

THIRD CHURCH NEWS

Thursday
18 April 2024
Volume V, Issue 15

CONNECTING AND INFORMING THE THIRD CHURCH COMMUNITY

“Love Like the Shepherd”

Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes
Sunday, April 21
10:00 AM

Scripture

John 10:11-18 and
I John 3:16-24

In this edition: Invite from the Justice and Equity Team | Upcoming Book Discussion | Living Green | LIFT Next Week | Congregational Meeting | WTS Visitors | Third Church Family News | One Small Cable... | Announcements | Prayer Requests

Invite from the Justice and Equity Team

The Racial Equity Group of the Justice and Equity Team (JET) is sponsoring a bus trip to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit on May 17th.



We will depart from Third Reformed Church at 8:00 AM and return at approximately 5:30 PM. Museum admission for seniors (62+) is \$11, and adults are \$14. We will have lunch together at a nearby Detroit restaurant. We will limit the passengers to 24 with TRC members and guests given preference. Other churches will be invited if space is available. Free guided tours will be provided as well as independent exploration.

Sign up with Laura Baer or Dean Miedema in the Gathering Place after the service on April 21 (this Sunday) and April 28, or you may call Dean at 616-566-4663 to register up until April 28.

Participants should be prepared to pay Dean Miedema by cash or check as all tickets are pre-purchased by the JET team.

Upcoming Book Discussion

There will be a book discussion on Anna-Lisa Cox's book, "The Bone and Sinew of The Land" on Sunday May 19 at 4pm. Look for more information in a future edition of Third Church News.

Living Green

—Mark Faga, Environmental Task Force Member

Hey everybody, did you know that Monday, April 22nd is Earth Day? I get it, it sneaks up on me every year as well. But that is just 1 day singled out as a national reminder that we are the stewards of this planet we call home. Everyday should be considered Earth Day don't you think?

So in honor of this year's Earth Day how about a pop quiz? I can just feel the excitement in the air! Let's do this...

Is all glass recyclable?

- A. Only clear glass is recyclable
- B. Soda-lime glass used in bottles and windows is recyclable, but borosilicate glass used in cookware is not
- C. All glass is recyclable

Can laminated paper be recycled?

- A. Yes, many recycling programs accept laminated paper
- B. Yes, but the technology is not widely available
- C. No, not with any technology available today

Can small electronics be recycled by placing them in municipal bins?

- A. No, e-scrap and electronics are not recyclable
- B. Yes, all e-scrap is recyclable if you toss it in the curbside bin
- C. Electronics are recyclable, but only through e-scrap and special programs

Can disposable diapers be recycled?

- A. Yes
- B. Yes, but only if they are washed first

- C. No, they are a composite material that cannot be recycled
- D. No, it is not economically viable to recycle disposable diapers

Can your wood ashes be recycled?

- A. Yes, but ash must be separated by the fuel that produces it
- B. No, it is not recyclable
- C. No, it can't be recycled, but it is compostable and makes a good soil supplement
- D. Yes, ash goes in the blue bin

So what can you do to celebrate Earth Day? Here are just a few activities to help us engage with nature and our community while contributing to our physical and mental health wellness...

- Community garden participation
- Bird watching and nature walks
- Eco-craft workshops
- Environmental lectures and classes
- Nature photography
- Volunteering for local environmental initiatives

Quiz answers: B,C,C,C,C

Quiz and activities are from Earth911.com

Next Week: Talent Show and Final LIFT of the Semester!

Next week at LIFT we will enjoy delicious food from Alonzo Ochoa, and have a guaranteed-to-be-entertaining talent show from the children of the church. It's a don't-miss-it night!



Congregational Meeting

May 5 is our annual congregational meeting. Again this year it will be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. To facilitate the gathering of all our people, there will be only one service that day, with no separate English or Spanish

services. We will enjoy a meal together at the meeting, and will conclude with the Lord's Supper. At the meeting we will get a financial update, receive a state of the church report, and approve a slate of new elders and deacons. A Zoom link will be available for the congregational meeting, however it will be a non-interactive link, meaning Zoom participants will be able to observe but not vote or comment during the congregational meeting. An absentee ballot will be available in the office if you are unable to make the meeting.

Nominees for Consistory are:

Deacon

- Mark Genzink

Care Elder

- Kathy Miedema
- Lynne Hubers

Governing Elder

- Matt DeJongh
- John Hoekstra
- Jody Vanderwel
- Yasser Palacios-Perez

FOOD
MAKES EVERYTHING
BETTER
(ESPECIALLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS)

Maria Urrea will be making yummy breakfast casseroles for our congregational meeting on May 5, **but we need your help completing**

the meal. To sign up to bring food or help with serving or clean up, call the church office.

Thanks!

Third Reformed to Welcome WTS Hispanic Ministry Program Visitors

On Sunday, April 28, El Encuentro will welcome the 25-30 visiting students and faculty of Western Theological Seminary's Hispanic Ministry Program* for our 11:30 a.m. worship service, which will include a reception of new members, and a baptism. El Encuentro will provide lunch for our guests following the service. We look forward to being inspired and encouraged by these visiting pastors, and also sharing about God's work among us here in El Encuentro and at Third! Please join us in greeting these guests with a warm "¡bienvenido!" ('welcome!') when they arrive!

**In 2017, WTS launched the Hispanic Ministry Program, to facilitate certification as well as post-graduate degree work in Spanish for Spanish-speaking pastors throughout the USA and Latin America. These courses take place primarily online in the form of distance learning ("DL"), with an annual in-person spring retreat and intensive module.*

One Small Cable for Man, One Fun Chew Toy for Squirrels

A while back our tech team ran a cable and a microphone up to the bell tower so we could hear the tolling of the bell in the sanctuary. It sounded awesome, and we were happy with it. However, on Maundy Thursday we were not able to get the sound to play in the sanctuary. After further investigation, we found this:



Dedicated tech team member Curtis Pierce detecting the problem...

And demonstrating how it happened.



But never fear! Your tech team is here to tackle all problems, be they of an electronic or furry form, and the cable will be replaced in the near future - and protected by PVC conduit!

Third Church Family News

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, help with transportation, and other ways you assisted while I was ill. I feel very blessed to be a part of Third Reformed Church.

—Marcia Callicoa

Sympathy

- To the Heideman family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Mary, on April 13.
- To Carol Cox on the death of her sister, Doris Osterink, on April 14.

Memorial Service

A memorial service in memory of Ruby Thome will be held on Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m., in the auditorium at Freedom Village.

Announcements

Mosaic Class

April 14, 21, and 28

THINKING CHRISTIAN-LY ABOUT ISLAM AND MUSLIMS: PERCEPTIONS AND MISPERCEPTIONS

Dr. John Hubers, Professor and Consultant for the Christian-Muslim Relations Program at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Retired) and Third Church member

April 14 - Session 1: Early Christian perceptions of Islam (how do they compare to ours?)

In this session we will look at the first responses Christians made to the rise of Islam as it swept through the formerly Christian Middle East while examining whether or not those early responses continue to inform our own.

You can view this session [here](#).

April 21 - Session 2: An Alternative Muslim Jesus: How should we respond?

In this session we will examine the Qur'anic and traditional Muslim views of Jesus asking how they impact not only our view of Islam, but how to approach our relationship with Muslim neighbors who hold these beliefs.

April 28 - Session 3: Examining Contemporary Christian Attitudes towards Islam and Muslims: Where do you stand?

In this session we will examine contemporary views of Islam and Muslims using an insightful scale developed by a Lebanese Christian scholar. A Western graduate now serving as an educational director at a CRC church in Kalamazoo who is also a Muslim convert, will join us to offer his unique perspectives.

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:

- Prayers Carl and Charlotte Heideman and family, and Ruth Heideman on the death of Mary on Saturday, April 13.

Pray for the following:

- Barb Neevel who has returned home from the hospital.
- Matt and Marcia Floding, Matt has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Grayson Sievert recuperating from surgery.
- Marcia Callicoa at home pray, for healing.
- Gayle (at American House) and Paula Wilson (home)
- Nathan Klay and Sue Boes dealing with cancer.
- Diann Koeman who is recuperating from a broken leg and ankle.
- Jonathan McMullen for healing.
- Kathleen, daughter of Charles Hunt dealing with advanced cancer.
- Pray for those nominated for consistory: Dea-

con: Mark Genzink; Governing Elder: John Hoekstra, Matt DeJongh, Jody Vanderwel and Yassar Palacios-Perez; Care Elder: Kathy Miedema and Lynne Hubers.

- For the Congregation meeting, worship and brunch on May 5,
- For all migrants and refugees throughout the world. For those seeking asylum, employment and housing, and cars.
- For peace and justice in Gaza and all countries dealing with war. Pray that aid can reach those who are starving.
- Pray for safe return from Nicaragua and Costa Rica: Pastor Ryan, Pastor Angel, Pastor Samuel Lopez, Aspen Boes, Laura Baer and Luis Perez. For confirmands and their mentors as they make profession of faith this Sunday:
 - 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, Tom Norman, and Dennis Gebben.

Prayer Spotlight

Appledorn: Donna Prins. Vista Springs: Barb Piaget, Phyllis Brown. Maple Woods: Beth DuMez, Ruth Heideman. American House: Gayle Wilson.

Missionaries

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

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.