

This Week on the Peak



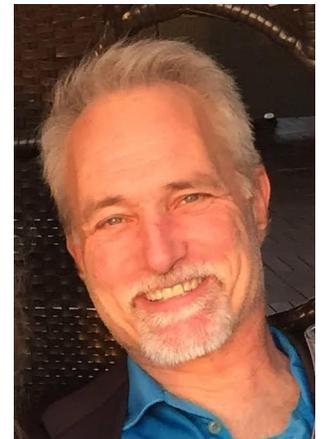
Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA **The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!** **September 6, 2020**

Greetings!

Dear friends,

I submit this on my first day as minister with you. I feel excited. Hopeful. Grateful. And, if I can be honest, a tiny bit scared by the gravitas of this moment.

Let's start with 'grateful' - always a good place to begin. Especially now. Because, candidly, 'grateful' has rarely been the first word out of my mouth when I read the news each morning. I don't think WotP policy allows me to print my actual first words. But, if you can guess, you'll know I've felt a little taken aback. Off balance. And, sometimes, more-than-a-little scared.



Covid has come calling. And it has been asking us all some hard questions. 'How do you feel about death? Not only your own, but the deaths of people you love? How do you feel about death that comes too early? Too unwilling to bargain or negotiate? How do you feel about the unfairness of people left to die alone? The way death comes disproportionately calling on people of color? The poor? How do you feel about people who ignore, deny or dismiss death because it isn't there for them? Ignoring communal safety and shared civility in favor personal pleasure or, worse, profit?'

These are hard questions. The kind of questions that make it hard to stop and embrace gratitude because we're scared. And, for me, I tend to get most scared when I feel isolated and alone.

I know we all need to respect Covid, even though none of us like it. Physically distancing is one of the only ways we can refuse unwarranted passage to death. And though my introverted side may sometimes embrace isolation, my social, mental, emotional and spiritual sides find it painful. Nearly every file in my personal vault of meaning is covered in other people's fingerprints. For that reason, I miss the shaking of hands, the high fives, the hugs and the singing together. I need people. Their caring. The collaboration. Even the cacophony of crowded rooms (hard for introverts), the uncomfortable messiness when differences in opinion invariably came, or the way everyone always brought at least a little baggage into conversations... it seems so endearing when I stop to realize these things only emerge when we dare create enough room and trust for each other to fully show up. I now see it as ways we show up to bless one another.

So I'm grateful for you. I'm grateful because I realize that amidst the strange, unfamiliar and scary messiness of these times, I need you. I know myself enough to know I am one of those animals that needs to be part of a posse. I'm better in a herd than in a cloister. Because by being together, I've discovered our call is to bless one another.

We are birds of a feather. And there's something real about hive mind. In these tumultuous times, it is what's calling us to show up. To be real. To dare breaking through the barriers of all we know to discover all we might be. And if we ever feel lost, to find ourselves through service.

The theme of the month is 'renewal'. And I think one of the best ways to invoke renewal is to follow the advice of theologian Nelle Morton who called us to 'listen each other into our truth.' Most of the time, our most powerful truths are not new. But they have been buried under doubt or despair or the confusion of everything around us. They need to be listened back into place.

Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire and sign up for a one on one conversation. I'd love the opportunity to get to know you and the truths you bring to the community.

Rev. Greg

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.

Revisiting Logic and Reason

In Unitarian Universalism, logic and reason have long been a source of wisdom in our search for truth and meaning. However, as a denomination we have at times failed to use logic and reason for our enlightenment. How can we ensure logic and reason are used as a tool of understanding and not as a tool of oppression?

Ilze Duarte will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Katherine Alm. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Bekah Troxler D'hand 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%.

Getting Ready for Water Communion

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate our annual ingathering Water Communion service with a playful, fun, intergenerational service called, 'Noah's Dilemma.' This is an updated rendition of the famous story of Noah building an ark to save the animals from the great flood. In this very different version, the story centers around all the animals coming together and figuring out how to build beloved community in such a small space. To prepare, we ask you to do three things: (1) join the Zoom dressed as your favorite animal (even if it's wearing your Chicago 'Cubs' hat) so you can be among the animals who board the ark); (2) remember to bring a little water and a small bowl to pour it into so everyone can participate; and (3) think about what gift of yourself (one word) can you pour into community? Is it 'love?' 'Humor?' 'Spreadsheets?' 'Snacks?' This will be a service celebrating what we each bring and how it helps make us whole

Rev. Greg

One on One with Rev. Greg

MANY THANKS to those members who filled out the survey to set up a meeting time with Rev. Greg!

Most of those who responded should have received an email suggesting a date and time. Please confirm that date and time, and Rev. Greg will send you a zoom link for the meeting.

If you haven't filled it out, please take a few moments and do so now:

<https://forms.gle/NabRyv1XaS3zCEjw6>

It won't take long, and it will help Rev. Greg get to know us and our histories as well as our hopes and dreams for the congregation.

Please let us know if you have any questions,

Committee on Ministry

Colleen Arnold (colleenag@sbcglobal.net)

Ilze Duarte (Ilze.b.duarter@gmail.com)

Alan Davis (alanshar@comcast.net)

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



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

 **SIDE WITH LOVE**

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 Invisable Knapsack

Ingrid O'Brien Avery, 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.

Please call Valerie Stewart if you want more information. 510/673-4287

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>





Holly Ito

Adult Education Update

With regrets, this quarter's "Meditation & Dharma" Adult RE discussion group is suspended, probably until January. I'm around and, as always, would enjoy any impromptu questions or discussion; but don't have time for disciplined preparation, and am unable to commit to attend regularly this quarter.

Take care all,

Eric Dittmar

Adult Education Classes 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 Timman, and Eric Dittmar.
You may register for classes by emailing Linda at lmesstia@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.

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, 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-read.

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

Covid-19 Response Survey Due by Friday

The Covid-19 Response Task Force sent out a survey link in an email last 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. Thank you to the many people who have filled it out! If you have not had a chance yet you may still complete it, until this Friday, September 4th at 8 PM. [You can follow this link to the Survey.](#)

Thanks,

Steve Wallcave, DeAnna Alm and Eric Ryan

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 meeting 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

For more details about meetings or questions email president@mpuuc.org

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

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Kamala Harris (202) 224 - 3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841

STAY CONNECTED:



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