

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please keep your Third Church Update in your Bible and use it to pray for the church family and ministry throughout the week.

Our Prayer Ministry - The Intercessors Prayer Group meets each Monday at 11:45 in the church library to pray for our church ministries and congregation. If you have a prayer request or praise you would like to share, put a prayer card in one of the containers during the hymn following the sermon or after the service or contact George Ossentjuk, gossentj@sbcglobal.net.

If you believe in the power of prayer, have a commitment to confidentiality and a desire to participate in a prayer group, please consider joining the Intercessors Prayer Group. Presently, the group meets for one hour on Mondays from 11:45-12:45 pm. If you have any questions, please contact any of the following:

George Ossentjuk: gossentj@sbcglobal.net or 269-327-4595
Don and Ann Elzinga: don.ann@gmail.com or 269-349-8584
Phyllis Molhoek: molhoek@upjohn.org or 269-343-1039
Jelene Van Dyk: 269-327-0304
Rick Viel: rvsparky47@gmail.com or 269-567-0649
Pastor A. J. Gretz: pastoraj@3rdcrc.org or 269-343-2400

Our Prayer Line – Third Church maintains a Prayer Line that is accessed via your computer. The Prayer Line provides personal information in regard to others in our Church Family who need our prayers and support. If you want to receive the Prayer Line, please contact the Church Office, and include your e-mail address. The office will contact Sue Vliem our Prayer Line Coordinator, who will then assist with the set up. Through the Prayer Line you will also receive our weekly *News and Notes*, which will provide reminders of upcoming events, Sunday's Thank Offering, and informative tidings. The Prayer Line itself will be sent on a need-to-know basis; whereas, the *News and Notes* will be sent on Wednesdays.

Thank you, Kristen! We would like to extend a sincere heartfelt *THANK YOU* to Kristen Oostindie for the time and effort she puts into decorating our sanctuary for the holidays. (And, she has done this for many years!) We are grateful to you, Kristen, for using your artistic gifts to make our sanctuary festive and meaningful for the Christmas season.

NEWS FOR FAMILIES

Activity Bags: The brightly colored bags hanging in the Narthex are to be used in worship. Each bag has a small amount of activities, coloring books and puzzles for our little ones. Please remember to hang them back in the Narthex as you leave.

Children's Bulletins: We offer two different Children's Bulletins according to age groups: 3-6 and 7-12. The bulletins can be found at the Welcome Center, or please ask an usher.

YOUTH EVENTS

High School

December 9 – ELEMENT 5:00-7:00 pm
(topic: "An Unexpected Savior")
December 16 – Christmas Program 9:30 am
No Sunday Morning Classes
ELEMENT Christmas Party 5:00-7:00 pm

Coats for the YWCA – Our high school youth group is collecting winter coats for kids in the domestic abuse shelter at the YWCA. We need all possible sizes from baby all the way up to teenager. If you have new or gently used winter coats bring them next Sunday, December 16. We are hoping to collect at least 40 coats!



Save the Date! Miracle Camp "Ice Camp" on January 25-27. Let's have some winter fun tubing and tobogganing. Cost is \$50, and financial help is available. Sign up by December 23, bryan.keeley@3rdcrc.org.

Middle School

December 12 – LIFT 6:30-8:00 pm
(topic: "Why a Manger?")
December 19 – LIFT Christmas Party 6:30-8:00 pm
(dress in red and green)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Sunday Services Online: Please note that our services are videotaped for rebroadcast purposes, and are available on our church website www.3rdcrc.org.

All the nominees for the positions of Elder and Deacon were affirmed by the congregation last Sunday. The new Elders and Deacons for Council will be selected by lot at our service on December 23. Thank you for your continued support for this process.

Up-To-Date Contributions - Your giving statements reflecting contributions made from January 1 through November 11, 2018 were placed in your Fellowship Hall mailboxes. If you have any questions in regard to your statement, please contact your Deacon.

AA Meetings: Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held here at church on Sundays, at 5:00 pm. ***Anyone with the desire to stop drinking is welcome.*** The outside office door will be open, and the meetings will take place in the Council Room. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Weller, 269-506-2343.

Advent Celebration - Grace Christian Reformed Church invites you to join them today, at 7:00 pm, as they present "Unto Us a Child is Born," an evening of scripture and song celebrating the birth of our Savior. This event will feature a number of musicians from various local churches. You are also invited to join us for a light meal beforehand, which will follow our 5:00 pm worship service.

Safe Church - Classis Kalamazoo is seeking a Safe Church Ministry Coordinator. This is a stipend position (1-3 hours per week), with three primary responsibilities: 1) Organize classis-wide Safe Church Ministry team meetings; 2) Develop a collaborative working relationship with classis; and 3) Connect with the Safe Church ministry denominational staff. If interested, please contact Mike Koetje, chair of the Classical Interim Committee at pastormike.koetje@gmail.com.

WINCHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Winchell School has asked for our help again this year in providing gift cards for some of their most needy families. If you would like to help with this project, please purchase \$5 or \$10 gift cards from Meijer. Bring them to the church office or put them in Cyndee Viel's Fellowship Hall mailbox. Cyndee will take the cards to Winchell School on Monday, December 17, which will be added to the gift cards collected by Winchell School.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 9, 2018

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY

- 8:30 am Praise Team and Band Rehearsal
- 9:30 am Morning Worship – **Rev. Zeyl Installation**
- 11:00 am Sunday Morning Classes
- 11:00 am Choir (Music Room)
- 11:00 am Christmas Program Practice
- 5:00 pm ELEMENT (Youth Room)
- 5:00 pm AA Meeting (Walnut Room)

Thank Offering: **Third Church Ministries Fund**



MONDAY

- 11:45 am Intercessors (Library)
- 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting (Council Room)

TUESDAY

- 12:30 pm Third Generation Lunch (Martell's Restaurant)

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 pm GEMS (downstairs classroom)
- 6:30 pm Cadets (Cadet Room)
- 6:30 pm LIFT (Youth Room)
- 7:00 pm Friendship (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY

- 9:30 am Women's Coffee Break (Fellowship Hall)

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

NEXT SUNDAY

- 8:30 am Praise Team and Band Rehearsal
- 9:30 am Morning Worship – **Christmas Program**
- 11:00 am Choir (Music Room)
- 5:00 pm ELEMENT Christmas Program (Youth Room)
- 5:00 pm AA Meeting (Walnut Room)

Thank Offering:

December 16 Christian Education Assistance Fund

December 23 Love Kazoo

December 24 Crossroads Prison Ministry

MEMBERS SERVING FOR WORSHIP

Elders Greeting Today: Peggy Link, Dan Triemstra
Elders Greeting Next Week: Ron Plaisier, Kathy Bartels

Little Children Care Ministers Today: Matt and Tiffany Brindley
Little Children Care Ministers Next Week: Patty Gruizinga, Mark and Katie Sytsma

Worship Center Today: Debbie Weesies, Josie Oostindie (Rev. Zeyl Installation)
Worship Center Next Week: Annika Sytsma, Josie Oostindie

Prayer Ministers Today: Rick Van Enk, Mary Jane Baylor
Prayer Ministers Next Week: Rick Viel, Phyllis Molhoek

Usher Assignment Today: Ed and Margaret Bosch, Phil Ippel
Usher Assignment Next Week: Ken Noppen, Luke Vanderhill, Bob Erikson

Deacons Collecting Today: David Bartels, Jim Valk, Esther Korzilius, Alex Onderlinde, Nathan Batts
Deacons Collecting Next Week: Luke Vanderhill, Dave Huizinga, Tom Nanninga, Kim Van Loo, Bob Erikson

Tech Support Today: Dave Bierenga, Marc Verkaik, Don Batts
Tech Support Next Week: Rick Viel, Mike Kakabeeke, Rick Viel

Coffee Hour Servers Today: Krage and Marie Fox
Coffee Hour Servers Next Week: Jim and Jo English

MICAH 6-8 CORNER

(Justice & Mercy Opportunities; On-Going Needs)

Food for Thought – This year, place Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes on your Christmas list. Fresh fruits and vegetables are not always available or affordable to many in our community. Fresh produce donations are always accepted at the warehouse. Always on the wish list for Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes are macaroni and cheese, boxed instant potatoes, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, canned tuna and high-protein soups and stews. The grocery carts for Loaves and Fishes are located in the Fellowship Hall and can hold any food at any time.

The hallmark of the Meijer hunger relief effort is the *Simply Give* program, which has helped neighborhood food pantries keep their shelves stocked. Due to the support of Meijer customers, team members, and food pantry partners this signature program has generated more than \$43,000,000 since November 2008. It's part of the *Not I, Not You, But We* movement.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Contributions received for the Ministries Fund and assigned Thank Offerings for the month of November:

Ministries Fund	\$54,641.82
Benevolence Fund	2,958.09
Christian Education Assistance Fund	30,724.82
World Renew	6,197.00

Thank you for the many ways you support Third Church and its ministries.



