

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 23, 2020

Greetings!

Greetings MPUUC Members and Friends,

I am Valerie Stewart, a longtime member and part of the Civic Engagement Committee of the Justice Council. We all know there is a general election in just a few short weeks, many calling it the most important election of our lifetimes. Many members here at MPUUC have been working for years in voter engagement and voter registration efforts. There are many personal reasons, but as UUs we are committed to this work by our Fifth Principle, "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."



Before talking about community efforts, we want to make sure everyone at Mission Peak knows how to register and use their ballot in this year with COVID. Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order making Mail-in Ballots available to ALL registered voters. The California Voter Registration Deadlines: BY Online-Monday, October 19, 2020 and **By Mail**-Monday, October 19, 2020.* There are several ways to check your status registration online. <http://www.vote411.org/> is a resource tool of the League of Women Voters, which provides information for voters with information for all states. In California the Secretary of State handles voting www.sos.ca.gov.

Once you are registered, you will receive a ballot in the mail. To vote, complete the ballot, insert your ballot in the envelope provided, making sure you complete all required information on the envelope. You may return your voted vote-by-mail ballot by 1) mailing it to your county elections official; 2) returning it in person to a polling place or the elections office in your county on Election Day; or 3) authorizing anyone to return the ballot on your behalf.

California has early voting and all voting advocates are advising people to **VOTE EARLY** if permitted. In California **EARLY VOTING for the Tuesday, November 3, 2020 General Election begins on October 2nd and ends on November 2nd**. You can vote early either in person at your county elections office (in Oakland), or by using the vote-by-mail system. Drop Boxes are in front of City Hall in Fremont. Any registered voter may vote early instead of going to the polls on Election

Day. Voting by mail is being attacked, but California is fortunate to have a process that ensures all valid vote-by-mail ballots are counted in every election in California, regardless of the outcome or closeness of any race.

Unitarian Universalists are answering the call of our faith, building powerful partnerships to mobilize our communities to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate in the 2020 elections. This UU effort began in 2019 and MPUUC participated in the first national call in January 2020. We encourage everyone to read about the national efforts at www.UUtheVote.org. MPUUC has been working with the League of Women Voters and the Youth Voter Movement to register young voters with volunteering at registration events and financial support. Since 2018, nearly 6000 young people have been registered to vote. MPUUC members have written over 5000 Letters to Voters with Vote Forward, a 501c3 created in 2017 to empower grassroots volunteers to help register voters from under-represented demographics and encourage them to vote.

September 27 is a national UUtheVote Worship Service. Our DRE, Shawn Snavelly, has organized a GOTV Letter Writing celebration Sunday, Sept. 27 at 11:30 AM after service. Please RSVP and join us!

Valerie Stewart

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.

Ooops!!!

Covenant - the intentionality of being in 'right relations' with those around us is an ideal we strive to live up to. And, because we are perfectly imperfect, we (like all human beings) occasionally fall short of our ideals - and those who love us also fall short. How do we acknowledge our shortcomings without shaming or blaming or resenting, but rather by encouraging, renewing and recommitting to our highest aspirations?



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jo Ann Schriener 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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Our Black Lives Matter Banner was Vandalized

This week, our Black Lives Matter banner was vandalized. It was smeared with red paint and slashed with something sharp. We knew it was only a matter of time until this occurred, but all the same it is with a heavy heart that we consider our next steps as a congregation. The defaced banner has already been replaced with a new one, and additional backups will be ordered in case of future damage. ARO and the Board are working together to plan next steps, which will likely include a media response and a rededication ceremony. What we want the congregation to know is this: we will never back down from loudly declaring our support for Black lives. Every attempt to silence this message merely serves to reinforce its importance. We will keep putting our banner back, and we will keep educating ourselves, taking action for Black lives, and working to dismantle white supremacy wherever we find it, including in ourselves and in our congregation. Thank you for your support of MPUUC's anti-racism work.



GOTV LETTER WRITING CELEBRATION!

WHEN: Sunday, September 27 at 11:30 AM after service.

WHERE: Virtually hosted by Shawn via Zoom

RSVP: to Shawn Snaveley by clicking [here](#) for more information

Please join us if you have written letters or if you have never written letters but would like to support our effort.

If you would like, bring CHOCOLATE or lunch to virtually share. There will be entertainment, education, sharing and letter writing. You can download letters at <https://vote4wd.org/>



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

As part of our MPUUC mandate to educate ourselves about anti-racism and anti-oppression, 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. Below are this week's opportunities.



[Why you should stop saying "all lives matter," in 9 different ways](#)

In light of the recent vandalism to our Black Lives Matter banner, ARO encourages everyone to read this brief article about why it's important to say Black Lives Matter, rather than "all lives matter."



Action: Tell your local leaders to support the BREATHE Act
The BREATHE Act is a 21st-century Federal civil rights bill that will help communities of color not just survive, but thrive. Click [here](#) to tell your local leaders to support this important law.

DRUUMM (Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries)

Save-The-Date! We invite BIPOC Unitarian Universalists to participate in our Fall 2020 DRUUMM Regional (virtual) BIPOC Caucuses. These will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings in September.

California - September 26th 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. PT
For more information or to join DRUUMM click [here](#).

DONATIONS Needed!

- Men's medium sized clothes
- An old working car

Please Contact Meredith Miller for more information.

Expanding Awareness: The Alchemy of Transforming Unconscious Bias

Personal meditation practice often doesn't shine a light on unconscious biases we might hold. Understanding them and how to transform them is important for our own healing journey and in creating a more awake society. Shambhala Meditation Center (Boston) hosts a discussion with Aarti Tejuja, September 25th, 4pm(PDT). The fee is on a sliding scale. <https://boston.shambhala.org/program-details/?id=282783/>

Board Briefs

The board met on September 9th at 7 p.m. and:

- Agreed to encourage and support members of the Anti-Racism Oppression task force in attending the Beloved Conversations program being put on by the UUA this fall.
- Discussed the Governance Review process. The task force will provide a final report by November.
- Discussed the Congregational Covenant process. Planning is underway.
- Agreed that the Board policies should be combined under one document and the work will begin late this month.(Many of our board policies are available in the (["about-->Congregational Documents" section of our web site](#))
- Discussed the Cole Hall audio system replacement. Further discussion and research will be needed.



The next board meeting is on Wednesday, November 11th at 7 p.m.

For complete board minutes or other board info go to the Members Only section of our web site at

PCD Fall Chalice Lighter Call Now Open!

The Fall 2020 Pacific Central Chalice Lighter call is designed to help congregations further their virtual communications during this unprecedented time of social distancing when we cannot join together in person at our physical churches. Church is not a building even though that is where we meet, when we can. To quote the UUA website "The Church is open. It is the building that is closed." Visit the [PCD website](#) to read the call letter and make a donation.

Allysson McDonald



Humor Corner



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:



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