

The Messenger



December 2017 • Vol XXXX No. 10

Christmas Eve



Sunday, December 24 at Third Presbyterian Church

- * Sunday Morning Service (Sanctuary) 10:45am
- * Festival of the Nativity (Sanctuary) 4:30pm
- * Candlelight Communion (Chapel) 8:00pm
- * Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary) 11:00pm

A Rochester Festival of Lessons and Carols from Third Church will be broadcast on WXXI 91.5 and Classical915.org at 11:00pm



Bring your pledge cards to Worship on Sunday, December 3

Handel's "Messiah" – Christmas Portion

Sunday, December 17 at 10:45am and 7:30pm

See page 8 for details.

Bell Tower and Chime Renovation Update

Thanks to the more than 140 individuals and families who have responded to our bell tower and chime renovation campaign. We are pleased to report that we have received nearly \$78,000 in gifts and pledges. That, coupled with nearly \$112,000 previously raised, means that we have reached our goal!

It's still not too late to give, as we are seeking to build a small contingency

fund into the work. Send your gift or pledge to the church and indicate if it is in memory or honor of someone.

The preparatory work continues, and we look forward to hearing the bells very soon.

Watch an upcoming Messenger for final news and the full list of supporters. In the meantime, thank you for your generous support.



THIRD VOICE

Dear Friends,

“What can I give him, poor as I am?”

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

Yet what can I give him: give my heart.”

This is the concluding verse from one of my favorite Christmas carols – “In the Bleak Midwinter.” We are not yet in mid-winter, but the words ring as true as ever.

What can I give?

It’s a question we focus on on December 3 and Stewardship Sunday. This year you will be offering your pledges a little later than usual, but that’s OK by me. The season of Advent, with its focus on hope, is a perfect platform to think about stewardship, in particular as we focus on the themes of “Our Hope for Years to Come.” Our goals are ambitious – \$100,000 in additional pledging and 50 additional pledges. I believe we have the capacity to meet these goals, which will go a very long way to stabilizing and strengthening our growing and thriving ministry. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

What can I give?

Our world seems so incredibly fragile and broken. The litany is so long, with recent additions including Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs, Texas. What we can give is our commitment and energy to new ways of doing things. What we can give is our faith. I recently came across a quotation from the Talmud: “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete



the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.” That is what we can give.

What can I give?

Christmas is upon us, yes, already. The fall has been full. The leaves are still holding on. Yet we pivot to Advent and prepare our world and our hearts for the birth of the Christ child. What we can give, what we must give, is room for him to enter. Room in our world. Room in the church. Room in your hearts. Room in your souls. That means sitting still for a bit, early in the morning or late at night. It means singing the old songs with new perspectives. It means seeking to avoid, as best you can, the ways in which the culture tells you you should observe the season.

What can I give?

I can give my heart. You can give your heart. Together, we can give our hearts in the name of this tiny, vulnerable baby whose birth will change the world and whose good news resonates even to this very minute.

Bonny, Kenneth, Ann and I wish you every blessing in this holy season, and peace and joy in the New Year.

Faithfully,

Worship Schedule

DECEMBER 3

First Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Sunday

8:30am Worship in Chapel

Communion

10:45am Worship in Sanctuary

Communion

Romans 15:4-6

“Our Hope for Years to Come”

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 10

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30am Worship in Chapel

Communion

10:45 Worship in Sanctuary

Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-9

“The Stewardship of Advent”

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 17

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Worship in Chapel

Communion

10:45 Worship in Sanctuary

Special Music Handel’s “Messiah”

Isaiah 61:1-4

“The Stewardship of Good News”

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:45

Romans 16:25-27 and Luke 1:26-38

“The Stewardship of Holiness”

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm Festival of the Nativity

8:00am Service of Communion

11:00pm Festival of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 31

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:45

A Service of Lessons, Readings and Carols

“The Stewardship of Christmas”

John Wilkinson leading

Milestones

Births

- **Victoria McBeth-Beaton**, daughter of Hannah McBeth and Zachary Beaton born October 21, 2017.

Prayers for the Bereaved

- For **Robert Eames** on the death of his brother-in-law Donald Carson on September 27 and of his nephew Kenneth Casabonne on October 6.
- For **Julie and Brian Kopp, Casey and Megan** on the death of Julie's brother Jeff Digel on October 18.
- For **Richard Kreipe** on the death of his wife Mary Sue Jack on November 4.
- For the **family** of John Hayward on his death on November 8.

FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS

Men's Group – Saturday, December 9, 8:30am, Johnston Hall

The Rev. Paul Gongloff will be leading us in a discussion of "Border Crossings: Traveling into Other Worlds of Experience." Please **RSVP** to Paul at pabishop@live.com or Andrew at andrew_elder@pobox.com so we can get the right amount of breakfast. Please consider joining us for a little fellowship, light discussion and sustenance.

Make an Advent Wreath

On **Sunday, December 3** following worship, the Congregational Fellowship Committee invites you to join us for a simple soup lunch and Advent wreath making. Mark the first Sunday in Advent by creating a wreath that can be used for at home throughout the season of Advent. No RSVPs are necessary. We hope you will join us!



All are invited to take part in this year's Advent Retreat on **Saturday, December 9, from 12:00 to 3:00pm.**

It is a season for storytelling; after all, the gospels began as shared stories. Resurrection has always been the story's finale, but each gospel has a unique take on the beginning. Hear the story of Advent unfold as we shape and share our stories and the seasonal stories of Third Church. Work with Jeanne Fisher, Vice President for Radio at WXXI, and Robin Flanigan, freelance journalist, as they lead us in the art of storytelling.

To **reserve your place at this retreat**, contact Martha Langford (mlangford@thirdpresbyterian.org or 271-6537, ext. 108) by December 6.

Living Waters: Longest Night Service

Monday, December 18 at 7:00pm in the Chapel

All are invited to a "Longest Night" observance in this Advent Season. Also known as "Blue Christmas," this Living Waters service will take place on the Monday before the winter solstice—the longest night. It acknowledges that, for many, the Christmas season is one where loneliness and sorrow mingle with joy and peace. Surrounded by the community of hope, we will lift our prayers and our mixed emotions in worship of God, whose Son is "risen with healing in his wings."

Young Adult Christmas Outing

A young adult (20s and 30s) Christmas outing is being planned for this month. Dates, times and location are still being finalized, but watch the bulletin, Thursday update and social media for details. Contact Becky D'Angelo-Veitch or Mary Ann Rutkowski to get on the e-mail list.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Sunday Seminar: 9:30am, Johnston Hall

December 3 – Spirituality of a Generation

Led by **Nadia Mullen**, Protestant Chaplain and Interfaith Program Specialist at Nazareth College

Nazareth College supports the faith development of its students at its Center for Spirituality. This multi-faith environment helps students undertake the journey of self-discovery using a variety of spiritual practices. Nadia has come to appreciate that our lives are increasingly lived in an interfaith environment. Come hear what she and her students have to say about spirituality and being a young adult in our modern times.

December 10 – Art of the Nativity

Led by **Jim Moore**, Third Church Member

Jim Moore will present an illustrated lecture about works of artists who have portrayed the story of the Nativity from the Renaissance through to the present time. The gathered will explore masterworks from artists such as Michelangelo, DaVinci, ElGreco, and Matisse (among others), with consideration for how they illustrate passages from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

December 17 – The Messiah: A New Look at a Seasonal Favorite

Explore the music of Handel’s “Messiah” in preparation for the Chancel Choir’s presentation of the work as special music during the 10:45am worship service.

Sunday Seminar will not meet on December 24 and 31. We will resume on January 7.

Growing in the Word: 9:30am, Parlor

Exploring the Bible one book at a time: Advent begins a new liturgical year. Join us to explore the Gospel of Mark, from which many of this year’s scripture readings are drawn.

December 3 – Introduction to Mark’s Gospel

Led by Martha Langford

December 10 – The Mystery Appears, Mark 1:1-15

Led by David Evans

December 17 – The Mystery Discriminates, Mark 3:13-35

Led by Paul Gongloff

Growing in the Word will not meet on December 24 and 31. We will resume on January 7.

Thursday Voices: 12:00noon, Johnston Hall

In Advent, we will explore the gift of the incarnation.

December 7 – Advent Credo, written by Allan Boesak and Into The Darkest Hour, written by Madeleine L’Engle

Led by Martha Langford

December 14 – Waiting for God, written by Henri Nouwen

Led by Lynette Sparks

December 21 – The Coming of Jesus in Our Midst, written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Led by John Wilkinson

Thursday Voices will not meet on December 28. We will resume on January 4.

Fair Trade Palestinian Olive Oil Available

Sunday, December 3 at Coffee Hour Celebration Center

The Peacemaking Mission Team is offering Palestinian fair trade olive products during Advent Lunch/wreath making time on December 3. Be sure to come and check out our olive oil, tapenade, za’atar, and couscous from One World Goods! And, we expect to have a good supply of the ever-popular infused olive oils, great for gift-giving!

All items will be sold at cost to benefit the farmers of the Canaan Fair Trade Association in the West Bank.



Children's Ministry News

Becky D'Angelo-Veitch, Children's Ministry Coordinator, 271-6513, ext. 118, rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org or

Mary Ann Rutkowski, Associate Director of Music, 271-6513, ext. 101 or mrutkowski@thirdpresbyterian.org

Sunday School

In December we will study prophecies from Isaiah and Micah as we mark the Sundays in Advent, finishing the advent season with the story of the shepherds from Luke on Christmas Eve morning. What fun it will be to have Sunday school on this most special day in our faith life!

**Please note, there will only be one morning service on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The worship table schedule is as follows:

- December 3—grades 4 - 5
- December 10—grade 6
- December 17—grades 1 - 2
- *December 24—All classes in Sunday School
- *December 31—No Sunday school—all children welcome at the worship table
(*One service at 10:45am)

Nursery

We are still looking for additional nursery volunteers. Contact Becky D'Angelo-Veitch 271-6537, ext. 118 or RVeitch@thirdpresbyterian.org to sign up today.

Qabats

In Qabats, we will begin the month with a special Christmas game on December 6, followed by "Get Moving!" on December 13, and a movie nite on December 20. There is no Qabats December 27. Normal schedule resumes January 10.

Junior Choir Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 10 during coffee hour

Take home a delicious plate of homemade treats for a suggested donation of \$5.00. Copies of our latest CD, "So it is with the Spirit," also available - a great gift.

The Festival of the Nativity 4:30pm on December 24

This service is designed to be family and child friendly. Your children are welcome and encouraged to be with you in the sanctuary for this service. Little voices and wiggly bodies are as much a part of this service as the hymns and greenery, so please know that children are very welcome. We do not staff the nursery on this evening so that our coordinator and volunteers can be with their families, however the preschool classroom will remain open for any parents who would prefer to be with their children while having access to toys and space to run and play.

The Messenger

The B.E.A.T. BOX (Building Excitement at Third)

Jane Carden, Youth Ministry Coordinator, 271-6513, ext. 107 or jcarden@thirdpresbyterian.org, www.thirdchurchofthird.org

Peter DuBois, Director of Music, pdubois@thirdpresbyterian.org

Youth Participation in Nativity

Attention all youth, grades 7-12 - the sign-up for participation in this year's Nativity service is here!

The deadline for sign ups is Sunday, December 3. Please contact Mary Ann Rutkowski (mrutkowski@thirdpresbyterian.org) with any questions.

YOUTH Holiday Ornament Sale December 17 during coffee hour

This year's version is Origami ornaments made from our old blue Hymnals! Don't miss it!

Christmas Gifts for Cameron

The Youth will be again supporting Cameron Community Ministries Neighborhood Christmas Party by helping supply the gifts for the teen guests. Youth, please bring an unwrapped gift to Youth on December 3 or 10. A suggested list of teen gifts will also be shared at Youth, but some suggestions are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| • Sports jerseys/
clothing | • Headphones | • Jewelry |
| • Baseball hats | • Sunglasses | • Room
decorations |
| • Handheld
electronic
games | • Posters | • Personal care
gift sets (Axe,
Bath and Body
works ect.) |
| • Mp3 players | • Movies | |
| | • Makeup | |
| | • Nail polish | |
| | • Hair accessories | |

The entire Congregation is invited to participate! Last day to accept gifts for Cameron is December 10.

SAVE THE DATE

Youth Group Alumni Holiday Reunion December 27 (evening)

Time and place: coming soon! Your host: Bruce Peachey



Pictured here: God Squad (Youth Middle Schoolers) volunteered at Tails and Treats (Lollipop Farm) in November. Photo by Jeremy Peters.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS



Tracy Beeler



Angela and Ryan Bonacchi with sons Vincenzo and Giorgio



Katherine Mattice and Mark Jabaut



Susan Porter and William Conklin



Karen Somers



Nina Somers



Mark Wilson



Suzanne Woodring

Tracy Beeler: Tracy, recently retired from Kodak and Kodak Alaris, is originally from Irondequoit, and now resides in Webster. She was previously a member at Brick and Downtown United Presbyterian Church. She has been attending Third Church since early this year, and enjoys the services, music, meeting people at Third Church, and working in the Food Cupboard. Her hobbies include boating, reading, and walking.

Angela and Ryan Bonacchi: Angela and Ryan are parents of two young sons – Vincenzo, age 3, and Giorgio, age four months. They love spending time together as a family. Ryan enjoys landscaping and Angela enjoys cooking.

William Conklin: William (Bill) Conklin is retired and enjoys walking. He was a member of Calvary St. Andrew's Presbyterian Parish, and is a brother-in-law to Susan Porter.

Katherine Mattice: Katherine is a Rochester native, and received her college education in the Adirondacks. Raised in the Catholic church and most recently attending Calvary St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Katherine says

she is ready to belong to a church community again, and was attracted to the welcoming spirit and More Light philosophy of Third Church. She is partnered with Mark Jabaut and mom to Nori and Sage. She enjoys gardening, caring for pets, re-enacting history, and volunteering at the South Wedge Food Program.

Susan Porter: Sue came to Third Church from Calvary St. Andrews Presbyterian Parish, and is a sister-in-law to Bill Conklin. Previously ordained as both a Presbyterian elder and deacon, Sue has been employed by the Judicial Process Commission for many years. There she assists returning citizens to become productive members of our community.

Karen Somers: Karen grew up in Third Church, and we are delighted she has reconnected here. Karen enjoys spending time with family and friends, and appreciates learning new skills and making new connections. She also likes playing tennis and staying fit.

Nina Somers: Nina has a long history of connection to Third Church, having participated in Young Adult Fellowship, where she met her spouse. Her now

grown children, Karen and Dan, were active in Glorious Voices, Junior Choir, bell choir, and many musicals. Nina served as choir mother for Helen Moot, and previously served as a deacon and trustee. Nina says it is a pleasure to re-activate her membership in a church with so many family memories.

Mark Wilson: Mark is self-employed, helping others with their start-up companies and new product development. He also teaches part-time at Simon Business School. Mark's grandfather was a Presbyterian minister. Mark spent years at various Presbyterian churches and Asbury First United Methodist Church before coming to Third Church several years ago. Mark is engaged to Suzanne Woodring.

Suzanne Woodring: Suzanne is a Ph.D. candidate in human development and a writing instructor at the University of Rochester. A Maryland native and daughter of a Pentecostal minister, she was first introduced to Third Church when she was employed here as the Nursery Coordinator. She enjoys running, yoga, and long walks. Suzanne is engaged to Mark Wilson.

Meals With A Meaning Update

“our group had so much fun, we decided we are going to do it quarterly”

“the kids upstairs complained that we were laughing too loudly all night”

“I met people whose names I had heard, but who I hadn’t ever connected with before”



Over 165 church members gathered in almost 20 homes on the warm autumn evening of October 21 for food, fellowship and fundraising. Delicious meals, wonderful conversation and nearly \$8700 for our operating budget all contributed to the great success of the evening as we exceeded every goal set forth. We are very thankful to our host homes: Camille Clayton, Bill and Carol Coons, Mary Cowden, Janet and Dan Davies, Heidi Friederich, Pam and Ry Foye, Sandy Gianniny, George and Fran Gotcsik, Hope and Ken Herting, Margaret Lindsey and Alison Gray, Beth Aten, Maryjane Link and Paul Peterson, Gregg and Janey Miller, Susan Rupp and Sue and Bob Melech, Brad and Lynette Sparks and Mary Ann Rutkowski, Van VanZanten, Ralph Carter and Betty and Larry Iwan, Robert and Becky Veitch and Jan and Jim Widboom. Keep an eye out for the next Meals with a Meaning—you will not want to miss this wonderful fellowship opportunity!

8th Annual East Avenue Grocery Run

A Huge Success

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, runners, walkers and sponsors, the East Avenue Grocery Run raised more than \$45,000 for local food pantries.



The 8th annual event attracted 1192 registered participants, who contributed more than 1800 pounds of food to Foodlink. Participation by 16 area food programs outside of Third Church expands the reach of our hunger ministry.

This race comes together each year because of your generous support through hours, donations and participation. Thank you for helping us create such a fantastic day and helping put our faith in action.

Church Ladies Retreat Success!

“Mind, body, soul, and heart well fed,” Sarah Krug.

A group of 20 Church Ladies spent a meaningful 24-hours at Camp Casowasco in October. Watch for details for the next retreat in 2018.



Generosity UPDATE

In addition to your stewardship pledges, this month we received gifts and contributions:

In Memory of:

Lucile Rice
Dean Harper

Additional gifts to support the following:

East Avenue Grocery Run Donations & Sponsorships
Food Cupboard
Pastors' Emergency Fund
Hurricane Disaster Assistance
Sponsoring the RAIHN Day Center Kitchen
Copeland Memorial Chime & Bell Tower Renovation & Restoration

We have received \$1,363 for Peace & Global Witness.

We received \$8,691 in donations for Meals with a Meaning!

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

- **John Wilkinson**, Pastor
- **Martha C. Langford**, Associate Pastor
(Congregational Care)
- **Lynette K. Sparks**, Associate Pastor
(Outreach and Evangelism)
- **Ernest F. Krug**, Parish Associate
- **Peter A. DuBois**, Director of Music/Organist
- **Mary Ann Rutkowski**, Associate Director
of Music
- **Caroline J. Robinson**, Assistant Organist
- **Rebecca D'Angelo-Veitch**, Coordinator of
Children's Ministry and Congregational Life
- **Jane S. Carden**, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
- **Roderic P. Frohman**, Pastor Emeritus

To reach any of our staff, call Third Presbyterian Church at (585) 271-6513

Handel's "Messiah" Times TWO!

The Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra will offer Part One (the "Christmas" portion) of George Frederick Handel's beloved masterpiece "Messiah" on Sunday, December 17 – twice! And you're invited to each! Soloists will include Danika Felty, soprano; Riki Connaughton and Caroline Nielson, alto; Anders Namestnik, tenor; Sam Witmer, baritone; and Nicholas Landrum, bass.

On Sunday morning, "Messiah" will serve as the centerpiece of our Advent III worship service at 10:45am, offered by choir, soloists, and orchestra. And on Sunday evening at 7:30pm, we'll offer it to the wider community – as a "Community Sing!" People are invited to bring their own scores, or borrow one for the evening, and join the choir in singing the choruses that are so familiar to so many! Or, if you'd rather just listen to the assembled "community choir," that's fine, too! Either way, it will be a festive, and memorable, way to experience "Messiah." Spread the word



to your family and friends, and plan to join in this wonderful musical preparation for Christmas!

Support for these presentations comes from the Lois V. Parker Special Music Fund, and the Janet S. and David B. Reed Fund. A special music offering will also be received to support this special experience. Your generosity is appreciated!



Help Publicize Boar's Head

YOU can help spread the word about the upcoming Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival, January 6 & 7! Pre-printed invitation post-cards are available in the church office for you to pick up and send to your friends. All you need to do is add an address, and a stamp! There's room for a short personal message, too. They're available in packets of ten. Please help yourself, and help US fill the church for the Festival!