

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES
Spring 2018



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

Montclair Presbyterian Church
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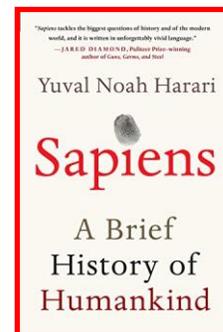
Spring 2018 Adult Education Classes

Sapiens: Book discussion

Rod Chan & Jan Gervolstad

Rod Chan and Jan Gervolstad will lead a discussion of the most dangerous animal on our planet today. This formidable breed has gone through many eras, has eliminated many species of plants and animals, and could conceivably destroy itself.

Rod and Jan became interested in this breed Homo-Sapiens after reading the book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari.



Rod and Jan are members of MPC.

Dates: Sundays, February 18, 25

Location: Room 10

Convener: Minda Lucero

Time: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

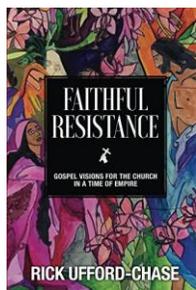
Class Size: 10-20

Fee: Donations Welcome

Faithful Resistance: Book discussion

Ben Daniel

Some Americans say that we are participants in a system of Empire. Would you agree?



Some people argue that we citizens of the U.S.A. support institutions that profess Christian values but that actually contradict teachings of Jesus.

Can we be faithful to our beliefs without resisting?

Our friend, John Hadsell, used to ask, “What will the church of the future look like?”

Come join Ben as we examine and challenge the ideas in the book, *Faithful Resistance*, edited by Rick Ufford-Chase.

Ben Daniel is the pastor of MPC.

Dates: Sundays, March 11, 18

Location: Thornhill Room

Conveners: Minda Lucero

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

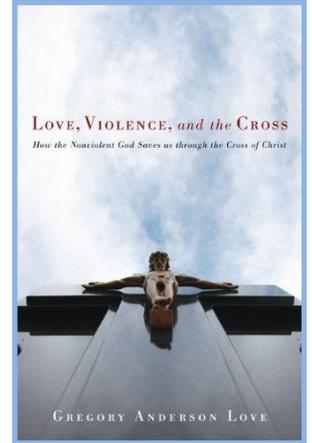
Class Size: 10-20

Fee: Donations Welcome

How God Saves Us

Rev. Dr. Gregory Love

The Christian faith claims that God saves us; in particular, it says that Jesus “died to save us from our sins.” But how does Jesus’ torture and execution save others from their guilt? This four-week series begins by looking at the most popular answer to this question in American piety—that Jesus took our punishment on the cross. It then looks at this theory’s problems, and the alternatives offered by these sharp critics.



However, both the penal substitution and the alternative theories are inadequate. The series then focuses on two views that describe God as nonviolent, yet as saving us through Jesus’ actions, including the cross. If you’ve ever wanted to make sense of the New Testament, come join us!

This four-week series is based upon Prof. Gregory Love’s recent work *Love, Violence and the Cross: How the Nonviolent God Saves Us through the Cross of Christ*. The book can be purchased through *Wipf and Stock*, or *Amazon.com* (including a Kindle edition).

Dr. Love is an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary and The Graduate Theological Union; he is also an ordained Presbyterian pastor.

Dates: Sundays, April 22, 29, May 6, 13

Location: Room 10

Convener: Minda Lucero

Time: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Size: 20-30

Fee: Suggested Donation: \$20



Acts of Kindness and Civility: Possibility or Myth Francie Chan

This class will explore a number of authors who explore the power and the art of kindness and civility. These include but

aren't limited to Pier Forni, David Brooks, Sara Hacala and the The Dalai Lama.

A sample from Pier M. Forni:

“This catastrophe? The ‘coarsening of America,’ as our pandemic of rudeness has been called. And if it seems alarmist to speak of rudeness in catastrophic terms, consider some of the arguments advanced by those who do: that incivility costs the nation more than \$100 billion a year in accidents on the road, that billions more are lost to diminished productivity at work, and that many acts of violence have their origins in acts of rudeness. And beyond the physical damage, they say, there is reason to believe that rampant incivility is damaging to the soul.”

The worldly experience of each of the class participants will surely enrich discussions in navigating the possibilities of kindness and civility.

Francie Chan is a member of MPC.

Dates: Sundays, May 20, 27

Location: Room 10

Convener: Minda Lucero

Time: 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Size: 20-30

Fee: Donations Welcome

Ongoing Classes

The Many Faces of God

Sharon Noteboom

We read books to expand our understanding of our own faith tradition, as well as explore other religions and important contemporary issues. We meet most months on the first Saturday of the month from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Thornhill Room. The book chosen for each month is generally published in *Contact*. Occasionally the group makes a change to the book choice or even the date, so if you have questions please contact convener Jean Gregory at [510 635-8838](tel:5106358838). Following are the books planned for the next two months:



- January 6 - *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*, by Jane Mayer (emphasizing parts 2 and 3 of the book).
- February 3 - *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder,

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

Dates: Saturdays, January 6, February 3

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

Spring 2017 MPC Adult Education Class Information

How do I join a class?

For additional information about the offerings, please come to sign-up tables during registration at Family Hour on **Sundays, January 14, 21, and 28**, or contact the convener. The church will provide childcare if requested. Contact one of the Adult Education co-chairs, Rick Heller at rickheller10@gmail.com or David Siegenthaler at dsgnthlr@earthlink.net, or at either one's phone number from the MPC phone directory.

Adult Education classes are open to all adults. Signing up implies a commitment to attendance, any assigned preparation, and notification to the convener when an absence will be unavoidable.

What About Cost?

Our classes are open to everyone. Donations benefit our work, but are not required. Outside teachers (e.g., from the seminaries) are paid for their time, and we do have a suggested donation amount to help with these costs. However, it is a suggestion and should never keep anyone from attending.

How else can I be involved with Adult Education?

You can contact one of the Adult Education co-chairs, Rick Heller or David Siegenthaler at the contact information above, for the following:

- If you would like to become a convener.
- 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.