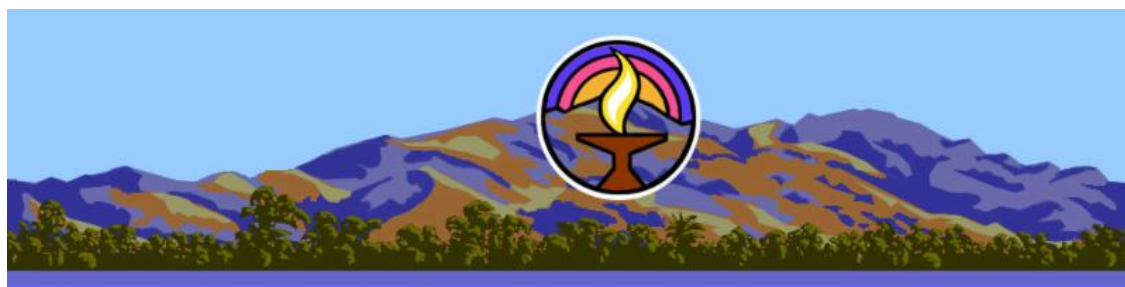


# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 26, 2020

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### Greetings!

Dear Fellow MPUUC Members,

We write to you today mainly to provide an update from the Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Task Force (which we're calling ARO, pronounced "arrow"). But we are also writing to introduce ourselves. As two of the newest members of MPUUC, we don't have the longstanding relationships with others in the congregation that many of you have, but in the year that we each have been part of this community, we have both come to treasure the fellowship we have found among you.



We first met at a Lights for Liberty event in July 2019, which Bekah had organized and which Ingrid had stumbled across online. Bekah was a visitor to MPUUC at the time, and Ingrid had never attended, but when we saw that at least a dozen people in purple shirts had come to join the crowd of protesters and demand the release of immigrant children incarcerated at the border, we both knew we had found our kind of people. We both joined Mission Peak, and UUism, because of the promise that this church represents, a promise that religion can be about not just spirituality and introspection (though we value those), but about the struggle for the liberation of all of humanity from all forms of oppression.

When Rev. Jo Green challenged us during a sermon in May 2020 to publicly declare our commitment to this struggle and hang a banner declaring, "Black Lives Matter," we were excited. Then, our congregation voted in a special meeting in June 2020 to both hang a banner and commit to a year focused on anti-racism education and action. Ingrid and Bekah have been honored to guide the fantastic task force team. The ARO Task Force (whose entire membership we will not list here as some do not wish to be identified in a public forum, for personal reasons) has met six times since we formed in July. Our mission is to make sure MPUUC doesn't just "talk the talk" with our BLM banner, but actually "walks the walk" of learning about racism and fighting to dismantle it. We have identified three "streams" of planning and activity: education, action, and something we're calling a "cultural shift" in the church, or "de-centering whiteness" in our congregation. Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming announcements about ways to engage with these streams, such as book reads, workshops, virtual visits to city hall, and discussion groups. We have already begun. You may have seen Bekah's announcement a couple weeks ago in WOTP that she and Kathi are starting an affinity group for people of color and their loved ones at MPUUC, known as

"Safe Space." We hope that this group will truly be a safe space for POC in our congregation to discuss their experiences. Bekah and Kathi are also working on a page within our website that highlights the diversity that does exist in the congregation, in an effort to demonstrate the value of our non-white members in our majority white church. Additionally, you should look each week in WOTP for at least one simple, quick "education" or "action" item from ARO. Last week and this week we are encouraging people to join the webinar series "Taking a Collective Breath," and to read the classic essay "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." We are also in close communication with Rev. Greg about what direction to point ARO next.

We want to close both with gratitude and with an invocation. Thank you for trusting us, two newbies, to tackle this important work. Remember, too, that this is work our entire congregation must engage in, so that we go beyond checking off boxes of allyship and truly seek to change our hearts and minds as we enter the battle against white supremacy and for Black lives. Join in. Share your ideas. Voice your concerns and struggles. We are at the beginning of a conversation that will be humbling and difficult, but that can also be liberating.

In Love,

Bekah Troxler D'hand and Ingrid O'Brien Avery

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## 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.**

### Manners for Today: Covenants of Right Relations

Growing up in the 50's and 60's, many folks attempted to teach me good manners. At the time, I found them quaint and outmoded, as did a lot of my peers. Individualism above all else became the mantra of much of society. But I now realize that some form of social compact is necessary for a civil society. A Covenant of Right Relations can be such a compact that provides a set of relevant and updated manners, if you will, for our congregation. In this talk, I'll discuss what they are and how they can help a congregation, and its congregants, deal with the messiness of living while upholding the UU principles (also a covenant) in a constructive and harmonious way.



Drew Wilson will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Kathy Wallcave. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jay Steele 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

## [Covid-19 Response Survey Coming Thursday](#)

The Covid-19 Response Task Force will be sending out a survey link in an email this Thursday to see how our current adaptations to the Covid-19 pandemic are meeting our congregation's needs, and how we might change in response to the pandemic conditions improving in the future. We hope all members and friends will complete it no later than Friday, September 4th at 8 PM.

We are also happy to announce that the Mission Peak UU board has passed the following two policies using inputs from the Task Force:

- Outdoor event guidelines and checklist
- Mission Peak UU office usage plan and checklist

The new policies are available at the "[about-->Congregational Documents](#)" section of the [Mission Peak UU website](#).

Steve Wallcave, DeAnna Alm and Eric Ryan

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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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## 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

## 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!



### 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, [ingridovery@gmail.com](mailto:ingridovery@gmail.com)

## Cole Hall Garden

MPUUCers-

Maybe you remember the Cole Hall garden in its glory days. While it doesn't look like this today, the garden beds are there and the hose has water.

If you do not have gardening space where you live and would like to grow yourself some vegetables, you are welcome to adopt a bed, clean it up of the weeds that might be there now and plant/water/care for and grow your own veggies.



Our climate permits growing year round. I have been working to clear the weeds, but there is still more clearing work to be done before planting is possible.

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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

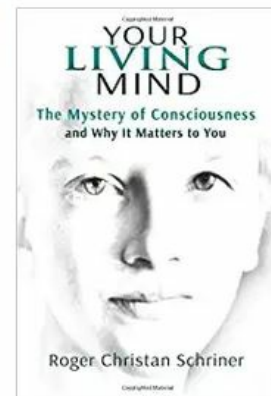
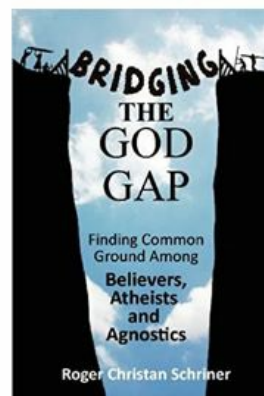
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## Virtual Book Signing

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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## ADULT EDUCATION FALL 2020

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

*Adult Education Classes*  
Fall Quarter  
2020



**Held (Book Study)**  
Barbara Meyers

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.

*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 Tieman, and Eric Bittmar.  
You may register for classes by emailing Linda at lmesia@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.

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)

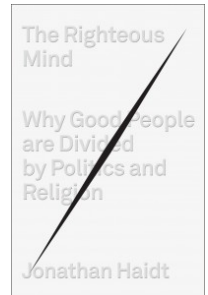
Steve Wallcave  
Three meetings: Tuesdays:  
September 8 & 22;  
October 6 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
10 participants

*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.

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## "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.

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## 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](https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

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

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## Humor Corner

At first, I thought I had Covid  
because I couldn't breathe.



Then I unbuttoned my pants and it was all ok.

So in retrospect, in 2015, not a single person got the answer right to "Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?"

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](http://house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Kamala Harris (202) 224 - 3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841

STAY CONNECTED:

