

2010 Summer Sunday Seminar Series
BIG GOD, BIG QUESTIONS:
Tackling Perennial Questions of Faith

July 11

“Why Evil?”

John James writes, “Perhaps the greatest of all religious problems is that known as the problem of evil, and the conflict we feel in this instance is between our belief in a God and a fact of experience; more precisely, between belief in a God who is both loving and almighty, and the prevalence of evil in his world.” If God is all-loving and all-powerful, then why does God allow evil? Pastor Josh will tackle this perennial question.

July 18

**“Can We Coexist?
Comparing Religions.”**

A popular bumpersticker spells the word “coexist” using the symbols of many different faiths. Western society is now pluralist—meaning our neighbors now hold a wide variety of religious beliefs. Can we coexist? Toward greater awareness and understanding, Pastor Josh will offer a generous comparison of some of the world’s great faith traditions.

July 25

“Will All Be Saved?”

The question gets asked in a number of different ways: Will all be saved? Do all roads lead to heaven? If my neighbor doesn’t know Jesus, then will she burn in hell? (The third way is not typically how Presbyterians ask it.) Pastor Josh will lead a discussion of different views on final destinations, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.

August 1

“What’s a Presbyterian?”

Did you notice that Pastor Mary disappeared for a couple of weeks in May? She was in central Europe, the birthplace of the Presbyterian tradition, preparing for this seminar! What about Reformed Christians is unique? Mary will talk about the origins and passions of the people called Presbyterians.

August 8

“What’s So Funny ‘Bout Peace, Love, and Understanding?”

What does the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have to say about the political issues of our day—especially those involving peacemaking? Our denomination does sometimes make statements or take stands for peace; notably, this summer’s General Assembly (a biannual national gathering) will wrestle with the conflict between Israel and Palestinians. In this seminar, Elder Leslie Rose will talk about what she has learned from multiple study trips to Israel.

August 15

“Faith and Science: Friends or Foes?”

Beginning in the early 17th century with Galileo’s discovery that the earth orbits the sun, faith and science have had a tense relationship. (Galileo, a Roman Catholic, was declared a heretic and placed under house arrest until his death.) Are faith and science friends or foes? Our own Bill Newsome, a neurobiology professor at Stanford, will talk about his conviction that faith and science can coexist. Bill recently lectured on this subject at the University of Cambridge.