

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

September 24, 2023 10:00 AM

 *Invites the congregation to stand, as able*

Bold Text is spoken in unison by the congregation



The Sanctuary main floor is equipped with a loop system for the hearing impaired

We are happy you are here this morning!

Third Reformed Church celebrates the gospel of Jesus as the way God moves people from exclusion to embrace by grace through faith. As a gospel community we are fully inclusive of all people who seek to know, love, and follow Jesus in a life of faith regardless of race, class, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Piet Post

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Please rise in body or spirit as we enter God's court with praise!

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 20

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

ODE TO JOY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God who calls and cares for us all,

we acknowledge that we are not as faithful in caring for each other.

We confess before you now the ways in which we have failed to fulfill the promises we make when we commit our lives to you, your people, and your world.

Time for silent confession

God, we are grateful for the ways that we have been faithful as a community of care.

We celebrate the love given and received that makes us who we are.

**Bind us closer together in caring community we pray,
for your glory and your name's sake.**

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Goodness of God

Jenn and Brian Johnson

INVITATION TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Blessing

Congregation: **May the Lord bless you as you worship and learn.**

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Dismiss

The people offer a sign of peace to one another

CHORAL ANTHEM

How Great Is Our God

Chris Tomlin

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOD'S WORD

Galatians 2:11-21 (NT pg. 166)

MESSAGE

Integrity

Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **522**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND LONGING

...ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER (printed inside the hymnal cover)

✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

Timothy Meaney

✠ POSTLUDE

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Michael Burkhardt

If you brought an offering this morning, please put it in an offering plate on the tables in the narthex.
Offerings may also be mailed to the church or made online at: <https://thirdgr.breezechms.com/give/online>.

*Assisting God's people in worship this morning are the Rev. Jeffrey Petersen, Senior Pastor
and the Rev. David Wygmans;
Jennifer Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries;
Adult Choir under the direction of Paul Boelkins;
Pam Lockwood, Director of Music;
Praise Team;
Josie Breukink, audio technician;
Tyler Nichols, Lead Audio and Visual Technician;
and Bruce Klanderman, organist.*

GRACE IN GALATIA

An 11 week journey through Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia fiercely advocating for a "Jesus plus nothing" gospel.

Date	Text	Title
Sept. 10	Galatians 1:1-10	Jesus Plus Nothing
Sept. 17	Galatians 1:11-2:10	Direct Knowledge
Sept. 24	Galatians 2:11-21	Integrity
Oct. 1	Galatians 3:1-18	Try As Hard As You Want
Oct. 8	Galatians 3:19-4:7	Boundless Inheritance
Oct. 15	Galatians 4:8-20	Gospel Growing
Oct. 22	Galatians 4:21-5:1	An Uncomfortable Allegory
Oct. 29	Galatians 5:1-15	Free To Love
Nov. 5	Galatians 5:16-26	The Fruit We Bear
Nov. 12	Galatians 6:1-10	On Our Own, Together
Nov. 19	Galatians 6:11-18	Don't Back Down

NURSERY AND TODDLER ROOM (LITTLE LAMBS)

We provide care during worship for our little ones, from birth through 3-years-old. The nursery and the toddler room are both located at the southwest end of the building (rooms 104 and 105) near the church office. [Click here to sign-up to help on a future Sunday](#)

ARE YOU VISITING?

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out a “visitor card,” found in each pew, and leave it in an offering plate, or give it to one of our pastors.

Please join us for a time of fellowship following the worship service, and for a cup of coffee or punch and a sweet treat.



THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS

TODAY (September 24)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Chuck and Karen VanderMeulen, Gussie Farris

Coffee and Cookies:

Laura Blauw and Nancy Zwart

NEXT WEEK (October 1)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Dave and Paige Hendrickson, Mary Cook,

Barb Struik

Coffee and Cookies:

Volunteers Needed

UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

October 8

Dick and Mary Welscott

October 15

The Tjoelker Family, Tom and Marjean Dooley,

Emily, Jordan and Sam Wilford

October 22

The Plantenga Family, Bryan and Cheryl Hageman

October 29

Ron and Tammy Schollaart

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

Our children, ages 4 years (must be 4 by Sept. 2023) through 5th grade, will be invited to dismiss to their own worship space. This fall, kids will explore that God created us for community and learn how to reflect Jesus' love and treat one another with friendship. The children can be picked up following the service in the Children's Wing (east side of the building).

Children's Worship Volunteers This Week (September 24)

LEVEL 1	Allison Teitsma
LEVEL 2	Jamie De Korte

Children's Worship Volunteers This Week (October 1)

LEVEL 1	Allison Klinck
LEVEL 2	Jen Kelly

FAITH FORUM

Today in Faith Forum (formerly called 2nd Hour) we have the 2nd of the 5 sessions on Spiritual Gifts. Rev. Dick Welscott will lead us today as we learn and dialog about what scripture says about Spiritual Gifts: What are they, who has them, where do they come from, what good do they accomplish? Participants will get a Spiritual Gifts inventory to help them understand what their particular gifts are? In future weeks we will talk about how to put them to use. If you are unable to attend today but wish to take the inventory, see Pastor Olivia or David Wygmans.

Coming up:

October 8 – Adults and 8-12th graders will gather in their own spaces to participate in a spiritual gifts inventory. Each person will learn or get an idea of what their spiritual gifts are.

October 15 – Adults and 8-12th graders will gather in their own spaces to explore together how we can grow in our gifts and how they can be used in the church, at work/school, and in the home.

October 22 – Adults and 8-12th graders will gather around cookies and coffee as a community and connect with others who have the same or similar gifts.

We will follow a similar format for 5 sessions following the above series (October 29, November 5, November 12, November 19, December 3). Over these weeks, we will focus on **Spiritual Disciplines**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

TODAY	Worship Service	10:00 AM
September 24	Children's Worship Offered	
	2 nd Hour Education (Sunday School for All Ages)	11:30 AM
	6-7 th Grade Youth Group	5:30 PM
	8-12 th Grade Youth Group	5:30 PM
MONDAY	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
September 25		
TUESDAY	Craft/Quilt Group Workshop	9:30 AM
September 26	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM
	Worship Planning Meeting	11:30 AM
	Consistory Meeting	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	Women's Bible Study	9:30 AM
September 27	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
THURSDAY	Take Charge Meeting (70x7)	9:30 AM
September 28	Ele's Place Program	6:15 – 8:00 PM
SUNDAY	Worship Service	10:00 AM
October 1	Celebration of the Lord's Supper	
	Children's Worship Offered	
	2 nd Hour Education (Sunday School for All Ages)	11:30 AM

CRAFT/QUILT GROUP WORKSHOP

Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, quilting, etc., especially when you are with others who are likeminded? Pack up whatever you are working on at home and come join in this Tuesday (September 26) from 9:30 am – 12 pm in the drama room. Can't make it on that date? This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month. Be sure to take a look at the display case in the front hallway. In it you will find a beautiful quilt made by Karen Vanden Bos 😊

WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

It's a new season for the Women's Bible Study group which meets here at the church on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. This past week we began a new study on listening to God using a study guide by the same name written by Carolyn Nystrom. Please come join us, even if you can't make it every week. Come when you can...as often as you can. If you have any questions, just call or text Becky Gebhart at 616.644.5515.

WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS THIS FALL

We had a fabulous meal this past Wednesday for our first Community Connections of the ministry year! We are so thankful for our smiling and faithful Community Life team to prepare and serve such delicious food. We also taste tested apples and shared what we love about this new season, Autumn! We hope to see you for our next Connections on Wednesday, October 18 for a Harvest / Pumpkin themed night!



Our Community Life team, led by Laura Blauw, was very busy all week shopping, prepping/preparing and cooking for us!
The smell of homemade apple crisp and pork roasts filled the whole church!
We are grateful for the hard and faithful work of this team.
Thank you!!
(Pictured are just a few of the team members.)

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

- “Thank you for the many cards and calls, which greatly comforted me during my recovery. Also, thank you to Pastor Jeffrey for his visit.” -Esther Woudenberg
- Continue to Remember our Friends – Nancy Bloem, Mary Boelkins, John Gorsky (Lisa Roskiewicz’s dad), Len Nagel, Roger Ritsema, Leon and Kathy Siekman, Sandy Swan, and Joan Vila.
- Please take time this week to pray for the missionaries we support through the RCA: Nathan and Nozomi Brownell – Japan, Adrian and Bernardeth Bobb-Kelly – Nicaragua, our missionaries in the Netherlands, and Brian and Donna Renes – USA.

If you are in need of prayer or know of someone who is, or if you would like to receive prayer requests via the prayer chain, please contact Paula Boeve @ 616.581.5459 or psvsboo@aol.com, or call the church office. Prayer requests are sent out by Paula and received by you via email.

NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY

We have been collecting cereal this month. Thank you to everyone who donated! It is now time for us to start collecting salad dressings. There is a table in the “gathering space” or space by the church mailboxes for donations. You may also make a monetary donation, which can be put in the white mailbox on the food donation table.



THEY ARE HERE!

You may have heard that “fitting-in vs. belonging” conversation that’s been happening of late (in Jeffrey’s sermon, in TRC’s weekly correspondence, in the latest Third Edition)? If you haven’t, here is the gist, “Fitting in is about assessing a situation and becoming who you need to be to be accepted. Belonging, on the other hand, doesn’t require us to change who are; it requires us to be who we are. We can only belong when we offer our most authentic selves and when we are embraced for who we are.” -Brene Brown

These small groups are here to help foster belonging. Pastor Jeffrey and I hear people talk daily of a deep yearning for authentic community. The books we have chosen are a catalyst for people to come together to talk about meaningful things and to do so in a space that is created to let us each show up...just as we are and where we are in our faith journey. The books have been chosen because they will challenge us, make us laugh, make points we don’t agree with, and make points that we resonate with deep in our bones. Each of us gets to show up and share how we are learning and growing. And we are giving the gift of listening and learning from others who are on the same journey. (On an aside, if you are a person who does NOT like talking in a group... awesome. Sharing is not a requirement, only an invitation.)

So, in a simple yet not so simple way... here is an opportunity to help create smaller more intimate communities within our larger church. I say simple cause, yep, they are scheduled, they will have child care, and a topic is picked to help create conversation; but it is not so simple as it asks that you show up and take a step toward creating a place where you allow the space for others to be their authentic selves and dare to let others begin to see your authentic self. And that can be a bit nerve wracking. But I promise, it’s worth it.

You can either sign up for one of the groups on the sign-up sheets in the Connections Center at church or email me and I’ll sign you up. olivia@thirdreformedchurchgr.org If you need child care, let me know! And, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Blessings, Pastor Olivia

Small Group #1

What is the Bible? By Rob Bell

Have you ever started to read the Bible and found yourself thinking, “What does this mean? How was the Bible put together? How does this apply to people today?” “How do we interpret scripture?” Rob Bell writes a book that makes you laugh, sometimes makes you blush, and almost all the time makes you think. His writing is accessible, amusing, and inviting. This is a group for people to come and discover ways we can read the Bible and share about what you are learning. As Rob Bell explains, “This is a book about a library of books dealing with loss and anger and transcendence and worry and empire and money and fear and stress and joy and doubt and grace and healing, and who doesn’t want to talk about those?”

Small Group Leader: Ron Roden

Meeting Times: TBD based on Choir Member involvement

Starting: October 11 through November 15

Location: Third Reformed Church Lounge

Book Formats Available: Print, Audio, Kindle

Link: <https://thirdgr.breezechms.com/form/894341>

Small Group #2

Faith After Doubt By Brian McLaren

Churches have always been good at talking about faith, but making room to discuss doubt? Not so much. In *Faith After Doubt*, McLaren proposes a model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith. If you have ever hit points in your journey where the faith you once had seems to be falling apart, where new experiences and information makes you wonder if you are still a Christian, where you have more struggles than joys when it comes to church and religion, this group is for you! If you have friends, kids, or others you care about who have walked away from church but are still open to spirituality, this would be a great group to invite them to. We will engage with the book material and create safe space to explore doubt and faith without judgement or expectation.

Small Group Leader: Jeffrey Petersen

Meeting Times: Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00

Starting: October 9 through November 13

Location: TBD based on group size

Book Formats Available: Print, Audio

Link: <https://thirdgr.breezechms.com/form/6a19b3>

Small Group #3

Woven By Meredith Miller

In most Christian parenting books, faith is described as a wall, constructed brick by brick, as adults tell children what to believe and how to behave. But what if obedience is not the goal of Christian parenting? What if it's our job as parents to instead help our kids get to know God and to trust God? And what if faith is not constructed brick by brick, but rather woven strand by strand? Much like a spider's web, in which anchor strands and internal threads combine to form a unique web. *Woven* can help children and youth anchor to who God is and have faith practices that are rich, textured, and all their own. With *Woven*, families can nurture the kind of faith that can flex and grow, be broken and repaired. This is the sort of faith that can stand up to the life a children and youth will live, the doubts they will encounter, and the questions that will come up along the way.

Small Group Leader: Olivia Stewart-Shoemaker

Meeting Times: 6:30 - 7:45 pm

Starting: October 12 through November 16

Location: TBD based on group size

Book Formats Available: Print, Audio, Kindle

Link: <https://thirdgr.breezechms.com/form/40cab1>



8-12th GRADERS

2nd Hour is following worship on Sundays from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm.
Youth Group is on Sunday evenings from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

September 24

2nd Hour

Spiritual Gifts...You have them...but what are they?

Youth Group

Dinner, Games, Mission Impossible style Gathering

October 1

2nd Hour from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Spiritual Gifts...You have them...let's find out what they are!

Youth Group

Rev. Liv's gonna walk around **Art Prize** if you want to come with!



2023

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|--------|--------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Oct 2 | Chuck VanderMeulen | Oct 17 | Maren Morris |
| Oct 4 | Henry Inhulsen | Oct 17 | Theo Morris |
| Oct 5 | Averi Slomp | Oct 18 | Andy Wicks |
| Oct 6 | Jane Bolhouse | Oct 19 | Lisa Kuiper |
| Oct 6 | Tiffany Van Dam | Oct 19 | Tina Montalbano |
| Oct 9 | Annika Wicks | Oct 20 | Marc Coleman |
| Oct 11 | Tilahun Swiftney | Oct 20 | Dave Howard |
| Oct 13 | Mike VandeBogert | Oct 23 | Ben Vega |
| Oct 14 | Lauren De Looff | Oct 25 | Susan Lockwood |
| | | Oct 27 | Rylan Kelly |



- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| October 1 | Marc and Brandy Coleman |
| October 5 | Jim and Brenda Bodwin |
| October 5 | Jim and Mary De Korte |
| October 9 | Rick and Kelli De Young |
| October 9 | Ron and Deb Roden |
| October 10 | Todd and Mary Tjoelker |
| October 27 | Jason and Windy Schnelker |



Third Reformed Church

**A community of Christ's disciples,
and the presence of Christ to our neighbors.**

YOUR 2023/2024 CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Kirk Breukink, Vice President
Melissa VanderLeek, Clerk
Walt Lockwood
Windy Schnelker
Ron Schollaart
Barb Teitsma

DEACONS

Karen VanderMeulen, Assistant Treasurer
Mark Dietrich, Chair of Deacons
Marc Coleman
Ryan De Korte
Ben Maddox
Brandon Slomp

PRESIDENT

Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

TREASURER

Ron Schollaart

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