Sunday Seminar

**May 6**

*Islam for Presbyterians*

Led by **Dr. Muhammad Shafiq**, Professor of Religious Studies at Nazareth College and Executive Director in the Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue

This is your opportunity to engage in interfaith study, to explore the tenets and practices of Islam. Dr. Shafiq will give an overview on the substance of Islamic faith and practice followed by a time for questions and answers.

**May 13, 20, 27**

*The Church and the Civil Rights Movement*

Led by **Rod Frohman**, Pastor Emeritus

**May 13**—From Emancipation to Angela Davis: An Overview

“By the end of the 19th century Blacks had been barred from practically all of the skilled jobs they had held during slavery.” – Benjamin Quarles

“The white race in America will not admit the Negro to equal rights if not forced to do so.” – Reinhold Niebuhr, 1932

**May 20**—The Trajectory of White Church Civil Rights Leadership: An Apogee and a Perigee

“So intense was the commitment of northern Protestant churches to Radical Reconstruction that they caused Congress to impeach President Andrew Johnson in 1868.” …“Symbolizing the early 20th Century retreat of the white churches [from civil rights advocacy] was the silence of Walter Rauschenbusch,” the best-known leader of the Social Gospel movement. – Sydney Ahlstrom

**May 27**—The Presbyterians and the Civil Rights Movement

“The record is clear, with rare exception, the southern Presbyterians did little for Blacks and almost nothing with them.” – Ronald C. White, Jr.

The northern Presbyterians bought into the southern system of “separate but equal“ which meant that northern Presbyterian mission in the former Confederate States conformed to southern culture of segregation.

**June 3 and 10**

*Sunday Seminar and Growing in the Word will meet together in June.*

**Esther: The Hidden Face of God**

Led by Jim Stewart

Only ten chapters long, the pseudo-historical tale of Esther is one of only two books in the Bible where “God” is not mentioned at all. However, as Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has suggested, Esther herself can be seen as the “hidden face of God” in the story.
There is much in the narrative that is politically incorrect! Queen Vashti is banished because she refuses her husband’s “reasonable” request that she appear before an all-male drinking fest clad only in her crown. New Queen Esther, a Jew, aided by her clever foster father, Mordecai, uses all her feminine charms to outwit the evil Haman and save her people.

In the end, the Book of Esther is an etiology describing how the festival of Purim came to be. In these two interactive sessions, we will do a close reading of the text looking for God’s word of liberation for us in this somewhat unconventional biblical book. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to read “Esther” prior to the sessions.

June 17—No gatherings

Growing in the Word

*Exploring the Bible one book at a time.*

**May 6**
The Miracle at the Red Sea
Exodus 14:1-31

**May 13**
Thunder and Lightning, Fire and Smoke
Exodus 19:1-25

**May 20**
The Ten Commandments: Part 1
Exodus 20:1-7

**May 27**
The Ten Commandments: Part II
Exodus 20:8-17

Thursday Voices

*In May, we will engage with the PCUSA study resource “Hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**May 3**
Salvation and its result
Led by Lynette Sparks

**May 10**
We believe in one God
Led by John Wilkinson
May 17
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
Led by Ernest Krug
Lines 89-176

May 24
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life
Led by Martha Langford

May 31 - No gathering.
Summer Sundays with TEDx

Beginning on June 24th, we will move to summer programming. Sundays will bring the opportunity to watch select TED talks and then engage in group discussion on some of the pressing issues of our times.

9:00 in Johnston Hall

June 24

Can a divided America heal? by Jonathan Haidt
Led by Lynette Sparks

July 1

10 ways to have a better conversation by Celeste Headlee
and 5 ways to listen better by Julian Treasure
Led by Karen Walker

July 8

We need to talk about an injustice by Bryan Stevenson
Led by Karen Abbas

July 15

Why design should include everyone by Sinéad Burke
and How architecture can create dignity for all by John Cary
Led by Paul Gongloff

July 22

We should all be feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Led by Beth Struever

July 29

My son was a Columbine shooter: This is my story by Sue Klebold
Led by Beth Struever

August 5

The urgency of intersectionality by Kemberle Crenshaw
Led by Mary Cowden

August 12
**The power of vulnerability** by Brené Brown
Led by Mary Cowden

**August 19**

**The gift and power of emotional courage** by Susan David
Led by Beth Struever

**August 26**

**Reconnecting with compassion** by Krista Tippett
Led by Ernest Krug

### Summer of the Century

*Once again, Thursday Voices morphs into Summer of the Century. All are invited to bring a lunch and join in the discussion of select articles from The Christian Century. The articles will be available in the literature rack outside of Johnston Hall.*

**Thursdays at 12:00 in Johnston Hall**

**Jun 7**

How should campus sexual assault accusations be judged
Led by Mary Cowden

**Jun 14**

A Pastor’s Me Too Story
Led by Carolyn Grohman

**Jun 21**

How Michelle Obama subverted respectability politics with a ponytail
Led by Paul Gongloff

**Jun 28**

Wilderness: Essays by readers
Led by Mary Cowden

**Jul 5**

No gathering
**Jul 12**
A political scientist tries to understand her state’s rural residents
Led by Paul Gongloff

**Jul 19**
The Babel story is about the dangers of uniformity
Led by Lynette Sparks

**Jul 26**
Surprise: Essays by readers
Led by TBD

**Aug 2**
The housed, the homeless, and the right to be somewhere
Led by Beth Struever

**Aug 9**
The poor we will always have with us?
Led by Beth Struever

**Aug 16**
What does it mean to hope?
Led by Paul Gongloff

**Aug 23**
When I needed a gratitude intervention
Led by Mary Cowden

**Aug 30**
Door: Essays by readers
Led by Ernest Krug