



From the Pastor

As this broken bread was once scattered on the mountains, and after it had been brought together became one, so may the Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for thine is the glory, and the power, through Jesus Christ, forever.

(The Didache (90AD))

Thank you for supporting Third with your pledges, offerings, time, and service, as we gather together and bring others into the kingdom. As we close out our 172nd year as a congregation and begin 173, let us remain an inclusive, loving, and faithful people.

Third members come from over thirty zip codes to gather together in this special place at Grand and Washington. We are not a place of political or religious extremes. Third insists on honoring your journey, encouraging all to place faith in Jesus Christ and participate in discipleship, bringing all your brokenness, forming you into His image.

How does this happen?

It is an insistence on placing aside the temporary and focusing on eternal. The temporary matters of theological, political, and social differences are secondary to one's eternal destination, based on one's relationship with Jesus Christ.

I wish you could experience my view on Sunday mornings. Worshippers whose story began in Ghana, Nigeria, India, England, Italy, and Missouri...even those from the holy land (Texas).

Your political leanings are left, right, center and none of the above. And all of you create a beautiful tapestry of faith.

Paul really was on the mark. No matter our preferences, if it is not undergirded by love, we become "clanging gongs" an irritating noise signifying nothing.

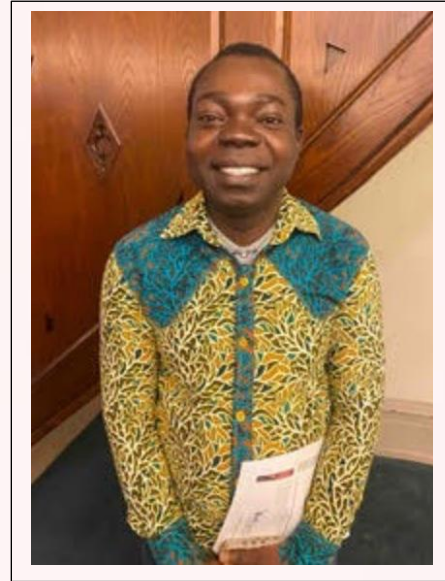
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Beloved, do not take this for granted. The culture of welcome does not happen by osmosis, it is a *stubborn holiness*...insisting on choosing the hard road of love.

And as Third's worship, discipleship, missions, and education ministries recover from the pandemic, if you are physically able, participate with your church family in person.

You will receive encouragement and hope as you connect with both familiar and new faces.

To that end, we welcome new member Joseph Agor!



Third is blessed with relational and financial health.

All who have been contacted by the Nominating Committee have agreed to return and continue serving on various committees.

You have participated well in *The Giving Tree: Rooted In Love* this stewardship season.

Thanks for being the beautiful people you are and may God guide our steps in year one hundred seventy-three!

Therefore, let us look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving, Advent, and the excitement of a new year on the horizon.

Blessings all,  
Tommy

# Family

## Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

### College student lunch-

Third has been blessed with a wonderful group of college students from all over the world, St. Louis to Belleville, Ghana to India, Houston to Indiana and many parts in between. Each month we gather after worship to share a meal and fellowship. Here is some of our group this past Sunday!



In youth group and Sunday school we have been talking about the origin story of our faith... a good lead-in to Advent.

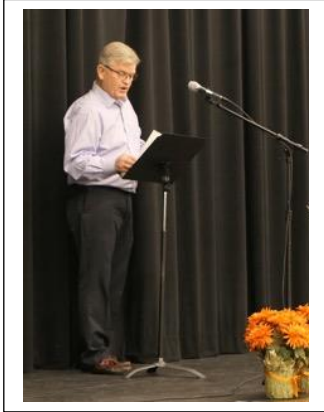


We continue to have excellent participation in youth on Wednesdays and Sunday morning. As we enter Advent there is no better season to involve and engage in the life of the church.

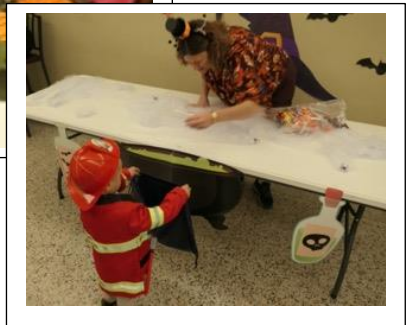
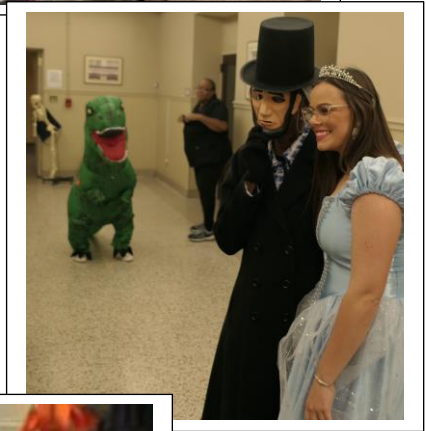
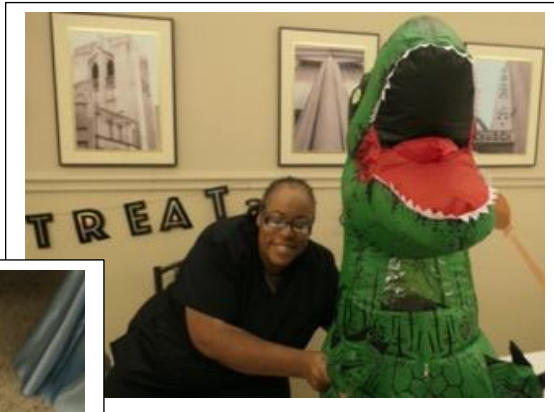
Families will be given weekly Advent practices for home during this season and Godly Play will tell the Advent Story every other Sunday in worship.

During worship we continue to have activities and encourage art geared toward the themes of the services. Children of all ages are welcome to sit toward the front on the organ side with Drew or come grab an activity board and sit with families.

# October 2023: 173 Years of Third Baptist Church "In the City for Good"



# "Trunk" or Treat! Halloween FUN!




## Adult Discipleship

Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.  
November 1, 8, and 15

Spiritual principles will be reviewed and discussed

Contact Tommy for dinner reservations ahead of time:  
[tsimons@third-baptist.org](mailto:tsimons@third-baptist.org)



And put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24).

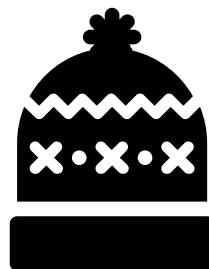
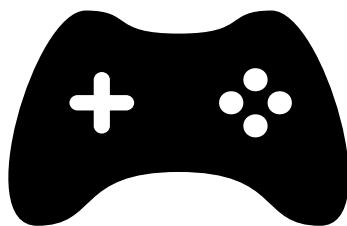
## “Christmas Baskets” Event 2023 Toy and Warm Outerwear Drive

Along with a full Christmas meal, the Food Pantry team plans to continue our tradition of offering guests toys or games for the children and teens in their family groups when they arrive for this year’s December Food Pantry event.

We’ll also be offering hats, gloves, and scarves in children and teen/adult sizes.

Donations to these causes are welcome! Please drop items in the large blue bin near Room 2 (and the ramp entrance) on the Ground level -

**Now through Sunday, December 3rd, on Sundays and Wednesday evenings**



## Did you Know...?

Did you know organist Brent Johnson is not only responsible for playing our organ, but for insuring that it is in tune and in working order? He's pictured here on the last weekend of October touching up a few pipes that needed some attention before the choir's presentation of Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb on October 29th.

Brent previously worked as an organ technician for the Wicks Organ Company in Highland, Illinois. In the service department, he was part of a team of technicians that tuned, maintained and repaired more than 600 pipe organs across Missouri and Illinois. The service department was also responsible for installing new organs and occasionally relocating or removing pipe organs. He also worked in the organ shop building new instruments, mostly focused on the consoles and electrical parts of the instruments.

Performing a complete tuning of all of Third's 4945 pipes can take a few days, and the last time that happened was in 2018 after some major work to one of the organ chambers. Fortunately the organ usually requires only a little adjustment a couple of times a year as we switch from air-conditioning to heating. About a quarter of the pipes need to be retuned slightly to match the rest of the organ, and that can be done in about a day or less.

The complete rebuild of the organ in 2012 made all the pipes much easier to access and tune, keeping the full organ sounding its best all year round. Occasionally some of the reed pipes, which can be a little, unstable will go off and that's what Brent was tuning up most recently.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### *Happy Birthday to...*

- 03 🎁 Timothy Miller
- 04 🎁 Peggy Pittenger
- 06 🎁 Clayton Smithers
- 10 🎁 J.B. Richman &  
Arleta Thurman
- 15 🎁 Monica McDaniel-Collins
- 16 🎁 Greg Martin &  
Isaiah Collins
- 17 🎁 Christine McCarthy
- 18 🎁 Nancy King
- 20 🎁 Mary Anderson
- 22 🎁 Gene Stewart
- 23 🎁 Carla Jackson



**In the city for good!**

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## 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

**Brent Johnson**  
ORGANIST

**Lansin Lim Kimler**  
PIANIST

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Robert Hubbard**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Timothy Harrison**  
CUSTODIAN