

Opportunities in Christian Education for Adults



Advent 2011

Term 3

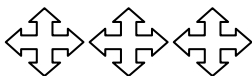
November 27 - December 11

Christian Education at University Presbyterian Church

The Adult Christian Education Committee at University Presbyterian Church is committed to offering a wide variety of theologically sound educational experiences for members and guests. Grounded in the Reformed Tradition and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to bring adults together from varied backgrounds and life experiences for study, reflection and sharing.

Our community is comprised of individuals who are life-long Presbyterians as well as those who are new to the Christian faith. We welcome you where you are in your journey and pray that you will find this community to be progressive in thought, responsive to the world in need and faithful to our call to spread the Good News.

You will find a variety of short-term elective classes as well as on-going classes from which to choose each Sunday morning. In addition to Sunday morning, there are educational opportunities throughout the week.



For more information, go to www.upcc.org/info/education.html, see the monthly UPC newsletter, (The Chimes), or contact the Staff Associate for Education, Ferguson@upcch.org

Sunday Mornings

Term 3

November 27 – December 11

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Building Family Traditions for the Season of Advent

Once the Halloween decorations have come down in America's stores and malls, Christmas decorations will be on display. By Thanksgiving, many have been preparing for the Christmas holidays for nearly a month; for others Black Friday is the start of their Christmas gear up time. For Christians, the period of waiting, expecting, and hoping for the fulfillment and promise of Christmas begins on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent. For the first three weeks in Advent, this Adult Education offering will consider how we may refocus our preparation and waiting on Advent.

November 27: Advent: The wait for Jesus or Santa Claus?

Content: Ever wondered why Christmas trees, candles, and fruitcakes are part of the Christmas celebration? With the aim of helping focus the waiting and hoping period that is Advent on the remembrance of Christ's coming and anticipated return, this session will explore the origins of certain Christmas traditions and what they have to do, if anything, with the birth of Jesus.

December 4: The Christmas Industry

Content: Christmas is a highly commercial holiday and for many is stressful as well.

These forces combined often distract and detract from Advent-focused preparation and expectation. This session will provide a forum to confront the commercialism of Christmas and how we may begin to reclaim the Christ in Christmas.

December 11: Advent Traditions

Content: How do UPC families wait and prepare in Advent? This session will offer suggestions for new family traditions that may be adopted this Advent season.

Facilitator: Juli Kim

Location: Stephen Ministry Room

Held in God's Grace: Steps to the Manger in the Season of Advent

Based on the publication "The Thoughtful Christian", this 3 week Advent interactive course will discuss four themes: waiting; accepting; journeying and birthing. Our study includes a comparison with the author's experience with these themes in Indonesia. Copies of this study pack will be made available both on-line and in printed form.

Waiting: not a passive submission to the passage of time, but an active participation in a new way of life. We must always treasure time, a great commodity, as we keep ourselves prepared as we wait for the beginning of the Christian year.

Accepting: in Advent, we learn to celebrate by learning how to accept the gifts we are given - such as God's grace, the gift of our own lives, and the gift of God's self in Jesus Christ.

We learn to accept ourselves as we are and overcome our achievement-oriented mode of living.

Journeying: during Advent we acknowledge the journey we Christians take together as a Church community towards the promise of new life in Christ.

Birthing. During Advent, our waiting, accepting and journeying allow us to focus on the quiet time prior to the time we experience the birth of Jesus, who we “are anticipating his coming again.”

Advent is a time of waiting, accepting, journeying and birthing. It is hoped that this short course will help us all be better ready to welcome Christ back into our hearts and experience a new beginning.

Leaders: Nancy and Jack Benjamin

Location: Terrace Room

Connection, Conversation and Coffee: Exploring Faith in Films and the Written Word

A new format for the old Connections class to widen the circle of conversation and bring additional media for exploring faith. This is a class for those who seek God in everyday life and long to build the community of faith. Each week we will discover the subtle and not-so-subtle messages of faith and spirituality in films and/or the written word (blogs, news media, literature, and studies).

Facilitators: A variety of UPC members and guests

Location: Vance Barron Hall

Feasting on the Word: A Bible Study Using the Revised Common Lectionary

Come engage in understanding scripture and how it applies to our daily lives. Each class will focus on the lectionary text of that particular Sunday. Whether you attend the 8:30 worship service or the 11:00 service, this class is sure to enhance your understanding of the scripture in new and exciting ways.

Facilitators: A variety of UPC members and guests

Location: Room 228

Be sure to stop at the Fellowship Hall Landing for a quick visit with friends and a piping hot cup of coffee. It's always ready!