

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Spring 2015



Let the peace of this place surround you as you sit quietly. Let the hurry and worry of your life fall away. You are God's child. From A New Song by Jan Karon

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Spring 2015 MPC Adult Education Class Schedule

How do I participate in Adult Education Classes?

Adult Education classes are open to all adults. Participation means a commitment to [1] attendance, [2] any assigned preparation, and [3] notification to the convener when an absence will be unavoidable. For additional information about the offerings, please come to sign-up tables during registration at Family Hour on **Sundays, January 18 and January 25, or contact the convener**. Full payment is due upon registration. Scholarships are always available – just ask! The church will also provide childcare if requested, without an additional fee. Contact Linda Benson at 510-865-1215 or Margaretha Derasary at 510 339-2282 for this service.

How do I give a Donation or receive a Scholarship?

Please contact Linda Benson at 510-865-1215 or Margaretha Derasary at 510 339-2282 to request a scholarship.

Send this coupon to the church office if you would like to donate to the scholarship fund.

Name: _____

This is a donation to the scholarship fund \$_____.

How do I become a convener?

Express your interest to the Adult Education chair. Conveners attend the class for free. Duties include assuring that the participants have paid the fee, notifying the participants before each session of class, and assisting the instructor as needed.

How can I participate in the Adult Education Committee and/or lead a class?

Fill out the Adult Education class information sheet that is available in the office. Give the completed form to an Adult Education Committee member who will present it in the next committee meeting. You can also leave the form in the mailbox or come to the committee meeting to present your idea for a class.

2015 Spring Class Offerings

Fact or Fiction in Famous Old Testament Stories Tyler Duckworth



A growing body of scholarly evidence casts doubt on the history of Israel depicted in the Old Testament, including the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs, the Exodus, the conquest of Canaan, and the Davidic monarchy. But which parts of these stories are considered historical facts or literary fictions?

This class will introduce the perspectives and evidence that archaeologists, historians, and biblical textual scholars use when reconstructing Israel and Judah's history surrounding these famous stories. The class will also explore what the significance of history means for our theological understanding of the biblical texts and as a faith community.

Tyler Duckworth is a Ph.D. student in Biblical Studies (Old Testament) at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and has a M.Div. from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA.

Dates: Sundays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22

Location: Probably Room 10

Convener: Minda Lucero

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

Class Size: 10-20

Fee: \$20

Living the Questions, Part II

Ben Daniel

We are delighted to bring back Living the Questions with a new set of videos, in which some of the best of today's progressive scholars and theologians share their visions on topics such as *Restoring Relationships*, *Honoring Creation*, and *Evil, Suffering and a God of Love*. There will be six sessions in eight weeks. There will be one twenty minute video in each ninety minute session, with ample time for discussion, sharing and using the reading material. We encourage you if you came to the first set of classes to return, and we invite newcomers as well.

Sunday sessions

Dates: February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, and 22

Location: Thornhill Room

Convener: Gretchen Garlinghouse

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

Class Size: 8-12

Suggested Donation: \$5

Wednesday sessions

Dates: February 4, 11, 25, March 4, 11, and 25

Location: Thornhill Room

Time: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Class Size: 8-12

Conveners: Margaretha Derasary, Linda Benson

Suggested Donation: \$5



For Parents: When Children Ask about God

The three sessions will explore how parents can best walk with their children on the spiritual journey with an overview of the ages and stages of faith development, biblical storytelling, and praying with children.

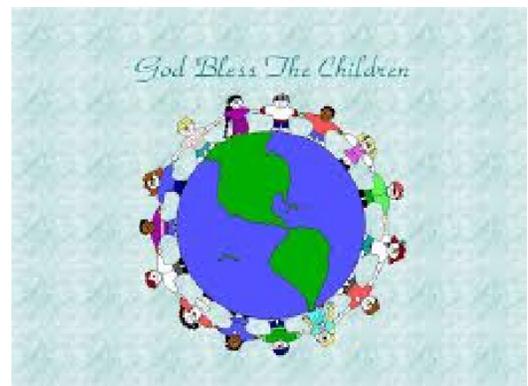
Since 2007 Di Pagel has served as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland. Di is an accredited Godly Play trainer and has assisted many churches in the Presbytery (and many other denominations), either launching or supporting Godly Play programs. She has attended several national and international conferences that focused on the spirituality of children.

Date: Sundays, Feb. 8, 15, and 22

Location: Room 10

Convener:

Di Pagel



Time: 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Class Size: 10-20

Fee: \$5

Spanish Conversation

This is a continuation of the fall class with a new teacher. Returning and new students welcome! Bring your friends, old and young.

Alejandra Ordóñez

Alejandra is a native Spanish speaker from Honduras and has ties with MPC.

Dates: Mondays from Feb. 9 to May 4

Location: Thornhill Room

Convener: Anna Santos

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Class Size: up to 15

Fee: \$10



Love the Earth, Love Yourself: Restoration in the Redwoods

Dolores Nice-Siegenthaler

Come remove non-native spiderwort from the undergrowth of tall redwoods in Joaquin Miller Park for two hours on Valentine's Day. Dress in layers for the weather of the day. Bring trowel and gloves and, if you want, a kneeling pad. Bring water and a snack if you wish. Heavy rain cancels.

Dolores Nice-Siegenthaler volunteers often with friends of Sausal Creek.

Date: Saturday, Feb.14

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Big Trees Trail pullout off of Skyline Boulevard in Joaquin Miller Park at 12:45.

Class Size: 10-20

Convener: David Siegenthaler

Fee: None



Asian Bites at MPC

Leslie Louie and Adrian Santos



Learn to make dim sum and lumpias to celebrate the lunar New Year and stay to enjoy them. Bring a beverage to share.

Leslie and Adrian are both members of MPC.

Date: Sunday, February 15

Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Family Room, kitchen

Class Size: 10-20

Convener: Debbie Fallehy

Fee: \$10

The State of Ocean Literacy Among College and High School Students

Cynthia Cudaback

On her second day of full time teaching, Cynthia was invited to Taiwan to give a talk on science education and science literacy. An educator in Taiwan who had read one of her papers was particular interested in her thoughts about promoting ocean stewardship through science education. Come listen to Cynthia discuss her work in this area, and hear about her trip - also a chance to ask questions.

Cynthia is an MPC member who is an oceanographer, physics teacher and storyteller.

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 24

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Thornhill Room

Class Size: 10-20

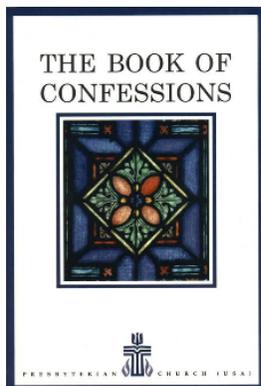
Convener: Linda Benson

Fee: Donation



Confessions

David Siegenthaler



What does it mean to confess the Christian Faith today? What did it mean in the early church, during the reformation, in the face of Nazi power, and in the context of the Cold War? Half of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church is a collection of historic and current confessions deemed particularly important to the witness of the Church in the world. Unlike scripture, the Book of Confessions is not a closed canon. What would we add or wish to correct? This three week exploration of the history and importance of Confessions will inform our ideas about how we might confess Faith today, including discussion of the proposed addition to the Constitution, the Belhar

Confession.

David Siegenthaler has an M.Div. from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. His main project is to explore, theologically and ecologically, the human role in nature.

Date: Sundays, March 8, 15, and 22

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

Location: Room 10

Class Size: 10-20

Convener: Minda Lucero

Fee: \$15

God and the Cosmos: Enhancing Our Understanding of God

Rev. Dr. John Turpin

Discussion topics about the subject above will include "The DNA of Life;" "Is our universe fine-tuned for life?" "The 'Multiverse'... what is it?"; and "The mind of a monarch butterfly, our minds, and the mind of God."

The Rev. Dr. John Turpin, a now-retired local Presbyterian pastor, has given much time and energy to thinking about and understanding the long-argued relationship between God and science. He has taught for us before...and was well received.

**Recommended book to obtain...and read: "Quarks, Chaos and Christianity," by John Polkinghorne, available in both new and/or used versions at Amazon.

Date: Sundays, April 12, 19, 26, and May 3

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

Location: Room 10

Class Size: 10-20

Convener: Minda Lucero

Fee: \$20



End of Life Issues for Young and Old



David Samimi

While it's not something most people are comfortable talking about, it's important to be prepared for our death – by doing things such as making your end of life wishes known to your family. In the class, we'll view and discuss a video with Tom Brokaw and his daughter Jennifer. David Samimi will present information related to the end of life, including the difference between advance directive and Physician

Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST). Intergenerational participation is encouraged (and we especially welcome young folks – it can never be too early to talk about this).

David Samimi is a representative of the hospice associated with Sutter Health.

Dates: Tuesdays, April 14, 21, and 28

Location: Thornhill Room

Convener: Jan Gervolstad

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Class Size: 10-20

Fee: Donation

Calvin for Progressives

Ben Daniel

For many of us John Calvin, the father of the Reformed Tradition (a movement within Protestantism that includes the Presbyterian Church), is equated with repressive, closed-minded, life-sucking religion. In reality, Calvin's work and legacy are much more nuanced

than many suppose; while Calvin was, at times, a cranky prude, he also had ideas about the ordering of society that feel refreshingly progressive and forward thinking, even 450 years after the date of their publication.

In the "Calvin for Progressives Class" Pastor Ben will explore themes in Calvin's work that Progressive Christians might find refreshing and helpful, as well as they ways in which Calvin's ideas laid the groundwork for the kind of iconoclastic, social-justice-oriented ministry we practice at Montclair Presbyterian Church.

Ben Daniel is the pastor of MPC.

Date: Sundays, April 26, May 3, 17, and 24

Location: Thornhill Room

Convener: Linda Benson

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

Class Size: 10-20

Fee: \$20



John Calvin

SPRING 2015 Classes at a Glance

Sundays

Fact or Fiction.....	Starts February 1	8:30 am
Living The Questions, Part II	Starts February 8	11:30 am
For Parents: When Children Ask.....	Starts February 8	1:30 pm
Asian Bites at MPC	February 15	1:00 pm
Confessions	Starts March 8	8:30 am
God and the Cosmos.....	Starts April 12	8:30 am
Calvin for Progressives	Starts April 26	11:30 am

Mondays

Seniors' Exercise Class	Ongoing	8:00 am
Spanish Class	Starts February 9	7:00 pm

Tuesdays

End of Life Questions	Starts April 14	7:00 pm
The State of Ocean Literacy.....	February 24	7:30 pm

Wednesdays

Seniors' Exercise Class	Ongoing	8:00 am
Bible Study	Ongoing	12:00 pm
Living The Questions	Starts February 4	7:30 pm

Saturdays

The Many Faces of God	Ongoing	10:00 am
Love the Earth, Love Yourself.....	February 14	1:00 pm