

# THIRD CHURCH NEWS

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE STAYING APART

July 30, 2020

Volume 1 . Issue 8

## In Prayer and Fasting



—PASTOR ANGEL LOPEZ AND CARTER BAER

We're inviting Third Reformed and El Encuentro into a time of prayer and fasting, to lament the brokenness we see in our world and turn to God for hope and healing. ***“Christian fasting is not self-wrought discipline that tries to deserve more from God. It is a hunger for God awakened by the taste of God freely given in the gospel.”*** (John Piper, *A Hunger for God*).

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**In this difficult moment, we seek God's mercy and intervention in our lives, in our community, and in our nation.**

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We hunger for justice in the midst of racism. We hunger for health in

a viral pandemic. We hunger for security in economic uncertainty. We hunger for goodwill toward immigrants. We hunger for restoration in the natural world. We hunger for the presence of Christ and the coming of God's kingdom.

Each Friday in August we invite you to enter into prayer and fasting on the themes of Racial Justice, COVID-19, Immigration, and the Environment. What does this look like? You might set aside an hour of the day to pray. You might abstain from food for a meal or for the whole day. Construct your routine around what works for you. Each week the theme and scripture passages for prayer will be posted to our Facebook page, and the program for the entire month will be available on our website.

We would like to suggest some ways

to prepare for a quiet time of prayer for those who are not acquainted with contemplative prayer.

1. Prepare space away from noise and activity.
2. Turn off all potential interrupters (cell phones, TVs, radios etc.)
3. Relax in a sitting position and breathe deeply.
4. Let all thoughts pass through like a river, because the mind will distract.
5. Use a mantra to prepare for opening to scripture. (Each Friday we will have scripture readings in which you may dwell.)
6. Pray with gratitude.

In this difficult moment, we seek God's mercy and intervention in our lives, in our community, and in our nation. Jesus said: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

## Thank You for Your Generosity

Thank you for your generous donations to the families of Buen Pastor. Established in 1989 when a core group of individuals in the community saw that there was a need to keep young children of migrant farm workers out of the fields, Buen Pastor is an Early Childhood Program for these children that offers them a safe learning environment while their families work picking blueberries. Now a Migrant Head Start program, Buen Pastor has been housed at Third Reformed Church since their founding.

# In Support of Racial Justice and Equality

In response to the ongoing racial disparity in this country, and to step forward in the path of Christ, at the July Consistory meeting, the following statement was approved and entered into the record:

***"We affirm that Third Reformed Church believes that Black lives matter and stands shoulder to shoulder with our Black brothers and sisters for equality and justice in the United States."***

## Women's Ministries: SEPARATED IN BODY, BUT NOT IN SPIRIT

—KIT LEGGETT

A Note from the President

Dear ladies of Third Reformed Church and friends,

In June when the outgoing Executive Board of Women's Ministries ended the 2019-2020 program year, its members recognized that Women's Ministries had experienced a year unlike any other. The retiring officers met at the home of Co-President Carol Cox with Co-President Marj Hoekstra, Vice President Kit Leggett, Secretary Betty Van Wyngarden and Treasurer Barb Tenpas in attendance. These women acknowledged that plans for the upcoming year should be made, however tentative they might be.

The incoming Women's Ministries Executive Board members this year include President Kit Leggett, Vice President Ruth Sill, Secretary Linda Fulton and Treasurer Linda Russo. These officers will follow their predecessors as they plan to schedule opening events for the fall season and beyond. Safety concerns

about covid-19 will dictate when Women's Ministries programs and Bible study groups can safely gather at church or in individual homes. At least one of the Bible study groups is currently meeting virtually, and perhaps other groups may start to meet in the same fashion.

If you are a member of Third, one who attends services here or a friend of Third, please feel truly welcome to join one of our Bible study groups to learn more about God's word and to get to know our friendly members in a spirit of fellowship.

You are invited to send me an email if you are considering joining us. I would love to hear from you.

My address is:  
leggsandchords@yahoo.com

May the light of Christ shine upon you!

# Survey Notice

The COVID-19 pandemic has been disruptive to our regular church life together, and challenging to our sense of community. Yet our worship has remained rich, has been innovative, and has continued to provide a sense of community, all while calling us deeper into God's heart. As we look to the future in these conditions, Consistory would like to understand how we can continue to worship in a liturgical manner, both in and out of the sanctuary. Consistory is considering worshipping in a way that allows members who cannot physically be in the sanctuary to join virtually on the Zoom platform—a hybrid worship experience.

To that end, consistory approved a survey regarding this topic be made available to every member of Third Reformed Church. A link to the survey was emailed to all members with emails in the ShelbyNext system on Tuesday, July 28, at 9:13 a.m., and paper surveys and DVDs of the survey video were mailed via the USPS to all members without an email on record with the church that same day.

If you would like to request a paper version of the survey, please call Kristen in the office at 392-1459 and she will mail a survey and DVD to you. If you have household members who are church members but don't have

emails in our ShelbyNext system, they can reload the survey from the link you were sent and then complete their own submission. Please note: while the video is helpful, it is not necessary to answer the questions in the survey. The paper surveys come to you with a postage-paid return envelope, and responses must be postmarked by August 10, 2020. The entire survey should take around 10 minutes to complete, including watching the video.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this survey and your love and care for your church family.

## Third Church Family News

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Barb Feenstra  
August 5  
86 years

Gus Feenstra  
August 5  
90 years

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Betty Van Wyngarden  
August 19  
66 years

Gayle & Paula Wilson  
August 19  
58 years

Gus & Barb Feenstra  
August 20  
65 years

George & Joyce Magee  
August 20  
60 years

Ed & Sandy Stielstra  
August 23  
51 years

Don & Lois Van Lare  
August 23  
62 years

Bob & MaryAlice Ritsema  
August 24  
63 years

Gordon & Barbara Mummert  
August 26  
59 years

### SYMPATHY TO

Jane Bos on the death of her husband, Tom, on July 28

## Help for Keeping In Touch

If you have any questions or problems with Zoom, please call the office. Kristen will pass your information on to the Communications Team and someone will be happy to help you.

If you do not have a computer or do not use one, we have several ways we can keep in touch with you and help you continue to be a part of our community. Please reach out to us so that we may assist you.

# Pastor Kama's Three Thoughts for the Day...

## One.

It's Wednesday, July 29.

Last night my spouse and I sat in the nice shade of the church lawn, with about 6 other church folk, in a circle of chairs set up at least 6 feet apart, with each of us wearing masks.

It doesn't sound real cozy, does it.

And yet, it was.

It was nice to connect, to look folks in the eyes, and to catch up informally.

There wasn't an agenda; we just shared what was going on in our lives.

At the end of an hour, it felt like we had reconnected; we were assured that we still belong to this body called "Third Reformed Church"; we prayed together before we departed.

It was a different way of being church;

But it was still our church.

## Two.

August worship services will be led by a team of pastors and laity who have been immersed in discipleship training for the past 18 months. Kate Bolt, Steve Orlow, Benjamin Kamphuis, Scott Millen and I (along with Pastor Kent) will be sharing with you some rubrics for discipleship. Simple shapes can help us remember who we are called to be, and how we are called to live. If it's been a while since you've wondered how it is that Jesus is inviting you to grow, or who it is that Jesus is calling you to be, this may be a great opportunity to focus on where you are in your relationship with God and Christ's body. You are warmly invited!

## Three.

Everyone's talking about it: Racial inequities and white privilege.

Please join us through the Zoom link at [trcholland.org](http://trcholland.org) for these two opportunities:

**Discussion on the movie, "13th"  
Monday, August 3  
7-8:30 pm**

The movie, 13th, refers to the 13th amendment. It provides an in-depth look at the prison system in the U.S. and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality.

Bruce Bassett will facilitate this discussion

**Discussion on the book, The Color of Compromise by Jamar Tisby  
Sunday, August 9  
7:30 - 8:30**

One reviewer writes: The Color of Compromise is both enlightening and compelling, telling a history we either ignore or just don't know. Equal parts painful and inspirational, it details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. You will be guided in thinking through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.

This discussion will be facilitated by Kathy Schoon-Tanis.

# MISS JOYCE'S JOTTINGS

## COMPASSION CAMP VBS

Our virtual Vacation Bible School, "Compassion Camp" was a new and unique experience for all who joined us. On three Thursday mornings in July we met and explored how God's love helps us to reach out with compassion in our homes, in our communities and in our world. We had 20 children participate during these three weeks, 7 of whom are not members of Third Church. Using Bible drama videos, new music, small discussion groups, coloring activities, games, and story readings all done on Zoom, we experienced community together as we shared God's love and compassion with each other.

Compassion Camp Thank You's: We wish to thank the Schoon-Tanis family, the Bolt family and the McMullen family for creating the wonderful Bible drama videos which we used each week. Thank you also to Katherine Hunsberger for being our story reader and Kate Bolt for leading us in some movement videos. Thank you to our amazing small group leaders: Gretchen Munroe, Katherine Hunsberger, Laurie Orlow, Kim DeJongh, Janelle & Angel Lopez-Koolhaas, and Kent Fry. And thank you to Allie DeJongh who co-hosted the sessions with me and to Amy Lunn who did a marvelous job as our technical director. Thank you also to the children who made the adventure come alive and to the congregation for your support and prayers for this project. Thank you all!

## PARABLE TREASURES

Our Children's Summer Worship Program, Parable Treasures, will NOT meet this week, Sunday, August 2nd. We encourage families to be together for worship and the celebration of the Lord's supper. We will resume Parable Treasures on Sunday, August 9th. All children are invited to join us to hear the amazing stories that Jesus shared with his friends so many years ago and which still have meaning for us today. Parable Treasures meets on Zoom, Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 a.m. (before our 10:00 Zoom Worship service). Join us!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SURVEY

Thank you to all the families that took the time to fill out the survey about programming for children this fall. We appreciate your input. We hope to have our program planned by mid-August. Look for more information next month about our fall ministry to children.