

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 14, 2020

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Greetings!

Dear Friends,

I share this picture because I'm trying hard not to forget her. The picture is of Elandria Williams. You may remember I recently dropped a stone for her during Joys and Concerns after she died suddenly. Unexpectedly. Until June, she served as Co-Moderator of the UUA.



I tell you about her because I'm afraid of living in a world without her.

Elandria (or E. as she was often called) was one of those rare individuals who knew she was a vessel through which love and justice was meant to flow. And they flowed in equal measure. She knew fear. And fatigue. Yet she responded fearlessly. Tirelessly. Because she knew people lifted her up. And she knew she did what she did for others. She helped found BLUU (Black Lives of UU) and won the The Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUM) "Outstanding Antiracist Activist & Leadership Award. She was on the Education Team of the Highlander Center – one of the country's primary civil rights institutions. She taught organizing, fought for equity for Black, Indigenous and Peoples of Color (BIPOC). She was a mentor.

What I want you to know – what I'm afraid to lose – is the example of someone who understood the scales of love – the balance of love and justice. She was funny and humble and always made you feel you were vital in this holy work undertaken together.

I once saw her admonish a room of top leaders saying, 'Y'all better wake up. Because they're (white supremacists) organized. And they're ready. Are you ready? And she went on to explain why she believed in us. Loved us. Needed us.

"They prioritize their agenda differently. They advance the agenda first – at all costs. Observe impact second. Care comes third."

“But y’all are backward,” she said. “You care first. See impact second. And advance the agenda third. That’s why I’m with you. Why you’re my people... and I’m your people. You put care first.”

This work – and by that I mean fighting for fairness – is hard. Justice never comes easy. But the beloved community – built on justice – is all about love. Because, ultimately, it’s about each other. And when we say ‘each other’ we mean everyone.

I think of our ARO team. I think of our teachers with our young people learning why we say Black Lives Matter. I’m thinking of our music makers, our small groups, our worship team, our board folks – all of them stepping toward big things. Stakes are high. But all of them are putting care first. We do our best work when we love the people we do it with. Love the people, and we’ll love the work we do together.

I want you to know – as E. would remind us – I am with you. And you are with me. And you are vital to this holy work we undertake together.

Peace and Love,

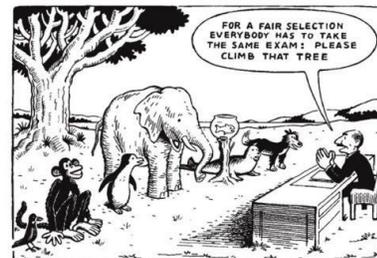
Rev Greg Ward  
(he, him, his)

[minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org)  
(510) 972-3890

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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.**



## Finding True North in a Post Truth World

No one likes the grammar police. That is, until some mischievous comma crook runs off with your intention and changes what you *know* you said... or when someone literally says 'literally' like a million times (when they don't). Then, who is there to put a stop to the nonsense. When we all bow to the loudest voice in the room or the court of public opinion, what's the point of having experts?

**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

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 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.

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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## JUSTICE CORNER

SURJ Bay Area is excited to announce the release of our first-ever [California Ballot Propositions Voter Guide](#). We encourage the following votes:

- [YES on Prop 15, Schools and Communities First](#)
- [YES on Prop 16, Opportunity for All](#)
- [YES on Prop 17, Free the Vote](#)
- [NO on Prop 20](#)
- [YES on Prop 21, Keep Families in their Homes](#)

Please share widely with your friends and family!

-the team at SURJ Bay Area

### MPUUC GOTV letters

MPUUC writers have written over 6065 GOTV letters and have written or inspired approximately 1,200 additional letters. This equal **7265** letters! Our efforts, combined with those of all Vote Forward volunteer letter writers, have produced 13.81 million letters to low propensity voters in strategic states and generated about 7.5 million dollars for the post office!

### Vote-by-mail ballots

County election offices have now sent vote-by-mail ballots to all active, registered California voters for the November 3, 2020 General Election. If you haven't already received your ballot, you can expect it to arrive soon.

You don't need to wait to return your ballot. Your ballot includes a prepaid, first class postage return envelope that you can use to mail your ballot back to your county elections office. You can also click the button below to find ballot drop-off locations near you or visit: [CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov](http://CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov)

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

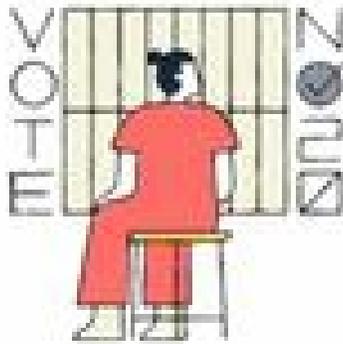


**Education:** [Video](#): Trevor Noah on George Floyd, Minneapolis Protests, Ahmaud Arbery & Amy Cooper

While this video is a couple months old at this point, if you find yourself wondering why, *why* anti-racism demonstrators have engaged in property damage, Trevor Noah makes a clear and compelling case for why this is the wrong question.

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**Education & Action:** Learning Hour: Props



Are you looking at your ballot, wanting to cast your vote for racial justice? Do you want to understand more deeply the context and impacts of some of the most important propositions this election? Join SURJ Learning Hour for a chance to learn more about Propositions 20 and 25 with a guest speaker from **CURB** (Californians United for a Responsible Budget). Learn about the systems that profit off of mass incarceration and why Prop 20 is harmful to community safety and targets Black, Indigenous, and people of color. You'll also hear information about the controversial Prop 25 – using an algorithm to replace cash bail. Plus opportunities to plug in for a final push before the election to support prison reform! [Learn more and register here.](#)

## Virtual Black and White Auction

Hi Everyone! As you read here last week our virtual Black & White event will be Saturday, November 14. That's only 5 weeks away!! Aaaaack! It's taking a bit to get the infrastructure of this virtual event in place, but while we're doing that we need you all to start thinking about how you can donate to this event. I know that we are still dealing with quarantine and will be for months to come, but there are still things you can offer for the auction: Offer to drop off meals or goodies (yes, there will be a pie-a-month offering). Cook and deliver a meal and then eat together as a group via zoom. Set up an online game night. Offer to have a socially distanced meal outside. Put together a scavenger hunt. And, as always, we need items for the boutique and the basket raffle.

I've set up a Black & White Brainstorming Zoom meeting for noon this coming Sunday, October 18. The link to register is below. Once you register I will send you the Zoom link. This is an opportunity to get personalized assistance brainstorming ideas for what you might donate for the auction. It's also the perfect time to let me know what items you would like to donate for the boutique or the basket raffle (if you know already). You can also ask other questions about the event or make suggestions. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlufuChqjoiHNTMBBHO1O3ozoj5bm1LIFdG>

Watch this spot next week for exciting new information about the Black & White Gala and how you can participate!!

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## Zoom Tips Week 2

Hello Again!

Here are your zoom tips for Week #2. We've included one tip from last week and one new tip.

### **TIP #2 Name who's in your party**

If you are not on video and there are two or more of you, please change your screen name to list the people who are watching. For example, Steve and Kathy, or DeAnna, Erik, Marcus. If you do not know how to change your screen name, please contact me and I will be happy to help you.

### **TIP #3 Breakout room introduction**

If there is someone in your breakout room who has their video off and you're not sure who

the person is, don't say (for example) , "Kathy, who is Kathy?" Instead, let them know you're happy they are with you and you would like to meet them. "Welcome Kathy. I'm glad you're here today. Would you feel comfortable turning on your video so we can meet you?" For some people it takes courage to go to a breakout when visiting, and we want to welcome and include them.

From Your Friendly Membership Committee  
Kathy Wallcave, Chair

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## New Ministry Start Up Mark Your Calendars! October 24 9:00am – 12:00pm

There's a third part that becomes important after the first two parts are in place. The first two parts? 1) Be a great congregation! 2) Find a great minister! The third part is about how we put them together? What does Rev. Greg need to learn about MPUUC to prepare him to support us so we're at our best? What about Rev. Greg will help us know how to support him and forge a strong partnership? This is a workshop with Melissa James, our Regional Staff person who will help us move beyond assumptions, toward commitment and partnership.

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## 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, October 21st at 7 p.m.

Please contact [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org) for more information about future board meetings.

For complete board minutes or other board info go to the Members Only section of our web site at [mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only](http://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

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## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service moves online

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 59th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is coming online. It will still be held on the Monday before Thanksgiving, on November 23, at 7:30 p.m., only it will be held on the Zoom platform.

To register for the service – advanced registration is required – go to [tinyurl.com/tcicTS2020](http://tinyurl.com/tcicTS2020).

The service will include prayers, readings, recorded music, and dance offered by several different faith and spiritual communities in the Tri-Cities. It will also include a brief sermon

by TCIC President, the Rev. Jeffrey Spencer, which he has tentatively titled "Chairs and the Table."

Jeff is the Senior Pastor at [Niles Discovery Church](#). The service is expected to last about one hour. You can download a flyer for the event by clicking [here](#)..

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## 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

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