

THIRD CHURCH

KINGDOM PARTNERS: 2025 IMPACT

**PELLA,
IOWA**



A LETTER FROM YOUR PASTORS



DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

This past transitional year has been full of invitations.

Some of the most notable invitations were to pause and engage in several key moments in our church's history. We paused and celebrated Pastor Kevin's faithful and fruit-filled leadership for over 30 years. We paused and gathered stories of gratitude for the ways that God is moving among us. We paused to BLESS those in our church family and those in our community who had a need. And we paused to grieve many significant losses as some of our beloved members transitioned to their eternal home.

We also embraced the invitation of God's Presence as we traveled through the Exodus story. We were reminded that we serve a God who longs to be encountered. Our God is not distant! Every moment of every day, there is an open invitation set before us to encounter the peaceful, tangible presence of the living God. But intentionality is required for us to open our hearts to God in this way, which is why we have invited

everyone to engage in different practices as Jesus' story unfolds in the Gospel of Luke.

In the pages that follow, you will see pictures and read stories of the ways our Third Church family has responded to these various invitations. Together, we are choosing progress over perfection so that we continue to live out our mission statement: Every one every day helping one another experience life-giving freedom in Jesus.

As we meet with God, we are transformed and grafted into the circle of Love. This is the most incredible invitation. This is GOOD NEWS! This year, we are excited about what God will do as we continue to practice taking the time to be loved by Him and live out of the union of this love to bring more of His Kingdom to earth.

THANK YOU AND
GOD BLESS,

Darin, Katie,
and Klayton

PURPOSE | WHY WE EXIST.

People who come in contact with the Third Church body will experience the Fruit of the Spirit, an ever-deepening intimacy with the Triune God, and an ever-increasing sacrificial generosity of the Body.

MISSION | WHAT WE DO.

Every one, every day helping one another experience life-giving freedom in Jesus.

VALUES | WHAT OTHERS SEE.

PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

We know our good God always has more for us than we can achieve on our own.

REFUGE OVER REJECTION

We experience the astonishing grace of Jesus as we are seen, known, and loved.

MANY OVER ME

We partner with the Spirit to make disciples who multiply near and far.

OUTCOMES | WHAT ARE WE BECOMING.

IMAGE BEARERS

We are deepening our relationship with Jesus every day.

SCARRED RESTORERS

We are battling for healing for ourselves and those we love.

KNOWN FRIENDS

We are living bravely and vulnerably with others.

KINGDOM PARTNERS

We are investing generously in God’s greater purposes.

DAILY AMBASSADORS

We are open to where God is sending us to share His love today.

STRATEGY | HOW WE FULFILL OUR MISSION AND VALUES.

BLESS

We bless together as we vertically bless God and the freedom we have in Jesus as we gather corporately in worship and connect individually throughout the week. We bless together relationally/horizontally as every one, every day partners with the Holy Spirit to be a refuge to our neighbors as well as surround others in prayer for God to work both near and far.

TRAIN

We train together so that we are growing ourselves and other disciples. We do this through being transparent in ongoing groups as we live life together and navigate the rollercoaster of the ups and downs, twists and turns—being there in the good times and hard times, speaking grace and truth. We also train by looking at ourselves for specific growth edges to lean into through focused areas of discipleship.

RECHARGE

We recharge together through retreats and events to reflect and renew ourselves in the promises of God and experience His life-giving freedom. We also recharge through Sabbath as we learn to lean more on God than ourselves, to see God has more for us than we can possibly imagine or achieve on our own.



**ISN'T THIS
GOOD NEWS.**

OUR VISION

Last year, we had laid out a BIG GOAL: 5 million blessings spoken to others over five years, which meant we were aiming for 1 million blessings this year.

We likened a blessing to a few words Jesus shared: they act like Light in darkness, and they act like salt which draws out flavor, brings value to our lives, and preserves what is good.

We used a simple process to help us understand how our blessings would make people feel seen, known, and loved.

- **Seen:** The first act of love is your attention. As you speak blessings into the lives of others, you will begin to notice the people you share life with in new ways.
- **Known:** The next act is your words. Speaking blessings will help you become more curious about everyone you meet, which will help them feel known.
- **Loved:** Now, because you have shared life with someone, the Spirit helps you know how to love them. We can only arrive at this place if we have first made them feel seen and known.

How did we put this into practice?

- We created space in worship services to reflect on our weeks, then wrote down the names of those we blessed with our words.
- We brought home reminder cards and did the same, then collected them in clear boxes so we could see the number of blessings grow.
- In August, we purchased 700 gift cards and wrote 700 thank-you notes to each person helping with our children's education.
- Teams of people continue to provide little blessings throughout the year to teachers, administrators, and coaches.
- Our church gave away over \$1.4 million to organizations, missionaries, cities, households, and individuals.

Did we hit our goal? While we don't know an exact number, these actions made a sizable ripple out into our communities. But this is just the beginning! As we move into year two of our goal, we have ideas for new invitations to be a people of blessing. This could exponentially grow the number of blessings flowing into our communities. These invitations hinge on us saying "yes". We hope you join us!

STATEMENTS OF FAITH

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is the final authority for all we believe and how we are to live. (Mt 5:18; Jn 10:35, 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pt 1:20-21)

We believe that the one true God exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these, being one God, are equal in deity, power, and glory. We believe that God not only created the world but also now upholds, sustains, governs, and providentially directs all that exists and that He will bring all things to their proper consummation in Christ Jesus to the glory of His name. (Ps 104, 139; Mt 10:29-31, 28:19; Acts 17:24-28; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 1:9-12, 4:4-6; Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:1-3; Rev 1:4-6)

We believe that Satan, originally a great and good angel, rebelled against God, taking a multitude of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and is at work with his demonic hosts to establish his counter-kingdom of darkness and evil on the earth. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross of Christ and will, at the end of the age, be cast forever into the lake of fire, which has been prepared for him and his angels. (Mt 12:25-29, 25:41; Jn 12:31, 16:11; Eph 6:10-20; Col 2:15; 2 Pt 2:4; Jude 6; Rev 12:7-9, 20:10)

We believe that Adam was originally created in the image of God, righteous and without sin. In consequence of his disobedience, Adam's posterity are born subject to both imputed and inherent sin, and are therefore by nature and choice the children of wrath, justly condemned in the sight of God, wholly unable to save themselves or to contribute in any way to their acceptance with God. (Gen 1-3; Ps 51:5; Is 53:5; Rom 3:9-18, 5:12-21; Eph 2:1-3)

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, that He was conceived and born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and offered himself as a penal, substitutionary sacrifice for sinners. By the blood of His cross He obtained for us eternal redemption, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting. He was raised bodily on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father, there to make intercession for the saints. (Mt 1:18-25; Jn 1:1-18; Rom 8:34; 1 Cor 15:1-28; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:10-14; Eph 1:7; Phil 2:6-11; Col 1:15-23; Heb 7:25, 9:13-15, 10:19; 1 Pt 2:21-25; 1 Jn 2:1-2)

We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. No ordinance, ritual, work, or any other activity on the part of man is required in order to be saved. This saving grace of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also sanctifies us by enabling us to do what is pleasing in God's sight in order that we might be progressively conformed to the image of Christ. (Jn 1:12-13, 6:37-44, 10:25-30; Acts 16:30-31; Rom 3-4, 8:1-17, 8:31-39, 10:8-10; Eph 2:8-10; Phil 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Jn 1:7,9)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit in whom also we are sealed for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit regenerates, forever indwells and graciously equips the Christian for godly living and service. Following conversion, the Spirit desires to continuously fill, empower, and anoint believers for ministry and witness. We also believe that signs and wonders, as well as all the gifts of the Spirit described in the New Testament, are operative today and are designed to testify to the presence of the kingdom and to empower and edify the church to fulfill its calling and mission. (Mt 3:11; Jn 1:12-13, 3:1-15; Acts 4:29-30; Rom 8:9, 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:12-13; 2 Cor 1:21-22; Gal 3:1-5; Eph 1:13-14, 5:18)

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two sacraments of the church to be observed until the time of Christ's return. They are not a means of salvation but are a means of God's sanctifying grace and blessing to the faithful in Christ Jesus. (Mt 26:26-29, 28:19; Rom 6:3-11; 1 Cor 11:23-34; 1 Pt 3:21)

We believe that the church is God's primary instrument through which He is fulfilling His redemptive purposes on the earth. To equip the saints for the work of ministry, God has given the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. We also affirm the priesthood of all believers and the importance of every Christian being joined with and actively involved in a local community of the saints. We believe that women and men are called and gifted to proclaim the gospel and do all the works of the kingdom and that the method ordained by God for the support of His ministry is through the giving of tithes and freewill offerings. (Mal 3:10; Mt 16:17-19; Acts 2:17-18, 2:42; 2 Cor 9:7; Eph 3:14-21, 4:11-16; 1 Tim 2:11-15; Heb 10:23-25; 1 Pt 2:4-5, 9-10)

We believe in the equality and essential dignity of men and women of all races and classes. We recognize that all persons are made in the image of God and are to reflect that image in the community of believers, in the home and in society. We believe in the family, celibate singleness, and faithful heterosexual marriage as the patterns God designed for us. (Gen 1:26-28; Gal 3:26-29)

We believe that God has called the church to proclaim the gospel to all nations. Part of that proclamation must include remembering the poor, widows, and orphans, ministering to their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service. This ministry is an expression of the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ and is an essential part of the kingdom of God. (Is 58:6-12, 61:1; Mt 28:18-20; Lk 4:18, 21:1-4; Gal 2:10; 1 Tim 6:8)

We believe in the literal second coming of Christ at the end of the age when He will return to the earth personally and visibly to consummate His kingdom. We also believe in and are praying for a great end-time harvest of souls. (Ps 2:7-9, 22:27-28; Jn 14:12, 17:20-26; Rom 11:25-32; 1 Cor 15:20-28, 15:50-58; Eph 4:11-16; Phil 3:20-21; 1 Thes 4:13-5:11; 2 Thes 1:3-12; Rev 7:9-14)

We believe that when the Christian dies he/she passes immediately into the blessed presence of Christ, there to enjoy conscious fellowship with the Savior until the day of the resurrection and glorious transformation of the body. The saved will then forever dwell in fellowship with their great Triune God. We also believe that when the unbeliever dies he/she is consigned to Hades, there to await the Day of Judgment when he/she shall be punished with eternal separation from the presence of God. (Mt 25:46; Lk 16:19-31; Jn 5:25-29; 1 Cor 15:35-58; 2 Cor 5:1-10; Phil 1:19-26, 3:20-21; 2 Thes 1:5-10; Rev 20:11-15, 21:1-22:15)



THE SENDING NETWORK

FRIENDS ADVANCING THE MISSION OF JESUS

LEADERSHIP

THESENDINGNETWORK.ORG



Andrew Schmidt
President



Bob Johnson
Vice-President/Secretary



Darin Wogen
Board Member



Steve Heerema
Board Member

It is hard to believe we are at our third anniversary of joining The Sending Network as “Friends advancing the mission of Jesus,” and we are grateful that this mission is occurring in many important and interesting ways. Currently, 12 churches are in our “friendship network.”

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The churches involved in birthing this network primarily derive from a Reformed historical and theological heritage. At the same time, we embrace a generous orthodoxy with those who come from other orthodox Christian traditions. While a shared theology can be important to a local church’s identity, the call to be in mission partnership with the Holy Spirit is the highest value in proclaiming the lordship of Jesus Christ to a fallen and broken, yet valuable, world. We seek to be churches that live out this value without compromising the truth of Scripture.

WHAT’S COMING IN 2025?

Planning 3 Network gatherings throughout the year.

Continuing Monthly pastor meetings.

Planning to join together for another 24/7 prayer event.

SOME MAJOR UPDATES:

- A new pastor was installed at Crossroads Church in February.
- Pastors meet monthly for prayer, benchmarking and support.
- New Creation Church of Newton was added to the TSN.
- We held regional gatherings of staff and key leaders for networking, training, prayer, and worship.
 - **May 2024** – a time of prayer, networking with others in similar ministries, sharing of missions activity, and a presentation by the Dykstras and their journey towards Japan.
 - **August 2024** – a time of prayer, networking with others in similar ministries, and a seminar by Dr. Paul Leavenworth on being a compassionate listener.
 - **January 2025** – a time of prayer and networking with a special time of prayer from Steph Hietbrink.
- We created initial credentialing and a roadmap for ordination in the Sending Network.
- TSN launched its first missionaries, the Dykstras, to Japan. They have shared with all churches, and Scot has been confirmed as a pastor and was ordained before leaving for Japan.
- We joined together for a week of 24/7 prayer in June with our respective churches.



OUR STAFF



Darin Wogen
Lead Pastor - Strategy & Alignment



Klayton Korver
Lead Pastor - Teaching and Vision



Katie Peterson
Lead Pastor - Discipleship & Nextgen Ministries



Lyndi De Vries
Finance Manager



Keith Korver
Adult Discipleship Pastor



Faye Howard
Ministry Coordinator



Brian Vande Lune
Care Team Pastor



Jane Kraft
Care Team Coordinator



Myra Van Zee
Finance Support Coordinator



Angie Nunnikhoven
Executive Assistant



Kelly Korver
Creative Team Lead



Chris Yanner
Photographer



Karl Korver
Care Team Coordinator



Becky De Nooy
Care Team Coordinator



Steph Hietbrink
Prayer Ministry Team Leader



Tiffany Van Zee
Prayer Ministry Support Coordinator



Desha Bruxvoort
Graphic Designer



Shannon Judkins
Nextgen Family Team Leader



Brett Wiersma
Nextgen Kids Team Leader



Lindsay Place
Nextgen Kids Support Coordinator



Mike Redman
Worship Team Leader



Nick Rozendaal
Production Team Leader



Hannah Heschke
Video Production Coordinator



Kevin Ter Louw
Third Place Café Coordinator



Payson Vande Lune
Nextgen High School Team Leader



Ally Canfield
Nextgen Middle School Team Leader



Lauren Drake
Nextgen Youth Support Coordinator



Cathy Diehl
Spiritual Formation Team Leader



Alan Pfadenhauer
Facilities Manager



Dave Meyer
Facilities Assistant



Lisa Pfadenhauer
Facilities Coordinator

THIRD CHURCH GOVERNANCE

Every day, the Executive Board of Third Church takes its governance call seriously through prayer, care, and leadership to those who call Third Church their church home. Third Church utilizes a biblical and best practice approach to its governance responsibility. By providing and enforcing biblically based policies that guide ministry decisions, the Executive Board creates a safety net that ensures ministry is offered in a God-honoring way.

CONSISTORY

The consistory at Third Church is the collective group of spiritual leaders who are serving the church body in the formal offices of elder and deacon. Elders and deacons are specialized spiritual leaders who make significant contributions to the care, ministry, and strengthening of the church body. God has consistently worked powerfully through the leadership of elders and deacons because of the biblical basis for the roles and because the church grants them formal spiritual authority.

While we believe the “priesthood of all believers” is the highest value of ministry participation and leadership, there is something special about the leadership of elders and deacons.

The primary way that elders and deacons serve is through spiritual leadership in Third Church ministries. Each year, every elder and deacon is challenged to lead or serve in a ministry of their choosing or to take a course offered by Third Church. The intent is to release the elder or deacon into a specific ministry role suited for their calling, gifting, and experience, or for them to expand their spiritual horizons by taking a course.

Elders and deacons also fulfill other “traditional” biblical roles and special responsibilities for the church in both structured and unstructured ways, including prayer, communion, baptisms, profession of faith, new members, theological discernment, and collecting and counting Sunday morning offering.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Lind | Chief Governance Officer
Bev Roozeboom | Secretary

At Large Members: Barb Finney, Rich Schulte, Mick Snieder, Steve Van Dusseldorp

EX-OFFICIO STAFF LEADERS:

Klayton Korver | Lead Pastor Teaching & Vision
Katie Peterson | Lead Pastor Discipleship & NextGen Ministries
Darin Wogen | Lead Pastor Strategy & Alignment

DEACONS

Bill Boender..... 2027
Jay Boot.....2029
Bruce Coyle..... 2026
Sue Coyle..... 2025
Craig Douma.....2029
Barb Finney..... 2025
Mike Goodyk..... 2025
Denise Gregory..... 2025
John Holterhaus..... 2027
Dustin Kraft..... 2026
Rusty Kramer..... 2026
Connie Marlow..... 2027
Kelly Mitchell..... 2025
Jim Mitchell.....2029
Dameon Place..... 2025
Joseph Ritzert2029
Dia Rozendaal..... 2025
Mick Snieder..... 2025
Greg Stravers..... 2028
Colin Van Kooten 2027
David Van Soelen..... 2026
Rhonda Van Soelen..... 2026
Scott Vos..... 2027

ELDERS

Matthew Burch 2029
Brett Clayberg..... 2028
Karen Cleveland..... 2028
Eric De Boef..... 2028
Dale Deur..... 2027
Bob Fessler 2029
Jenny Hesseltine..... 2028
Sandy Hundt 2026
Ron Jansen.....2029
Laine Korver..... 2028
Denny “Buck” Kraft2029
Steve Langrud..... 2026
Mike Lind..... 2026
Leon Louwsma..... 2025
Jil Nelson..... 2025
Nuper Nunnikhoven..... 2028
Bev Roozeboom..... 2025
Steve Roozeboom..... 2028
Seth Schreur..... 2027
Matt Schulte..... 2026
JohnSteddom..... 2029
Steve Van Dusseldorp..... 2028
Loren Van Wyk..... 2025
Joan Van Zante..... 2025
Steve Van Zee..... 2026
ChristyVandeHaar2027
Evan Vande Haar..... 2028
Cathy Veenstra2029
Dave Willemsen..... 2026
Bev Wisse..... 2027

IMPACT

EVERY ONE, EVERY DAY HELPING ONE ANOTHER EXPERIENCE LIFE-GIVING FREEDOM IN JESUS.

When we think of words like outreach, missions, and impact, we often think of them as something that happens far away, in other cities, parts of the country, or the world. And it does happen there! Men, women, boys, and girls from our church have been sent out around the world to share the love and light of Jesus!

But this way of thinking can keep those of us living here from seeing exactly how we can participate in Kingdom Impact right where we live. Over the last year as a church, we've been invited into multiple opportunities, some small, some big, over and over again. We've shared invitations to be generous with our dollars, with our time, and with our attention. Why? Because repetition builds the muscles we need for everyday impact.

What invitations have we said yes to this last year?

- Over the last two years, we've received over 120 stories from our reverse offerings, where everyone in church received \$20. Those \$20 grew and met the needs of people in our community!
- \$1 for 1: Over the summer, we extended an invitation. Would you bring \$1 with you to church so that we could help meet an immediate need? Throughout the summer, we helped families dealing with health crises, families with medical debt, flood victims in northwest Iowa, missionaries around the world, and others. You all shared thousands of dollars each week!
- Over the summer, we also partnered with Well Works and worked alongside their team for over 70 hours.
- As we began the school year, you all gave each person working within our school systems a \$10 gift card and wrote a personalized note of thanks and blessing.

MISSION PARTNERS

THE WELL

The Well is an organization composed of individuals representing area churches, non-profits, businesses, and foundations interested in more effectively ministering to those in need in Pella, Knoxville, Fairfield, Ames, and Newton. They desire to see needs met, relationships reconciled, and faith put into action for the glory of God. Volunteers from Third and other church families throughout the community have embraced the various aspects of this local ministry, which is focused on relationships with individuals and families going through difficult situations and sharing the love and hope of Jesus!

► thewelliowa.org

MANY HANDS

Many Hands is a mission organization established by members of Third Church. There are so many ways to get involved in this ministry through short-term mission trips to Haiti and Abaco (Bahamas), volunteering with stateside projects and enterprises, and financial support. Many Hands envisions a world where people and organizations work together to make a difference in the culture for Jesus Christ, unleashing God-given talents and resources to meet the challenge of the day.

► www.mh4h.org



ABIDE

Abide has a mission for a new inner city. Each year, our sixth graders go on their first mission trip to the same location: Abide in North Omaha. They travel to their campus to partner with them and learn from them! We love Abide's mission to revitalize the inner city, one neighborhood at a time, by providing a holistic approach that focuses on developing stronger families, safer neighborhoods, and emerging leaders. Their primary focus to change their city is through homes called "Lighthouses". They've restored 90+ homes and placed families who love Jesus and their city inside them. The key to their success is being a good neighbor.

► abide.community

TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Together For Good creates pathways for the local church to come alongside vulnerable children and families in Christ-centered ministry. At Third Church, we come alongside the children and families and provide wraparound care for the households providing the care. We have over 50 families involved and would love to see it grow!

► www.tfgood.org

THE PELLA COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

The Pella Community Food Shelf serves Pella and surrounding communities. As a member of the Central Iowa Food Bank Network, we can utilize the buying power to purchase groceries at a reasonable cost to supplement donations from the local community. PCFS is graciously supported by area businesses and individuals with monetary donations, groceries, and volunteers. As a volunteer-driven organization, 100% of donations are used to operate & provide services to our neighbors. We have partnered with The Shelf in multiple ways during these last few years and are excited about future partnership! Through our Shop for the Shelf event during Lent, our church learned about food insecurity and raised over \$30,000+ to meet community needs!

► pellacommunityfoodshelf.org



HOSPITALITY + COMMUNITY



If there was a word that described our focus this last year, it would be FOOD! When we enjoy good food, we tend to linger longer, have more conversations, and sense that someone thought of us as they prepared it. When there is good food, we tend to not only come to church but stay a little longer. We know this is a report on what happened last year, but after hearing your feedback, we'll be doubling down on good food this coming year. So come and enjoy!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS PAST YEAR:

- For the second year in a row, we brought food trucks on campus at Central College to welcome new students and to let them know we'd love it if they came to worship with us.
- Once a month, we also provide brunch for our college students. When you are far from home, it is so good to have a home-cooked meal.
- The first Sunday of each month, our Café Team has provided a special morning treat for our 8:00 AM service.
- At Easter, we consumed about 6,000 donut holes!
- An incredible team of volunteers provided brunch to our whole church at our Neighborhood Block Party in January.
- Our Café team regularly provides breakfast for our morning volunteers.
- Over 100 families help welcome our church each Sunday!

STORIES OF HOSPITALITY FROM OUR REVERSE OFFERING:

For the second year in a row, our church participated in a “reverse offering”, where each person received \$20. Along with the dollars, we had to ask: “Who should I give the money to? How can I grow it?” Here are two stories we received:

After accepting this year's reverse offering of \$20, our family prayed and discussed how we could use this to grow, challenge our kids, and bless our community. The Lord gave us a plan: bake cookies and sell them to others in our neighborhood. It was a fun family project that may have involved an extra sugar cookie or two for the workers involved.

Armed with dozens of cookies and a game plan, our children explained about the all church reverse offering, freewill donation, and beneficiary being the Pella Community Food Shelf. Parents warmly opened up their hearts and gave generous donations time and time again, but it was the children of those parents who most impacted me. They saw what their parents had done, and the children went to their “money box” and donated what they had. From three-year-olds to teenagers, these children chose a generous heart, lovingly displayed to them through their parents.

We are humbled to extend a donation to the Pella Food Shelf totaling \$517.28.

Prior to the reverse offering, I had decided that I would not participate this year. It's been so busy, and I just didn't want one more thing.

As the service started, the thought of a particular person ran through my mind. When it came time for the offering plates to be passed, the Holy Spirit told me that I was to give the money to the person whom I had thought of at the beginning of the service. I realized that it wasn't about me and what I wanted—because more than anything, I always want to be obedient to what the Holy Spirit asks me to do.

I purchased a pretty Christmas card and added money to the amount. I only knew where the person worked, so I dropped the card off at the front desk. This person moved to Pella this year, so I included a letter of encouragement and explained why I was giving the gift.

We would like to thank Third Church for continuing this reverse offering tradition and for challenging us to deepen our relationship with Christ. This was community, this was generosity, and this was a blessing from Jesus.

NEIGHBORHOODS

EVERYONE, EVERY DAY STARTS HERE!

Throughout the summer and fall of 2024, we focused on vision casting and recruiting facilitators, hospitality, and prayer leaders for Neighborhoods. More than 60 people stepped into leadership roles! In October 2024, we began equipping these leaders to ensure they felt confident and prepared for the Neighborhoods launch in January 2025.

NEIGHBORHOODS LAUNCH

- **January 12** – Our Neighborhood Block Party had nearly 1,000 in attendance.
 - *The day was filled with fun, games, and great food! Many people shared how wonderful it was to connect with others they don't normally see and to have meaningful conversations. Kids had so much fun in the bounce houses that they didn't want to leave! Most importantly, the Holy Spirit was present throughout the day, evident in the joy, laughter, and connections shared by everyone.*
- **January 19** – Open Houses provided an opportunity for people to meet Neighborhood leaders.
- **January 26** – Nearly 750 people have “moved in” to one of 13 Neighborhoods, where everyone, every day, is helping each other experience life-giving freedom in Jesus!

NEIGHBORHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

Through video teaching and group discussions led by our committed leaders, the following content has been/is being taught:

- Winter 2025 curriculum - Practicing the ways of Jesus
- Spring 2025 curriculum - The Fasting Practice in conjunction with Lent, plus some informal fellowship opportunities
- Summer 2025 curriculum - The Prayer Practice – interactive experiences led by various leaders to give our Neighborhood leaders a well-deserved break

What leaders have told us:

- People are starting to connect, and conversations at tables are really going deeper! Seems the flow of the morning has been going well, and they are enjoying the teaching.
- We [young adults] all relate to one another really well and are coming to find we want to be in community with such similar believers.
- Table discussions have been rich and vulnerable, which has been super good to help develop community. The questions and videos have been helpful in taking us there. They really enjoy table time.
- Preparation has been really good, and the messages each week have been well received. There is no lack of good content being pushed out at each session.
- We are starting to hear from our neighbors some of their trials and hardships (they are opening up and trusting us). They all seem to have the desire to go deeper with Christ.
- We appreciate how well the lessons have tied in with the sermons! It doesn't matter whether you attend the church service before or after your Neighborhood meets—the material and the sermon always are in sync.
- Great fellowship, high participation, focused content, joy



Nearly 750 people have “moved in” to one of 13 Neighborhoods, where everyone, every day, is helping each other experience life-giving freedom in Jesus!

**EVERYONE,
EVERY
DAY STARTS
HERE!**

DISCIPLESHIP

We partnered with RightNow Media, which offers over \$5 million worth of content in its digital library. This library provides access to resources used in Neighborhoods, the Leadership Development Pipeline, and several other ministries. As part of this partnership, we’ve gifted access to everyone in a Neighborhood.

Men’s Ministry

- A group of 30+ men has been gathering on Wednesday mornings to journey through the Bible in a Year together.

Women’s Ministry

- Coffee With Moms provides a space for moms to be refreshed so they can love others—and themselves—as Christ does. Women in this group have four opportunities to grow closer to Jesus and experience His love: studying the Names of God, reading Gospel Mom, receiving support and encouragement from a spiritual leader, or watching The Chosen.
- In Fall 2024, 75 women participated in ToGather for the Holidays, a gathering designed to prepare their hearts for the holiday season.

We used our values of Progress over Perfection, Refuge over Rejection, and Many over Me to help set the stage for eighteen discipleship opportunities offered in Fall 2024. Nearly 550 people participated in at least one opportunity, which helped mobilize our mission of helping one another experience life-giving freedom in Jesus.

What participants told us:

- The first night, Keith suggested that we ask the Holy Spirit to wake us up in the middle of the night. I did & was nudged awake at 3:40. I asked to be nudged awake the second night & was awakened again at the same time. I got up both times & spent time worshipping & praying. – 4 Keys to Hearing God’s Voice participant
- This significantly affirmed how God is speaking to me daily. I’m HUGELY motivated because of this class to regularly engage my own faith and encourage others. – 4 Keys to Hearing God’s Voice participant
- I felt God’s nudge to more time spent with family, less time with screens, and a call to be an example with my own phone use. – Digital Liturgies participant
- The class content further affirmed to me how to respond biblically to internet activity. – Digital Liturgies participant
- God just brought back times in my life when I would finally let God take control and how he handled it much better than I could have ever thought. – Lament class participant
- God is always present when we may be tempted to think he’s distant. – Lament class participant
- We must keep this going, constantly reinforcing our authority and dominion. The devils will never stop. – Spiritual Warfare participant

We paused discipleship classes to support the launch of Neighborhoods.

Updated Believer Baptism Process – Before baptism, participants engage in a six-session journey with a mentor, actively learning about the gift of baptism, the incredible love of God, and how to align their lives with His Word through worship, discipleship, prayer, and service. As part of this process, they share their personal commitment with an elder. On baptism day, they publicly confess their faith and share their testimony.

We can’t do ministry without our volunteers! We celebrated them at JOY Night by serving a fall feast, playing energizing and entertaining games, and giving away prizes. Word on the street is that it was “one of the best JOY nights ever!”

- We’ll have another celebration for our volunteers and their families in June 2025.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

The Leadership Development Pipeline (LDP) is a three-year discipleship journey designed to cultivate maturing disciples of Jesus who know how to live in the Kingdom of God. Through this experience, participants grow in Christ-like character, serve His kingdom purpose, and build a network of spiritual friendships as they commit to helping one another experience life-giving freedom in Jesus.

Seven participants from Genesis 2024, our inaugural pipeline group, completed their first year and have now begun Year 2. The focus of Year 1 was to develop and practice healthy rhythms that cultivate greater intimacy with God and the Holy Spirit, foster spiritual, emotional, and relational growth, and establish a daily habit of engaging with the Word. Key learnings were processed with mentors and fellow participants. In Year 2, participants will build upon these foundations as they discern a pathway—Formation, Discipleship/Teaching, or Outreach—that they feel called to pursue.

Meanwhile, Genesis 2025 launched in early 2025 with 12 participants. Their first year will follow the same focus as Genesis 2024, with regular meetings with their mentor and cohort group for structured learning opportunities.



“THANK YOU, THANK YOU for loving us so well last night by planning and executing an absolutely wonderful and joyful event! Thank you for preparing LOTS of delicious food, for planning games, for waiting on us hand and foot, and for introducing us to the Neighborhood concept with some good information and spiritual enrichment and clarity.”
– quote from a volunteer

BELIEVER BAPTISMS

Baptism is first and foremost about being in relationship with our Triune God. Secondly, baptism is about rites (sprinkling and immersion). A full biblical view involves one baptism into Jesus Christ with two parts (covenant and believer) separated by time.

One baptism in two moments over time combines infant covenant baptism and believer baptism as a full expression from both the Old and New Testaments. God's covenant reminds us that He has created, selected, and chosen us to be His sons and daughters!

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and makes a public confession of faith, immersion brings to fruition this personal response. The one being baptized chooses to die to self and rise to new life in Christ; making a commitment to walk with God.

15 BELIEVER BAPTISM SIGN-UPS

(September 1, 2024–June 1, 2025)

36 INFANT BAPTISMS

(September 1, 2024–April 13, 2025)

31 NEW MEMBERS

(September 1, 2024–March 13, 2025)

2,949 MEMBERS



PRAYER MINISTRY

THE POWER OF UNTANGLING

One of the greatest joys of prayer ministry at Third is getting to be right at the center of our mission statement, particularly “helping one another experience life-giving freedom in Jesus.” One of the most significant ways we are watching this happen is through the ministry of our “Untangled Conference: Freeing Our Stories from the Power of Shame,” which we host biannually at Third. The table is set for people to feel seen, known, and loved, through powerful teaching from Cathy Diehl, table hosts who create safe spaces for people to share stories, and, of course, prayer practices that allow the Spirit to meet people in places of deep pain and heartache.

Here are a few testimonies from those who were deeply impacted by the weekend:

“Thank you!! I can’t say it enough, and words won’t express my gratitude for the great weekend. Don’t stop holding these! My prayer is that more people would step outside of their comfort zone and take the plunge; it’s worth it!”

“It’s so hard to pick just one thing from the weekend! It was all impactful. I came in thinking I didn’t have a lot of shame, but boy was I wrong. So much of childhood trauma has turned into adult shame. I loved the small group discussion, but the most impactful was the prayer experiences or the teaching itself, ALL of the teaching!”

“After the weekend, my heart is so tender towards God, I feel close to Him. I am also so blessed to have met the ladies at my table, they were all truly amazing. They led me outside of the box that being nervous puts me in, and I experienced the healing touch of God several times. I also have a place to start with untangling shame, along with working towards healing my ADD instead of just treating it with medication.”

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER LEADERS

Like many of our teams this season, we have had the opportunity to come alongside launching Neighborhoods in this past quarter. The prayer team has had the opportunity to train all of the Neighborhood leaders in prayer, helping them to learn how they could create “Selah” moments and prayer experiences in these gatherings! In addition, we are sending out intercessory requests and connecting with participants who express the desire to meet with a prayer team leader or volunteer. It’s such a JOY to connect with people that we don’t normally cross paths with at Third, and to get to know some new stories. I am excited to see what the Lord has for our community as this continues to unfold.

CELEBRATING PRAYER BY THE NUMBERS

Right at the heart of our “Every one, every day mission...” is providing multiple opportunities each day and week to serve our region through prayer ministry. Here is a snapshot of the number of people we were able to serve this past year.

49 TRAINED VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE IN PRAYER

290 SUNDAY PRAYER SESSIONS

256 REFRESH PRAYER SESSIONS

80 People served at Seasons of Prayer & Prayer Ministry Appointments (60–90 minute sessions of prayer)

85 UNTANGLED CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

17 SOUL CARE GROUPS

66 ENCOUNTER THE HEALER TRAINING MORNINGS

150 STAFF MEMBERS PRAYED FOR!

School Staff Prayer Rooms at all of the Pella and Pella Christian Schools (met two times this year)

*That’s over 944 people we’ve been able to serve through the ministry of prayer at Third Church this past year. We are beyond grateful for the team of volunteers that makes this possible! People’s stories matter to Jesus, and we are humbled to get a front row seat to the ways that Jesus heals, redeems, restores, and sets free!

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY

PRAYER IS RISING!

All across the earth in this hour, we are seeing a fresh hunger for prayer and worship! It is not surprising that, true to what the Spirit is doing across the earth, we also hosted some of our largest prayer events ever at Third. Between our two 24:7 prayer weeks and our Gather 25 event, we had over 1,000 people participating in prayer events at Third this year! It is incredible to think about everything that happens when over a thousand hours of prayer rise up from God’s people!

CALLED UP AND SENT OUT

In June of 2024, we hosted a 24/7 week of prayer in the Lighthouse in conjunction with the larger 24:7 Prayer USA movement to cover the entire year of 2024 in prayer! During our week of “Called Up/Sent Out” we had 541 hours of prayer logged in the Lighthouse.

It was a joy to see families spending summer evening hours together praying at the church, many men joining in to help us pray through the night watch hours, and communal prayer gathering that allowed people to explore praying the hours, Lectio Divina, and worship and intercession.

Here are a few of the testimonies that came out of that week of prayer together:

Wonderful time communing with the Lord—appreciated the guide but also enjoyed going from floor to floor (I was there for 2 hours). It was so special knowing someone was praying every hour for a whole week!!! Thank you for organizing this!! We had good friends visit us this week who have been to visit before and I asked them where in Pella they would like to go again—and they said “Your church’s prayer tower”!

I was gifted some unexpected free time and accepted the Lord’s invitation to meet him at the Lighthouse. Having never been to a Lighthouse prayer event, I showed up with no expectation and very open-handed, hopeful to sit with Jesus face-to-face. Within the first 30 minutes of reading through Psalm 121, I recalled a word the Lord had spoken to me months ago and literally felt his nearness to me. After delighting in His overwhelming goodness and presence, He brought to mind a friend who is in a tough season of constant struggling. He said, “Invite her here to meet with me.” So I texted my friend right then, and within 10 minutes, she was next to me in the Lighthouse. He reminded me, there is nothing in this life better than His presence. While I had no answers or wisdom to share with my friend, sitting together, turning our attention back to Jesus was balm to both of our weary souls.

The first day of the 24/7 prayer was my first day going back to work after my time off. I work in a very stressful environment and was very nervous. Knowing this, I signed up because I needed to worship God to beat the anxiety. Not only did my Monday go well, but my whole week! Praise to God Almighty! I thank TC for this opportunity, and I’m hoping that we will continue to do this, not only for a week. I signed up for three days, and I was blessed. The peace that I got praying at Lighthouse created in me a hunger to pray to God more in the mornings. I wanted to create the same atmosphere at my home, and I started to pray in my backyard this morning.



BLESS TO BLESS MULTIPLIED

Bless to Bless really GREW this year, as we sought to expand the ways that we could tangibly pray and support our local schools in Pella. It is a unique gift to have such a great relationship with our schools, so it was a JOY to come alongside them in a myriad of ways to encourage staff and students this year. Our prayer team had the joy of administering and organizing the expanded Bless to Bless opportunities. This looked like:

- **EVERY school** was walked and prayed through in August as the school year launched.
- Over **700 thank you cards** were written and **gift cards** given to staff in the first week of school.
- **Hospitality teams** organized to provide food/drinks 2-3 times each semester at every school in Pella.
- **40 freezer meals** were donated to give to school staff who were going through difficult times.
- **50 dozen donuts** were offered alongside the opportunity for staff to receive prayer at every school during both semesters (**16 prayer rooms offered!**).
- Donors from Third provide a variety of **supplies** to meet tangible needs of the schools that were outside their normal budget, including shoes, winter gear, supplies for the teacher’s lounge, and more.

We are grateful for the opportunities we had this year to help staff feel seen and loved, and are grateful for the kids who feel safe in our building as well. On the morning when many kids arrived at Third for shelter, we realized what a gift it is to be a church that is right at the heart of our school community.

CARE TEAM

The Care Team was created to meet the needs of the families that make up the Third Church body. They desire to walk alongside people in every part of life's journey, rejoicing with those who rejoice and mourning with those who mourn. Life is full of "yes, and" moments. YES, God is good, AND it is really hard to lose a loved one. YES, I know God is for me, AND right now it feels like He is very distant. In these times of tension, the Care Team desires to offer a listening ear, scripture, and prayer. Ultimately, the Care Team points to Jesus, our true source of peace.

Over the past few years, we have come to recognize that the biblical practice of Lament has not been practiced well in the Western Church. Seeing a need, we felt called to offer classes about Lament, and a service in December titled "Hope: A Light in the Darkness," to explore the process of learning how to grieve, naming our grief, and sitting with one another in grief.

Over 200 people accepted the invitation for these opportunities, and we witnessed a beautiful community together grieving a variety of losses, including the loss of loved ones, dreams, relationships, identity, homes, or innocence. In all our grief, we hold to the truth that God is near to the brokenhearted and in Him, we find our hope. The Care Team desires that you feel seen, known, and loved after interacting with them.

TOTAL CONNECTIONS <i>(January-April)</i>	2,863
STAFF VISITS	1,017
COMMUNITY CARE VISIT	117
CARE COMPANION VISITS	60
OTHER CONTACTS <i>(text, email, calls, meals)</i>	1,578
INTERCESSORY PRAYER REQUESTS	91



PILLARS

The Pillars have always been a source of strength and encouragement, but a day trip to Cedar Rapids in December proved to be an unforgettable blessing. They set out with a bus full of friends—some longtime companions, others newer faces—eager to spend the day together. The destination was the home of Jim McDonough, who is a world-renowned pianist. He would be performing a private concert for the group, but the real joy began long before the music started. Laughter echoed through the bus as stories were shared, and a deep sense of belonging filled the air.

When the pianist sat to play, the music was breathtaking—a masterful performance that stirred hearts and lifted spirits. Yet, even in those quiet, reverent moments, there was something special about experiencing it together. The day only grew sweeter on the ride home, with conversations deepening and friendships strengthening. By the time they returned, it was clear this trip had been more than just an outing; it was a day of joy, encouragement, and a reminder of the beauty found in Christian fellowship. The music had been wonderful, but it was the relationships—the laughter, the shared experiences, the love of Christ in their midst—that had truly made it a day to remember.

This trip was just one of many events the Pillars group offers throughout the year – each one an opportunity to build lasting friendships and to experience the joy of life together.

The Pillars continue to be a source of encouragement and community, reminding everyone that life is richer when shared in Christ's love!



WORSHIP

“One of the greatest joys as a worship leader is perspective...being able to see the faces of the body of Christ as we lead and 'set the table' for worship is a beautiful and humbling honor. For the past 22 years, I have witnessed the hearts of the body from this unique perspective. Though I am cautious not to evaluate the hearts of believers by outward signs of worship alone, I have seen tremendous growth in the expressions and engagement of the people in our church body. I see faces reflecting vulnerability, humility, joy, surrender, and awe toward our Savior as hearts reach out to Him and receive from Him on Sunday mornings during worship! What an amazing blessing.”

“I find worship at Third impactful for myself and others. It allows us space to align with God and with one another. The world we live in is so loud. Our time of worship allows space for us to focus on the truth of who God is.”

“Every one, every day helping others experience life-giving freedom in Jesus.” As we entered year number two of our new mission statement, values, and outcomes, we knew that we needed to be highly intentional to help the Third Church body better understand what it means to be “every one, every day” people. The invitation for the year would be to participate and to practice the ways of Jesus so that we would see His Kingdom come in our individual lives, homes, neighborhoods, cities, and the world.

Because of this need for intentionality, we tried to pair the series with songs to help us move that series into “every day”.

EXODUS

We started the year in the book of Exodus, looking at the “unlikely” ways that God partnered with Moses to lead His people out of slavery and into a newfound freedom. Our value of “progress over perfection” was center stage. Jesus is often moving in unlikely ways to free His people from sin, shame, fear, anxiety, and so many other things. Jesus isn’t looking for perfection from his followers, He is looking for progress. And as we see in the book of Exodus, the easy part was getting God’s people out of Egypt, but getting Egypt out of the people was much more challenging.

The song “Egypt” was introduced during this series. The lyrics are both powerful and beautiful. The word pictures throughout this song and the book of Exodus reveal a God who is indeed “stepping into our Egypt and taking us by the hand” to lead us into greater levels of freedom and life in him.

ADVENT

The Christian calendar starts with the season of Advent. Advent is a season of preparation, waiting, and longing for Jesus to come. Its culmination is the celebration of Christmas. This year, we found ourselves in the book of Luke sitting with Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph—“unlikely” characters who find themselves in the middle of God’s great story. During this series, we began to make an “unlikely” ask. We invited our church to join Neighborhoods: places of community, belonging, living vulnerably, being known, and being transformed.

PRACTICE

To start 2025 and “ordinary time,” we began a new series, “Practice”. As disciples of Jesus, we are invited to do the things of Jesus. For that to happen, we have to practice the ways of Jesus. Our focus stayed on the book of Luke as we unpacked the ways of Jesus and how we might practice what Jesus did. The invitation is for every one...every day.

We reentered the book of Luke and our “Practice” series after Lent. During the summer, we focused on the practice of prayer. We elevated the need for deeper communion with our Triune God and for intercession for the lost and broken.

LENT

The season of Lent is a 40-day period in preparation for Easter. Two specific practices during the Lenten season are fasting and almsgiving. “Participate” was the title of our Lenten series, and we invited our congregation to participate in fasting on Wednesdays. To participate in the practice of “almsgiving” or generosity we asked everyone to bring in the money that they would have spent on food during their fasting and donate it to the Pella Food Shelf.

We introduced the song “Open”, a song of surrender and of opening our hearts to Jesus who stands at the door of our hearts, knocking. In addition to fasting and almsgiving, we gathered in the lighthouse on Wednesday and Saturday mornings for worship and prayer. Lent ends with Holy Week. We gathered on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday in preparation to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Being “everyone every day” people takes practice and a willingness to participate, and we saw this in beautiful and powerful ways over the past ministry year. In both little and big ways, we are seeing our city and region experience life-giving freedom in Jesus.



CREATIVE ARTS

ENCOUNTER @ HOME MAGAZINE

This past year, Encounter magazine focused on each of our values: progress over perfection, refuge over rejection, and many over me. One of the goals of *Encounter* is to highlight the creatives among us, which is why each edition is filled with stories from our church about what God is doing among us. Each creative piece was made by someone from Third Church, and all five generations who worship and share life with us are represented.

PODCASTS

This last year, our summer podcast was called “A conversation between a father and son”. The theme was “A Word and Spirit life invites us into...a long obedience in the same direction”. The key question addressed was “What might encourage us in that long obedience?” Our church was invited to join Pastor Kevin Korver and Pastor Klayton Korver for an ongoing conversation around a few words, pictures, prompts, texts, mentors, soul mates, questions, and encouragement.

NEXT GEN MINISTRIES

REAL CONNECTION. TRUE BELONGING. MY IDENTITY IS FOUND IN JESUS.

KIDS MINISTRY

The vision of early childhood ministry is to partner with Jesus in planting Kingdom seeds in the hearts of our littlest ones. At the earliest age, we want our children to hear one simple message: Your identity is found in Jesus. Each year, we rotate through twelve simple truths that children engage in through Scripture. We are thankful for the 40–50 volunteers who arrive each week ready and willing to pour into our kids through play, prayer, songs, crafts, and large-group teaching. Our prayer is to continue to connect with and equip families to cultivate these Kingdom seeds in their own homes.

- On Sundays, children aged birth–24 months gather in the Ladybug Nursery, two-year olds attend the Goldfish Room, three-year-olds go to the Bee Room, and preschoolers are in the Frog Room.
- Early Childhood Ministry is available on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM and 10:45 AM.
- New this year, we also provide a Come + Stay option for children to be cared for while their parents attend a Neighborhood.

GOD KNOWS ME. JESUS LOVES ME. THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS ME. I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

Our vision for elementary ministry is to continue to build strong foundations on the love of God as we foster the Word and Spirit in the lives of K–5th graders. Many spaces are intentionally created for children to encounter and experience God when they attend weekly discipleship. Elementary ministry is available on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM and 10:45 AM and as part of our family ministry on Wednesday nights. New this year, we also provide a Come + Stay option for children to be cared for while their parents attend a Neighborhood.

K-4TH GRADE: Through large group presentations and storytelling, K-4th graders learn stories from the Bible, while focusing on a new memory verse and Biblical truth each month. For this age range, we split our large group times into K-2 and 3-4. The main goal is for the children to experience and encounter God through worship and praise songs, quiet time, prayer, and journaling. Large group teaching time provides dynamic storytelling to engage the Scripture. Small group activities help create community and connection through discussions and various games and activities, creating a safe environment for the children. We



are thankful for the 50–60 volunteers who excitedly show up each week ready to serve in a variety of capacities, including leading small groups, running technology, facilitating games and crafts, and large group leading/storytelling.

A STORY FROM OUR K-2 LARGE GROUP

LEADER: The K–2 students have been so fun to pray with. They love to share their prayer requests for family members, friends, and pets. There are always more requests than we have time for. Once a child shares, someone comes up and prays for them. Meanwhile, that child has an opportunity to have hands laid on them if they are comfortable. They are becoming more open to this, and it is beautiful to see children surrounding children in prayer.

A STORY FROM OUR 3-4 LARGE GROUP

LEADER: In the 3rd and 4th grade room, we try to foster different ways for the children to connect with Jesus in a personal way throughout the morning. One of the ways we have done that this year is after our large group time of worship and Bible teaching, we create space for the kids to spend five quiet minutes with Jesus. The kids spread out around the room with their journals, Bibles, and some quiet music. Some kids choose to close their eyes for the 5 minutes of quiet, some kids use the time to draw, doodle, make notes, or write prayers in their journals, some choose to read the Bible story shared that morning, some work on Bible verse memory. We like to provide an environment of freedom to encourage the kids to spend time practicing ways to connect with Jesus on their own in their own way. It is a beautiful thing to see the kids experiencing quiet reflection while practicing ways for personal connection with Jesus. We desire that this time will help to model a framework in their spiritual rhythms with Jesus that they can continue on their own throughout the rest of their week.

5TH GRADE: During Sunday mornings with 5th graders, we spend our mornings learning about spiritual gifts, the global mission and the persecuted church, learning to tune into God’s communication to us, as well as practicing and having experiences in prayer. Space is provided for kids to hear personal testimonies and encounter God for themselves as they practice a variety of spiritual disciplines together. Research from Fuller Youth Institute states that students who are actively involved using their gifts to serve the larger body of the

church are more likely to stay connected to their faith after they graduate high school. The Children’s Ministry experience culminates in fifth grade with the students being given opportunities to discover their own spiritual gifts as they are invited to participate in the life and body of Third Church using their gifts.

FRIENDS WITH UNIQUE NEEDS

The Sensory Room, a place for children with unique needs, creates a safe and soothing place for kids to have their needs met and encounter the love of Jesus. The space is equipped with a wide range of toys, books, and sensory stations to help create a peaceful environment for all who walk through the doors. In addition to the Sensory Room, families also have the option of a one-on-one helper for their child if they would like him/her to attend Sunday morning ministry with his/her peers.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY LIBRARY

Our library (located downstairs next to the First Impression desk) is a growing and vibrant space that we hope you will utilize! There are books for the whole family: toddlers, elementary, and middle school ages, plus a parent section as well. We continue to seek out new materials to add to our growing inventory, and we are thankful for families donating books this year through a wish list. The library is a self-serve set up available all week long and on Sunday mornings.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Third Church's Family Ministry is embracing the prayer and motto "turning living spaces into holy places!" Each family looks different, and that's great! With Scripture as our authority, we are excited to partner with families in their child's spiritual formation journey. Third Church is honored to encourage, equip, and empower parents in the amazing role as the primary spiritual champion for their children!

SPIRITUAL MILESTONES

Each child in God's family is on a journey. This journey has different starts, stops, and views. The Children and Family Ministry Teams are honored to partner with families on their child(ren)'s spiritual journey. In addition to weekly discipleship opportunities for children, we also celebrate spiritual milestones, which are significant experiences and encounters with the Lord that mark specific points along a person's spiritual journey. These points signal anchors that are significant events in one's faith formation.

EARLY CHILDHOOD (BIRTH-PREK)

INFANT BAPTISM: The baptism process allows for families to reflect, bless, and celebrate the work of the Lord in their lives! Elders shepherd families during the Baptism Class and Service during this significant milestone. The timeline to have an infant baptized includes the Infant Baptism Class and a Baptism service.

PRESCHOOL/PRE-K GRADUATION: On Sunday, May 19, the Frog Room Graduates and their families attended our Preschool-Pre-K Graduation, an event that invites families to pause, bless, and celebrate their child(ren) before entering elementary ministry.

ELEMENTARY (K-5TH GRADE)

SALVATION MILESTONE CELEBRATION: We recognize that each child in God's family is on an incredible journey! Third Church believes in God's appointed time, the Holy Spirit invites us into a personal relationship with our Triune God. Because God is very personal, we do not believe this invitation occurs at a specific age/grade, but at just the right moment. Children's Ministry at Third shares the Salvation Message during large groups once or twice a year and invites children who sense the Holy Spirit inviting them into a relationship with God to pray the Prayer of Salvation. This year, we had 20 K-5th-grade children receive Christ for the first time!



STUDENT MINISTRIES

STUDENT MINISTRY (CORE + MIX)

Planning for this ministry year began with a question: What barriers to life-giving freedom are our middle and high school students facing? Our team landed on the word WORTH. In this cultural moment, the world is working hard to define for our students...

- ...what God is worth.
- ...what I am worth.
- ...what people around me are worth.
- ...what is and is not worth my time.

Our goal became redefining the worth of these things based on how God assigns value to them. And our strategy was to ask and answer three questions: Who is God? Who am I? What do I do with that information?

We began our year by letting God define who He is. We spent the entire fall semester in the book of Exodus, learning how God describes Himself and how he relates to His people. Many of our students memorized Exodus 34:6-7 and walked away with a better understanding of God's character and heart for us.

After Christmas break, our middle schoolers studied Psalm 139, seeing what it has to say about how God values them, and how He sees, knows, and loves them. Our high schoolers looked at how Jesus interacted with His disciples to draw conclusions about our role in His great story as His present-day disciples.

Finally, after Spring Break, theMIX learned from the book of Ephesians how to put their faith into action. CORE, following the Disciples series, turned to Acts and in manuscript-study style, examined the apostles' "now what?". In the spring and summer, our students also have opportunities to practice blessing our neighbors locally, and further away through mission trips.

Our students spent the year dwelling in the love of God, hearing again and again that He is a God that values them highly, that His character and what He reveals about Himself can be trusted, that His heart is for their good, that their worth is not determined by what they do or what other people say, that they are blessed to be a blessing and the Spirit wants to work through them and include them in His Kingdom advancement.

THE MIX
(MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY)

STUDENTS REGISTERED: 217

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: 24

The purpose of the MIX is to provide a space for students in 6th–8th grade to encounter Jesus, build their relationship with Jesus, and experience God in community. We want to provide an atmosphere for students to explore their faith in these three formative years before high school. We meet on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. Our night starts with fellowship, moves to large group, and ends in small group. Large group is a time of games, worship, relevant teaching, and a prayer experience. Small group time is a place for students to form relationships with each other while they discuss life and large group.

EVENTS:

- 6th Grade Preview
- Small Group Nights
- Grateful Mini Golf

“[My favorite part of the MIX is] worship! My girls love it and are so engaged as well. GAMES! Thank you...I know it’s hard work, but they are having so much fun.” –MIX small group leader

“Love, love, love that students are doing prayer practices.” –MIX small group leader

“The MIX is like its own community with friends while learning about the Gospel.” –8th grade student

“The reason I come to the MIX is because it was a time and space to learn more about the love that Jesus has for us, and his plan for us in our lives as we grow up.” –7th grade student

“[My favorite part of the MIX is] seeing the middle schoolers worship during large group.” –MIX small group leader



CORE (HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY)

STUDENTS REGISTERED: 247

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: 33

HOUSE GROUPS: 9

CORE is our High School Ministry that functions in a House Group model, with corporate gatherings mixed in. In House Groups, anywhere from two to five small groups gather in homes (of Third Church families) across town for a time of building relationships, worship, teaching, and small groups. House Groups meet on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year and provide a place for each student to know and be known. This year, we’ve been mixing in manuscript Bible studies, a very hands-on method for approaching Biblical texts, driven by student questions.

EVENTS:

- 9th Grade Preview
- Worship & Prayer Night
- SWUGs Christmas party
- Small Group Nights

CORE + MIX:

BLESS NIGHT: We were able to bless our community with two different Bless Nights, one for middle school and one for high school. Our middle schoolers and high schoolers served 14 different organizations. Our students did a wide range of service activities, including cleaning, yard work, putting together meals, mixing cookie dough, sewing, making blankets, and so much more! Blessing our neighbors is one of the ways our students practice a response to who God is and what He has called us to.

DEEPER:

DEEPER is an hour of worship and prayer on Sunday nights for students 6th–12th grade to recharge before starting their week. We have a small group of students who have joined us consistently, and a handful of others who have tried it out.

SUMMER TRIPS:

- 6th Grade Omaha Mission Trip
- 7th Grade Minnesota Mission Trip
- 8th Grade Holland, MI Mission Trip
- Bold Conference for High School Students

“[My students’ favorite part has been] house/ small group time. I think they love the combination of the silly games at the beginning, plus food, getting to know each other in the large group setting, and then just having the intimacy of the small group all in one place. It’s been great!” –CORE small group leader

“[The fall Exodus series] opened up really good topics of conversation! Things that were relevant to our students came up, like taking the Egypt out of the Israelites and what kinds of things can be “Egyptian” in our culture.” –CORE small group leader

“My girls love the manuscript study nights!! The questions and conversations we have had these nights have been some of our best nights! Everyone is involved and conversations are productive.” –CORE small group leader

SOUP SUPPER FUNDRAISER

Our annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper was moved to Sunday morning due to weather, and the Third Church family showed up! We raised \$7,500, which is almost double our 2024 number. The soup supper is prepped, cooked, and served by students and their families who are going on a summer trip, and 100% of donations go to those students’ trip funds.

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

- 16 students took the 5-week Foundations class, engaged in 6 weeks of mentorship, and professed their faith before Third Church elders.
- When the students are celebrated in-service, 8 students also plan on getting baptized.
- Mentorship will continue after Celebration Sunday for an additional 4–6 weeks.

GENEROSITY ENGINE

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW

Third utilized Capin Crouse, a national CPA firm devoted to serving Christian not-for-profit organizations, for the fiscal 2024 financial audit of Third Church. The audit included a formal examination and assessment of Third Church financial practices, procedures, reporting, internal controls and financial statements.



An audit enhances an organization’s financial integrity and credibility and helps to identify areas needing improvement. The results of the audit were that Third Church received a favorable audit opinion, providing assurance that our financial statements are trustworthy and that Third is upholding its fiduciary duty to the congregation. A copy of the audited financial statements is available upon request.



In addition, Third Church is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). The ECFA provides accreditation to leading Christian not-for-profit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, fundraising and governance. Membership in the ECFA is a demonstration of the Third Church commitment to biblical excellence, integrity and financial accountability.

2026 BUDGET

The staff takes the stewardship of our financial resources very seriously. Each year the team puts significant time and effort into the budgeting process, as well as looking for ways to drive productivity and cost savings throughout the year as we support the congregation in all our ministry efforts.

For 2026, a similar process was used to generate the budget which includes: looking at historical offering levels, anticipated attendance, economic conditions, ministry needs and operational expense requirements. A top-down budget was

created for each department and then reviewed individually to ensure alignment on needs for the coming year. All benevolent partners are required to complete a standard application which is then reviewed and approved by the Executive Board. Staff compensation is set based on reviews of each position compared to external benchmarks, including The Church Network survey, and individual performance.

To support our ministry impact to our community and beyond in 2026, we will need a 4.0% increase in our offering. This is in line with past years as shown in this high-level 5-year budget summary. In addition, as we look out over the next few years, we will see much of our 131,000 sq ft facility reach 30 years old. With that, we anticipate additional capital needs above our normal offering for these updates as we are utilizing many spaces for purposes they were not designed for and remodels are needed to better support our ministries. We anticipate a capital campaign will be needed in the next year to continue to support our growth and drive Kingdom Impacts in many new ways in our community, region and beyond.

A challenge for all of us - as we seek to be Kingdom Partners, what level of generosity is the Lord calling each of us to? We can respond to God’s love with irrational generosity because God has given us everything. We count it a privilege to be generous to others with our time, our talents and our treasures. Would you join us in our goal to be Kingdom Partners and impact our cities, region, nation and world with the life-giving freedom of Jesus? What does this generosity journey look like for you?

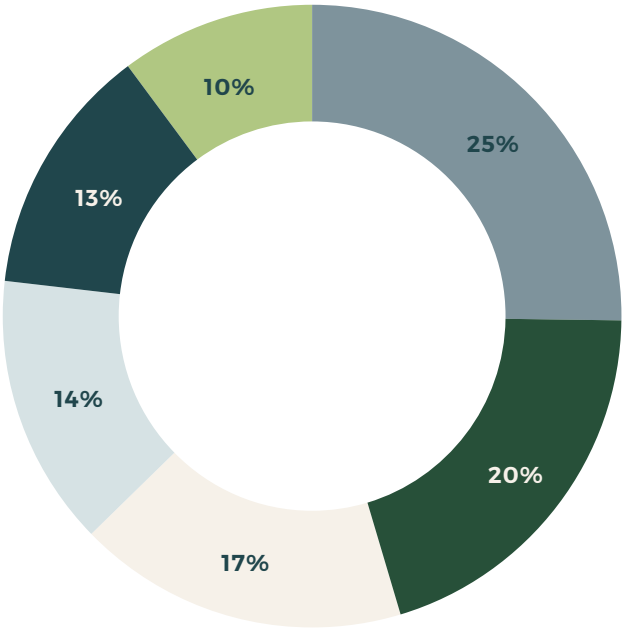
Remember 75% of our giving goes toward our local/regional ministries and 25% goes outside of our walls as we partner with our Triune God to drive impact in our community and beyond.

The Executive Board reviewed and approved the budget during their April 10, 2025, meeting.

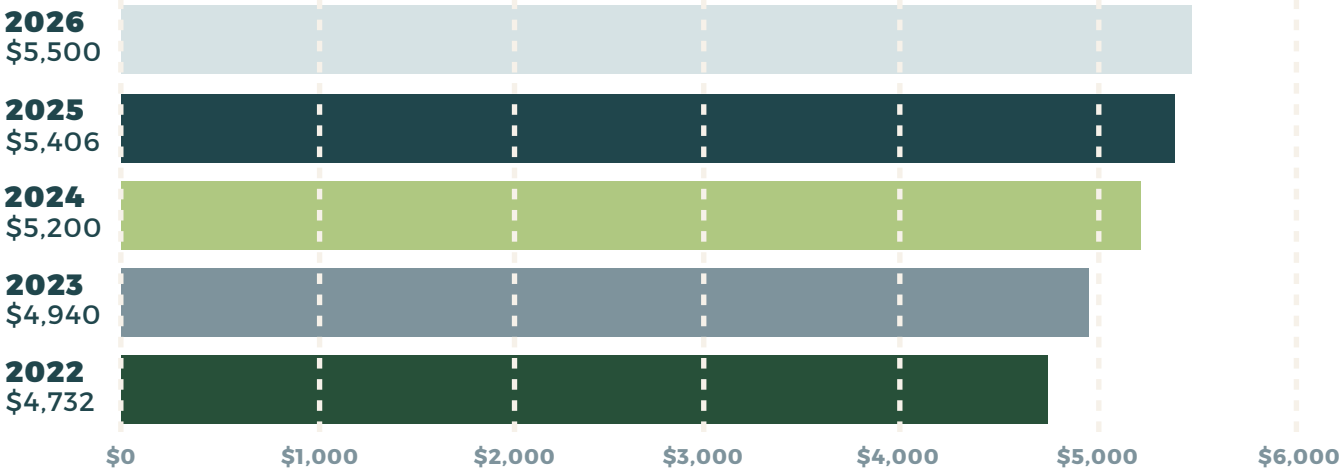


2026 IMPACT EXPENSES

- BENEVOLENCE/OUTREACH | 25%
- DISCIPLESHIP | 20%
- FACILITIES/CAPITAL | 17%
- PRAYER/CARE | 14%
- WORSHIP | 13%
- ADMINISTRATION | 10%



GENEROSITY ENGINE | OFFERING



	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
GE OFFERING <small>\$'S IN 000'S</small>	\$5,500	\$5,406	\$5,200	\$4,940	\$4,732
WEEKS	52	53	52	52	52
WEEKLY	\$106	\$102	\$100	\$95	\$91
INCREASE	4%	2.0%	5.3%	4.4%	6.4%
TOTAL INCREASE	2%				



GENEROSITY IMPACT

ENDOWMENT FUND

The endowment fund consists of gifts (primarily bequests from estates) Third Church has received over many years. The fund currently has a \$317,799 balance. Per policy, fund principal may not be spent but interest earned may be used for benevolent purposes.

GENERAL FUND

While the entire general fund budget is directed toward helping one another find freedom in Jesus, the benevolence portion is sent out to support ministries focused on expanding the kingdom locally, regionally and globally. The 2026 total benevolence budget equals \$1,375,000 or 25.0% of offering which means that 25 cents of each \$1.00 donated to the general fund is sent out to bless other ministries. The benevolence budget is made up of the following two pieces: benevolence ministries support and the benevolence fund.

BENEVOLENCE MINISTRIES

This is support for the ministries listed on this page with gifts totaling \$1,100,000 or 20% of budgeted offering. Many of these ministries have been supported by Third Church for many years.

MISSIONARIES

Marcy Schuring (Waipi Tribe in Brazil)
Reuben & Lydia Schuring (Ka'apor Tribe in Brazil)
Rodney & Ruth Schuring (Construction projects and short term missions in Brazil)
Russell & Becky Schuring (Javae Tribe in Brazil)
Reed's (Asia)
Dykstra's (Asia)
Tilek (Middle East)

COLLEGES/SEMINARIES

Central College Campus Ministry (Pella, Iowa)
Central College (Pella, Iowa)
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Northwestern College (Orange City, Iowa)
Western Theological Seminary

LOCAL MINISTRY PARTNERS

Bethany Christian Services	Pella Christian Grade School
Christian Opportunity Center	Pella Christian High School
Creation Station Preschool	Right Now Media
Crossroads of Pella	The Well
FCA	Together for Good
Good Samaritan Clinic	
Harvest House Healing Ministry	
Hospice of Pella	
Pathways of Pella	

REGIONAL MINISTRY

PARTNERS

Abide Ministries
Adult & Teen Challenge
Child Evangelism Fellowship
Corum Deo
Habitat for Humanity
Hope Faith Ministries
Hope Ministries
Lakeview Camps
Short-Term Missions
Vital Ministries

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

PARTNERS

Africa Hope Center
CROP Walk
Many Hands for Haiti
Mission India
Mobility World Wide IA-Leighton
Safe Water International Ministries
Short-Term Missions
Third Church Quilting Groups
West Africa Theological Seminary
Words of Hope

DISCRETIONARY

(one-time gifts for other ministries)

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Over the years the financial condition of Third Church has improved due to a combination of expense control and increased offering. This improvement put us in a position to create the benevolence fund in 2016 with 5% of general fund offering going into the fund. The fund is used to support significant kingdom advancing causes.

Through April of 2025, gifts totaling \$1,705,000 have been paid out of the benevolence fund.

WEBSITE PRESENCE

YEAR TO DATE

24,126

FIRST VISITS

49,931

TOTAL WEBSITE SESSIONS

TRAFFIC ACQUISITIONS:

Organic Search: **53%**

Direct: **40%**

Referral: **8%**

Organic Social: **3%**

TOP PERFORMING PAGES:

Homepage: **29,116**

Staff: **5,953**

New Here: **2,025**

EMAIL PRESENCE

Continually updated email format to improve communication
Email list grown to 1,876

Average open rate is above the industry average

Heaven
is Coming
to Earth



SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

4,338 Followers across social platforms

443 Net Audience Growth

IMPLEMENTED INSTAGRAM REELS AND TOOK PART IN TRENDS

From these reels we reached over 121,000 people with a 247% increase from last year.



THIRD CHURCH

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MAY THE
LORD BLESS
YOU AND
KEEP YOU.