



Curiosity

Being curious about what we don't know helps us.
We can better understand our world and those around us.
When we are not curious, we can become afraid.
Yet Jesus repeatedly told people to "be not afraid".

Third Reformed Church adult education is becoming curious this school year. High school students are invited to join us! Each Sunday morning we'll meet on Zoom promptly at 9 to learn about and discuss a topic for 45 minutes. Arriving five or ten minutes early will ensure you hear announcements prior to class beginning.

Check out these thought-provoking offerings.
Join us through the link on the trcholland.org homepage.



Third Reformed Church

Adult Education Chapel Class

September, 2020 - May, 2021

Sundays

9:00 - 9:45 am

Join through the link at:

trcholland.org

Sept 13, 20 [The Bible, the Church, Slavery and Racism](#)

John Brogan, Associate Academic Dean

Western Theological Seminary

What does the Bible mean when it uses the word “slave”? How has the Bible been used historically to support slavery? What has been the church’s role in racism both historically and in our day?

Sept 27 [Reckoning with our History](#)

Fred Johnson, Associate Professor of History

Hope College

Recently there has been a sweeping review of long-standing traditions which have their roots in racism: the Confederate flag, memorials and statues, team names, and much more. Dr. Johnson will give historical context to these issues.

Oct 4 [Racial Stereotypes](#)

Fred Johnson, Associate Professor of History

Hope College

We may think we’re well past minstrel shows and songs, but their remnants became embedded in our current culture. Can we spot those lingering stereotypes and their influence on us today?

Oct. 11 [African American Artistic Contributions](#)

Fred Johnson, Associate Professor of History

Hope College

Many people may not know that there was an African American film industry in the 1920s and 1930s. Called “race movies,” these were made by Black people for Black people.

Oct 18, 25 Gospel Thinking (and Voting) in an Upside Down World

David Ryden, Professor of Political Science
Hope College

The election is around the corner, and David Ryden will offer insight and context for what's ahead.

Nov 1 American Exceptionalism

Dennis Voskuil, member of Third Church
Senior Research Fellow at the Van Raalte Institute

This session will be an exploration of the manner in which Christians have often viewed America as a chosen land (a new Israel) and the complicated results of that view.

Nov 8 African American Denominations

Dennis Voskuil, member of Third Church
Senior Research Fellow at the Van Raalte Institute

Historically, many African Americans' experience with Christianity began because of exposure to the faith of their slave owners. When did they develop their own denominations and how did various branches emerge?

Nov 15 Brian Doyle and *A Book of Uncommon Prayer*

Jeff Munroe, member of Third Church
Executive Vice President (*retired*)
Western Theological Seminary

Brian Doyle (1956-2017) was the editor of Portland Magazine at the University of Portland, in Oregon. He is the author of many books and described himself as "the ambling shambling Oregon writer." Jeff Munroe will offer an introduction to this fascinating spiritual writer, especially focusing on his book, *A Book of Uncommon Prayer*.

Nov 22 The Magical Realism of Brian Doyle

Mark Hiskes, member of Third Church
High School English teacher; Holland Christian

Magical realism is a story set in a realistic environment containing magical elements. Part of the draw of magical realism is that it blurs the line between realistic fiction and fantasy. Mark Hiskes will share how author Brian Doyle uses magical realism in his writing.

Nov 29 The English Bible – from Wycliffe to 1900
Bob Van Voorst, member of Third Church
Professor of New Testament Studies (*retired*)
Western Theological Seminary

The history of Bible translations into English is a fascinating tale from its uncertain and at times violent beginnings to its dynamic state today. We will examine how various Bible translations have been meant for different audiences. We will also consider the most frequently asked questions about Bible translations: “Which translation is most accurate?” and “Which one is right for me?”

Dec 6 The English Bible – from 1900 to 2020
Bob VanVoorst, member of Third Church
Professor of New Testament Studies (*retired*)
Western Theological Seminary

In this session, we will examine the main lines of Bible translation and commercial Bible publishing in the last hundred years or so. The rise of the Revised Standard Version and the New Revised Standard Version will be discussed. The rise of paraphrases will also be treated. Finally, we will consider the very popular New International Version and other more specialized versions such as the Common English Version and the English Standard Version.

Winter Break

December 13 through January 3, 2021

Jan 10, 17, 24 Women in the Bible
Lynn Japinga, Professor of Religion
Hope College

Dr. Japinga will give new life to overlooked women in the scriptures. Discovering how God acts in these people and their stories helps us to experience God’s Word anew. On January 10 and 17, Dr. Japinga will focus on women of the Old Testament. On January 24, she will on women’s stories within the New Testament.

Jan 31 Oppression of Indigenous People in Mexico
Angel Lopez, pastor of *El Encuentro*
Third Reformed Church

As you know, Christopher Columbus did not discover North America; there were people already here. Pastor Angel Lopez' ancestors were some of those people. He will offer a history lesson from an indigenous point of view.

Feb 7 Update on life at the Mexico/U.S. Border
Angel Lopez, pastor of *El Encuentro*
Third Church

We will hear an update about the current state of life at the border between Ciudad Jarez and El Paso, Texas. Updates will include news on Angel's brother, Pastor Samuel, and his congregation which ministers to refugees in Mexico.

Feb 14 Current Challenges for Refugees
Tim Nolan, executive director
Bethany Christian Services, Holland

One of the purposes of Bethany is guiding, protecting, advocating for, and supporting refugees. In the U.S., Bethany offers resettlement and continued support services in strategic locations. Tim will share an update on what the latest realities are for immigrants.

Feb 21 A Lifetime in Missions: Margaret and Harvey Doornbos
Paul Heusinkveld
U.S Dept. of State (*retired*)

Dr. Harvey and Margaret Doornbos, members of our congregation, spent much of their adult years in the mission field. Paul Heusinkveld is a child of Arabian missionaries and is the editor of Margaret's compilation, entitled *Margaret's Mission to Arabia, Africa & India, 1965-2010.* It recounts decades of selfless medical, educational and spiritual service. Harvey and Margaret gave to the needy, especially the poor and downtrodden, in Arabia and Africa.

Feb 28 Male Writers in the Harlem Renaissance
Stephen Hemenway, Professor of English
Hope College

Poetry collections by such male writers as Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, and Jean Toomer continue to play significant roles in African-American and mainstream literature today. Some of these authors also wrote influential dramas, novels, and memoirs. Their works connect to political and musical contributions by W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Paul Robeson, Louis Armstrong, and Duke Ellington.

March 7 Female Writers in the Harlem Renaissance
Stephen Hemenway, Professor of English
Hope College

Dr. Hemenway continues the theme of writers in the Harlem Renaissance, this week focusing on female writers. Memorable novels by such female writers as Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, Jessie Faucet, and Dorothy West examined the powerful and influential roles of African-American women in the creative culture of this "New Negro Movement" in the USA. Their works connect to the contemporary achievements of Bessie Smith, Josephine Baker, and A'Lelia Walker.

Mar 14 Historical Christian Responses to Pandemics
Kent Fry, Pastor of Leadership and Preaching
Third Church

Although our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic is unique to us, pandemics are not new to those who have gone before. Historically the Christian church has responded to each pandemic in various ways. Pastor Kent will talk about what the church today can learn from how the church has responded in the past.

March 21 Illustrated Gospels
Nella Kennedy, member of Third Church
Senior Research Fellow and Official Translator,
Van Raalte Institute

Papyri and codices were already illustrated in ancient Greek and Roman texts, and in spite of the Jewish proscription against depicting biblical personages, the early Christians increasingly followed the unbelievers' practice. Examples of the earliest illustrated Gospels to the late fifteenth century will be shown and analyzed.

March 28 40: The Gospels
Joel Schoon-Tanis, member of Third Church
Artist, Author, Musician, Business person

40: The Gospels is Joel's most recent book which highlights 40 important stories found in the Gospels. Additionally, a booklet with meditations written by a variety of people shares the meaning of each story. What was involved in bringing Joel's vision to fruition? Joel will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the inspiration for his illustration choices, the development of ideas, and some technical insights on making it happen.

April 4 No education; Easter/Spring Break

April 11 Creation Care Begins with You
Mark Faga, member of Third Church
Facilities Director, Third Church

Our church facilities director, Mark Faga, has written many newsletter articles on practical ways ordinary people can tend to our creation's welfare. They may seem small and insignificant if we believe we are alone. This session will help us recognize we are a part of a larger movement, and will give suggestions on additional practices that can occur in our daily living.

April 18 Good News in Local Environmentalism
Presenter: TBA

We can celebrate that our hometown is forward-thinking in terms of creation care. In this session, we'll hear about measures that our city is taking to help sustain our corner of the earth.

April 25 Understanding our Social Identities
Robyn Afrik, Director of Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion, Ottawa County

Ottawa County's vision of the new office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a simple one: "Where You Belong." Robyn Afrik, Director, will help enable each of us to play an important part in making this vision a reality. She will share information about the DEI, the power of belonging, and the work to come.

May 2, 9 RCA Church Governance
Dan Griswold
Pastor and Classis Coordinator
Holland Classis, RCA

Dan Griswold will spend two weeks with us. On May 2, Dan will clarify the governance and structure of our denomination. Having a clear understanding of how we function helps us to understand how changes happen or do not happen within the RCA. On May 9, Dan will provide a preview of decisions that our General Synod delegates will face in June, 2021. A primary point of business will focus on the report that was 2 years in the making, called "Vision 2020". This report can be accessed on the denominational website: rca.org

May 16, 19 TBA

We express sincere thanks to each presenter for the time they have taken to plan for their class(es) and to be with us.

*Also, thank you to the following people who have planned our adult education chapel class schedule, who reached out to our guests and who collaborated with one another:
Nella Kennedy, Jeff Munroe, Laurie Orlow, Margaret VanGrouw,
Pastor Kama Jongerius*

