



Pieter Bruegel : *Hunters in the Snow*, 1566

## Worship and Discipleship Road in 2023

You will become familiar with 12 words, echoed by 12 Disciples, and lessons derived from the 12 tribes of Israel — *during 12 months of Morning Worship in 2023.*

A visual depiction of the four seasons by Pieter Bruegel is displayed in the Pillsbury Threshold.

*Let's review the 12 words to live by in 2023:*

***Homage, Witness, Preparation,  
Redemption, Welcome, Joy,  
Community, Faith, Hope,  
Charity, Thanks,  
and Expectation***

The fruits of these words are unpacked through New Testament personalities and spiritual direction, joys, and frailties offered by Jesus' 12 Apostles.

The Old Testament guides our discussion through wise lessons derived from the 12 Tribes of Israel.

In addition...

I encourage you take advantage of wise discipleship opportunities in 2023:

Third is blessed with a wide variety of competent and passionate Sunday School Teachers. I am deeply grateful for all classes, revitalizing these groups, as we've attempted to return to pre-Covid days.

The Sunday schedule for 2023 remains:

- Donut Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.
- Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.
- Worship at 11 a.m. followed by a gathering time in Pillsbury Threshold

Another on ramp is *Wednesday Night Adult Discipleship*: gathering for fellowship meal at 5:15 p.m. and discipleship reflection and discussion at 5:45 p.m. The return to Wednesday nights has experienced rebirth and excellent participation.

Rob Lamb and I will continue facilitating discussion, focusing on James Bryan Smith's, *The Good and Beautiful Life*.

And I'm happy to announce that Tisha Brooks will lead discipleship group each Wednesday night during March, for Third's Lenten Study.

Tisha will lead discussions on her new book, entitled *Spirit Deep: Recovering the Sacred in Black Women's Travel*.

Third was blessed with several people written into our story in 2022. Much of this advancement was due to guests connecting with Bible Study and Discipleship groups at Third.

Beloved, let us remain connected to one another, through the love of Christ—a community built on strong foundation of Paul's prayer in Ephesians:

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Blessings all,  
Tommy

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## Upcoming Memorial Service

Join the church family in honoring  
the life of  
Paul Schmidt

Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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Sunday, January 22  
11 a.m. During Worship

Deacon Ordination & Blessing of:  
Deanna Davis  
Cietta Grose  
Monica McDaniel- Collins



# Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips  
Minister to Families

I love Advent—the anticipation, the telling and retelling of the familiar stories with our youth and children, the decorations, music, candles...I find great comfort and excitement in this feeling of collective movement and getting ready, together for Jesus.

But now it's a New Year and the days are shorter, and colder. Now I'm waiting for Lent and Spring and the flowers and longer days and warmer weather.

I am holding the poem on this page from Howard Thurman as a guide for the coming days.

What will we - as families of Third - do in the time between Lent and Advent?

*We will continue the work of Christmas begun with Jesus in us.*

*We will continue meeting on Sundays and Wednesdays.*

*We will continue Godly Play for our children and monthly fellowships with youth.*

*We will have opportunities to serve together, play together, pray together, and work together.*

*We will continue to participate in and lead worship.*

*We have an exciting year ahead!*

Let us continue to practice radical hospitality and warm service as we love God by loving one another.

Please keep connected to one another and our work, please know you are loved!

## The Work of Christmas

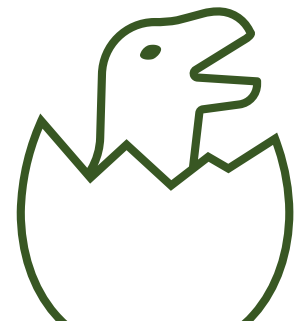
When the song of the angels  
is stilled,  
When the star in the sky  
is gone,  
When the kings and princes  
are home,  
When the shepherds  
are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers  
(and sisters),  
To make music in the heart.

*~Howard Thurman*



Interested in helping with Extended Session  
during the Sunday morning worship hour?

Please email Ella Banks: [ebanks@third-baptist.org](mailto:ebanks@third-baptist.org)  
or Drew: [dphillips@third-baptist.org](mailto:dphillips@third-baptist.org)



# Celebrate a Season of Giving: December Food Pantry ~ Gift Baskets

Many volunteers (several pictured below) participated over three days to help with this special Food Pantry event in December, unloading trucks, carefully organizing and packing food bags to prep for giveaway day. They showed up bright and early on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, to cheerfully hand out food, toys, and snacks to registered guests. Music (and other volunteer services!) were provided this year by members of Take Two Productions, a tenant in our building. 70 families equaling about 193 people (49 children) received food and toys this year.

A big thanks to Ella Banks for (a few months' worth of) registration services ahead of this event. And volunteers would be like lost and wandering sheep without the expert guidance and leadership of Allie Hamilton and Monica McDaniel-Collins.





Third is honored to host *The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus* on Sunday, February 19, under direction of our own Dr. Philip Barnes.

The concert is at 3 p.m., followed by fellowship in Johnson Hall.

Beginning with the first Sunday in February, discounted tickets of \$20 for Adults and \$10 for Students will be available outside the church office.

From Dr. Philip Barnes, Director of Music

As the New Year dawns, it's time for us to bid a fond farewell to two of our choir's section leaders, Shannon McFarland and Sol Wilken. Our worship has been greatly enhanced by the beauty of their voices, and their work as section leaders has offered a fine example to their fellow choristers. We wish them all best wishes in their future endeavors.

At the same time, we welcome to the choir a new section leader, Christine Guthrie. We are blessed to add her talents to our weekly worship, as she brings with her not only a lovely voice and excellent musicianship (she works as a technician for Jackson Pianos), but also much experience in church choirs, including First Presbyterian of Kirkwood.

Please welcome Christine to our music program.

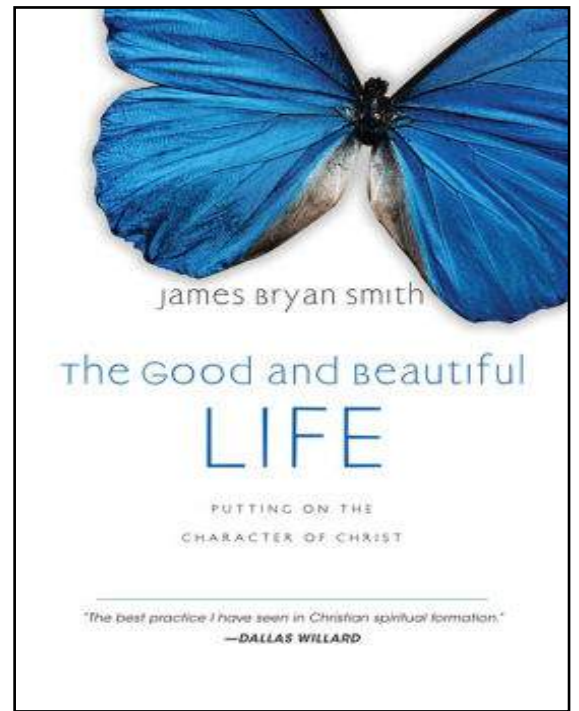
# Adult Discipleship

Returns Wednesday, January 11th

**5:15 p.m.** Fellowship Meal

Please email [tsimons@third-baptist.org](mailto:tsimons@third-baptist.org) for reservations

**5:45 p.m.** Reflections and discussion of James Bryan Smith's, *The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ*



## Fellowship Cookie Donations

*Thank you!* to those who have signed up to donate cookies.

If anyone else would like to donate cookies, they would be welcome! Please leave them in the freezer in the cookie room (behind the TV wall in the Pillsbury Threshold), with your name attached.

There are also cellophane wrappers to bag cookies individually if anyone would like to use them.

Thanks again for your generosity!

Monica Odell & Linda Ramey  
Hospitality Committee

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 02 🎁 Clara Jackson
- 05 🎁 Leslie Davis
- 07 🎁 Margaret Warmann  
& Steve Campbell
- 12 🎁 Kia Moore  
& Hannah Hitchcock
- 13 🎁 Jordan (JJ) Huddlen
- 20 🎁 Matthew Watson  
& Isaac Brett
- 27 🎁 Charlotte Wilkerson
- 29 🎁 Robert Hoffman
- 30 🎁 Mike Thiems  
& Gabe Thiems



**In the city for good!**

620 North Grand Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
Office 314.533.7340  
third-baptist.org

## Third Baptist Church Staff

**Dr. Tommy Simons**  
PASTOR

**Rev. Drew Phillips**  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

**Dr. Philip Barnes**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Ella Banks**  
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE  
ASSISTANT

**Rasheed Smith**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Timothy Harrison**  
CUSTODIAN

**Brent Johnson**  
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**Christine McCarthy**  
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**Sally Stevenson**  
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