

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 9, 2020

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### Greetings!

Hello, Mission Peak!

I am DeAnna Alm, your President-Elect this year. Last year I chaired the Search Committee, and I am so excited for you all to get to know and work with Rev. Greg Ward. We've been through a lot of ministerial change in the last three to four years -- it feels exciting to be poised to start things off with a new settled minister!



Change can be unsettling, and we have had no shortage of it! COVID-19 and the resulting shutdowns and quarantine, moving service to the virtual realm, having to do our jobs differently -- these things are hard and can leave us searching for some sort of stability, something we can count on. For me, Mission Peak UU is one of those vital sources of stability. It doesn't look the same as it used to, being viewed through a computer screen, but the love and caring and devotion are still there.

One way I deal with the stress and uncertainty of change is to try to create plans and structures. (And spreadsheets. Lots and lots of spreadsheets.) If you are also feeling a little at sea, I would encourage you to try joining a committee -- we have a lot of them, and they all benefit from an influx of new people. New people bring new ideas, which can help us improve our plans and structures and help us to maintain Mission Peak UU as a place that provides support for all of us. If you go to the Members Only section of our website, you can find the Leadership Directory, which lists our current committees and contact information for the committee chairs. Reach out to one (or more!) and contribute your efforts. They will be welcomed, and you may feel even more a part of our home on the hill.

Stay safe!

DeAnna Alm  
President-Elect

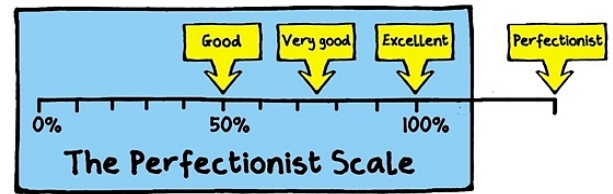
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### This Sunday's Service:

**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.**

## Perfect Strangers

In his introductory service, Rev. Greg will start off by asking people NOT to be on 'best behavior'. Instead, he asks them to take the kind of risks necessary to be 'real.' Being real means being willing to make mistakes without scrambling to cover them up. Being real means being imperfect. It means being vulnerable. Brene Brown reminds us that although vulnerability is uncomfortable and scary, it is the only reliable way toward the authenticity, connection and joy we want from one another.



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jay Steeke 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%.**

## Share the Plate will Support OUR Fund on September 13



While many workers who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 have been able to turn to existing safety net programs, including unemployment insurance, public benefits, and new federal and local relief efforts - undocumented workers are largely excluded from those programs. OUR Fund was established by Centro Legal de la Raza and five partner organizations to address this critical gap in our social safety net, and will help support the most vulnerable members of the Oakland community who are impacted by this crisis. September's Share the Plate funds will go to this cause. Click on these links for more information about [OUR Fund](#) and about [Centro Legal de la Raza](#). Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:

- Write a check to MPUUC with "OUR Fund" in the memo line and mail 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)

- Drop an envelope with a check (with "OUR Fund" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "For "OUR Fund") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

- Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "For "OUR Fund" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

Thank you so much for your generous support of some of the most vulnerable of our Alameda County neighbors.

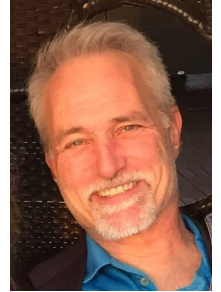
Allysson McDonald

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Dear Friends,

I'm so grateful and excited to be leading worship this Sunday. Thank you for this opportunity. You might notice a couple changes, a few things I want to try. So, it's important to say up front, the changes come from a spirit of love and wanting to have a little bit of mutual new exploration and discovery rather than anything that suggests Mission Peak wasn't already pretty darn spectacular just the way you've been. These changes - like many of the little details - don't have to be forever.

The big things that feel important in the 'forever' category are trust, respect, understanding, mutuality and support. These, I've found, are the best things to manage the details.



Thanks for opening your pulpit, your hearts and your lives.

Rev. Greg

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## Getting Ready for Water Communion

On Sunday September 20th, 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

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## 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](mailto:colleenag@sbcglobal.net))  
Ilze Duarte ([Ilze.b.duarter@gmail.com](mailto:Ilze.b.duarter@gmail.com))  
Alan Davis ([alanshar@comcast.net](mailto:alanshar@comcast.net))

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## FALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS SUNDAY SEPT. 13TH, 2020

This year we will be doing our RE program virtually for the safety of our teachers and students. We will have three age groups this year. Following the commitment made at our last congregational meeting to make anti-racism education a priority for the upcoming year our RE program will focus on age appropriate anti-racism and anti-oppression curriculum as part of our UU Curriculum Cycle. The littles, which is infant to 2nd grade, will only meet on the 4th Sunday of the month at 9am for a pre-worship story time and chat. They will also receive a story book video and questions the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month to watch when they can. The middles, which is 3rd grade to 7th grade, will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month over zoom at 1pm. This group will be using a modified version of Heading the Call. Lastly the youths, which is 8th-12th grade, will meet over zoom on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and will be using a modified version of the Be the Change curriculum. Youth group will continue to be led by Alexa and Eric D., but we will need volunteers to lead story time with The Littles on the 4th Sunday and volunteers to lead small group ministry with The Middles. If you are interested in volunteering please email Shawn, they will also be sending out a sign-up sheet to previous teachers. Training will be provided and volunteering will be greatly rewarded :) To register your child(ren) or youth(s) please complete this [google form](#).

Shawn Snavley

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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



## 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 friends to participate in, in order to overcome white supremacy and defend Black lives. Below are this week's opportunities.



[Holy Post: Race in America](#) (Please click on the link)

Description from the creator: "We need to talk about race. Why are people angry? Why so upset? Didn't we elect a black president? Pass civil rights laws? Isn't racism illegal now? Three years ago my brother Rob and I co-taught a class that discussed issues of racial injustice. That class turned into a popular podcast episode, which we've now turned into this video. Why are people still angry? Let's take a look at race in America..."

### Learn about The Breathe Act and sign As a Community co- sponsor

(The BREATHE Act offers a radical reimagining of public safety, community care, and how we spend money as a society) Click [here](#).

### DONATIONS Needed!

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

Please Contact Meredith Miller for more information

### 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](#).

## 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,

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 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.

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/2BRtUk>, or from Amazon

**The Righteous Mind (Book Study)**  
Steve Wallace  
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.

## Board Briefs

Many of our board 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 meeting minutes 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)



## International Day of Peace

Join Us:

"Shaping Peace Together" is the theme for the UN International Day of Peace. This year, because of the pandemic, we will gather on Zoom rather than meet at Lake Elizabeth to commemorate the day. To join us on Monday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. please RSVP to [TCIC.WeAreOne@gmail.com](mailto:TCIC.WeAreOne@gmail.com) for the Zoom link and password.

Please click [here](#) for flyer.



**International Day of Peace** was established by the United Nations in 1981.

Please join us as we unite with millions of people of all faiths & traditions throughout the world to pray for peace.



Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6pm

RSVP for Zoom link at [TCIC.WeAreOne@gmail.com](mailto:TCIC.WeAreOne@gmail.com)



## 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



## "Pray Their Names"

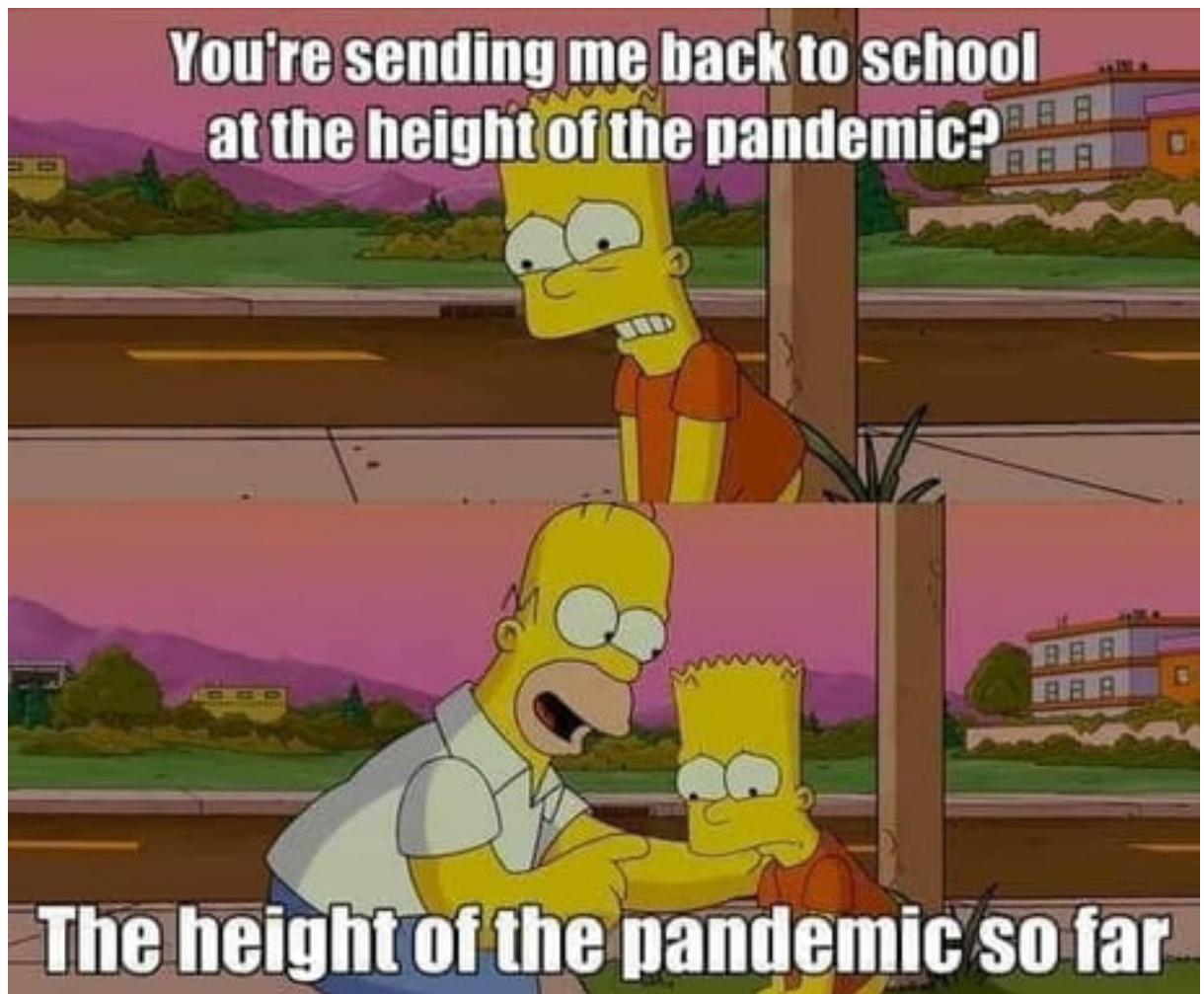
A Compelling Visual Art Installation in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter comes to Fremont at Niles Discovery Church September 2-20, 2020. Installation open sunrise to sunset. No admission. All are welcome. [Click Here for details](#)

Allysson McDonald

Pray Their Names



## Humor Corner



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

ACT NOW!

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**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:

