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# The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

October 29, 2023 10:00 AM

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 *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

*Air*

Samuel Wesley

HANDBELL CHOIR

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

arr. John Purifoy

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day.

**You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination.**

You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You.

**And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast Love.**

We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective.

**Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word.**

**Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair,**

Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our sadness,

**Your love overwhelming our apathy.**

May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now, and forevermore.

**Let us Worship God.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present, ever-lasting God,

**In you we live and move and have our being. You have made us for yourself so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. We attempt to find peace for ourselves and we come up short. But trying to let go and find your peace in relationship with your presence can be perplexingly hard. Bless the effort we make in faith to find your peace, so that we might know your faith within ourselves. In your Son Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOD'S WORD

Galatians 5:1-15 (NT pg. 168)

MESSAGE

*Free To Love*

The Rev. Olivia Stewart-Shoemaker

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### ✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

*Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*

Chris Tomlin

### PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND LONGING

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

### ✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **272**

*The Trees of the Field*

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

### ✠ BENEDICTION

### ✠ POSTLUDE

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Spiritual

If you brought an offering this morning, please put it in an offering plate, located on the tables in the narthex.

Offerings may also be mailed to the church, made online at: <https://thirdgr.breezechms.com/give/online>  
or made by scanning the QR code below.

Make an Offering



*Assisting God's people in worship this morning are:  
the Rev. Olivia Stewart-Shoemaker, Pastor of Spiritual Formation,  
Ingrid Baird, liturgist,  
Jennifer Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries,  
Handbell Choir under the direction of Pam Lockwood,  
Praise Team,  
and Tyler Nichols, Lead Audio and Visual Technician.*

## 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	Test	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
<b>Oct. 29</b>	<b>Galatians 5:1-15</b>	<b>Free To Love</b>
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. A great big thank you to Holly Crow for taking care of our little ones this morning.

[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 give it to one of our pastors. Or, simply scan the QR code below and fill out a “visitor form.”

### **Contact Information**



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



## **FAITH FORUM (Formerly called 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour)**

Today marks week 2 of our 5-week series on spiritual disciplines. Please come join us from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm in the Youth Room, following worship and a brief time of fellowship. Faith Forum is for everyone! If you can't make it every Sunday, no worries. Come whenever you are able.

## **NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY (NECM) FOOD PANTRY**

This month we have been collecting **salad dressings**. We collected approximately 65 bottles. Thank you to all who donated! November 1<sup>st</sup> is Wednesday, and it is now time for us to collect crackers. 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. (In December, we will be collecting shampoo.)

## **THIRD REFORMED CHURCH CAN/BOTTLE DRIVE**

We continue to collect returnable cans and bottles for the NECM Food Pantry and our high school youth. This drive has been very beneficial to support these ministries. Just drop off your cans and bottles in front of the church garage at the door and we will take it from there. Last month we collected \$110.50 in returnables for which we thank you! -Keith Boeve

## THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS

### **TODAY** (October 29)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Ron and Tammy Schollaart

Len and Dianne DeBraber

Coffee and Cookies:

Laura Blauw and Nancy Swart

### **NEXT WEEK** (November 5)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Les and Liz Coleman, Marc and Brandy Coleman

Liturgist:

Ron Roden

Coffee and Cookies:

**Volunteers Needed**

### **UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE**

November 12

The Reid Morris Family, Ted and Nancy Zwart

November 19

Keith and Paula Boeve

Martha Katt, Beverly, Lucas and Ivy Haycraft

November 26

Jim and Mary De Korte, Bill Dykstra

December 3

Ron and Deb Roden, Lisa and Henry Kuiper

December 10

Chris and Leslie Muller, Brock Shoemaker

## **CHILDREN AND WORSHIP**

Our children, ages 4 years (must be 4 by Sept. 2023) through 5<sup>th</sup> 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** (October 29)

LEVEL 1

Jen Kelly

LEVEL 2

Jamie De Korte

### **Children's Worship Volunteers This Week** (November 5)

LEVEL 1

Allison Klinck

LEVEL 2

Jamie De Korte

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

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TODAY	Worship Service	10:00 AM
October 29	Children's Worship Offered	
	Meeting to Discuss Kids Hope Ministry (In Lounge)	Following Worship
	Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School	11:30 AM
MONDAY	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
October 30	Small Group Meeting (Faith After Doubt)	6:30 PM
TUESDAY	Worship Planning Meeting	10:30 AM
October 31		
WEDNESDAY	Women's Bible Study	9:30 AM
November 1	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
	Small Group Meeting (What is the Bible)	5:45 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
THURSDAY	Take Charge Meeting (70x7)	9:30 AM
November 2	Ele's Place Program	6:15 – 8:00 PM
	Small Group Meeting (Woven)	6:30 PM
SATURDAY	Breakfast with Guests of Mel Trotter Transition Houses	10:00 AM
November 4		
SUNDAY	Worship Service – All Saints Sunday	10:00 AM
November 5	Celebration of the Lord's Supper	
	Children's Worship Offered	
	6-7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group	Following Worship
	Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School	11:30 AM
	8-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group	5:30 PM



*Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour on November 5, as daylight saving time ends.*

## 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 us on Tuesday, November 14 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 😊

In the display case in the front hallway, you will find a Bargello quilt made by Ruth De Vries, specifically to be used and displayed in the fall. You will also find two cross-stitch pieces by Dee Scully. Be sure to take a look at what the hands of these Godly women created. The color scheme and attention to detail are extraordinary.

## WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS



**Join us on Wednesday, November 15 at 6 pm** for our annual Chili Cook-Off! Everyone is invited! This is a super fun event! Sign up at the Connections Center to bring your favorite chili recipe and/or dessert. Compete for the best overall chili, or just come to taste lots of delicious chilis and enjoy fellowship together! You may also sign up by clicking the following link: [Chili Cook-Off 2023 Sign-up](#)

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

- Continue to Remember our Friends – Nancy Bloem, Mary Boelkins, John Gorsky (Lisa Roskiewicz's dad), Bonnie Kovacs, 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 would like to receive prayer requests via the prayer chain, please contact Paula Boeve @ 616.581.5459 or [psvsboo@aol.com](mailto:psvsboo@aol.com), or call the church office. Prayer requests are sent out by Paula and received by you via email.



*Third's Midweek Memo* from Pastor Jeffrey, which was emailed to the congregation this past Wednesday, October 18, 2023

"**Kids Hope** is such an integral part of our school. We are so thankful for the volunteers who come to love our students unconditionally and who give their time, support, and talents to mentor them. The students chosen for this program need a village, and the mentors are a key part of that village. To some, an hour a week might be a drop in the bucket, but for our students, an hour a week means the world."

This statement from a local principal reinforces what many of us experienced over the years that Third Reformed Church had a Kids Hope relationship with East Leonard Elementary. Kids Hope is an intentional partnership where a church provides mentors who spend one hour a week with one child over the course of a school year. There are tools provided to help kids meet learning goals, but more than anything, it is the consistent loving presence of a mentor that makes a lasting impact!

Last year, the administration at East Leonard wanted to try a different approach to supporting students so we formally ended our Kids Hope program. A handful of us from Third continued to volunteer as classroom aids or reading tutors for groups of kids with mixed results. Personally, I missed the special kind of relationship I experienced over the previous five years that I spent with my Kids Hope student David.

Imagine my surprise this month when the new principal at East Leonard reached out to Kids Hope proactively asking if they could help establish a program in the school! In response, Tammy Schollaart has gotten to know the new principal, Nan, and share about our congregation's history with the school.

We would love to relaunch a Kids Hope partnership with East Leonard and reinvest in our legacy of "being the presence of Christ to our neighbors" in that special way! To do that, we need a *minimum* of eight mentors who are willing to commit to working with a student from January through the end of the school year. Click here to see the [Kids Hope Brochure](#).

**We are inviting everyone who has been a Kids Hope mentor in the past, and anyone who is interested (or open to considering) being a mentor, to meet in the lounge on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> during the fellowship time between worship and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour.** If you can't make that meeting but are open to being a mentor, let Tammy know at: [tschollaart@comcast.net](mailto:tschollaart@comcast.net).

I am a huge advocate for opportunities that pull us outside our own walls and am so grateful that our local school wants us to be a part of their children's lives! If we have a critical mass of volunteers to restart Kids Hope, I will be the first to sign up. I invite you to prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to be a part of renewing this connection between Third and East Leonard Elementary!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Jeffrey



## November 2023

### Happy Birthday!

Nov 1	Paul Boelkins	Nov 13	Lynnore Robrahn
Nov 1	Emma Christy	Nov 17	Mara De Looff
Nov 2	Evan Kabot	Nov 17	Willem Robertson
Nov 3	Mimi Tjoelker	Nov 17	Karen VandenBos
Nov 4	Barb Hamlin	Nov 18	Noah Breukink
Nov 5	Emily Wilford	Nov 21	Mark Dietrich
Nov 6	Bryan Hageman	Nov 22	Sydney Muller
Nov 7	John Gebhart	Nov 25	Kirk Breukink
Nov 7	Kathie Van Hoven	Nov 26	Maxine De Looff
Nov 10	Reid Morris	Nov 27	Barb Teitsma
Nov 10	Mary Welscott	Nov 29	Amy Kent
Nov 11	Josey Vega	Nov 29	Charlotte VanProoyen

### Happy Anniversary

November 4	Gary and Micky van Til
November 6	Dan and Laura Blauw
November 6	Kirk and Amy Breukink



# 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

## **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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### **REV. OLIVIA STEWART-SHOEMAKER**

Pastor of Spiritual Formation  
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### **PAM LOCKWOOD**

Director of Music  
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### **LISA ROSKIEWICZ**

Administrative Coordinator  
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### **THIRD REFORMED CHURCH**

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