



MOSAIC

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

FALL 2024

*To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known  
with Head, Hands, and Heart*

September 8

## LITURGIES OF BELONGING

Alberto La Rosa, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Western Theological Seminary

This talk will explore two liturgies of belonging. One is a popular liturgy that is at play in many churches in the North American context, a liturgy that tries to cultivate a sense of belonging and home around a theology and practices that disconnect people from land, place, and culture. The other, alternative liturgy, is one that invites people into a shared sense of home and belonging in the world around a theology and set of practices that root us rather than displace us.

September 15

## UNDERSTANDING THE WANDERERS: SPIRITUAL YEARNERS AND RELIGIOUS DONES

Daryl Van Tongeren, Associate Professor of Psychology at Hope College

The landscape of religion is changing in the United States. More people are leaving religion and seeking to meet their spiritual needs outside of traditional religion. This talk examines cutting edge research to better

understand religious dones (those who have left religion) and spiritual yearners (those who still desire spiritual connection). Practical applications for people of all faith traditions will be discussed.

September 22

## HOME, BITTERSWEET HOME

Christy Berghoef, Contemplative Photographer, Worship Leader and Writer

Christy Berghoef was raised on a small 40 acre farm on the south side of Holland, Michigan. After decades away she moved back with her husband and four young children, raising them on the same land she grew up frolicking about barefoot with her hands in the dirt, the sun on her cheeks and the rain in her hair. But the challenges of moving back to a small community after her mind and heart had expanded to embrace new perspectives, brought a bitterness to the sweet nostalgia she was longing for, leading her to question the wisdom of coming home, wondering if home could ever really be home again. Through struggle and searching, she eventually rediscovered the beauty of home and found a way to navigate the hardship of home, fully settling herself into it.

September 29

## WHY HOME NOW?

Pastor Ryan Boes

Why is TRC spending some time thinking about home this fall? What are the intersections between The Text of Scripture, the Context of Scripture, and our shared Context here at TRC? Why is it so important for us to be having this conversation about home now? Pastor Ryan will walk through some of the background stories and circumstances that make this such a timely sermon series and how it fits into the broader vision of TRC.

October 6

## FAITH ON THE MOVE

Jim “Santiago” Padilla DeBorst, Missionary with Resonate Global Mission and former Cross-Cultural Consultant for Third

Jim “Santiago” Padilla DeBorst is a missionary with the CRCNA’s Resonate Global Mission. He and his wife, Ruth, split their time between Holland, Michigan, where Ruth is on the faculty of Western Theological Seminary, and Costa Rica where they live as members of Casa Adobe, an intentional Christian community with deep concern

for right living in relation to the whole of creation. This session will discuss the faith of migrants or the faith of stagnants.

October 13

## ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL INEQUITIES: A CLOSER LOOK AT HOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Nick Cassidy, Superintendent, Holland Public Schools

Holland Public Schools Superintendent Nick Cassidy will address the ongoing challenges of inequities in education, including racial inequity. We’ll explore the root causes of academic disparities, the district’s efforts to bridge these gaps, and how our community can actively support these initiatives.

October 20

## CREATING HOME AWAY FROM HOME: THE BEAUTY OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Phil and Gretchen Tanis

The Rev. Dr. Gretchen Schoon Tanis, founding pastor of the RELISH congregation in Hanover, Germany, and her husband Phil Tanis, former communication executive

for the World Communion of Reformed Churches, will discuss how they created a worshiping home away from home for not only themselves but also for a diverse group of local and international people.

October 27

## LITERARY HOMESICKNESS

Mark Hiskes, retired high school English teacher and Third member

It's as old as Homer's Odyssey and as contemporary as Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. In this session we'll explore how well-known authors, past and present, have portrayed home as that insatiable yearning for the place C.S. calls "our true country."

November 3

## TALKING ACROSS THE DIVIDE

Dan Rooks, Clinical psychologist and Third member

With a Presidential election at hand and the holiday season fast approaching, how do we talk with family, friends, and neighbors who have different political views than we do? Today's highly partisan atmosphere, fueled by social media, makes this dilemma more pronounced than ever. And religious faith

complicates things when both Republicans and Democrats make moral judgments of each other. Is there a way forward other than choosing to be polite and making politics and religion taboo subjects when families and friends gather? How can we engage in meaningful conversation across the divide?

November 10

## OUR HOME IN MOZAMBIQUE

Chad and Dana VandenBosch, RCA Missionaries serving as ASM Africa Director and Compassionate Care Coordinator

Chad and Dara VandenBosch will share about their lives in the mission field in Mozambique and their work with Audio Scripture, palliative care nursing, art therapy, and agroforestry. They will also share about how they created a home for themselves and their three adopted children. Joel and Harper Schoon-Tanis will join them, having spent two weeks with them this past spring.

November 17 TBD

November 29 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Weekend

Dec 1

## WATERSHED DISCIPLESHIP

Ruth Padilla DeBorst, Associate Professor of  
World Christianity at Western Seminary

Dr. DeBorst lives in Costa Rica as a member of Casa Adobe, an intentional Christian Community with deep concern for right living in relation to the whole of creation. She will speak on living well within our natural boundaries.

Dec 8

## SONGS OF THE SEASON AND THE STORIES BEHIND THEM

Karen and Steve Stam, musician, retired  
pastor, and Third members

Karen and Steve Stam will guide the class in getting to know more about some pieces of beloved music of the season. This final session of the semester will include both a time presenting, as well as time to sing and enjoy hymns and songs together, with Karen accompanying on piano.





THIRD  
*Reformed Church*