



Third Base

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From the Pastor

The Old Testament reveals Canaanites, Moabites, and Ammonites sometimes offered children as burnt offerings to deities such as Molech or Baal, believing it would secure divine favor, fertility, or prosperity.

The prophet Jeremiah condemns the Israelites for burning their children in the Valley of Hinnom (Topheth) as offerings to Baal or Molech (above illustration from 1897 “An Offering to Molech.”)

2 Chronicles 28:1-4 describe King Ahaz burning his son as an offering, imitating Canaanite practices. Similarly, 2 Kings 21:6 notes King Manasseh sacrificing his son, leading to divine judgment.

Why child sacrifice in the ancient near eastern world?

Killing something valuable demonstrated devotion to gods; in turn, you receive divine blessings and protection. *What is more pure and precious than a child?*

The giving of purity (child) to gods as “downpayment” on blessings was also found in Mesopotamia, Mediterranean, European, MesoAmerican (Aztecs, Myas, Incas), and Africa. The Hebrew Bible says:

‘Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death... I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name.’

~Leviticus 20:2-5

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The place of abomination is called “High Places”:

“And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.”

~Jeremiah 7:31

I spy a High Place:

Court documents show 150 people connected to Epstein—accusers, witnesses and associates.

Child Trafficking involves certain skill sets: Recruitment, transportation, and the transfer of children. Exploitation of children through force or coercion, manipulation—“fly to my resort—you will receive payment for “massaging” guests.”

And the final step...Recruit, receive payment, or blackmail persons engaged in sexual acts with the “inventory” recruited. In the case of Epstein, not at a seedy hotel, but a five-star residence on a private island.

Epstein killed himself (allegedly). And ONE PERSON is jailed; Giselle Maxwell, charged with grooming and recruiting girls as young as 14.

Therefore, we have a math problem. At present, not one person is charged with participating in sexual acts with these children. All the while, those on right and left hyperventilate about “releasing flight records”.

This is skoobala and an unnecessary distraction. I want perp walks, arrests, grand juries, a fair trial and, if found guilty by a jury of their peers, life sentence or death penalty.

We need to live as though God really exists. And as far as our minds can comprehend—

God has certain lines. When crossed, it is time for Divine Judgement if his creation does not merit Justice.

Child sacrifice is under this umbrella.

And...I'm a hypocrite.

It's easy to sit in the comfort of my office and point fingers at others—it really is the laziest form of rhetoric.

But I will discipline myself to write letters and bug a few people in power. I mostly lean into shrugging and muttering of profanity when it comes to these matters—what difference does it make? I have no political contacts or leverage of power.

And my response is a terrible lens from which to view this matter.

I suspect it starts with reflection, listening, educating, and following prompting of the Holy Spirit...and then...ACTING.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote:

“Therefore, the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked; and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.”

~Isaiah 5:25

Evil never sleeps...

Tommy

Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

SAVE THE DATES! Lake Springfield Baptist Summer Camps – signup links here:

JULY 6-12: Junior High Summer Camp Grades 6-8
<https://form.jotform.com/242066892795168>

JULY 13-19: Senior High Camp Grades 9-12
<https://form.jotform.com/250374907188162>



Music appreciation during morning worship



Third Families,

I'm writing on this Juneteenth with a heart that is both thankful and convicted.

Every day, every interaction, every lesson, or worship, or fun outing, I am reminded what an unusually gifted church God has given us. We come from so many places, and our stories and experiences have been shaped in numerous ways.

Stories matter - and the stories we choose to center for ourselves and others matter.

One of the most lasting gifts we can leave our youngest members is to make sure they are people-rich: in touch with, learning from, and surrounded by diverse stories of love and community, hardship, and triumph.

As we prepare for VBS, two weeks of camp, and a water park outing! - I am saying, "Thanks for loving our students well. Thanks for supporting the work of family ministries at Third."

And also, "keep it up. Don't grow weary in doing good and know that every interaction you have with a child has ripples to eternity."

Peace and Love,
Drew

From a youth workday where some of the group helped prepare Lake Springfield Baptist Camp for the summer sessions.





Restorative Practices

THEMED COMMUNITY BUILDING CIRCLES SUMMER 2025 SERIES 6:30 pm



Dani
Phillips



Janika
Grimlund

Restorative Practices recognizes the importance of maintaining positive relationships and provides a pathway for encouraging community building, restoring trust, and holding space for healing. Join us as we create space to build connections.



July 23 | Spiritual Self-care | **Third Baptist Church**

620 N Grand Blvd



Learn more about our interactive Restorative Justice workshop coming this July! Gain skills to build a restorative culture in your home, workplace, school, church, or community!

dpe.restorativeconsulting@gmail.com

Clickable link to RSVP - <https://forms.gle/7q8NSqGMctgPrzHEA>

Mission Focus: Updates from the Mission Field - July 2025



Dr. Daniel Chetti and Sarah Chetti: News from the Middle East has us on the edge of our seat as generations of warring countries and religious sects continue in front of our eyes. The images are heart wrenching. Yet quietly and steadily God's word is being shared, and hearts and minds are turning to a loving Savior. One of their recent newsletters discusses a new church plant in Iraq:

"Thanks to your faithful prayers and support, a new church has been successfully planted in Duhok, located in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq. This growing ministry is being led by a pastor from Baghdad, who now also pastors the Duhok community alongside his wife, who plays a vital role in ministering to the youth and helping nurture the next generation of believers.

Despite the ongoing challenges facing the church in Baghdad, including financial strains tied to ministry needs and legal pressures surrounding the evangelical presence, God remains at work.

Another story from the region comes from THIMAR-LESED, a regional partner. While stories of war rage on, here is a story of hope:

"Among some individuals, there is a different story. At a THIMAR-partner church this past Sunday, several believers stood on stage and shared their testimonies. Each had been a combatant from opposing sides during the Lebanese civil war. Now they stood together under one roof, embracing each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Their lives are testimonies to the radical healing and transformative power of the gospel. They were not just former enemies who had made peace with their pasts; they were people who had become part of one family. Such testimonies remind us of the peacemaking role that believers and the church have, especially in a country and a region long tarnished by violence and division."

Please pray for God's grace and spirit for our Christian brothers and sisters in the middle east.

I was blessed to have a few minutes with the Chetti's a few weeks ago. Their grace and joy shine through as they speak of the work going on in Lebanon as well as neighboring countries. Both said they are eager to see us again here in St. Louis while they are in the states for a few more months.

Finally, for a beautiful moment, listen to God's praise sung in Arabic (with English subtitles):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfYXO-sV1ok>

Peggy Pittinger,
Missions Chair, Third Baptist Church



Bible Study Fun

We don't know how often the word "fun" is used when describing Bible study, but here's an occasion when we think it is appropriate.

In Wayfarers we have begun a whole unit of study on the parables of Jesus. You know the prodigal son and the good Samaritan, but we're guessing there are other parables you may not be familiar with or which you have given only a passing glance look or which you may not have figured out.

We are in the midst of this study and in this study no question is ruled out of bounds. What's more, if you think there is only one interpretation of a given parable, you are sadly mistaken. Which means there's a lot of room for conversation. Which means there's even room for fun as we figure out what these teachings have to do with our lives.

We welcome all comers. Say the word and we'll send you an invitation.

Steve and Dawn



2025 Anniversary Celebration Calendar

Sunday, August 17th

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Special guest, Mark Gifford, former TBC church organist (currently Director of Music and Organist for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois).

CONCERT 1 P.M.

Sunday, September 7th: 1950-2000

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. John F. Anderson, Senior Pastor from 1990-2000

All church picnic in Johnson Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Sunday, November 9th

Speaker: Dr. Richard Hipps, pastor, author and missionary to Brazil—celebrating Third's mission culture since its foundation.

Missions Fair for All - 10 a.m. in the Children's Department

Saturday, December 6th

Special 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala Luncheon, more details to come.

Sunday, December 7th: 2000-2025

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. Warren J. Hoffman, TBC Senior Pastor from 2005-2013

Adult Discipleship

Wednesdays, returning August 6

5:15 p.m. Dinner

5:45 p.m. Discussion and Spiritual Application

Sign up for dinner reservations with Tommy at
tsimons@third-baptist.org



Listen in to Third's Lively Table Podcasts:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1750498>

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *Ten Thousand Mile Journey, with the Pastor*
 - *Justice and Mercy, with Jerry Bryan*
 - *At the Movies, with Ashley and Aaron*

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 04 🎁 Linda Roos
- 06 🎁 Tommy Simons
- 10 🎁 Harold Jackson
- 14 🎁 Arris Harris
& Alice Worrell
- 15 🎁 Elizabeth Hoffman
- 16 🎁 Lynda Sharpe
- 17 🎁 Elijah Kimler
- 18 🎁 Marvelle Johnson
- 19 🎁 Andrea Banks
- 21 🎁 Simon Bailey
& Ruth Adikorely
- 22 🎁 Karen Stewart
- 25 🎁 Gerri Robins
- 29 🎁 Dea Hoover

Mark your calendar...

- **August 24:**
Church Council meets
following worship
- **August 31: Quarterly Business Meeting**
in Sanctuary after worship



Please bookmark!

<https://third-baptist.org/calendar>

This is the primary calendar for discovering Third Ministries and partnership ministries connected to our beloved community.



Third Baptist Church

620 North Grand Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63103

Office: 314-533-7340

Third-baptist.org

We'd love to connect with you!



third-baptist.org/guest

Third Baptist Church Staff

Dr. Philip Barnes
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Lansin Lim Kimler
PIANIST

Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

Dr. Tommy Simons
PASTOR

Rev. Drew Phillips
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE

Ella Banks
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASST.

Tom Kurtz
BUSINESS MANAGER

Christine McCarthy
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Ronnie Winthrop
FACILITIES MANAGER