# BYOB&B: Thinking Faithfully Out Loud

A Bible Study sponsored by: First Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, Faith Presbyterian Church,

Monmouth College Chaplain's Office

Session 4: Think Faithfully Out Loud about how we name God

Tuesday, October 28

Scripture: Exodus 3:13-22 "This is my name forever, and this is my title for all generations."

Why does Moses ask for a name from God?

Why is Moses speaking to God?

What name does God give, and how many other names/identities of God are used throughout just this passage?

#### **Connecting Scripture to today**

Think about worship ... how many different names or identities of God are used within worship?

When you pray, what name or identity of God is your preferred name or identity to use?

Is there a name or identity of God that you prefer to avoid, or that just bothers you when others use it?

Complete the sentence: God is \_\_\_\_\_

### Definitions as we begin this conversation

God v god Allah

Divine/Divinity Monotheism

Transcendent polytheism

Tetragrammaton (YHWH) Dualism

Yahweh

Adoni/the LORD

Lord

**Trinity** 

Incarnate

Jesus

Son of Man/Son of God

Son of David

**Holy Spirit** 

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The briefest synopsis of how we went from many to just one divine being we call God
This God is My God; This God is Your God
Jesus a catalyst for rightness with God
Post Jesus shifts in theological thinking
Thinking Theologically about God Today
So what do we do with all these competing ways of thinking about God?
Acknowledge our system of thinking theologically is just that — our way. Growing in faith is about being open to how others think theologically and entering those conversations honestly and openly.
Studying the history of theological thinking helps form a more solid understanding for why we have come to believe the ways we have.

### **Closing Prayer**

Ultimately trusting that God is not afraid of our exploring different ways of thinking theologically. God's existence is not dependent on our right thinking. Our thinking Theologically should, however, be done in a way

that is least harmful to creation and to neighbor, so that the ultimate goals of good may be achieved.