Third Base

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From the Pastor's Desk

Friends,

I tell people I feel as if I have been drinking from the fire hose every day…and this is a good thing! There is so much that is happening and to be thankful for. There is so much ahead of us to do!

As we head to holidays and think of gratitude and thanksgiving, we need to be reflective. I'm going to invite you to practice the Examen with me. What is this, anyways?

Examen is a daily prayer practice that Ignatius developed centuries ago. The five main components are:

- Presence: Be still and ask God to enlighten your mind and heart.
- Gratitude: Review your past day thinking of what brought you joy and memories worth holding.
- Review: Pay attention to your emotional state through the day: what were highs and lows.
- Sorrow: In the words of the old prayer: ask forgiveness for what you have done and left undone. Place these moments in God's heart.
- Looking ahead: Dream forward with hope and confidence, thankful for the opportunity for tomorrow to be more free, generous, and joyful.



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For children, this practice might look like this:

- Ask God to be with you as you remember your day.
- Did you feel the same way all day, or were you up and down?
- What made you happy today?
- What made you sad today?
- What do you hope for tomorrow?

I'm dreaming about the exciting days ahead at Third:

A family fall event after worship hosted by Natalie Thiems November 1 . . .

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the youth fall retreat, *The Gathering*, in Pontiac, IL November 6-8 . . .

beginning the Advent Season this month in our beautifully decorated sanctuary (*want to stay for an hour after worship on November 22nd and help? Yes, you do!*) . . .

continued fun, prayer, and food on Wednesday nights . . .

the excellent and worshipful music that will fill our space.

I'm so thankful for your generous hearts and spirits during our stewardship season. I am prayerful God continue to find us faithful to serve our community and our world, God continue to send us children to raise and learn from, and God continue to give us opportunities to love well.

As we prepare for Advent at the end of this month, let me share a prayer with you that has challenged and comforted me:

> Not the God we would have chosen
>
> We would as soon you were stable and reliable.
> We would as soon you were predictable
> and always the same toward us.
> We would like to take the hammer of doctrine
> and take nails of piety
> and nail your feet to the floor
> and have you stay in one place.
> And then we find you moving,
> always surprising us,
> always coming at us from new directions.
> Always planting us
> and uprooting us
> and tearing all things down
> and making all things new.
> You are not the God we would have chosen
> had we done the choosing,
> but we are your people
> and you have chosen us in freedom.
> We pray for the great gift of freedom
> that we may be free toward you
> as you are in your world.
> Give us that gift of freedom
> that we may move in new places
> in obedience and in gratitude.
> Thank you for Jesus
> who embodied your freedom
> for all of us.
>
> Amen.
>
> *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*,
> Walter Brueggemann

Pray for me as I pray for you,
Drew

Look for a big blue donation bin on the Ground Floor!

- Food pantry donations are always welcome: a steady group of regulars and a growing number of newer visitors come to shop on the third Saturday of each month.
- Christmas Baskets toy drive! Along with the Missions' Team collections for CAC Adopt-a-Child Christmas gifts, consider dropping donations for our own Food Pantry toy collection!

Note: for CAC Adopt-a-Child donations/participation, contact Peggy Pittenger as soon as possible, if not already signed up: peggypittenger@gmail.com or mobile: 314.323.1211

Family Ministries



Natalie Thiems leads the Youth in a sampling of camp songs

Since I came to Third in 2019, I have known no more fierce advocate for students in the church than Natalie Thiems.

Mike and Natalie have raised their children here at Third and continue to do so.

I have joked that Natalie is the most hype camp promoter in the bi-state area. I have learned, however, that this is no joke.

Natalie Thiems loves camp. For over 25 years, Natalie has counseled, directed, volunteered, promoted. Even beyond this, she makes sure students are seen and known when they get to camp.

This is who Natalie is. Our students love Natalie because they know she loves them.

Natalie is currently a special education high school teacher. For nineteen years, she has taught kindergarten through twelfth grade. Natalie sees the value in making sure children are not forced into adulthood. so much of who we become has its origin in our childhood. Natalie and Mike have been attending Third since 2006. Like good Third Baptists, they kicked the tires for two years before joining.

Since becoming members, Natalie has served in a variety of roles that mix both teaching and lay leadership.

You have seen her lead worship on our youth Sundays. You have seen her business meeting notes. You have her seen in the choir.

However, you may not have seen her talking with a student who's figuring out what's next, or her countless texts of encouragement to students of all ages and stages of life. She was the first to ask, "What is our plan and how can I help?" on my first day as Senior Pastor because she does the work.

Natalie is an advocate for youth, someone truly called to affect students' lives.

On behalf of Third's Executive Committee and myself, I introduce Natalie Thiems as our Interim Family Ministry beginning November 1, as we move through our longer-term search process.

Pray for Natalie . . . pray for Mike, Katrena, Lydia, Naomi, and Gabe. *Offer encouragement* and say "Yes!" when she asks you if you'd like to help!

The Simons Last Sunday at Third: Celebrating 11 Years of Service







































Missions Focus November: Caring for the Migrant Farmers

When we think of November, we remember the holiday and hearty meal we enjoy on Thanksgiving. Have you ever thought about the ones who farmed and harvested the fruits and vegetables on your table? Would you be surprised to learn that the very people working so hard to produce the harvest are living in a food dessert?

Let me introduce you to Rick and Ellen Burnette who are agricultural missionaries serving with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in Immokalee, Florida. Originally, their ministry began on the boundary of Thailand and Myanmar working with the tribal hill people there. In 2017, they returned to the US and began their nonprofit called Cultivate Abundance. They address the issue of food insecurity by:

Growing food





Collecting food from local farmers

Sharing nutritious food with at least 1000 people weekly



In addition, they minister by teaching local migrants how to develop "doorstep gardens," as well as community gardens. To learn more please visit the CBF Website and the Burnette's nonprofit.

Remember that in December we collect our annual Missions Christmas offering. This offering helps assure that missionaries such as the Burnettes are sufficiently funded to continue their work whether in the US or abroad.

Peggy Pittenger,
Missions Chair

SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT

When Wayfarers gather to converse on Sunday mornings (9:00 CST), we talk about a great variety of things, all based in the Scriptures. We thought you might find it interesting to get an overview.

We have just been finishing a series on the Bible and change; we trudged through passages in Joshua, Judges, I Samuel, Isaiah, and Hosea.

We are launching, then, a brief series from II Corinthians 4:5; Colossians 3:3; and Romans 11:33, 36.

Advent comes next--Isaiah 64:5-7; Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 1:76-79; and Luke 1:26-33.

And then it gets really fun, after Christmas when we turn to the book of Revelation. No, it's not a scary book. It's actually a book of great encouragement. We will spend seven weeks, doing an overview. We think we will make sense of Revelation.

All in all, the Bible is both interesting and relevant. As we swim in Scripture, you are welcome to join us. The water is just fine.

Steve and Dawn Phillips

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

03 Timothy Miller
04 Peggy Pittinger
06 Tim Ahern &
Clayton Smithers &
Dawn Phillips
10 J.B. Richman &
Arleta Thurman
15 Monica McDaniel-Collins &
Stephen Schermitzler
16 Greg Martin &
Isaiah Collins
17 Christine McCarthy
18 Nancy King
22 Gene Stewart
23 Carla Jackson &
Serenity Jarrett

Our dear departing pastoral family as the church gifts them and shares love:



Our dear incoming pastoral family, on the day of vote for the Calling - and welcome:



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

Lansin Lim Kimler
PIANIST

Kevin Chunko
ORGANIST & MEDIA DIRECTOR

Brent Johnson
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