

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES ADDRESSING FAITH QUESTIONS

The FMC Ministry Team and the Worship Planning Team have reviewed and discerned the questions the congregation has submitted for discussion. Below in bold is a schedule of the questions we will be addressing over the next few months, subject to changes. Watch the weekly bulletin for additional plans for the following Sunday, including suggested scripture passages to read in preparation for each Sunday. On every Sunday, a discussion of the morning's focus will follow during the Sunday School hour. Brenda Martin Hurst will provide focused discussion questions for each session and be present to facilitate this discussion.

- July 20 #1 God's involvement and intervention in our lives—how to pray?**
Does God intervene in our (believers) lives to help us and protect us from danger and harm? Should we pray for this? Doesn't God also see and respond to those who don't believe? How do we understand circumstances in which people prayed and the persons died or were not protected? Is God really in charge? Why isn't God more active in the world?
- July 27 #2 God's role in the timing of death and in healing**
What is God's role in the death of a 93 year-old and the death of a 59 year-old person? How do we reconcile the obvious unfairness and injustice of various premature death situations? How is God involved in healing and in death? Should we pray for healing? If so, how?
- Aug. 3 #3 Evil and suffering (Part 1)**
Why does God allow evil to persist and permit good people to suffer at the hands of others? Why doesn't God intervene to stop evil and to relieve suffering?
- Aug. 10 *Connecting with the Marginalized*
Ray Hurst, Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Shelter in Phoenixville will speak on the theme "Connecting with the Marginalized."
- Aug. 17 #4 Evil and suffering (Part 2)**
Sue Conrad, Associate Pastor of East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster, PA
- Aug. 24 #5 Human transformation**
Why doesn't faith empower people to change more completely? If we pray for transformation of sin and brokenness in our lives, why doesn't it happen? What transformation can we expect?
- Aug. 31 Back-to-School/Labor Day Sunday
- Sept. 7 #6 Poverty and injustice in the world**
Why am I poor? (friend of Matt Keiser in Costa Rica) Where is God in the appalling poverty of Central America? Where is God in the life of a 17-year-old kid who has prayed for freedom from poverty, prayed for a chance at a new life and prayed for comfort for his ailing mother for the past 10 years? Why is there pain, poverty and suffering in the world?
- Sept. 14 #7 God's judgment and hell**
Will God really send people to hell for not having the correct faith? Will God eternally punish and banish those who have not accepted the gift of God's grace? How do we reconcile that our God, who is a God of love and grace, is also a God of judgment?
- Sept. 21 Black Rock Retreat
- Sept. 28 #8 Is Jesus the only way?**
Is accepting Jesus Christ as your savior the ONLY way to find God? Is it true that no one gets to God except through Jesus? What about other religions?