

Adult Education Classes

Spring 2024



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

Montclair Presbyterian Church
5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland, CA 94611
510-339-1131
mpc-family@mpcfamily.org

Adult Education Classes Spring 2024

Classes for this group will be in person at MPC. Please use the link below to register. A few days prior to each class you will receive an email reminder.

<http://mpcfamily.org/register>

If you have a question/problem with online registration, contact Allen at allenmpc2020@gmail.com

Interpretive Bible Reading Class

Rev. Ben Daniel

Below is a video that Ben made that introduces the class, including an example of what interpretive Bible reading looks and sounds like. The video takes a little over four minutes. You can watch it

here: <https://youtu.be/yIGkzya6wSg> and hopefully it will

answer most of the questions you might have. We hope you will join the class.

Ben has also set aside two Saturdays (3/9 and 3/16) at 11am if needed to make sure everyone has a chance to participate fully.



If you want to join, or have any questions about the class, please email Ben at ben@mpcfamily.org and he'll answer your questions and/or put you on the list.

Dates: Sundays, 2/18, 2/25, 3/3
Two Saturdays (3/9 and 3/16) if needed

Time and Place: 11:30-12:45am, MPC Thornhill Room

Theological Explorations – The Nature of the Trinity

Rev. Ben Daniel
Dr. Gregory Love
Rev. John Buehrens



The Nature of the Trinity is a central but often complex concept in the Christian faith, defining the nature of God as three persons in one essence: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus the Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. **Understanding the Trinity can be challenging and diverse Christian traditions hold nuanced views on its interpretation.**

The classes will discuss the concept of the Trinity from interpretations of the Bible, theological reflection and debate and how different Christian denominations emphasize certain aspects of the Trinity. They will also address the importance of the concept of the Trinity in today's 21st century. How does it enhance Christian faith? Or does it get in the way?

Speakers:

- Rev. Ben Daniel is the minister at Montclair Presbyterian Church.
- Dr. Gregory A. Love is an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Ca. He previously taught Theology at University of Redlands. His interest is understanding how God acts in the world and our lives. Dr. Love has a MDiv and PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Rev. John A. Buehrens is a Unitarian minister and author. He is the former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association and a Professor of Theology at Starr King School for the Ministry. He has written several books including *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion in the 21st Century* and *Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender and Social Justice*. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Divinity School and holds three honorary doctorates.

Speaker Schedule –

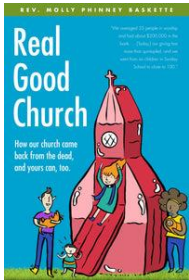
- March 10 – Rev. Ben Daniel
- March 17 – Dr. Gregory Love
- March 24 – Rev. John Buehrens

Dates: Sundays, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24

Time and Place: 11:30-12:45am, MPC Thornhill Room

Book discussion – *Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead and Yours Can Too*

Helen Hutchinson



This book describes the process that First Church Somerville used to, as the title says, come back from the dead. But MPC isn't dying, you say! No, we're not, but are there lessons in the book that could make us an even **more** lively congregation than we already are? Join us for discussion about who we are, what we want to be, and how we can ensure that MPC continues to thrive.

The discussion will be better if you join us!

Dates: 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5

Time and Place: 11:30-12:45am, Thornhill Room

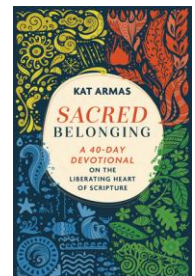
Sacred Belongings: A Lenten Spiritual Conversation Group

Katie Kilby

During the season of Lent, Katie will be offering a spiritual conversation group centered around the book *Sacred Belongings: A 40-Day Devotional on the Liberating Heart of Scripture* by Cuban-American writer Kat Armas.

Drawing from personal narrative and scripture, Armas highlights biblical passages that point toward decolonized themes centered on creation, wisdom, spirit, the body, and the feminine. *Sacred Belongings* helps us see how scripture directs us to live a liberated faith, where we belong to God, the earth, and one another.

This group will meet for 5 weeks during Lent and each meeting will provide an opportunity to gather and reflect together upon that week's theme and readings.



To sign up for Katie's group, please contact Katie at katiek@mpcfamily.org or [sign up here](#).

Dates: Wednesdays, 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20

Time and Place: 4:00-5:15pm, Thornhill Room
(Zoom hybrid by request)

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. on Zoom, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 Jean Gregory at 510-635-8838.

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

Dates: First Saturdays	Zoom Info: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81413546027
Time: 10:00 – Noon	Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 Password: 3391131
Zoom Facilitator: Eloise Gilland	To dial in: +1 669 900 6833 enter Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 and Password: 3391131

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!

Dates: Wednesdays	Zoom Info: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81413546027
Time: 12:00 -1:30pm.	Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 Password: 3391131
Zoom Facilitator: Ben Daniel	dial in: +1 669 900 6833 enter Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 and Password: 3391131

Spring 2024 MPC Adult Education Class Information

How do I join a class?

Some classes will be conducted via Zoom meetings. Please use the link below to register for the classes. Prior to the start of the class you will receive an email with instructions for how to join the Zoom meeting.

<http://mpcfamily.org/register>

If you do not have access to a computer or mobile device and would like to call into the meeting to listen, call Allen Spore at 510-381-3207 for assistance. If you have a question/problem with online registration, contact Allen at allenmpc2020@gmail.com.

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 the Adult Education chair, Mike Griffith, at griffith.mje@sbcglobal.net for the following:

- 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.