

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 6, 2020

Greetings!

Ministerial Musings

As I write this the day before it is printed in our beloved Week on the Peak, it is Cinco de Mayo, the 26th anniversary of the founding of this congregation, and the 201st anniversary of the Baltimore Sermon. For those UU's who aren't familiar with the Baltimore Sermon, it is the defining moment where Rev. William Ellery Channing spoke for an hour and a half at an ordination about the meaning of Unitarianism and what it truly meant. It was groundbreaking at the time, challenging the more orthodox factions and declaring a more Unitarian liberal view of orthodoxy. It is the moment we truly declared that we believed in the doctrine of God's Unity as Channing stated it and not in three separate divinities. It was groundbreaking and actually created factions then in separating Unitarians,

Congregationalists and the Standing Order churches of the time. He became the defining leader of Unitarianism and is informally called the "Father of Unitarianism" and his sermon became known as the Baltimore Sermon.



This month our theme is Integrity and Channing represents integrity as far as Unitarianism considers it. In public debate, he withstood the highest criticisms from more conservative factions of Christianity and he not only weathered the tumult but thrived on it. Integrity is defined much by using the words, honesty, morality, ethical, principled, valued. When I think of integrity, it defines for me a way to live my life. A way to live honestly, ethically, in kindness and love, with regard to not only myself but to all others as well. During this tumultuous time, I am watching those without integrity create chaos in many cities across our nation. Where is the integrity to bring an automatic rifle to a rally to break the restrictions each state has set up? Where is the integrity to scream in the face of a police officer not wearing a mask in this day of the Covid-19 pandemic? Where is the integrity to blatantly ignore the regulations laid down by our Governors to ensure the safety of all? I am very bothered and angered by the behavior of some who for many reasons are frightened and angry and frustrated. That is not the reaction however that will ensure the safety of others. In fact, they are endangering others when they bring an automatic rifle to a gathering that is only meant to protest. And may I add that these are white privileged men getting away with this behavior. If they

were people of color, they would be in jail. Can you picture an African American man screaming in the face of a police officer while holding a gun and not being taken down and arrested or possibly even shot? When I see these pictures and see what these white men are getting away with, it enrages me. Not only are they endangering the health of the police officers in front of them, their behaviors are flying in the face of our democracy and what this country stands for and possibly endangering the lives of others by spreading the virus.

As a people of integrity, what do we do when we see others acting without integrity? Is there anything we can do? I don't have the answer to that right now. In the face of this pandemic, I am attending 3-5 Zoom meetings per day and must admit, I'm tired. I only seem to have the energy to get angry at them, but not create a solution. There may not be anything that I can do, especially now where I am intent on Sheltering in Place. So I lay these thoughts down for you today as food for thought, as a deliberation to consider and to reaffirm the integrity you all are keeping right now by Sheltering in Place. It is vital that we keep our integrity in the face of those who are not.

And congratulations Mission Peak UU for 26 years of being a united community! It feels like years ago that we celebrated the 25th, and yet one year ago we did. I know in my heart you will continue to grow, to learn, to love each other and to be the Unitarian Universalist congregation you are striving to be.

Oh, and I won't even comment on Cinco de Mayo. That's a whole other musing about appropriation I won't even go into today.

Loving blessings to you all.

Rev. Jo

Please feel free to contact me
By email: minister@mpuuc.org
By phone: 510-972-3890

This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to virtual services because of the Coronavirus pandemic. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for how to connect.

Questions and Answers

This global pandemic has rolled in with significant disruption and tragedy. We, who appreciated 'normal,' now grieve its passing and wonder what to expect from plan B, C or D. Attention turns to experts for answers. But as James Thurber once said, "Sometimes, it's better to have a few good questions, then to have all the answers."



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Worship Virtual Host will be Steve Wallcave. Shauna Pickett-Gordon, Pianist and Peak Performers will provide our music.

Because we will not have services in Cole Hall where you can donate

money, below are 3 ways you can donate and/or fulfill your pledge:

1. Mail check to
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
P.O. Box 545
Fremont, CA 94537-0545
(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)
2. Drop envelope with check or cash in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
We will be collecting this once per week.
3. Pay on line at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card.
Note we use PayPal for this and they charge us around 3%.

Sign up for a Meeting with Rev. Greg Ward

MPUUC Candidating week officially starts on Saturday, May 9th! The search committee and Rev. Greg Ward have put together a schedule of Zoom meetings to enable our members and friends to get to know Greg before our members vote on calling him as our minister on Sunday, May 17th. Some of you have already been invited to attend meetings with him for core groups such as the board, the worship associates, etc.



Everyone is invited to sign up for one of the open meetings during candidating week. The meetings will be 45-60 minutes long and are focused around a church interest or question. To view the list of meetings and sign up, simply click on the following link:

[Sign-up form](#)

You may sign up for more than one meeting by going to the link more than once. Please submit your signups by Friday, May 8th. Meeting sizes will be limited to make conversation possible so those with multiple signups may be asked to relinquish a session.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email the search committee at search@mpuuc.org

Thank you for signing up now!

The MPUUC Search Committee

DeAnna
Alm

Annette
Breingan

Ilze
Duarte

Tiffany
Longfield

Stephen
Longfield

Don
Ramie



JOIN US

Youth Group Weekly
Sundays at 3pm

Spiritual Practices at Home
Tuesdays at 6pm

Middle School Games Weekly
Wednesday at 5pm

Parents Coffee Chat Weekly
Friday 5:30pm

Story Time/ Sing a long Weekly
Saturdays 12pm

Virtual
Religious
Education
Activities

Contact Shawn
dre@mpuuc.org
to receive zoom
links and
reminders.

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Looking for a way to say thank you to those who have supported you or given you strength during shelter in place? Interested in helping to organize and plan a gratitude awards event? If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Shawn or Rev. Jo.

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Shelter in Place

As we continue to Shelter in Place and are unable to be together physically, we are under a constant state of anxiety. Please know that I am available to talk with if need be. You can call me, text me, or send me an email during this time if you need to reach out in any way. Even though I am Zoom Candidating this week and next, I am still available to you all.

You can email me at minister@mpuuc.org or call or text me at 510-972-3890.

I hope you are staying safe and healthy and know that you have me and all of these congregants here in this community to rely on to find comfort or friendship. We will get through this time and be the stronger for it.

Blessings to you all,

Rev Jo



JUSTICE CORNER

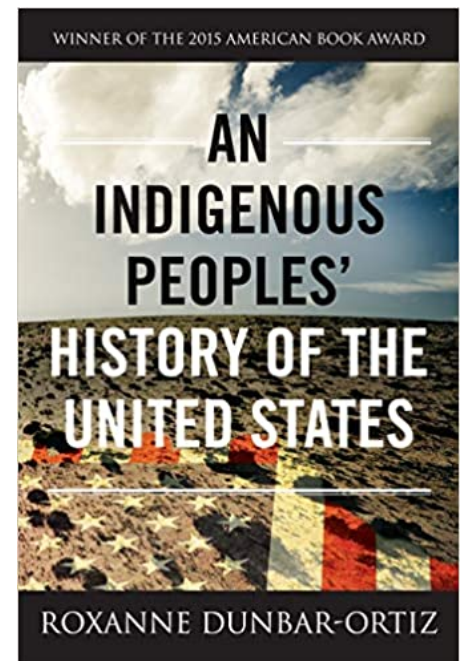
Indigenous Peoples' History Discussion Postponed

You have two more weeks to read the book! Our discussion of this year's UUA Common Read, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, has been rescheduled for May 30, at 10 am. If you would like to participate with other Mission Peak members and friends please contact Allysson McDonald for the zoom link as our discussion will take place online.

Note: There is a young adult version and an audiobook version for those who prefer not to read the full text of the original book. More information here:

<https://www.uua.org/books/read>

The book discussion will be led by Allysson McDonald, a lay leader at Mission Peak, who has a Master's Degree in Native and Northern Studies.



How to Support Immigrant Families in East Oakland

Mission Peak UU member Ingrid O'Brien is raising money to help cover rent for low-income, recent-immigrant families at her school in East Oakland. Most have lost jobs and aren't

eligible for government support. While some in our own community are struggling, others are receiving stimulus payments we may not need. If you are able, and would like to contribute to Ingrid's fund, use PayPal to her email address, Venmo @IngridOBrien, or mail a check made out to her



(email and address in the members directory on the MPUUC website). She will put cash directly into their hands. Those who prefer to use formal channels may contribute at StimulusPledge.org; if they select "East Oakland Pride Elementary," it will go to families from her school. Just know that Oakland Ed Fund takes a cut for administration and they don't provide cash, but checks or electronic deposits, which are tricky for families without bank accounts. For more information, and for volunteer opportunities, click [here](#).



MPUUC members have written more than 1,100 non partisan Get Out To Vote (GOTV) letters since the end of January!

GOTV letters have been shown to be an effective way to increase voter turnout. Please contact Kathi if you are willing to help us write more GOTV letters.

Board Briefs

The Mission Peak UU board met for a special meeting on April 22 to help finish the agendas from previous meetings, that were mainly spent on how to continue church operations during the pandemic. Below are some highlights of the meeting:

- Called Special Congregational Meeting on May 17th to vote on calling Rev. Greg Ward
- Announced Annual Congregational meeting on May 31st after service
- Announced successful application for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan
- Passed updated Board Policy [April 22, 2020 Board Policy](#)
- Passed new Stewardship Committee Charter

For complete minutes of board meetings go to <https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only/board-documents/>

For more information email president@mpuuc.org

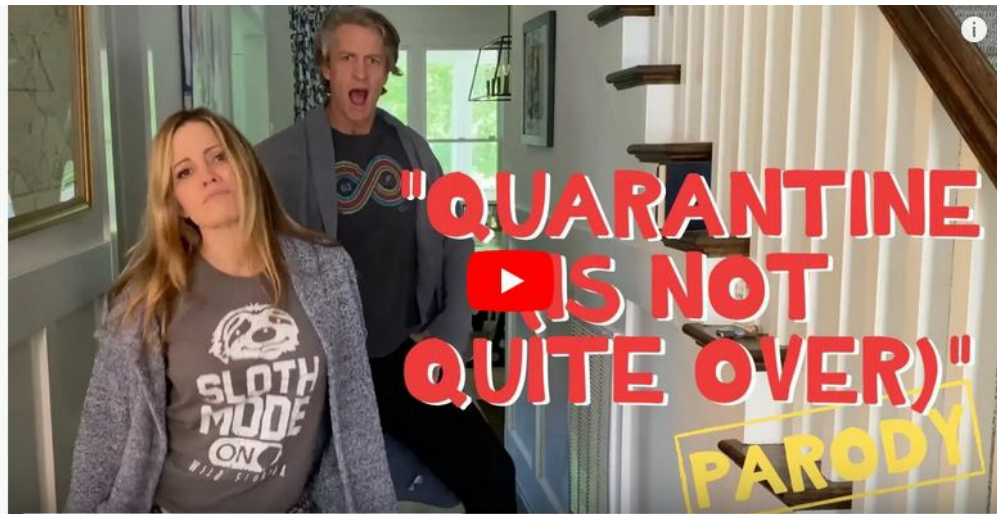
Humor Corner





2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.

The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!



<https://youtu.be/ygdB-ZE0daY>

If you have contributions to the Humor Corner, please send them to Sandra before 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

ACT NOW!

WE ARE ONE

**"APPLAUD FOR OUR HEROES"
EVERY THURSDAY at 7:00 p.m.**

Every Thursday evening, step outside and APPLAUD FOR OUR HEROES for a few minutes!

Let's clap, cheer, and make joyful noises for our Healthcare workers, First Responders, and Essential Workers who are doing so much to keep the rest of us going. Be creative!



**APPLAUD
FOR OUR HEROES!**

Join our community to thank our heroes:
Healthcare Workers

Make signs, sing or play a song, dance for joy, or just clap and smile at your neighbors! PLEASE SHARE - Spread the word for our heroes! If there was ever a time that showed us that WE ARE ONE, it's surely now. (Flyer attached - [PDF](#))

[#ThanksHealthcareHeroes](#) [#WeApp
laud](#) [#ThankYouEssentialWorkers](#)
[#StayHomeSaveLives](#) [#ClapBecauseWeCare](#) [#ThankfulThursdays](#)

Tri-City Interfaith Council Compassionate Fremont

Call your Elected Officials!

Calls can make a difference! Contact your representatives to alert them to your views!

Congressperson Eric Swalwell 510-247-1388 or go to [house.gov](https://www.house.gov)
Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Kamala Harris (202) 224 - 3553
Senator Diane Feinstein (202) 224-3841

STAY CONNECTED:



First Responders

Essential Workers

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

starting April 23, 2020.

Continuing every Thursday while we shelter-in-place.

We invite you to step outside your front door and clap, cheer, and make joyful noises for a few minutes to thank our front line and essential workers who risk their own health everyday so we can be safe.

Be creative! Make signs, make music, or just clap and smile at your neighbors. We appreciate all who are keeping things going during these trying times.

WE ARE ONE

#WeApplaud #ClapBecauseWeCare #ThanksHealthCareHeroes

#ThankYouEssentialWorkers #StayHomeSaveLives

Tri-City Interfaith Council Compassionate Fremont