

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 19, 2020

### Greetings!

Fall has always been my favorite time of year - is it because of my September birthday? Cooler weather (one can hope)? Changing colors (in Canada)? New beginnings? Despite the recent heat wave, summer must be drawing to a close - teachers and students, while not back in classrooms, are back in school. I completed several hours of training last week in order to be allowed to substitute teach in my school district. Last week was a busy week for Mission Peak UU leadership as well - all three Councils met on Tuesday evening and the Board met on Wednesday! The Justice Council committees have several exciting projects underway - keep tabs on those by following the Justice Corner weekly in this newsletter. And our Adult RE and Children's RE programming has been planned and will soon be underway! Be sure to sign up!



The Councils are seeking to set up a regular meeting schedule which will be posted on the Mission Peak UU calendar. This should help avert some scheduling conflicts this year. Rev. Greg has shared his scheduling spreadsheet with the leadership also, and is looking forward to scheduling some one-on-one time with members as he starts up his ministry with us in September. Watch for an email from the Committee on Ministry on that. DeAnna Alm, the President Elect for the congregation has been updating our Congregational Timeline (which was started by the Transitions Committee - thank you) and keeping track of upcoming important dates for the board. We look forward to Rev. Greg's start, the Water Ceremony, a Super Council meeting, and the TriCity Interfaith Thanksgiving service this fall.

Just as students need schedules, syllabi, and agendas to stay on track, our calendars, timelines, and schedules will keep us on track for the work of the congregation. Some may not think of a congregation as being/doing work, but our task is laid out in our mission statement: "Growth and healing in ourselves and all people. Together we strive to live compassionately and courageously as we work for a nonviolent, just and sustainable world." It is work, but it is GOOD work, that we will engage in more effectively by having these structures in place. Of course we should not confuse the structures with the work - this isn't "busy work", though it keeps some of us quite busy - keeping organized will help us to fulfill our mission, our life saving work!

I wish all who teach and all who are students a good year of learning and growth in spite of, and perhaps because of, the circumstances you are in due to the pandemic. I wish the same for all of

## This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to virtual services because of the Coronavirus pandemic. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to connect.

### What Should I Do?

A Somewhat Lighthearted Guide to Decision Making when You're Pretty Clueless by Knuti VanHoven. With Advice from Great Minds of the World including Moses, Jesus, Rogers and Hammerstein and Google.

Knuti VanHoven will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Worship Host will be Drew Wilson. Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven, Shauna Pickett-Gordon 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:**

Mail check to

1. 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%.**

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### [Physically Distanced Youth Gathering Update!](#)

Our Jr. and Sr. High Youth met this past Saturday to play some physically distanced games! They had a blast and I am proud to announce that Jessica and Raymond won the game! We will have a second round of physically distanced games on Saturday August 29th at 10am. Youth need to wear masks and closed toed shoes for these events. We will be abiding by all of the guidelines established by Alameda County. Please use the

[following link](#) to register your youth and give

permission for them to attend these events. This meeting will take place on the lawn in front of Cole



Hall.

Shawn Snavley



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## Ministerial Support for August

Our interim minister, Rev. Jo Green, is on vacation and study leave until her final day of employment, August 18th. In the meantime, if you are in need of emergency pastoral care between now and August 31st, please contact Rev. Barbara Meyers. Her email and phone number are listed in the directory, which is in the members-only section of our website.

Our new settled minister, Rev. Greg Ward, begins with us on September 1st. At that point you will be able to reach him at the same Mission Peak UU phone number and email that Rev. Jo used. Rev. Greg's first day in the pulpit will be Sunday, September 13th.

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## JUSTICE CORNER

### UU the Vote

Across the country UU's are expanding the coalition of people prepared to overcome voter suppression and #votelove in 2020. UU the Vote is planning national days of action every other week from now to election day. For more information please check this [link](#).



Valerie Stewart

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### ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION TASK FORCE (ARO) RECOMMENDATIONS

Each week, the ARO Task Force will bring you specific actions or educational opportunities for MPUUC members and friends to participate in, in order to overcome white supremacy and defend Black lives. Here are the first!



### SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice)

Please consider joining the Bay Area chapter of SURJ which is part of a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice, with passion and accountability. <https://www.surjbayarea.org/>

### SIDE with LOVE Webinar Series

In collaboration with UUSC, Side With Love is offering an exciting new 5 session webinar series to

deepen our collective activism and participation in the Movement for Black Lives. We invite you to sign up on this link and participate in [Taking A Collective Breath: Deepening our alignment with the Movement for Black Lives](#), built around the elements of the BREATHE Actinar series to deepen our collective activism and participation in the Movement for Black Lives.

Essay: [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack by Peggy McIntosh](#)

If you haven't yet read this classic, fairly brief explanation of white privilege, now is the time. McIntosh clearly explains what white privilege is and how all white people benefit from it. If you've ever found yourself saying, "I don't have privilege, I grew up poor," then this essay is for you!



**Unpacking  
the  
Invisible  
Knapsack**

Ingrid O'Brien Avery, [ingridoavery@gmail.com](mailto:ingridoavery@gmail.com)

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## Pacific Western Region Newsletter

The Pacific Western Region monthly newsletter provides a way to find out what is going on at other congregations in our area. It also lists upcoming events and various training webinars. To subscribe go to:

[Subscribe to the PWR Newsletter](#)

You may also want to check out the regional website at:  
<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western>

One of the resource pages on the website is about Multicultural Transformation and Intercultural competency:  
<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/resources/multicultural-transformation-intercultural>

Holly Ito

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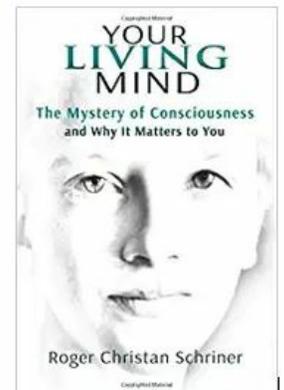
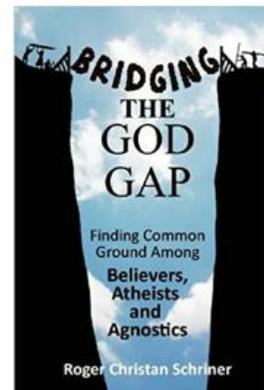


## Virtual Book Signing

Our Minister Emeritus, Dr. Chris Schriener, signs copies of his books after the service from time to time. Since services are now virtual, Chris is offering a "virtual book signing." Order from Chris and he will mail you a copy with a personalized message. All books are on sale through August 31 for \$15, including tax. Pick-up or delivery will be worked out individually. 20% of the proceeds will be donated to MPUUC.

[Cschriener@gmail.com](mailto:Cschriener@gmail.com)

Chris Schriener, 39541 Wilford Ct., Fremont CA 94538



Click [here](#) for a list of books available

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The Adult Education Committee is pleased to announce Its course offerings for the 2020 Fall Quarter. All classes will be offered on Zoom, and links will be sent to registered students prior to the beginning of the class. To sign up for a class, please email Linda Messia at [lmessia@yahoo.com](mailto:lmessia@yahoo.com).

To view class brochure, click [here](#).

Linda Messia, Len Tiemann, and Eric Dittmar

Fall Quarter  
2020



Mission Peak  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation

**From the Adult Education Committee**  
The Committee offers these programs for the fall quarter, with many thanks to each presenter.  
The Committee includes Linda Messia, Len Tiemann, and Eric Dittmar.  
You may register for classes by emailing Linda at [lmessia@yahoo.com](mailto:lmessia@yahoo.com).

**Poems**

John & Jackie Porter  
via Zoom - 6 places  
Mondays: September 14 & 28.  
October 12 & 26, November 9 & 23.  
7 - 9 pm

*Poetry is simply the most beautiful, impressive, and widely effective mode of saying things, and hence its importance.*

*Basho*  
Twice a month we gather, via Zoom, to read, listen to, and discuss poems. Bring what you would like to read and discuss. Light up your life by sharing poems with friends.

Four meetings: Wednesdays  
October 7, 14, 21, & 28  
7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom

*Held - Showing Up for Each Other's Mental Health - A Guide for Every Member of the Congregation* by Rev. Barbara Meyers.

This book illustrates how members of liberal religious congregations can be supportive to those living with mental health problems, and their loved ones, in our congregations and society at large. It addresses the fundamental elements of spiritual support—truth, hope, presence, acceptance, encouragement, authenticity, public witness, and pastoral care—with stories from real life situations and suggestions for how parishioners can provide and advocate for support in their congregations.

We will use the study guide in the book for this book-reading.

People can order their own books from the UU Book Store at: <https://bit.ly/2BRtUk>, or from Amazon

**The Righteous Mind**  
(Book Study)

Steve Wallcave  
Three meetings: Tuesdays:  
September 8 & 22;  
October 6 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
10 participants

*The Righteous Mind - Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*  
By Jonathan Haidt

In his book, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt challenges conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to conservatives and liberals alike.

This will be a book discussion.

## "The Righteous Mind" Book Discussion Starting Sept. 8th

If you want to understand why people believe weird stuff and don't respond to logic and push for misguided policies which will ruin the nation, please read the book and join us in our discussion about the book "The Righteous Mind-Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion" By Jonathan Haidt. In his book, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt challenges conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to conservatives and liberals alike.



Classes will be on September 8, 22, and October 6 from 7:00 -8:30 pm on Zoom. The book is available from multiple places including the library and Amazon. The discussion will be lead by Steve Wallcave.

## Board Briefs

The board met on Aug. 12th at 7 p.m and:

- Renamed Reopening task force to "Covid 19 Response Task Force"
- Approved a Mission Peak UU office usage plan and checklist
- Approved an outdoor event guidelines and checklist
- Made a policy regarding inclusion of remote participants



The above policies are available in the ["about-->Congregational Documents"](#) section of our [web site](#)

Our next board meetings is on Sept. 9th at 7 p.m.

For complete board minutes of this and previous meetings or text of committee charters go to the members only section of our web site at [mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only](http://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

## Humor Corner

Dad, why don't we  
get coronavirus?

Because we  
have anty  
bodies.



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

**ACT NOW!**

**Call your Elected Officials!**

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

Representative Eric Swalwell 510-247-1388 or go to [house.gov](https://www.house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Kamala Harris (202) 224 - 3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841

STAY CONNECTED:

