

Adult Education Classes Fall 2019



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

Adult Education Classes

Fall 2019

War, Peace, and the Space In Between

Rod Chan



We will be using mixed metaphors to think about war, peace and the space in between. War and peace can be thought about as part of a continuum or spectrum in a circle. The gray areas would then be “the space in between.”

Rod Chan experienced war as a refugee in China during WWII as a child. He is a psychiatrist with an M.D. degree from the University of

Wisconsin, and a member of Montclair Presbyterian Church.

Dates: Sundays, 9/22, 9/29

Location: Room 10

Convener: Minda Lucero

Time: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Size: 20-30

Fee: Donations Welcome

Scriptural Interpretation

Rev. Ben Daniel

Have you ever pondered Bible passages that seem to promote violence? Or acquiesce to slavery? Or patriarchy? If so, come join our Pastor, Ben Daniel, for this class on scriptural interpretation.

Ben will lead an exploration on how to think about Biblical passages that seem to be at odds with some of our values at Montclair Presbyterian Church. How can these scriptures inform our own lives and values? What do they say about God and Jesus?



Please join Ben for what will surely be a lively – and, at times, difficult – discussion.

Rev. Ben Daniel is the pastor, head of staff at Montclair Presbyterian Church and chief author of the church’s Peace Church Declaration.

Dates: Sundays, 10/6, 10/13, 10/27

Location: Thornhill Room

Convener: Minda Lucero

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Class Size: 10-20

Fee: Donations Welcome

Reconstruction and its End: Are There Parallels Today?

Mike Griffith



Racial violence and voter suppression marked the end of the first Reconstruction, after the Civil War. Today white nationalism is growing, and charges of voter suppression are widespread. This class will study the history of the first Reconstruction to help understand conditions today. It will focus on the goals of the freedwomen and men and on the tactics of groups determined to deny them equality. We will examine the roles of churches during this period. We will end by discussing how this history helps us understand events today.

Mike Griffith, a member of MPC, has a PhD in U.S. history from UC Berkeley, and worked as an archivist in the Bay Area for many years, including as the first County Archivist for Santa Clara County.

Dates: Sundays, 11/10, 11/17

Location: Room 10

Convener: Minda Lucero

Time: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

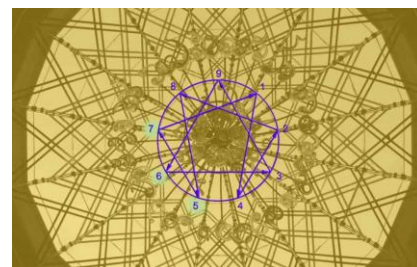
Class Size: 10-20

Fee: Donations Welcome

Enneagrams and Spiritual Growth

Rev. Talitha Aho

The Enneagram is not just a personality type method like the Myers-Briggs. It doesn't measure us, but rather, it describes us, and it narrates the core ways in which we lost touch with our essential God-given goodness. Through this narrative approach it offers us paths for spiritual and personal growth, and gives us a more personalized sense of God's call to us.



We will spend some time looking at all nine types, helping you to find which yours might be, and then working on our various paths of spiritual growth in our own types and as we interact with other types.

As preparation you are welcome to read the book or listen to the podcasts on "The Road Back To You" by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile; you may also come with your previous knowledge, or come ready to start from scratch.

Rev. Aho is Associate Pastor of MPC.

Dates: Sundays, 1/5/20, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26

Location: Room 10

Convener: Minda Lucero

Time: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Class Size: 10-20

Fee: Donations Welcome

Essential Spirituality: Seven Central: Practices to Awaken the Heart and Mind

**Melinda Maxwell-Smith, Paula
Moseley & Jean Gregory**

This class covers exercises, meditation, prayers, myths, and practical advice from world religions to weave into a rewarding way of life in which love, joy, peace, vision, wisdom may become an ever-growing part of everything you do. Based on the book by the same name as the class by Roger Walsh, M.D., Ph.D.

Melinda Maxwell-Smith has been a yoga teacher since 1991 and of meditation since 2000. She has been happily immersed in MPC's activities for three years.

Paula Moseley is a meditator and spiritual growth advocate. She has an M.A. in psychology, is a hypnotism student, and is a long-time member of this church.

Jean Gregory is a long-time member of this church. She is a retired teacher having taught pre-school, kindergarten through eighth grade, Science Lab, Reading Lab, and student teaching to potential educators.

Dates: Tuesdays, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5

Location: Thornhill Room

Convener: Jean Gregory

Time: 1:30 – 3:00

Class Size: 20-25

Fee: Donations Welcome

Ongoing Classes

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. Sometimes the schedule may change, so if you're interested in participating and would like the most up-to-date plan for an upcoming month, please contact the convener Jean Gregory at 510.635.8838.

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

Dates: First Saturdays
Location: Thornhill Room
Convener: Jean Gregory

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Class Size: 8-12
Fee: None

Pastor's Bible Study

Rev. 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 2019 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, September 1, 9, and 15, or contact the convener. The church will provide childcare during classes 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.

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.