

The Messenger



**Third
Presbyterian
Church**
Seeking the Light

September 2019 • Vol. XLIV, No. 1

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

RALLY DAY!

Join us on Sunday, September 8 for the Kick off of the program year. This year's theme is "Forward in Faith," a reminder of the journey on which our church now travels. We will worship one last time at our summer schedule of one service at 10am, followed by the traditional Rally Day lunch on the church lawn, complete with the music of the Meigs Street Ramblers.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Blessing of the Backpacks

Around the country, the practice of blessing backpacks has grown in popularity, and we are so excited to join in to this wonderful ritual as we start a new program year. On Rally Day, September 8, children (and adults!) are invited to bring their backpacks (or briefcase, or tool kit, or laptop bag...) to worship for a blessing. We know that all of our work is God's work, and we want to remind our children and adults that God goes with us wherever we go—whether that is church or home or school or our places of employment. You may receive a blessing in worship or at the Rally Day picnic—including a tag to put on your bag as a tangible reminder that God goes with you each and every day. To return thanks, we encourage you to put a food item for the food cupboard in your bag to bring to church on that Sunday morning.

10th Annual Grocery Run:

Registration Now Open for this Milestone Year!



Registration is now open for the 10th Annual East Avenue Grocery Run, scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2019. Since 2010, this fun event has raised more than \$275,000 to benefit the Third Church Food Cupboard, Dining Room Ministry, Foodlink and many other hunger programs throughout the Rochester area.

Participants can choose to run or walk the 5K, one mile, or Children's Fun Runs. Every year, more than 100 Third Church members participate and volunteer, and more than 1,500 runners and walkers from outside of church also join us that morning.

To register, visit our web page at www.groceryrun.org or register in person during Fellowship Hour beginning on September 8th! Church members will enjoy a discount rate of \$22, with a family maximum of \$88. (Families of five or more, please register in person during Fellowship Hour, or call Ellen Rye at 585-662-9548 for your discount).

If you register during Fellowship Hour, you'll get your t-shirt immediately, and save the \$2.50 online registration fee. If registering online, you'll get your t-shirt at packet pickup (at Fleet Feet on October 31 and November 1) or on race day morning. You must register by October 15 to receive your Grocery Run t-shirt.

We hope to see you this year!



Notes from the Transition Team

The Session and staff of Third Church want to provide as much information as possible, as frequently as possible, about the process of seeking and calling an interim pastor. This monthly column will be one place that our newly-appointed Transition Team can provide updates and seek feedback on the process as it unfolds.

Per denominational process, Third Church has been assigned a Liaison to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, Tom Taylor. The Session has already completed an exit interview with Tom, exploring the aspects of John Wilkinson’s ministry that will impact the work of an interim pastor. Third Church staff will have a similar meeting with Tom in September.

Many of you have already met Presbytery Leader Amy Williams Fowler, who is also working closely with us throughout this process.

The change in leadership also requires that Ernest Krug’s title change, though his responsibilities remain the same. Ernest’s new title is Pastor for Congregational Care.

In July the Session established the Transition Team, consisting of Lynette Sparks, Chris Bensch, and two elders from each of the three classes of Session: Roxanne Boyer, Sheila Elliott, Leanne Averill, Paul Bishop, Ry Foye, and Tom Gillett. The Transition Team:

- Provides collaborative leadership
- Cultivates transparency and communication
- Guides strategy as laid out by the Session
- Supplies input from the congregation and listens to congregational concerns
- Supports the pastoral and administrative staff

In early August the Session appointed the Interim Pastor Search Committee: Jim Boyer, Marcia Cupery, George Gotcsik, Jenny Hutkowski, Darcy Jones-Ormachea, Harrison Lutzer, Linc Spaulding, and Kathryn Thomas.

This group will develop a Ministry Information Form (describing the church and its priorities during the interim period), and a job description for the interim pastor. They will interview prospective candidates and then make a recommendation of a final candidate to the Session. The Book of Order requires that the Session vote to approve the interim pastor candidate, not the full congregation. The steps for the Interim Pastor Search Committee’s process might take between three and four months from the first meeting of the search committee to the vote on the interim pastor.

If you have any comments or questions about the next phase of life at Third Church, or about the process of getting there, please contact Lynette Sparks (lsparks@thirdpresbyterian.org, 585-271-6537 ext. 106) or any member of the Transition Team.

Worship Schedule

SEPTEMBER 1

Communion
People’s Emergency fund offering received
10:00am worship in the Sanctuary
 Jeremiah 2:4-13 and Luke 14:1, 7-14
 “Cracked Cisterns”
 Ernest Krug preaching

SEPTEMBER 8 - RALLY DAY

10:00am worship in the Sanctuary
 Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Philemon 1-21
 “Forward in Faith”
 Lynette Sparks preaching

SEPTEMBER 15

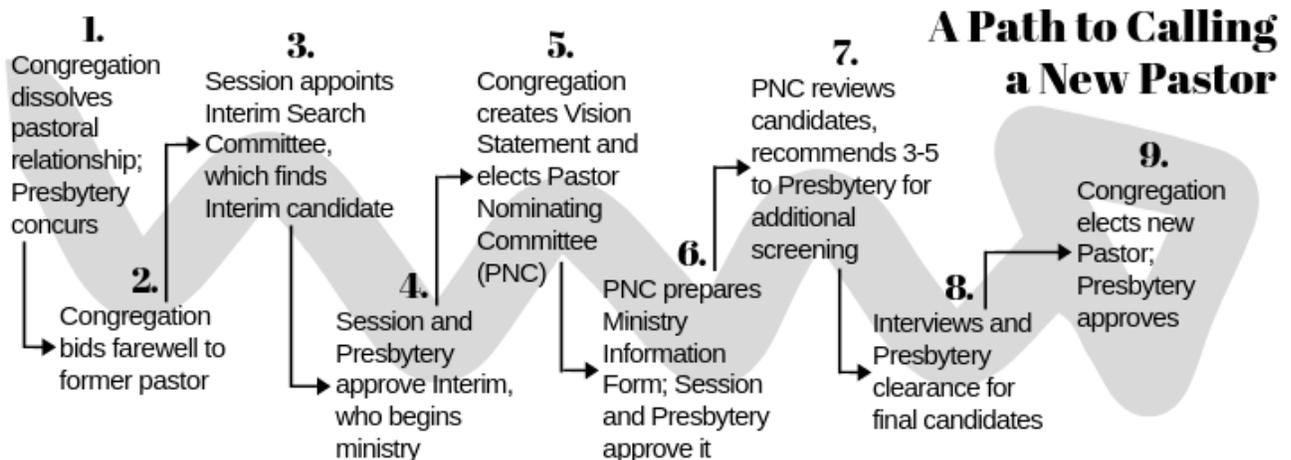
8:30am worship in the Chapel
10:45am worship in the Sanctuary
 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and Luke 15:1-10
 “The Thrill of the Hunt”
 Lynette Sparks preaching

SEPTEMBER 22

8:30am worship in the Chapel
10:45am worship in the Sanctuary
 Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 “The Ultimate Prayer List”
 Lynette Sparks preaching

SEPTEMBER 29

8:30am worship in the Chapel
10:45am worship in the Sanctuary
 Jeremiah 32:1-3 and Luke 16:19-31
 “Stuck on the Wrong Side”
 Ernest Krug preaching



Milestones

Lifting Up Our Joys

For the birth of **Josephine Mary Boyer** born June 28, 2019 to parents Conor and Nicki Boyer, and grandparents Jim and Roxanne Boyer

For the marriage of members **David and Sarah Markallo** on July 5

Praying for the Bereaved

For **the family of Allan Moore**, who died April 30

For the **family of Paul Long**, who died May 24 in South Wellfleet, MA. Paul was an Associate Pastor at Third Church from 1964-1967.

For the **family of Carol Marlett**, who died June 22

For **Jan Roach and family** on the death of Jan's husband Ron on July 19

For **Amy and Scott Stratton-Smith and Jeremy and Lydia** on the death of Amy's mother Jean Stratton, July 28

For **Nancy Brown and David Sarle Brown** on the death of their family member Ann Johnson

For **Susan Ingram** on the death of her mother Betty on August 6

Call for Volunteers

As you've probably guessed, staff time is at a premium right now. Recent personnel changes have left us short-handed, but you can help! If you have one hour per week to volunteer with a Third Church staff person, please let us know. Jane Carden, Becky D'Angelo-Veitch, Peter DuBois, Ernest Krug, Rachel Norton, and Lynette Sparks could all use a hand. If you have some computer-literacy, that is a great bonus and means you may be able to do some volunteer work from home. Please contact Rachel Norton at rnorton@thirdpresbyterian.org or 585-271-6537, ext. 118 if you'd like to be put to work!

Fellowship Happenings

MEET YOUR DEACON, Rally Day, September 8

Do you know who your deacon is? Do you know which parish you are in? Meet your deacon at the Rally Day Picnic. A map with parish color designations will be displayed for everyone's convenience. If you don't already know, find your parish color and look for the deacons wearing your parish colors. Introduce yourself! Let us know how we can better support one another. See you under the tent!

MEN'S BREAKFAST, Saturday, September 14, 8:30-10am, Johnston Hall

Ralph Carter will lead a discussion of the book *Drawdown* and the concepts it suggests to reduce the impact of climate change. Please **RSVP** to Paul Bishop (papohsib@gmail.com) or Andrew Elder (andrew.nospam.elder@gmail.com) by September 10.

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST CALVIN GUILD OF THE YEAR Wednesday, September 18, 12:00noon, Johnston Hall

We will hear a presentation by Calvin Guild Convener Dot Wallace on her project creating dolls of color for the Loreto Rumbek School in Maker Kuei, South Sudan. Dot's presentation will focus on the challenges of keeping children (especially girls) in school. Please **RSVP** by September 13 to Dot Wallace at (dpiercwallace@gmail.com) or 585-223-8502. The cost for the catered soup and sandwich lunch is \$8.

THE CHURCH LADIES PAD PARTY

Saturday, September 21, 9:00-11:00am, Johnston Hall
We will have another of our successful PAD parties, creating hygiene kits to be distributed to women and girls through social service agencies in our community. Many thanks to those who donated pads and pantliners in June. We will be collecting again for the first two weeks in September in advance of our party with the hope of creating 50-100 kits. We will be joined by Mollie Traub, who will give a brief presentation and update on this project. Please consider bringing your daughter, niece or granddaughter! We would love for this to be an informative and intergenerational event.

We will have some simple breakfast snacks. Please bring \$2 to cover the costs. For more information or to **RSVP** contact Susan Fox (swichmanfox@gmail.com) or Becky D'Angelo-Veitch (rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org).

HERITAGE LUNCH, Sunday, 22 September at 12:15pm

Hosted by the Third Church Deacons, this lunch celebrates the rich heritage found in the lives of its members. All members seventy-five years and above and their companions are warmly welcome to attend. As part of our theme "Forward in Faith," guests will be invited to share memories of serving on a Third Church committee, team or board. Please let us know if you plan to be present by calling the church office, 585-271-6513 or emailing Cindy Mark (cmark@thirdpresbyterian.org).

Adult Spiritual Formation: A Year of Stories

LIVING IN THE WORD: Sundays at 9:30am, Parlor

September 15—Luke 15:1-10, Exodus 32:7-14. “I once was lost...Stories of God’s grace”

September 22—Luke 16: 1-13, 1 Timothy 2:1-7. “The power of prayer...Stories of praying when it’s hard”

September 29—Jeremiah 32:1-3, Luke 16:19-31. “Dogs Licking Lepers”

SUNDAY SEMINAR, Sundays at 9:30am, Johnston Hall

Sunday Seminar will begin for the fall the week after Rally Day.

September 15—“**The Roadmap Through Church Transition,**” with Tom Taylor, Third Church’s Liaison to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry.

Tom will explain the roadmap that we will follow as we embark on our search for first an interim, and then an installed pastor. Tom will be available to help explain the process and answer questions as we move into this transitional period.

September 22—“**Islam 101: The Similarities and Differences Between Islam and Christianity,**” with Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, Ph.D., Professor and Executive Director of the Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue at Nazareth College and acting imam of the Islamic Center of Rochester. Dr. Shafiq’s presentation will focus on such matters as Muslim and Christian conceptions of God, the Prophets, Mary, Jesus, and the cycles of life.

September 29— “**Immigrant Worker Organizing in Upstate NY**” with Carly Fox, Workers Rights Advocate at the Workers Justice Center of New York.

Two significant legislative victories occurred in New York State this past June: the right for undocumented immigrants to obtain a drivers license and the right for farmworkers to gain more equal protections under labor law. Both of these efforts were fought for over the past two decades by immigrant workers and their allies. Carly Fox and members of the Alianza Agricola - a local group of dairy farmworkers who are fighting for immigrant worker rights - will join us to discuss the legislative battle and their work organizing for change.

THURSDAY VOICES 12:00noon, Johnston Hall

Our theme for September is “*Where does church fit? The church and 21st Century American Life.*” We will be reading and discussing the following articles each week:

September 12—“Is Work Becoming the New Religion?” led by Ernest Krug

September 19—“Secularism is on the rise, but Americans are still finding community and purpose in spirituality,” led by Ernest Krug

September 26—“The Only Metric of Success that Really Matters is the One We Ignore (on Creating Community),” led by Lynette Sparks

Exploring Membership Luncheon

Sunday, September 22, 12:00pm in Johnston Hall

Have you been feeling pulled to deepen your connection with Third Church? Whether you have been around for a while, or are new to Third Church and would like to know more about us; whether you are interested in exploring membership, or just have questions and want to learn more, we invite you to our next Exploring Membership Luncheon. You can bring your questions, get to know members of our staff, and meet other folks curious about our congregation.

The format of the lunch is conversational and informal, and emphasizes the many ways to connect. Childcare is available; please let us know a week in advance if you need it.

Our luncheon conversation will conclude by 1:30pm. For those that are ready to join in membership, the next step is a New Member Orientation offered that same afternoon following the luncheon from 1:30- 2:30pm, or can be arranged at another mutually convenient time. To RSVP or learn more, contact Becky D’Angelo-Veitch at veitch@thirdpresbyterian.org 585-271-6537, ext. 108



The More Light Committee is grateful for the anonymous gift of a new rainbow banner that has been hanging from the bell tower this summer.

The banner displays an important message to the public that our church enthusiastically welcomes and includes LGBTQ persons in its faith community and in society as a whole. The rainbow flag was established in 1979, and assigns a meaning to each color: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for harmony and purple for spirit. Our new rainbow banner, printed by Rotolite-Elliott Corp., is the ‘Philadelphia’ version, which includes a black and a brown stripe as part of the rainbow. The new stripes recognize intersectionality among communities of color and LGBTQ communities, and highlight the importance of black and brown activism within the LGBTQ community. Watch for the banner on the bell tower on special occasions throughout the year.

Youth Update

We are thrilled to welcome Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz as our new Interim Coordinator of Youth Ministry!

Becka became a member of Third Church last year when she returned to the Rochester area after living and working abroad. She has a deep faith, commitment to social justice, and a clear sense of call to minister to youth. Professionally, she has extensive experience in secondary education as a high school English Teacher both in the U.S and abroad (China, Honduras, and Qatar). She also served in the Peace Corps and has held adjunct positions at local colleges and universities, including MCC and RIT.

Becka is excited about getting to know Third Church youth, and will be present at the Youth Kick-Off on September 22.



YOUTH KICK OFF!

Get ready for the start of another great year! Youth activities kick off on Sunday, September 22, 2019:

4:30 Covenant Ringers
5:15 Covenant Singers
6:00 Dinner in the Garth
6:45 Youth kickball game
6:45 Parent meeting

Dinner will be provided, with vegan and gluten free choices included. Please bring your favorite ice cream topping for our Gutter Sundae!

And, add these dates to your Fall Calendar:

October 6 and October 20: Youth and Music on Sunday evening

October 27: Youth and Singers in worship and Youth activities after worship

Children's Ministry News

Becky D'Angelo-Veitch, Director of Faith Formation, 585-271-6513, ext. 108, rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org

We are so excited for this year of Children's Ministry at Third Church, and we're thrilled to welcome Heather Holmquest and Anna Lenti to our team! We have wonderful teachers, fully stocked classrooms, and now all we need is YOU!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School begins on Rally Day, September 8. PLEASE NOTE: Rally Day is our last day of one service at 10:00am, so adjust your alarm clocks accordingly, and bring your appetite for the Rally Day Picnic after worship!

We are continuing the 'Hall Monitor' program to provide extra support for volunteers. Please contact Becky to sign up.

[This year, it is really important for families to register for Sunday School](#) so that we can evenly distribute children among the classrooms. If your children are ages K-6th grade, please also register for Qabats. PLEASE NOTE: We are still in need of kitchen leadership,

so if you are willing to be on a team (recipes and shopping lists provided!), let Becky know. We can provide lots of support.

As of this writing, I have had the great privilege of meeting with about a third of the Sunday School families. It has been such a joy to share a cup of coffee or come into your homes and learn about your hopes, concerns, and questions around things at Third Church. A few things are clear: you all love and are committed to this congregation, and you all would love chances to get to know each other better. Watch this space for opportunities to do that! And if you would still like to meet, it is never too late--call or drop me an email.

****Blessing of the Backpacks on Rally Day--**Bring your backpack to church with a food item for the food pantry in it. We will have a special time of blessing, and then give you a bit of "bling" for your backpack!

All Families are invited to a 'Meet and Greet' for new Music Staff members on Saturday, September 7 from 11am-2pm on the East Avenue lawn under the Rally Day tent (Please enter the gathering from outside). The Children's Ministry Committee will provide lemonade and desserts, and families are welcome to stop by for any portion of the time, or even bring a blanket and picnic lunch! We will have some games and activities and the chance to simply enjoy fellowship together.

Toddler Story & Song Class
Session 1: 10-10:30am Mondays
September 16, 23, 30 and October 7, 21 and 28 (Please note: no class on October 14 due to school holiday)

This class is a continuation and re-imagining of our popular Toddler Music Class, and is for children ages 18 months to four years and their caregivers. The class focuses on faith-based songs and storybooks. Please RSVP to Becky at rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org to reserve your space.

Generosity & Gratitude

As the program year begins, the Stewardship Committee starts thinking about how to prepare the congregation to make pledges in support of Third Church. The Committee asks: *What information do Third Church members and friends need in order to determine their level of financial support? What stories and experiences might help pave the way for a successful Stewardship campaign?* This year we decided to start at a fundamental level, with the words we use to describe this work.

For some people the word “stewardship” carries negative baggage. It connotes guilt, insufficiency, a dreaded sacrifice unwillingly made. For other people, especially younger people, the word “stewardship” doesn’t carry much meaning at all. It’s church jargon with an unclear definition that fails to connect. In order to better communicate what we’re about, we decided to clarify our focus and change our name to the **Generosity & Gratitude Committee**.

This dedicated group is charged with:

- Helping our members and friends recognize the **generosity** that God shows to each of us, and the abundance of resources already in our lives
- Encouraging our members and friends to express their **gratitude** to God through the generous sharing of those resources, with the church and with the world

- Helping our members and friends grow in their desire and ability to be **generous** supporters of Third Church, with time, prayer, skill, but especially with financial contributions
- Expressing **gratitude** on behalf of Third Church for the offerings and contributions that our members and friends make to support our mission and ministry

There will be moments in worship throughout the fall to share and hear stories of generosity and gratitude. Then on Generosity Sunday, November 17, 2019, we will all be invited to present our pledge cards—our written commitments of financial support for 2020—in offering to God and in service of God’s work. We will celebrate the spirit of generosity that flows through this congregation with a reception following worship.

Do you have any questions about the Generosity & Gratitude Committee, or about the process of making a pledge? Do you feel a call to serve on the Generosity & Gratitude Committee and help in this fun and important work? In either case, contact Rachel Norton at norton@thirdpresbyterian.org or 585-271-6537, ext. 118.

Generosity UPDATE

Third Church’s mission and ministry did not stop over the summer, and neither did you! You continued to make payments toward your pledges, sustaining our life together, and you also made contributions above and beyond your pledges. You offered donations:

- In memory of Sarah Reisz
- To support the Food Cupboard
- To the James P. Chisholm Memorial Stained Glass Restoration Fund
- To help our friends at Cameron Community Ministries build their new Teen Center.

During the months of June and July you provided \$1,463 for the People’s Emergency Fund, which we use to help people who come to Third Church in distress. The money is principally for eviction prevention and stopping utility shut-offs, and the need is great enough to completely deplete the Fund to \$0 by the end of each month. We will next receive an offering for the People’s Emergency Fund on September 1.

You also contributed over \$1,300 to the Fill the Bus campaign, which provides transportation for our Summer Sizzle arts and enrichment day camp program for underserved children at Wilson Commencement Park.

Thank you for continuing to share your resources with our community and our world.



Youth from Third Church will share stories from the Presbyterian Youth Triennium and the Montreat Middle School Conference during worship this fall. More details coming soon!

Welcome Interim Music Staff

We're pleased to welcome three wonderful individuals to our staff for this interim year to work with children's choirs and handbell choirs. Heather Holmquest, Jean Coniber, and Anna Lenti are eager to meet you and work with these various groups for the coming program year.

Heather Holmquest began her career in music when she taught herself how to play the piano in second grade. A Chicago



native, she grew up singing hymns at Berwyn United Methodist Church before joining their choir in eighth grade. By the time she graduated high school, she was singing in three different ensembles and taking voice lessons. She decided to major in music at Knox College, where she received her B.A., and continued on to the University of Oregon where she received her M.A. and Ph.D. in music theory. After teaching music theory and private voice lessons in schools in Oregon and Iowa, she and her wife Francesca moved to Rochester in June 2018 to teach at Nazareth College. In addition to directing the Junior Choir and singing with the Chancel Choir this year, Heather will be teaching courses in music theory at Nazareth College, singing in various Rochester ensembles, and knitting or spinning as much as free time allows. This year, she is most looking forward to sharing her love of music with the Junior Choir and collaborating with the fabulous staff at

Third Church! Heather can be reached at hholmquest@thirdpresbyterian.org

Jean Coniber started playing bells more than 30 years ago. After getting the basics, her director convinced her to learn solo ringing, and the obsession with bells began. After years as a marketing manager and co-owner of a startup company, bells seemed destined to be a bigger part of her life. She studied conducting and has directed the bell choirs at Bethany Presbyterian Church for six years. She looks forward to sharing the love of music, bells, teamwork and fellowship with the ringers at Third Presbyterian Church. She has lived in Rochester nearly all her life, growing up in Penfield and attending St. John Fisher College. When not ringing bells, she enjoys knitting, tutoring as a literacy volunteer and being involved in other church activities. Jean can be reached at jconiber@thirdpresbyterian.org



Anna Lenti is a conductor and singer who has recently returned to her hometown of Rochester to pursue a doctorate in Choral Conducting at

Eastman. She spent the last six years in the tri-state area teaching, conducting, and singing. As a conductor, she was the



Middle and Upper School choir director at Kent Place School in Summit, NJ, the Assistant Conductor of the Oratorio Society of New York, and the director of music for the Concord Singers. As a singer, Anna appeared regularly with the Bach Choir of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Trinity Wall Street, TENET, and other early music groups in the New York area and beyond. Now as she returns to her studies, she is thrilled also to return to Third Church, where she first learned to love choral music! She looks forward to connecting with friends old and new, and to inspiring the youngest members of the congregation to love music as much as she does. She can't wait to have them share that joyful music with all of you! When she's not at Third Church, you can find Anna training for marathons, reading about or listening to J.S. Bach, and hanging out with her husband (Stephen), her son (Jude), and her goofy dog (Nina). Anna can be reached at alenti@thirdpresbyterian.org

Chancel Choir Begins Soon

The new season of singing for the Chancel Choir will begin soon with a "welcome back" dinner and rehearsal on **Wednesday, September 4**. Dinner begins at 6:15pm in Celebration Center, with rehearsal following from 7:15-9:15pm. New members are most welcome to join this talented group that provides inspiring leadership in worship from September through June each year. Commitment to the schedule of rehearsals and services is important, and some music reading ability is helpful. All voice parts are welcome, but especially at this time, ALTOS and LOW BASSES are needed! To indicate your interest, contact Peter DuBois in advance to schedule a time to discuss membership in the choir (pdubois@thirdpresbyterian.org or 585-271-6537, ext. 109).



THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

- **Lynette K. Sparks**, Associate Pastor and Acting Head of Staff
- **Ernest F. Krug**, Pastor for Congregational Care
- **Peter A. DuBois**, Director of Music/Organist
- **Alden Wright**, Assistant Organist
- **Rebecca D'Angelo-Veitch**, Director of Faith Formation
- **Jane S. Carden**, Coordinator of Pastoral Care
- **Rachel Norton**, Director of Stewardship, Development, and Communications
- **Heather Holmquest**, Interim Director of Junior Choir
- **Jean Coniber**, Interim Director of Handbell Choirs
- **Anna Lenti**, Interim Director of Glorious Voices and Carol Choir
- **Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz**, Interim Coordinator of Youth Ministry
- **Roderic P. Frohman**, Pastor Emeritus



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Our Theme for 2019-2020



What an exciting time in the life of Third Church - a time that is filled with promise! We are in a season of transition: we are now welcoming new colleagues on board, as several staff members have moved on to new ministries in the last few months, and the Session is working hard toward calling an Interim Pastor. We can use this period of transition, between what has been and what will be, to roll up our sleeves, dig in, and get to work. This is a season when we must discern what God is doing in this place, and get to work co-creating Third Church's future.

There may be some among us who are mourning the loss of the familiar, the beloved people and practices that have been with us for so long. And some of us may be feeling fear and uncertainty about the future of this church and of the Church more broadly. This transitional season is, by its very nature, unsettled and unsettling. However, this year's theme urges us to step boldly forward into the future, despite that fear. And, indeed, it is our moving forward in faith and with confidence that will cause a strong and vibrant future Third Church to emerge, rooted in who we are, and who we have been.

We know we are not alone in this work. God is with us, guiding us, as we discern who we will become in the years ahead—what we will focus on and what we will allow to end, who we will invite into leadership and how we will define that leadership.

There is another way to think of moving forward in faith during this season: moving forward on our own personal faith journeys. How can we use this time to step further down the path, to deepen faith, and to strengthen faith practices? How can we use this time not only for renewal within our church community, but for rededication within our own lives?

Throughout this year, we will all be invited to share our stories of moving forward in faith—spoken, or in writing, or other ways of your choosing. Let us be inspired by these stories, and invigorated to work together toward our common future. We don't know what is to come. We do know tomorrow will look different from today. And it will be good.