

# ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

## Fall 2016



We are a *multigenerational, social justice oriented* community of joyful, imperfect people who *welcome absolutely everybody* with hospitality, openness and acceptance.

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# Fall 2016 Adult Education Classes

## Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Rev. Dr. Carol Miles



The prophet Micah tells the community of faith that doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God are the three things that are required of them (Micah 6:8). In this class Dr. Carol Miles will introduce us to various Old Testament texts that define and exemplify these community ethics, and lead us in a discussion of their implications for issues such as income inequality, immigration, and racial and class divisions. How might the church respond to--and perhaps even be--such a prophetic voice today?

Our friend and sometime teacher, the Rev. Dr. Carol Miles, has a Ph.D. in Practical Theology from Princeton Seminary and has taught on the faculties of two seminaries.

**Dates:** Sundays, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2

**Location:** Room 10

**Convener:** Minda Lucero

**Time:** 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

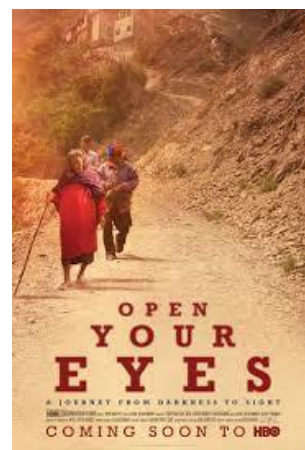
**Class Size:** 10-20

**Fee:** \$15

## Film: *Open Your Eyes*, a journey from darkness to sight

Living under the Himalayan sun, their eyes have slowly gone milky white. Manisara and Durga have cataracts, and their mountain home in Nepal has become a warren of darkness. Filmed over three days, *Open Your Eyes* follows their life-changing journey for a chance to see again. This 37 minute HBO documentary film is shot, edited, and directed by Irene Taylor Brodsky, an Oscar-nominated, Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker.

Join us for a taste of Nepalese food and a discussion of the problem of blindness around the world.



**Dates:** Sunday, October 16,

**Location:** Thornhill Room

**Convener:** Leslie Louie

**Time:** 11:30-1:00

**Size:** 20-30

**Suggested Fee:** \$5 for food

## Exploring White Privilege

Ben Daniel, Rod Chan, David Siegenthaler



As part of the Consultation on Church Union, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has pledged to "...Combat systematic white privilege as a hallmark of Churches uniting in Christ." In this series of classes, we will explore the history, causes, values, consequences, and possible remedies to the problem of systematic white privilege in the United States. Each of the classes will approach the issue from a particular perspective, including those of Native American displacement, Chinese exclusion and migration, and white ignorance.

*The Privilege of Ignorance – Sunday, October 23 / Ben Daniel*

"Because White Americans have privilege of remaining ignorant about atrocities of the past and injustice in the present, this session will explore how ignorance is a manifestation of privilege.

*The Doctrine of Discovery – Sunday, October 30 / David Siegenthaler*

How did a royal proclamation about indigenous title turn into a doctrine of discovery that, bolstered by a Supreme Court decision, helped to legitimize taking land from Native Americans? What is the legacy of this attitude and its legal expressions with which we must contend today? What more can be done to address the remaining inequities and the root causes that are consequences and perpetrators of white privilege?

*Chinese Exclusion and Migration – Sunday, November 6 / Rod Chan*

This session will include the culturally forgotten Chinese Exclusion laws and the effects on Rod's family history, an expanded background regarding our common history and heritage back to plus or minus 70,000 years, and a thought experiment regarding the default position that humans tend to take in our power relationships with each other.

**Dates:** Sundays, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6

**Location:** Room 10

**Convener:** Minda Lucero

**Times:** 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

**Class Size:** 10-20

**Fee:** None

## Past and Present Perspectives on Peacemaking

Ben Daniel

This three-part series is intended to be one step in the discernment process of our congregation addressing the possibility of becoming a "Peace Church." Those who sign up can attend any or all of the classes, as follows:

- October 15: Pastor Ben will help us explore the teachings of the Christian tradition on "just war" theories.
- October 22: We will consider a proposal Ben is developing for MPC to become a Peace Church.
- October 29: We will use the ideas raised in the first two meetings as a springboard to discuss David Swanson's book *War Is a Lie*. While the book is ostensibly secular, it is described by some readers as inspirational and comes from a place of moral outrage and moral clarity in its intention to dispel myths about so-called "good wars."



At the conclusion of the series, class members will be invited to participate in a Peace Church Study Group and/or further discussion of the book.

**Date:** Saturdays, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29

**Location:** Thornhill Room

**Convener:** Eloise Gilland

**Time:** 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**Class Size:** No limit

**Fee:** No fee / book recommended

## Apocalypse or Revelation of John

Dr. Jack Elliott



The last book of the Bible, the Apocalypse or Revelation of John, is a dramatic series of letters and cosmic scenarios of the past, present, and future, as the early Church struggled for survival in the Roman-controlled world of the late first century CE. We shall discuss this fascinating production of fact and fantasy, its message of resistance and hope, and its great influence on Western politics, art, music, cinema, and culture.

Dr. Jack Elliott is Professor Emeritus of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Francisco. He has written twelve books and stresses the historical, economic, social and political contexts of religion. He has taught at MPC before.

**Date:** Sundays, 1/8/16, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29

**Location:** Thornhill Room

**Convener:** Minda Lucero

**Time:** 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

**Class Size:** No limit

**Fee:** \$20

# Ongoing Classes

## The Many Faces of God

Sharon Noteboom

We read books to expand our understanding of our own faith tradition and to explore other religions. Discussions are always lively and spirited. September's book is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson and October's is *The Bonobo and the Atheist* by Frans De Waal. Books after that are not yet determined, If the book for each month is not published in Contact, you can contact the convener, Jean Gregory, or Sharon Noteboom for questions.



Sharon Noteboom is a teacher, student and longtime member of our church.

**Date:** First Saturday of each month

**Location:** Thornhill Room

**Convener:** Jean Gregory

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Class Size:** 8-12

**Fee:** none

## Pastor's Bible Study

Ben Daniel



If ever you have wanted to learn more about the Bible – not just as a document used to excuse bad behavior, but as an ancient, many-layered, sometimes beautiful, sometimes-awful text made holy by centuries of the faithful who have found comfort, hope and inspiration in its pages – then the Pastor's Bible Study is for you. Everyone is welcome!

**Date:** Wednesdays

**Location:** Thornhill Room

**Convener:** N/A

**Time:** 12:00 -1:30 p.m.

**Class Size:** 8-12

**Fee:** None

## Fall 2016 MPC Adult Education Class Information

### How do I participate in Adult Education Classes?

Adult Education classes are open to all adults. Participation means a commitment to [1] attendance, [2] any assigned preparation, and [3] notification to the convener when an absence will be unavoidable.

For additional information about the offerings, please come to sign-up tables during registration at Family Hour on **Sundays, September 4, 11, and 18** or contact the convener. Full payment is due upon registration. Scholarships are available. The church will provide childcare if requested. Contact one of the Adult Education co-chairs, Margaretha Derasary at 510-339-2282 or Linda Benson at 510-865-1215

### How else can I be involved with Adult Education?

You can contact one of the Adult Education co-chairs, Margaretha Derasary at 510-339-2282 or Linda Benson at 510-865-1215, for the following:

- If you would like to give a donation to or request a scholarship
- If you would like to become a convener (conveners attend the class for free)
- If you'd like to join the Adult Education committee
- If you would like to lead a class, or have an idea for a class you'd like to see