identify, what they can or can't do, where they're from, what their politics or economic status—no matter how marginalized the world has made them feel. The table of Jesus Christ has always been a third place, or course—a place of lavish, radical hospitality.

As Cindy and I reflected on the weekend, though, she noted that what our church preaches and seeks to live out is in striking contrast to the messages from our greater cultural context where migrants are too often unwelcome, and even a simple county motto like “Where You Belong” is thought by some to be too hospitable.

So, as Cindy and I sat in Third's sanctuary Sunday night to celebrate five decades of RCA women in ministry, it felt really good to be part of such a denomination that's sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit on issues of inclusion and equity and justice. We were grateful that old barriers like “headship” and “complementarianism” hold no sway at the third place we call Third Church.

The weekend made us hope that this lavish hospitality will grow ever more boundless at the corner of 12th and Pine, until the folks crowded shoulder to shoulder in those creaky oak pews fully represent the New Creation Paul Tillich had in mind—the barrier-free one Jesus calls us to when he welcomes us to the table and says, “You—no matter who you are or how far to the margins the world has pushed you—you belong here.”

LIFT Next Week

We will have delicious soup dinner at 5:30, including vegetarian and gluten-free options. Following dinner we have Middle School Youth Group, activities for children 4 - 5th grade, and groups for adults. We hope to see you there!



Amway River Bank Run - Kids Hope USA

—Beverley Rannow, Kids Hope Coordinator

This year, Kids Hope USA is grateful to be a Charity Partner for the Amway River Bank Run! Sign up for the Amway River Bank Run on May 11, 2024 as part of Team Kids Hope USA! Whether you choose the 5K, 10K, 25K distance, or the kid's run on May 8. Contact Beverley Rannow if you're interested in participating. If you are not a runner, do you know a runner? Please spread the word!

TRC Youth Sponsored March Madness

Welcome to the TRC Youth Sponsored March Madness! This bracket challenge is open to anyone who would like to participate. Picks can be made beginning March 17th and you must submit your bracket before the games kick off! Brackets will be scored using basic Yahoo Fantasy scoring. Make your picks because there will be prizes!

Please contact Hunter Brumels if you're interested in signing up and making your selections.

Winners will receive the following prizes:

- 1st Place - Breakfast with a TRC staff member of your choosing!
- 2nd Place - will receive a trophy
- 3rd Place - a high five from Reghan
- 7th Place - Your Favorite Candy Bar!

February Financial Update: We're Slightly Behind Plan

After seven months during which we seemed to be in good shape budget-wise, we slipped a bit in February with just \$61K in contributions for the month (over the year we average approximately \$100K/month). As a result, we are now two-thirds of the way through our fiscal year and our financial results are slightly behind our plan.

Net Revenue: After the first eight months of the year, we are in a positive position with our overall income \$24,871 greater than our expenses. We need to be in a positive cash position at this point as expenses generally run higher than income between now and the end of the fiscal year on June 30. This net revenue of +\$25K on 2/29/24 is \$23K better than the comparable period last year, but is \$10K under where we budgeted to be at this point in the year. Since our budget target is that our income equals our expenses on June 30, we need to close this \$10K gap over the coming four months.

- **Income:** At the end of January, our overall income was up over the same period last year by \$60K; with the lower giving in February, we dropped to +\$17K compared to last year, but we are still \$17K above budget (+2.1%).
- **Expense:** While expenses are running below last year's pace by \$6K, they are \$26K (+3.3%) above the smaller budget goal we set for this year.

Impact of Designated Giving: The most significant factor in our current budget variations is the designated mission support (non-budget giving designated to various mission causes) which has been greater than normal, increasing both our income and expense. For example, our designated mission giving is up \$21K over budget YTD, mainly due to Frontera de Gracia receiving \$39K in gifts and grants during this fiscal year; and our designated mission expense is up \$21K over budget with our sending Frontera de Gracia \$38K YTD. Without these designated giving pass-throughs, our income is just \$5K under budget and our expense is \$4K over budget. This leaves us with the same \$9K gap in net revenue from budget but a more accurate picture of how this year compares with budget and last year.

By the Numbers: For those of you who like to see the numbers, here is what the budget totals look like in summary:

	Actual YTD	Last YTD	Budget YTD
Operating income	\$740,058	\$740,229	\$745,050
Designated giving	\$53,457	\$45,304	\$32,500
<u>Endowment transfer</u>	<u>\$44,500</u>	<u>\$35,880</u>	<u>\$43,500</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$838,014	\$821,413	\$821,050
Operating expense	\$738,577	\$760,164	\$732,997
Designated mission support	\$54,566	\$39,720	\$34,000
<u>Transfer to reserves</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$813,143	\$819,884	\$786,997
NET REVENUE	\$24,871	\$1,529	\$34,053

A note on endowment transfers: In the chart above you will see income for transfers from endowment. Third has three endowment funds from which we take an annual draw of 5% of the balance in these endowment funds as of 12/31 of the prior year. The transfers shown on this financial summary come from a draw we took from our Mission Memorial Fund of \$34,500 to help cover mission shares, and \$10,000 from the Future Fund to assist with the non-budgeted program expense of a contract with Jim Padilla De Borst. We also have a Youth Mission Fund which helps support youth going on mission trips. You will see a draw from that fund next month.

Offering of Letters

—Beverley Rannow, member of the local Bread for the World team

“Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” Proverbs 31:9

Since 1974, Bread for the World (BFW) has worked through nonpartisan political engagement with politicians of all stripes to advocate for the poor and powerless in the U.S. and around the world. BFW has worked to end hunger in our times by advocating for equitable and effective food systems, structures, and policies.

Every 5 years the Farm Bill needs to be reauthorized giving Christians the opportunity to advocate for a more equitable and effective bill to address hunger both here in the U.S. and across the globe. Last year was the year for reauthorization of the Farm Bill, however, as of now Congress has not completed this bill.

Therefore, the Offering of Letters for this year is once again calling on Congress to complete the reauthorization of the Farm Bill and pass a Farm

Bill that:

- Protects SNAP from funding cuts and further restrictions.
- Increases funding for fresh produce within SNAP benefits through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).
- Reduces food waste by cosponsoring the Food Date Labeling Act, H.R.3159/S.1484.
- Reauthorizes the Food for Peace global nutrition program at no less than its current level of \$2.5 billion annually and allows additional flexibility to provide the most effective form of assistance in each local context.

You can send your letter via email. Contact Beverley Rannow for more information. Please be sure to check the box that says, “Yes, this is an Offering of Letters” and write in Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI. Or you may choose to write and mail your own letter.

Recently Rick Steves and the president of BFW, Eugene Cho, presented a program about hunger issues and the bipartisan work of BFW. Several video clips were shared showing U.S. aid at work overseas.

Third Church Family News

Happy Anniversary

To Bill and Sarah Unzicker who celebrated 61 years of marriage on March 9!

Announcements

Mosaic Class

March 17

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND PROVIDENCE OVER THE YEARS

Harold Gazan, Third Church Member

Harold will share about his own spiritual journey and testimony, and offer reflections and realizations of God's faithfulness and providence over the years.

Flowering the Cross

We invite each family to bring a long stem flower, on Easter Sunday morning, symbolizing loved ones who have died or a person who has touched our Christian faith. The flowers will be put on a wooden cross before the 10:00 AM service, and the cross will be processed at the beginning service so be sure to arrive early to have your flower included.

Office Reception Hours

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Fridays 8:00 AM to Noon. Phones are answered Monday to Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Prayer Requests

Thanksgiving:

- for the celebration of women in the church, ordained in the RCA for the past five decades.

Sympathy:

- to the family and friends of Martin Keller who died on Tuesday, March 12..

Pray for the following:

- Matthew and Bridgette Rannow difficult pregnancy.
- Kids Hope families dealing with stress.
- Marcia Callicoat at American House for rehab.
- Gayle (at American House) and Paula Wilson (home)
- Nathan Klay surgery Wednesday, March 13
- Sue Boes recuperating after surgery
- Diann Koeman who is recuperating from broken leg and ankle. If you would like to send her a card, please address it to: Diann Koeman/o Dale Koeman 191 Revetment Ln. Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
- All those who are at various stages of diagnosis and tests.
- Recuperating from surgery: Dean Miedema and Dan Bolt
- 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. For those seeking asylum, employment and housing. For new arrivals this week.
- For peace and justice in Gaza and all countries dealing with war. For all children who are in war areas, children who are fleeing dangerous places and are displaced from their homes.
- For the Lenten Bible studies
- Lenten services during holy week.
 - 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 Bulthuis
- Hospice Care: Margaret Doorenbos, Mary Heideman, Tom Norman, Dennis Gebben (home), and Charlotte Garlough.

Prayer Spotlight

The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village: Esther De Pree, Shirley Hoksbergen, A.E. Lacy, Linda Parchert.

Remember in Our Prayers

Joanne Kuiper, Larry Loss, Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Borsen, Barb and Gordon Mummert, Linda Parchert, and all others who find themselves in difficult and lonely situations, and those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Missionaries

Rowland Jr. & Jane VanEs (Kenya), Victor Kanyi (Kenya).

High School and Middle School Mission Trips



 TRC Youth Ministry

HIGH SCHOOL
MISSION
FROM HOME!

Experience Mission from your own backyard!



Date: July 22-26th | Cost: \$150

SCAN ME



hunter.brumels@trcholland.org



TRC
MIDDLE SCHOOL

2024 MISSION TRIP

DATES:
JULY 11TH-14TH

COST
\$100 PER STUDENT

[register now](#)



[contact](#)

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