

Adult Education Classes

Fall 2026



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 2026

Classes will be conducted in person or on Zoom. Please use the link below to register. A few days prior to each class you will receive an email reminder.

[Go to the Registration Form](#)

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

Ask Me Anything with Ben Daniel

This will be a rare opportunity to literally ask Ben anything! You may have questions about theology, Ben's personal trip to the ministry, Ben's challenges and rewards –anything!



Dates: Sunday, September 27th

Time and Place: 11:30am, Thornhill Room

Bring Your Ballots to Church

Helen Hutchison



California, Alameda and Oakland Ballot measures – This is an opportunity to become informed about the definition and impact of state and local ballot measures.

Dates: Sunday, October 11th

Time and Place: 11:30 am, Thornhill Room

Conversation with Jerry Drino



In a moderated conversation with The Rev. Jerry Drino, we will learn about the Native American practice of cultural burning, a way of restoring ecosystem health and fulfilling our spiritual responsibilities to the land. We will also hear about three outstanding Native Americans running for office in this fall's national elections and ways we can support them. Light refreshments will be served. This class is a continuation of the series on Native Peoples led by The Rev. Jerry Drino, Episcopalian Priest and scholar of Native Peoples

. Prior to the class Jerry will preach a sermon

Dates: Sunday October 18th

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

How to be a Good Neighbor: Practical Faith for Everyday Life

Rev Jorge Bautista

Following preaching in our pulpit on Sunday, Oct 25, Rev Jorge Bautista will lead the first of our two-part fall adult education series 'How to be a Good Neighbor: Practical faith for everyday life. Rev Bautista is known among our congregation for his work -- and resulting personal assault -- peacefully protesting against ICE.



He is on staff at the Presbytery of San Francisco and is a pastor of a church in San Mateo. In his words, during the course 'we will explore how our faith calls us to radical hospitality and connection in our local community.' Lunch will be provided.

Dates: Sunday, October 25th

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

How to be a Good Neighbor: Size-to-fit Actions By Us and For Us

**Pat Schwinn, Deborah Brooks,
and Helen Hutchison**



Leading the second-half of our two-part fall adult education series 'How to be a Good Neighbor' are three wise and experienced MPC members -- Pat Schwinn, Deborah Brooks, and Helen Hutchison -- who will give us a few clear and manageable ways to take caring into practice. Building on Rev. Bautista's work from the week before and each speaking from their area of expertise, this compelling trio will offer a fast-paced, practical, and user-friendly adult education hour.

If you've ever wanted to take action but were held back by the scope, complexity, or even feeling you didn't 'know enough,' we invite you to find your toehold here. Experienced activists also welcome, of course!

Date: Sunday, November 1st

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

How Did Today's Christmas Come to Be?

Mike Griffith

In 1820, Americans didn't exchange Christmas gifts and didn't gather for Christmas dinners. Instead, Christmas celebrations were "an occasion of. . . almost every species of licentiousness." Yet thirty years later, Americans celebrated Christmas much as we do today, with many of the same seasonal anxieties and stresses.



Mike Griffith will lead a class to explore why this happened. How gift giving started, why we send Christmas cards, where Christmas trees came from, and other Christmas topics will be part of the story.

Dates: Sunday, December 6th

Time and Place: 11:30 am, 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.	Thornhill Room and on Zoom 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

Fall 2026 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.

[Go to the Registration Form](#)

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, 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

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

-- attributed to B.B.King