

ADULT EDUCATION  
CLASSES  
Fall 2015



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

Montclair Presbyterian Church  
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## Fall 2015 Adult Education Classes

### CLAY PLAY FOR ADULTS

**Dot Cudaback**



This is a wonderful opportunity for an adult end-of-summer project. Create something from clay: an animal, a spirit house, a bowl, whatever your fancy desires. Dress for outside. Return later to glaze, when the clay has been fired. No experience needed, just bring enthusiasm.

Dot Cudaback is a longtime member of MPC and a very special teacher.

<b>Date:</b> Saturday, September 26	<b>Time:</b> 10:00a.m-12:30 p.m.
<b>Location:</b> Dot's House at 6639 Longwalk Drive; 531-0757	<b>Class Size:</b> 10
<b>Convener:</b> Margaretha Derasary	<b>Fee:</b> \$10 donation for clay

### Conversations on Suffering and Hope from the Book of Job

**Carol Miles**

Human suffering takes many forms, and nearly all of us are touched by it in some way over a lifetime. When we are, our instinct is to question why. Why me? Why this? Why now?

This fall, Carol Miles will lead us in a study of the book of Job, in a quest to better understand God's role and relationship to human suffering. She will introduce us to both traditional and contemporary defenses of God's goodness and power, and offer theological resources and strategies for responding to events that radically challenge our faith.



Carol has a Ph.D. in Practical Theology from Princeton Seminary and has taught on the faculties of two seminaries...and is now a visiting professor at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. She has led Adult Ed. courses here at MPC before.

<b>Dates:</b> Sundays, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, and 18	<b>Time:</b> 8:30-9:45 a.m.
<b>Location:</b> Room 10	<b>Class Size:</b> 10-20
<b>Convener:</b> Minda Lucero	<b>Fee:</b> \$20

### Living the Questions, Part III

**Ben Daniel**



This fall we offer the third and last part of the Living the Questions Series, with topics including Social Justice, Prayer, Compassion, and Embracing Mystery.

Each session will have a twenty-minute video in which scholars from different backgrounds share their views. There will be ample time for sharing responses to the videos and reading material. Ben Daniel has generously offered to lead the sessions.

We encourage you to return to the series or experience it for the first time.

## Sunday sessions

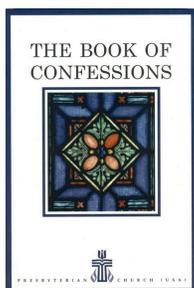
<b>Dates:</b> Oct. 4, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, and 22	<b>Time:</b> 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
<b>Location:</b> Thornhill Room	<b>Class Size:</b> 8-12
<b>Convener:</b> Gretchen Garlinghouse	<b>Suggested Donation:</b> \$5

## Wednesday sessions

<b>Dates:</b> Oct. 7, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, and Dec. 2	<b>Time:</b> 6:45-8:15 p.m.
<b>Location:</b> Thornhill Room	<b>Class Size:</b> 8-12
<b>Convener:</b> Margaretha Derasary	<b>Suggested Donation:</b> \$5

## Confessions II: The Presbyterian Book of Confessions

David Siegenthaler



This class is a continuation of explorations on the meaning of faith and how to speak from faith to the issues of the day. After a recap of our previous discussion of some of the early church confessions, we pick up again with the Barmen Declaration of 1934 (the German Confession Church's statement in opposition to Nazi power). We will consider the new thinking about confessional statements inaugurated with the Confession of 1967, including the Church's statements made regarding nuclear power, the cold war, civil rights, Church unification, inclusivity, and care of creation. We will look at the Belhar Confession being considered for inclusion in the Book of Confessions. Finally, we will consider what we might want to say if we were to craft our own confession for today.

David Siegenthaler has an M.S. in Environmental Resource Management, 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.

<b>Dates:</b> Sundays, Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8	<b>Time:</b> 8:30-9:45
<b>Location:</b> Room 10	<b>Class Size:</b> 10-20
<b>Convener:</b> Minda Lucero	<b>Fee:</b> \$15

## 1st Corinthians: Community in Crisis and Paradoxical Gospel

Dr. Jack Elliott

In this course we will be reading and discussing one of the most church-focused documents in the New Testament: 1 Corinthians. To a Corinthian community plagued with factionalism, Paul sends a brilliant pastoral letter addressing the many problems it faces and expounding a paradoxical gospel of life amidst death and the power of powerlessness. Church as the risen Body of Christ, Baptism and Eucharist, the nature of Christian ministry, ethics, marriage and sexuality, and the shape of worship are some of the topics of the letter we will consider.



Dr. Jack Elliott is Professor Emeritus of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Francisco. He has written twelve books and stresses the historical, economic, social and political contexts of religion. He is currently preparing volumes on The Evil Eye in the Bible and the Ancient World, Jesus and the Family of God, and Jesus the Gesturer. He is lecturing widely in the USA and abroad. He has taught at MPC before.

<b>Dates:</b> Sundays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31	<b>Time:</b> 8:30-9:45 a.m.
<b>Location:</b> Room 10	<b>Class Size:</b> 10-20
<b>Convener:</b> Minda Lucero	<b>Fee:</b> \$20

## Fall 2015 MPC Adult Education Class Information

### 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, September 6, 13, and 20**, or contact the convener. Full payment is due upon registration. Scholarships are available. The church will provide childcare if requested. Contact one of the Adult Education co-chairs, Margaretha Derasary at 510-339-2282 or Linda Benson at 510-865-1215, for this service.

### How else can I be involved with Adult Education?

You can contact one of the Adult Education co-chairs, Margaretha Derasary at 510-339-2282 or Linda Benson at 510-865-1215, for the following:

- If you would like to give a donation to or request a scholarship
- If you would like to become a convener (conveners attend the class for free)
- 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