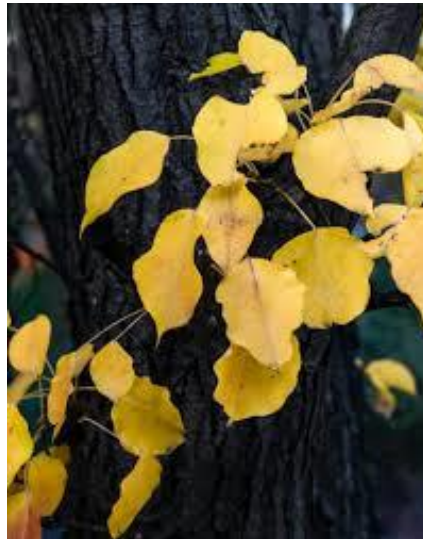


Adult Education Classes

Fall 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

Fall 2024

Classes will be conducted in person at MPC or on Zoom. 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 allenspore@gmail.com

White Christian Nationalism: The Threat to Our Democracy

Bradley Onishi



The three-session class will cover the history of the Christian Nationalist movement to understand its principles, doctrines, emotions and extremisms. The rise of the New Religious Right between 1960 and 2015 gave birth to violent White Christian nationalism during the Trump presidency and beyond. It will also provide an analysis of the religious elements of the January 6 insurrection that reveals how White Christian nationalism was an integrating force for Trump's coup attempt and the threat of Christian Nationalism in the 2024 election.

Brad Onishi is a social commentator, scholar, writer, teacher, coach. He is the founder of [Axis Mundi Media](#) that provides a platform for research-based podcasts focused on safeguarding democracy from the threats of extremism and authoritarianism. His [book](#), *Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism – And What Comes Next* was recently released and available at Amazon.

Brad Onishi received graduate degrees from UCSB, Oxford University, and L'institut catholique de Paris. As a scholar of religion, he teaches and researches Christian nationalism, the history of Evangelicalism, race and racism in American religion, gender, sex, masculinity, and secularism and secularity. He has taught at UCSB, the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley and currently teaches at the University of San Francisco.

Link to Brad Onishi's website: <https://www.bradonishi.com/>

Each class will begin with a presentation followed by time for questions and comments.

Dates: Wednesday, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25

Time and Place: 7:00 pm via Zoom

Democracy and the 2024 Elections

Rick Heller, Suzanne Jones, Cindy Gullickson, Helen Hutchison

Many Americans believe that the 2024 Presidential election will be a defining event in the life of our democracy. Democrats believe that the actions and rhetoric of MAGA Republicans threaten the foundational principles and functioning of American democracy. MAGA Republican perspectives reflect a distrust of institutions and a desire to preserve what they consider foundational values of American democracy and culture.



Let's explore and discuss.

Session 1 - October 6th – Founding Fathers and Drafting the Constitution - Led by Rick Heller - What were the underlying principles of the founding fathers that are inscribed in the Constitution? How did the faith of the founding fathers influence the drafting of the Constitution?

Session 2 - October 13 -- Democracy and the National Elections -- class discussion led by Suzanne Jones and Cindy Gullickson. There are many issues that define the current state of our democracy. The class will discuss a few of these issues including voter participation and accessibility, election integrity and fairness, campaign finance and the media and information/misinformation. How do we stay informed and involved.

Session 3 - October 20 - California, Alameda and Oakland Ballot measures - Helen Hutchison – an opportunity to become informed about the definition and impact of state and local ballot measures.

Dates: Sundays, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20

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

Pastor's Prayer Class

Ben Daniel



What is prayer? And how exactly does one pray? There is no single or simple answer to either of these questions, but in the Pastor's class on Prayer we will explore a range of ways people have defined prayer over the years and a variety of methods people use for prayer.

If you've ever wanted to learn more about prayer as a concept or a practice, this class is a good place to start that journey of discovery. If you are someone who enjoys a rich life of prayer, this class could be a resource to help you deepen and strengthen your spiritual connection.

Dates: Sundays, 11/3 and 11/17

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

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 To dial in: +1 669 900 6833 enter Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 and
Zoom Facilitator: Eloise Gilland	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 dial in: +1 669 900 6833 enter Meeting ID: 8141 354 6027 and
Zoom Facilitator: Ben Daniel	Password: 3391131

Fall 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 allenspore@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, Allen Spore, at allenspore@gmail.com 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.