Creation program set at Calvary

Calvary Presbyterian Church invites the community to a free weekend program, "Beginnings: What Genesis Says (And Doesn't Say)," on Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 21, in the church's sanctuary, Seventh and Church streets.

The Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell, the James A. Kelso Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will lead this weekend of exploration. Tuell will explain how the Bible's Book of Genesis, 1-2, presents not one creation account, but two, which differ markedly from one another in order, style and conception of God and the world. These two accounts force Christians to ask new questions: What are these stories about? What is the effect of their combination? What are their implications for the relationship between science and faith?

The program begins on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. with registration, coffee and donuts. At 9:30 a.m., Tuell will present "Which Creation?" followed by the 10:45 a.m. session, "An Ordered World: Genesis 1:1-2:4a." A free lunch will be offered at noon.

Saturday afternoon's session start at 1:30 p.m. with "The Drama of Relationship: Genesis 2:4b-25," concluding with "Putting It Back Together: What Does Genesis 1-2 Mean?" Participants are urged to bring a Bibles with them to the program, and to read Genesis 1-2 in a variety of translations — including the New Revised Standard Version — before attending the sessions. On Sunday, Tuell continues to be Calvary's guest, presenting the 9:30 a.m. class "Interpretation of Scripture." He will give the sermon "How Would Jesus Read?" during the 11 a.m. service.

Tuell received his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Union Theological Seminary. He is the author of numerous books and articles and is a frequent contributor to the United Methodist Publishing House Adult Bible series. His most recent book is a commentary on Ezekiel, and he currently is working on a commentary on Nahum through Malachi.

All presentations are free and open to the public, but reservations for Saturday's lunch must be made by Monday, April 15, at noon, by calling the church office at (724) 463-9197.

The event is supported by a "Scientists in Congregations" grant to Calvary Presbyterian Church from the John Templeton Foundation.