

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

Thursday
21 March 2024
Volume V, Issue 12

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

“Images of Love: Humility”

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes
Sunday, March 24
10:00 AM

Scripture

Mark 11:1-11 and
Philippians 2:5-11

In this edition: Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service | Designated Offerings for Maundy Thursday and Easter | Holy Week Service Schedule | March 2024 Consistory Update | TRC Resettlement Storeroom Request | Global Connections | Offering of Letters | River Bank Run Benefitting Kids Hope USA | LIFT Next Week | Third Church Family News | Announcements | Prayer Requests |

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Service

Please plan to join us Thursday, March 28, for our Maundy Thursday soup supper at 5:30, and worship service with communion beginning at 6:10.



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
6:10 PM service in English with translation to Spanish available. **(NOTE TIME CHANGE)**
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.

Designated Offerings for Maundy Thursday and Easter

Our special Holy Week Offerings this year will be as follows:

- Maundy Thursday: Church World Service to aid refugees in both Gaza and Ukraine
- Easter: Lighthouse Immigration legal aid

March 2024 Consistory Update

—Mark Hiskes, Vice President of Consistory

Once again prior to the Consistory meeting we gathered for a discussion of Todd J. Billings' book "Remembrance, Communion, and Hope." Thanks to pastors Janelle and Ryan, who took the time to make us supper, we were able to feast on lasagna, salad, and good bread as we talked.

And, not surprisingly, supper provided an appropriate setting for our discussion about the Lord's Supper. Many spoke of their various views of what heaven will be like since, as Billings says, the Supper is a foretaste of heaven. We wondered if we regarded the Lord's Supper not just as a remembrance but also as that foretaste of heaven—a joyful, nourishing meal, in the very real, bodily presence of Christ, surrounded by the community of brothers and sisters we love and worship with at Third—would we, then, want to celebrate it as often as we could? After all, John Calvin insisted on celebrating it "at least once a week," so that all of us hungry folk could "flock to such a bounteous repast."

We were each inspired by Billings' vision of how a multicultural Lord's Supper today prepares us for our multicultural future in heaven. We do so, he

adds, "not just so that those from other cultures may feel at home among us, but also so we may feel at home in God's future." Hard not to wish more Americans—more churches, for that matter—saw multicultural gathering as a foretaste of heaven.

After supper, Pastor Ryan opened our Consistory meeting with devotions from Psalm 2, reminding us that, during this political season as we are bombarded with ads and claims and promises and threats, Holy Week reminds us "not to forget who sits on Zion's hill" and that "happy are those who take refuge in the Lord."

Treasurer Jeff Beird then gave the Financial Team Update. While February wasn't a good month (our giving was down by \$40,000), we shouldn't be too concerned: we are still ahead of last year and our cash is in a strong position. Let's all hope and pray that the coming budget months are to Third's finances what spring is to our winter spirits: an abundance— of lake breezes, bird song and bursts of color.

Pastor Ryan then shared a graph that Dave Boes put together after consulting with our HVAC engineers. We were pleased to learn that the new cooling system we are hoping to install will yield a yearly \$12,000 savings over our current system. Thank you, Dave!

The Nominations Committee then gave its update. While they have filled their slate for new deacons and care elders, they are still in the process of filling several governing elder positions.

Related to nominations, we discussed our Consistory Zoom practice. A year ago we decided that, for reasons ranging from difficulty with Zoom to

our desire for people to be fully present for our discussions, we wouldn't use Zoom for Consistory meetings. However, after receiving some thoughtful input tonight, we decided to opt for a hybrid Zoom option for some meetings.

We spent some time in small groups, then, reflecting on how Third's retreat went last weekend. The highlights ranged from the great speakers to the theme of lavish hospitality to our gratitude for all the work put in by the planning team and the volunteers. One member reaffirmed Henry's comment at the retreat that "some of us need to learn Spanish and some of us need to learn English," while another member suggested that we include a Spanish-speaking speaker next year—both of which, of course, echoed our earlier discussion about multicultural worship being a foretaste of heaven.

Finally, we discussed the following motion from Deacons: "The Deacons recommend that Pastor Ryan form a five-person team, composed of members of the congregation, to revisit the Addressing Social and Political Issues policy (Operations Manual F.5) in light of our current climate." After some clarifying input from several members of Consistory, the motion was approved.

Speaking of "motion," it was great to see Dan Bolt walking again—with crutches—so that he could join us tonight and resume his role of carefully and faithfully taking our monthly minutes. Keep healing, brother!

Pastor Ryan closed us in prayer, and more than one of us went into the evening grateful again for the way we do things around here—the Third way.

TRC Resettlement Storeroom Request

Pastor Angel has brought several families to our Immigrant Resettlement Storeroom recently—families in the process of setting up new households. After these visits, the Storeroom is low on several items, and we invite the congregation to help us restock with gently used or new items.

Items the most needed are the following:

- Silverware sets
- Pots & Pans
- Stockpots
- Mixing bowls
- Queen blankets, comforters, bedspreads
- mattress pads, sheet sets
- Twin mattress pads, sheet sets
- Laundry baskets
- Corelle winter white dishes

We thank all who have donated goods and funds so far. We have used the funds to purchase new pillows mostly and other items when suddenly needed. If you want to know more or have questions, please call Cindy Hiskes (616-990-2268) or Kay Stewart (616-745-0268). Thank you very much for supporting this TRC ministry.

NO LIFT Next Week

We will not have LIFT on Wednesday, March 27 or on Wednesday, April 3 due to Holy Week and Spring Break respectively. Join us again Wednesday, April 10 for 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!





March 2024

Hola, Dear Friends!

A year begins and brings new challenges with it. As you probably know, a terrible hurricane destroyed the coasts of Acapulco in the Mexican Pacific at the end of 2023. Through our partnership with the National Presbyterian Church in Mexico (INPM), we served as the connection to deliver RCA's disaster relief to support those in need. Many roofs were repaired and many meals were served by local churches through donations received. The damage was so severe that it will likely take years to recover. Three trips were necessary to bring the supplies. It was a long process that ended in early January due to the distances and unsafe roads. The state of Guerrero is one of the most violent in our country. There is no police presence in those areas, unfortunately they are under the yoke of drug trafficking. However, the Lord was always present and protected us even when we were stopped on the last trip by an armed commando. They just looked inside the van and noticed a Bible, after they said, you are free to go, *Dios les bendiga!*



left: unloading the van.

middle: people waiting in line for food.

Right: Acapulco's prayer team

It is good to know that God's continuous care is always on our side to guide us and give us wisdom to be His hands and feet in the middle of scary situations.

Our goal for this year will be to consolidate the Indigenous Educational Center project in the Etna Valley, Oaxaca. Thank you for your response in supporting our students. Seeing them arrive every day fills us with joy because we know that Jesus is changing their lives, and they are growing in their education at the same time.

Despite the persecution of the local Priest, some of our students have persisted and we are moving forward. As the Center grows, parents are beginning to reach out to the congregation. Thank you for your generous support, step by step we move forward.

As a family, we continue in the battle day by day—God has been good and although cancer cells are present in Jaime’s blood tests, there is no sign of it in the scans. The doctors keep saying they don't understand why they are high if there is no physical presence—our response is always the same, God is powerful.

We begin preparation for the annual VBS training in the Yucatan Peninsula, Oaxaca, and Tabasco to celebrate in February and March. The national team has been working very hard for these massive events. We hope that new churches will join and commit to reaching hundreds of children this summer with the Word of God.



left: C&W training.
right: Educational Center



Finally, we want to share with you the beautiful experience of training the first generation of Children and Worship children in Oaxaca who attended, now seeking to become leaders for another generation. We thank God that this ministry continues to grow in Mexico and Cuba.

Please receive all our love and gratitude for walking alongside us and allowing God to complete His mission in Mexico through your prayers and financial support.

Martha and Jaime

Offering of Letters

—Beverly 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.

For information on how to send your letter contact Beverley Rannow.

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.

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!

Third Church Family News

Sympathy

- To Elle Kuiper and her family on the death of Bob on March 15.
- To Jenny and Tim Hoffman and family on the passing of Jenny's father, Peter Schakel, on March 20.

Thank You

Dear Members of Third Reformed,

I can't start to thank you enough for all of your thoughts and prayers and kind words expressed to me during this time of grief. Your outpouring of support was greatly appreciated. I ask for God's blessings on all of us as we move forward in his world.

—Dennis Nienhuis and Family

Announcements

Mosaic Class

March 24 and April 7

CHRISTIAN THINKING ABOUT POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND THE WELFARE STATE

Dr. Steve McMullen, Professor of Economics at Hope College and Third Church Member

There are deep disagreements in the Church about poverty, inequality, and government programs. In these classes we will examine recent economic data, evidence on the effects of welfare state programs, and different conceptions of justice that Christians bring to these topics.

March 31

NO CLASS - EASTER

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 Closed April 1

The church office will be closed April 1. Regularly scheduled meetings taking place in the church facility will still happen.

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

Sympathy:

- To Elle Kuiper and her family on the death of Bob last Saturday.

Pray for the following:

- Grayson Sievert who will have surgery on Thursday at DeVos.
- Marcia Calliccoat at American House, pray for healing and a diagnosis.
- Gayle (at American House) and Paula Wilson (home)
- Nathan Klay recuperating from surgery.
- Sue Boes recuperating after surgery.
- Diann Koeman who is recuperating from a broken leg and ankle.
- 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.
- Matthew and Bridgette Rannow difficult pregnancy
- Kids Hope families dealing with stress.
- For all migrants and refugees throughout the world. For those seeking asylum, employment and housing.
- Pray for people at the US border who will show mercy and hope to all those who come to the US.
- Pray for the people of Haiti.
- For peace and justice in Gaza and all countries dealing with war. Pray that aid can reach those who are starving.
- For the Lenten Bible studies
- For Palm Sunday and all services during holy week.
- Pray for the choir and all musicians who prepare for these services.
- Pray for new members joining TRC.
- Give thanks for all the artists who have made the artwork for the bulletins, Harper Schoon-Tanis, Kathy Van Tubbergen, Madden Pasatta, Megan Boes and Kara Green.
 - 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, Charlotte Garlough, Mary Heideman, Tom Norman and Dennis Gebben.

Prayer Spotlight

Home: Bill Charlton, Barb Mummert. Out of Town: Lucille Schroeder, Ellen Rieck, LaVerne

Lievens. Quincy Place: Elle Kuiper.

Remember in Our Prayers

Joanne Kuiper, Larry Loss, Nancy Gebben, Mary and Harry Boersen, 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

Wayne & Miho Jansen (Japan), Angel Lopez (Mexico).

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

Hunter.brumels@trcholland.org