

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**