THIRD
Reformed Church

MOSAIC

Adult Education Series
Fall 2026

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

September 13, 2026

Augustine Today

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

Join us as we kick off our new semester with reflections on St. Augustine and his relevance today.

September 20, 2026

An Introduction to Ephesians

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

We will briefly consider the current scholarly approaches to Ephesians and then give an outline of its contents. Some attention will be paid to issues of "spiritual warfare" and household relationships. Throughout, we will explore what Ephesians means for the church today.

September 27, 2026

CETI Small Groups

Pastor Ryan Boes

Third Church has launched some new small groups this fall. Join Pastor Ryan as he shares some background on the curriculum, its origins, and the goals for the groups that are meeting.

October 4, 2026

Our Family Is Not a Tree: Stories of God's Faithfulness on Our Journey As Refugee Foster Parents

Laura Boonstra, foster parent; Jody Waits, Samaritas; and Daniel Soza, Samaritas Refugee Youth Services

Hear about the work that Samaritas is doing for refugee youth in Michigan, including stories from foster parent Laura Boonstra as shared in her recent book about her family's experience caring for children in the foster care system. Learn more about the ongoing trials these youth face, the blessings and faith-stretching experienced by families walking alongside them, and the opportunities for people in all walks of life to support them.

October 11, 2026

Roosevelt Park Rising: A Memoir of the Renewal of a Pastor, a Church, and a Neighborhood

Rev. Reginald Smith, Diversity Consultant

What are the lessons for a black pastor of a white Dutch Reformed church in a Latino neighborhood in urban Grand Rapids? Come and hear Pastor Reggie Smith's insightful and funny stories of ordinary redemption for any church wanting inspiration.

October 18,2026

"Praying From the Future" The Backstory!

George Hunsberger

How the story behind this sermon (preached at TRC during Easter season in 2025) holds the fundamental clue for living "between the times."

October 25, 2026

The Peaceable Kingdom: The Al Amana Centre and Interfaith Dialogue

Kathy Schoon-Tanis, Third Church Member, with travel partners Jean and Steve Norden and Kristen Gray

Oman's unique global position creates a welcoming environment for meaningful connections across diverse communities. Located in Muscat, the Al Amana Centre fosters peace and reconciliation through immersive, interfaith experiences. Presenters will introduce Oman and the Centre, sharing insights and reflections from their November 2025 trip. They will also briefly comment on what the current war between the US and Iran means for the region

November 1, 2026

Giving Smarter: Tax-Efficient Charitable Strategies

Luke Panning, Wealth Advistor and Third Church Member

Year-end is when many of us think about giving. The best strategy depends on your life stage and circumstances, and recent tax law changes make it more important than ever to give thoughtfully. This session covers donor-advised funds, qualified charitable distributions, gifts of stock, and gifts of non-cash assets, along with the behavioral biases that shape how we give.

November 8, 2026

Drawing Nearer to God with the Poems of George Herbert

Suzanne McDonald, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Western Theological Seminary

Some poets are so immersed in scripture, have such a deep relationship with God, and are able to express all of that so luminously, that they can become prayer-partners and faith-mentors for us. George Herbert is one of those. We will learn a little about his life, explore some of his poetry, and discover how his example can help us to find the words — and the courage — to be honest and vulnerable about the struggles as well as the joys of our relationship with God.

November 15 and November 22, 2026

Christian Nationalism and American History

James Bratt, Professor of History, emeritus, Calvin University

Religion has always been involved with politics in America—on the left, right, and center. What makes the claims of Christian nationalism today distinctive on this landscape, or are they typical of past movements? How do they compare to the Founders' ideas—and which "founders," those of 1787 Philadelphia or those of 1630 Massachusetts? Our two sessions will try to sort out what is both a frightening phenomenon and a complicated set of questions, realities, and historical experiences.

November 29, 2026

Thanksgiving Break—No Class

December 6, 2026

The Making of "Angel's Adventure", a Children's Picture Book

Harper Schoon-Tanis, Amy Lunn, Katherine Hunsberger, and Krystal Bulthuis, Third Church Members

"Angel's Adventure" began as a 2025 summer LIFT project with the children of Third Church. Join us as we trace the book's journey from its original conception to publication, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process. At the heart of the presentation is Harper's unique artistic vision and technique, which brought Angel's story to life.

December 13, 2026

Third's Stained Glass Windows

Nella Kennedy, Senior Research Fellow at the A.C. Van Raalte Institute and Third Church member

The stained-glass windows at Third Reformed Church have enhanced the sanctuary since 1946 and have complemented what was known by the worshipers about the life of Jesus Christ. Perhaps some of the windows have become favorites. Are they are especially moving? True to the biblical account? A suggestion: Sometime before the class on December 13, walk around the sanctuary (especially on a sunny day) and share your thoughts or comments during class time, if you are so inclined. Apart from dwelling on the contents or impact of the windows, I would like to talk about the fair amount of information available in the archives about the process. They tell a story about the creation of the windows. How were they selected and who made the choices?


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