



THIRD  
*Reformed Church*

MOSAIC

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES  
WINTER/SPRING 2026

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

January 11

## FAITH IN ACTION: HOW OUR CHURCH CAN STRENGTHEN LOCAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Becky Velthouse, Bethany Christian Services, and Tracy Hernandez, Ottawa Area ISD

This session will explain Bethany Christian Services' Safe Families for Children Program. Becky, Safe Families for Children Coordinator, and Tracy, Attendance and Engagement Consultant, will highlight community needs, the program in general, and practical opportunities for "Family Friends" volunteer support.

January 18

## FROM WELCOME TO BELONGING

Janelle Sievert, M.Ed, Educational Consultant from All Belong Center for Inclusive Education, and Third Church Member

The church can be a meaningful place for people to experience belonging and grow in their faith, but individuals with disabilities and their families often face barriers to full participation. Join us as we explore ways that a church can become a place where all people belong and contribute fully to the life of the community.

January 25

## THE BODY AND CHRIST AND FUNERALS

Third's Pastoral Staff

The pastoral staff of TRC would like to engage with us on the topic of funerals. In a low stakes conversation, they would like to share What is a funeral? What does the body of Christ say when it gathers for a service to mark the end of life? And, how does TRC work behind the scenes together to make these moments meaningful in the life of the family and our congregation?

February 1

## IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fred Johnson, PhD. Professor of History, Hope College

Dr. Fred L. Johnson III is the Guy Vander Jagt '53 Professor of History at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. He earned his Masters and doctorate degrees at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. His primary field of study is 19th Century U.S. History, specifically, the Civil War. His other areas of expertise include: 20th Century U.S., U.S. Military, and Africa. Dr. Johnson has been a frequent presenter for our Mosaic class over the years.

February 8

## CALVIN AND THE REFUGEES

Angela Carpenter, Associate Professor of Reformed Theology and Third Church Member

One of the major social issues that John Calvin faced in 16th century Geneva was a flood of Protestant refugees from Catholic France. Come learn about Calvin's response to the refugee crisis and what it might have to teach us about the church and refugees today.

February 15

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN PRACTICE IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Michael St. Marie, Western Seminary Student and Ministry Support Intern at Third

This class will give an overview of practices of restorative justice in the early church and how they can be used in our modern context.

February 22

## A SEASON OF WEEKLY COMMUNION

Pastor Ryan and Governing Elders

The governing elders invite you into their discernment around trying a practice of weekly communion in our Easter season. The elders hope to share their learning, offer some hoped-for-outcomes, and answer your questions and hear your thoughts about what this may mean for our community to engage in a season of weekly communion.

March 1

## HEARING GOD IN MANY ACCENTS

Joash John, Western Seminary Student and High School Youth Intern at Third

The church is called to listen to many voices—people from different cultures, languages, and stories—because God speaks through all his people. Being a global church means seeing ourselves as part of God's kingdom, not just one country or culture. Together, we reflect the fullness of Christ's body when every voice is heard and valued.

March 8

NO CLASS

March 15

**BEYOND HYPE AND FEAR:  
A CHRISTIAN GUIDE TO  
GENERATIVE AI**

Deb Van Duinen, Professor of Education,  
Hope College, and Third Church Member

AI is not just a new gadget; it raises spiritual and moral questions about truth, agency, wisdom, and what it means to be human. In this talk we will learn what GenAI is, how it is already shaping education, work, and everyday life, and how these tools can quietly form our habits of attention and care. Together we will consider how Christians can engage AI without either idolatry or fear—seeking faithful, humane, neighbor-loving uses of powerful technology.

March 22 and 29

**LOOKING AT WORLD RELIGIONS  
THROUGH A CHRISTIAN LENS**

Dr. John Hubers, RCA missionary (retired)  
and Third Church Member

In this two part series, Dr. John Hubers will share out of his experience teaching world religions to undergraduates for ten years. Week one will be an exploration of the term “religion”; week two an examination and discussion swirling around various ways Christians have come to understand how to fit the diverse religions of the world into a Christian world view.

April 5

EASTER—NO CLASS

April 12

## WHY THE DUTCH EMIGRATED TO NORTH AMERICA

Paul Heusinkveld, U.S. Department of State (retired)

Why did the Dutch immigrate to North America and, specifically to Holland, Michigan? This presentation will discuss the primary reasons (spoiler: freedom of religious expression was one). Rev. Van Raalte's role in encouraging and leading the emigration will also be discussed.

April 19

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN A DIGITAL AGE

Pastor Ryan and Pastor Janelle

With the advent of Zoom and more digital engagement in worship, as well as cultural shifts around us, how do we think about membership here at TRC in an intergenerational context? How do we work to maintain connection and support and community? Join Pastor Ryan and Pastor Janelle as they share with us about the challenges, opportunities and blessings of a changing church membership landscape and our ever present need to belong.

April 26

## THE ENDURING SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Dr. Robert Van Voorst, Professor of New Testament, Western Theological Seminary (retired) and Third Church Member

We will do a close reading of the four Easter accounts in the Gospels, showing how their various thematic emphases have a continuing significance in the church and for the world. We will also deal with a variety of misunderstandings of Jesus' resurrection.

May 3

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—NO CLASS

May 10

## THE LORD'S PRAYER AS A PSALM

Dr. Kurt Schaefer, Professor Emeritus (Calvin University) of History of Economic Thought and MDiv, Calvin Seminary

We shouldn't be surprised that Jesus, the Son of David, was also a song writer. The Beatitudes and The Lord's Prayer are both structured as psalms, and reading them through the conventions of psalm writing can help open up their meaning.

May 17

## RELIGION ON THE DOCK: WHAT A FAITH-FRIENDLY SUPREME COURT MEANS FOR THE CHURCH

David Ryden, Professor of Political Science,  
Hope College

Cases involving conflicts over the meaning of the 1st Amendment religion clauses have been a regular subject on the docket of the U.S.

Supreme Court in recent years. The Court has shown itself to be highly solicitous of religion, even as religious commitments and practice have steadily waned in America. We will review the most significant judicial decisions and consider their significance for the church.

