

# WELCOME!

## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

New here? Learn about Third on our website at [thirdrva.org](http://thirdrva.org) and sign up for our ministry emails at [thirdrva.org/signup](http://thirdrva.org/signup). Looking to get plugged in and find community? Find a parish group meeting near you at [thirdrva.org/parish-life](http://thirdrva.org/parish-life).

### PRELUDE | "WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING" (ROBERT HOBBY)

#### CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 130:5-7

- › I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.
- » **There is no darkness with you, O LORD.**
- › O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plenteous redemption.
- » **There is no darkness with you, O LORD.**
- › Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- » **There is no darkness with you, O LORD.**

#### PRAYER OF ADORATION

"CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT"

"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- » **Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF COMFORT

- › The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.  
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.
- » **Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.**

GREETING OF PEACE

OUR OFFERINGS | FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29:14

- › Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?
- » **For all things come from you and what we now offer is already yours.**

END OF YEAR BUDGET UPDATE

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | LUKE 1: 67-79

SERMON | "ZECHARIAH: A SONG OF FAITH" (COREY WIDMER)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- › Christians, what do you believe?
- » **I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sits  
at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he shall come  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- › Lift up your hearts!
- » **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- › Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- » **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
  
- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, you have made us in your image and for yourself. You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy.  
God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
  
- › You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you. You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home. God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
  
- › You have sent your Son to bring us home to you.  
By his Incarnation–
- » **You have found us.**
- › By his Death–
- » **You have forgiven us.**
- › By his Resurrection–
- » **You have freed us.**
- › God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
  
- › In union with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Great High Priest, and with all who worship you, both in heaven and on earth, we offer you our praise, singing:
- » ***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he, blessed is he  
Who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—
- » **One with Christ, one with each other, and one in mission to all the world,**
- › Until Christ shall come in final victory and we feast together at his heavenly banquet. We cry,
- » **Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION | FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26

- › “The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

## FOR OUR GUESTS

The Lord’s Supper, or Communion, is one of the two sacraments we celebrate (the other is baptism). It’s one of the most important things we do when we gather together, because the bread and juice are concrete signs of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. When we come forward to receive them, we believe that Jesus is actually present through the Holy Spirit, extending his grace and forgiveness to us. We welcome anyone to the table who is willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. If you are not able to receive Communion, we invite you to use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

### PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Lead me into the light and life you promise. Amen.

*Adapted from prayers written by Rev. Scot Sherman, Redeemer Presbyterian Church*

### PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more blind and sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete acceptance. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

**“O YULE FULL OF GLADNESS” (ARR. JENNINGS)**

O Yule full of gladness and cheer and delight,  
We welcome you now with our singing.  
Our hearts open wide to the brilliance of light  
From heaven to earth you are bringing.

We merrily clap and sing, a happy welcome bring.  
So glad are we, so glad are we,  
For joy and love are born now at Christmas!

Clap and sing, welcome bring!

With shepherds and wise men your star we behold,  
Its brightness o'er Bethlehem beaming.  
And we too would follow, as prophets foretold,  
Where light everlasting is streaming.

We merrily clap and sing, a happy welcome bring.  
So glad are we, so glad are we,  
For love is born now at Christmas!

Happy Yule! Clap and sing, welcome bring!

Now join hand in hand, and together we'll welcome the Yule,  
And pledge love and faith to each other.  
For we all are bound by the love that we share;  
Rejoice, every sister and brother!

We merrily clap and sing, a happy welcome bring.  
So glad are we, so glad are we,  
For joy and love are born now at Christmas!

**“EAT THIS BREAD”**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

» **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.**

"LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING"

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | 2 PETER 3:13-15

- › According to God's promise, we wait for a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.
- » **Therefore, while we are waiting for these things, let us strive to be found by the Lord at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of the Lord as salvation.**

# THE TEN O'CLOCK HOUR

Visit the **Quiet Room** (226) or **Prayer Room** (200), where there will be someone to pray with you. Or grab coffee at our **Outdoor Commons** by the playground, or check out one of the classes listed below. Have kids? Bring them to one of the classrooms listed on the following page.

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## **Discipleship Pathways: Community & Mission**

Together, we'll explore the God who is community and sends us into communities of practice, which can include parishes, acts of service, pursuits of justice, and sharing the gospel.

FELLOWSHIP HALL | DREW CLEVELAND, LJ JAWORSKI, ELISABETH HAYES, JASON SNOOK

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## **Households of Faith: Marriage**

Join us as we talk about 6 gospel principles that will strengthen a marriage, based on Paul Tripp's book, *Marriage: 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs to Make*.

CHOIR ROOM | KATHIE AND ROB COX

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## **Exploring Philippians**

All are welcome to participate in this accessible and energetic class as it engages the letter to the Philippians as a community.

ROOM 217 | ADRIENNE WRIGHT

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## **To Be Made Well Book Study**

Join this safe and authentic community as we study Amy Julia Becker's recent book, *To Be Made Well*.

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, 500 FOREST AVE | MARY DAMON

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## **Psalms: Wisdom of God for Everyday Life**

Join us for expository Bible teaching as we study selected Psalms in a search for the ways of wisdom as taught by God throughout the Bible.

**Note:** For the next two weeks we will explore hymns from the Gospels and Christmas music written over the past 800 years that celebrates the birth of Jesus.

ROOM 213/215 | DAVID CARROLL, DAVID SKOVE

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# CHILDCARE 8:45 AND 11:00 A.M.

Each Sunday we offer childcare during our worship services for infants through kindergarten; older kids worship with their parents.

Infants (up to 12 months or steady walkers) . . . . .	102
Toddlers . . . . .	107
2-year-olds . . . . .	103
3-year-olds (as of 9/30/22) – Kindergarten . . . . .	223

**Following the 8:45 service:** If you plan to attend Sunday school after the service, your child can be escorted to their assigned classroom but please notify your teacher on the sign-in sheet that they will be attending Sunday school. Otherwise, please pick up your children immediately after the 8:45 service ends.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 A.M.

During the ten o'clock hour, we have a dedicated Sunday school hour where our kids meet in age-specific classrooms to learn, sing, and read the Bible together.

Infants (up to 12 months or steady walkers) . . . . .	102
Toddlers (12–24 months) . . . . .	107
2-year-olds (as of 9/30/22): Little Lambs . . . . .	103
3-year-olds (as of 9/30/22): Little Lions . . . . .	223
4-year-olds and Pre-K: Little Eagles . . . . .	202
Kindergarten . . . . .	220
First grade . . . . .	201
Second grade . . . . .	207
Third grade . . . . .	218
Fourth grade . . . . .	227
Club 56 (5th and 6th grades) . . . . .	Basement
7th–12th grades . . . . .	Student Ministry Area

**Following Sunday school:** If your child attends Sunday school and you plan to attend the 11:00 a.m. service, they can be escorted by their teacher to Room 223. Please let your teacher know on the sign-in sheet when you'll be picking up your child!



# PRAYER NEEDS

## FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Please be praying for our mission partner Carolyn Rennie in her ministry of care and discipleship in Romania. She works to maintain the outreach activity through English courses and special activities for both children and adults.

## FOR OUR CITY

Please be praying for the families of metropolitan Richmond: for the unemployed and underemployed, for suitable work, living wages, and fair benefits for all workers in this metropolitan city; and for sufficient employment to make healthy family life possible.

## FOR HEALTH

David Lynch, Randee Massey, Lauren Earley, Addy Allen, Susan Jenkins, Carrie Henaghan, Carolyn Oakley, Mollie Heyman, Susan Drumwright, Elaine Metcalf, Cat Ramsey, Joe Slay, Stan Smith, Mary Ann Hancock, Al Foster, Jerry Dearmon, Beatrice White, Evi Burgin, Linda Ludlow, Susan Higgins, Elaine Turner, Stephanie Brooks, Christie Geraty

## FOR THOSE GRIEVING LOSS

Betty Olson (mother, 11/14); William Muangala (grandmother); Joy Orteza (father, 10/31); Jane Fields (husband, Jim, 10/7); Russell and Richard Brooks (mother, wife, 9/30); Sarah Hale (father, 9/10); Alex Bruce (grandmother, 9/3)

## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Lillian "Lily" Beth O'Keefe . . . . . 11/14  
Josephine "Josie" Beverly Wright . . 11/5  
Owen Patrick Cherry . . . . . 10/31  
Robert Rhodes Gardiner . . . . . 10/5  
John Watson Henderson . . . . . 9/26  
Wren Carter Blackwell . . . . . 9/24  
Jane Crosby Kochard . . . . . 9/19

## DEATHS

Jim Fields . . . . . 10/7  
Betty Thomas . . . . . 4/5  
Loma Shafer . . . . . 3/14  
Liam Geraty . . . . . 2/24  
Taylor Frazier . . . . . 2/13  
Garry Buttner . . . . . 2/3  
Jinny Bartlett . . . . . 1/8

# NEWS & EVENTS

## TODAY! LESSONS & CAROLS: ANNUAL ADVENT SERVICE

*Services at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

Mark the beginning of Advent and prepare your hearts to welcome our Savior with this special Lessons & Carols service in our Sanctuary.

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## TODAY! CELEBRATE JEFF HUMMEL

*10:00 a.m., Parlor*

Thank our organist, Jeff Hummel, for his leadership at Third and express well wishes for his retirement, happening after Christmas! Coffee and refreshments provided.

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## WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

*Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.*

Join the women of Third for this cherished gathering as we share a meal, worship together, and usher in the Advent season. RSVP online.

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## SPECIAL ADVENT CLASS OFFERING: EXPLORE CHRISTMAS MUSIC

*Sunday, December 11 and 18, Room 213/215, 10:00 a.m.*

Join us for this two-week class as we explore hymns from the Gospels and Christmas music written over the past 800 years that celebrates the birth of Jesus.

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES: DECEMBER 24 AND 25

Join us on **Christmas Eve** for one of our services in the Sanctuary: 3:30, 5:00, 7:30, and 9:00 p.m. Communion will be served at the 9:00 service. Childcare available for kids three and younger during 3:30 and 5:00 services (please RSVP to Susan: [susanb@thirdrva.org](mailto:susanb@thirdrva.org)). Then join us on **Christmas morning** at 11:00 a.m. for a casual service of carol singing, prayer, and a brief message.

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## MEET OUR MISSION PARTNER: JONATHAN AND MIKA HICKS

*Sunday, December 18, 12:15 p.m., Office Building at 500 Forest Ave.*

The Hicks work together with a small Japanese congregation to reach the people of Fukuoka, Japan. Learn more and join us for lunch. No RSVP needed.

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## HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN

*Friday, December 16 – Saturday, December 17*

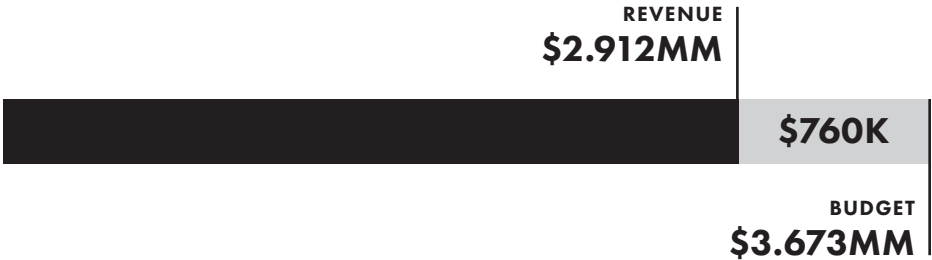
Join us for an inflatable obstacle course, games, food, and lots of fun in our building before we leave. Register (\$20) online.



# BUDGET UPDATE

As we close out the year, we want to be transparent with you, our congregation, in our financial outlook. The figures you see here are still preliminary numbers from the end of November; we will not officially close the books on November until this coming week. However, we want to keep you updated with what we're seeing as soon as we could. We will be mailing you the final numbers this week. Thank you for your faithful and sacrificial giving to God's work through this church!

## THIRD CHURCH 2022 PRELIMINARY YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS



If you have any questions about the budget, Valerie Holland, our Director of Finance and Administration, will be available today between services in the Commons (by the Fellowship Hall) for any questions.

# Our first Sunday at Regency will be January 8.

Join us as we fill our temporary space with our people and our praise!  
Sunday morning services at 8:45 & 11:00.



Help us prep our space! We've compiled a number of workdays over the next few weeks to help us paint, prep, and organize our space. Find a time you can stop by or commit a full day.