

# This Week on the Peak



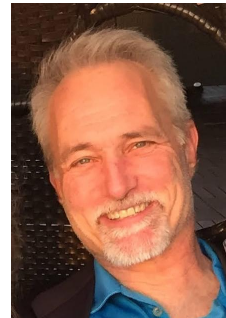
## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 28, 2020

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Greetings!

Dear friends,

We're coming to the home stretch of perhaps the most tense and frenetic election cycles our country has known (and we've known quite a few). There's incredible polarization and division around us. And, of course, in our questioning of 'how things got this bad?' there are lots of things at which we can point. There's always plenty of shame and blame to throw.



But let's not. Haven't we had enough of that? It rarely helps much and just pulls us into being part of the problem. There are people who capitalize on all this division and who use it to advance agendas built from fear. I'm wondering whether we can heed the call from prophetic leaders who ask us to put care first. Reach out. Look to those hurting. See beyond fear and frustration to the need. Invite rather than exclude. Offer attention and acceptance instead of analysis and diagnoses. Love the hell out of this world.

For this reason, we're asking everyone to take an opportunity to break down the usual boundaries that keep us apart and alone. Take even small steps to decrease the power of 'them' and increase the power of 'us.' We're asking you to join together in helping MPUUC host a Bring a Friend Sunday on November 15. Because no matter what happens on Nov 3, we're ALL needing to overcome the obstacles that keep us from our larger unity.

The service on Nov. 15 is about 'fairness' and what we can all do to have more of it. We're asking you to reach out and bring more voices to the conversation. We're asking on behalf of your MPUUC. But larger, on behalf of the values (open, inclusive, loving values) that called you into the diverse, non-dogmatic, non-doctrinal UU approach. We're not asking anyone to proselytize or evangelize. Not asking anyone who comes to check their opinions or experience at the door. No judgment. No conversions. Just caring. Recognizing need and extending care.

We'll be having a short coffee and conversation after the Nov. 15 service especially for

guests (and the people who brought them; and interested members) who would feel comfortable – or enjoy – going deeper into the topic, to ask questions or offer impressions.

Please make a list of people you could invite. This Sunday at 12:30, we'll brainstorm together about good, effective and non-threatening ways to reach out. But, I'll start by offering these **Top 5 reasons you would want to invite someone to Bring a Friend Sunday** AND the **Top 5 reasons they may want to come**.

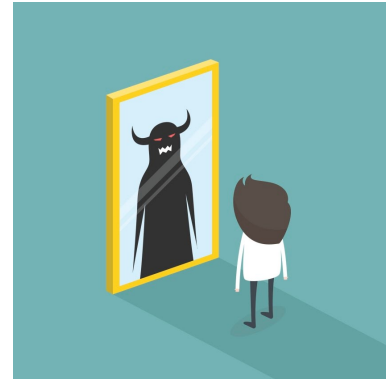
Rev Greg Ward  
(he, him, his)

[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.**



## What's So Bad About Feeling Good?

It's a very tough time in life. For our careers, our families and our souls. There is a pandemic sweeping the country. And it's having a severe effect on our mood. And our relationships. Certainly our future and maybe even our theology and religion. Meanwhile politicians are worried about how all of this will affect their chances of getting re-elected. Sound familiar? What if this movie has already played out? Over 50 years ago? We will examine prophecy from the past and what we still have to learn today.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Worship Host will be Drew Wilson. 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

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%.



## JUSTICE CORNER

### MPUUC GOTV letters

MPUUC writers have written over **6240** GOTV letters and have written or inspired approximately 1,200 additional letters for a total of **7440** letters. Our efforts, combined with those of all Vote Forward volunteer letter writers, have produced approximately 14 million letters to low propensity voters in strategic states and generated about 7.5 million dollars for the post office!

If you would still like to help before ELECTION DAY please CONTACT Kathi Bayne for TEXTING and PHONE BANKING assignments

### UU The Vote

Join Rev. Ashley Horan for "Ready and Resilient Group Planning and Processing" on [Oct. 30th at noon EST/9 am PST](#). This 90-minute session will help you plan how you and your congregation can participate in election defense work. Before the session, we recommend watching.

To prepare, please watch "[Ready and Resilient: Organizing for Nov 3rd :and Beyond](#)" and review the [updated Asset Map](#)

### Voting

Get easy to access, non partisan information on all candidates and propositions:  
<https://votersedge.org/ca>

Early voting, drop off ballot, same day voting registration enter your count and zip code at  
<http://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov>

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

Education: OnBeing Podcast: "[Notice the Rage, Notice the Silence](#)" interview with [Resmaa Menakem](#)

The best laws and diversity training have not gotten us anywhere near where we want to go. Therapist and trauma specialist Resmaa Menakem is working with old wisdom and very new science about our



bodies and nervous systems, and all we condense into the word "race."



**Action:** [Elections 2020: Take the SURJ Defense Pledge](#)

Are you worried that this year's election results won't be respected? We've seen many attacks on the 2020 elections, and in this crucial moment, all of us need to do our part to make sure EVERYONE'S votes are counted, certified, and respected. That's why we're asking you to [pledge to take action](#) to defend the integrity of our elections.

## MPUUC Plans Multiple Post Election Events

In a year full of stressful events the upcoming election is, for some of us, the most stressful of all. Worrying about the outcome of the election and the safety of ourselves and others has definitely added to our anxiety level. To help us deal with our feelings and fears Mission Peak UU is offering multiple Post-Election Events. In addition to these events, please feel free to reach out to Reverend Greg, Reverend Barbara, or members of the Pastoral Associates if you feel the need for additional support.

### Post Election Chat 1

**Format:** Via Zoom

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, November 4, 5:00-7:00 pm

This will be an informal drop-in chat which will be facilitated by Reverend Greg. Please feel free to drop in anytime between 5:00-7:00 pm using the link below and share your joys and concerns with your community.

### [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

[Post Election Chat 1 Zoom Link](#)

**Meeting ID: 990 8254 7510**

### Post Election Chat 2

**Format:** Via Zoom

**Date/Time:** Thursday, November 5, 5:00-7:00 pm

This will be an informal drop-in chat which will be facilitated by Reverend Greg & Reverend Barbara. Please feel free to drop in anytime between 5:00-7:00 pm using the link below and share your joys and concerns with your community.

### [Post Election Chat 2 Zoom Link](#)

**Meeting ID: 972 9571 9722**

### Post Election Chat for Kiddos

**Format:** Via Zoom

**Date/Time:** Thursday, November 5, 5:00-6:00 pm

This session will provide a safe place facilitated by our Director of Religious Exploration, Shawn Snively, for our kids to come together and share their thoughts and fears about the election and its outcomes. Please use this [link](#) to register for this event: . Children of all ages are welcome and parents are welcome to attend with their children.

### **Post Election Gathering & Demonstration**

**Format:** Zoom & In Person Gathering

**Date/Time:** Friday, November 6, 5:00-7:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom/Outside of Cole Hall

This event will be a chance for us to come together as a community to express visibly our response to the election. Those who are comfortable are welcome to meet in person (socially distanced) outside of Cole Hall (we will set up chairs 6 feet apart in an outside area that has access to WIFI). We will stream the program via Zoom for those who are unable to or uncomfortable with meeting in person. Reverend Greg and Reverend Barbara will lead the service. After the service those who attend in person will process down to Washington Blvd (near the BLM banner) and hold a candlelight vigil. Those who attended online will work together (led by Rev Barbara) to research and put together a list of actions that MPUUC members might be moved to undertake in the following days/weeks in response to the election. Those who attend in person will be encouraged to add to the list and it will be made available via the Week on the Peak & the website.

Please use the following link to register for this event no matter whether you are planning on attending via Zoom or In Person (the 'in person' gathering is limited to no more than 25 people). Additional instructions will be sent to you once you register. [Register by clicking here](#)

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## **The Black & White Gala NEEDS YOU!!!**

Only 17 days until the 2020 Black & White Gala!! This year we've got all the aspects of a great Mission Peak fundraiser that you've come to know and love...we're just doing them all virtually. With that comes a bit of a learning curve, but never fear – the internet is here! All of the information you will need is available on the new Black & White Gala pages of MPUUC.org. Click on the link on the home page (or go to the Connections menu and select Black & White Gala) and you'll be instantly connected to all the information you need.

Our Online Boutique is now up and running. Go to <https://mpuuc.square.site> and purchase Event Tickets, make monetary donations, and shop for all sorts of homemade and hand crafted goodies. You can even buy your way into a judgeship for our first annual Fudge Off (see more info below). Many thanks to those who have already made purchases. Please check back at least once a week as new items are added frequently. Remember: The Online Boutique is where you purchase your Event Tickets. There are several Event Ticket Options so please read carefully. Each Event Ticket comes with 10 Raffle Tickets. However, you can also buy additional Raffle Tickets. PLEASE be careful and make sure you're buying the correct type of tickets.

We are S L O W L Y collecting donations for the Online Auction. Auction donations are due to Jen King by Thursday, November 5. The Auction site will "go live" on Sunday, November 8. More information will be sent out closer to the date about how to register and bid. We know that thinking of items to offer is difficult in these times of social distancing, and that some of us are carrying over things we offered from last year's auction as well. However, please try to come up with something you can offer. This is, first and foremost, a fundraiser for MPUUC. Your item doesn't have to be the most exciting ever. It just has to be something that gives us a chance to keep in touch. In that way the auction helps strengthen Mission Peak financially, but also strengthens our community. If you need help coming up with ideas, please contact Jen King. If you think of something you'd like others to offer, please ask them directly. It's the ultimate compliment.

So far we are also short on donations for our Raffle. Usually we raffle off theme baskets. This year we're accepting theme baskets and individual gift cards/gift certificates (especially ones from local businesses). We're also accepting individual new/unused

items. Is there a book series you think would help with quarantine boredom? How about a DVD or two? Is there a hobby someone might want to take up to pass the time stuck at home? We also accept monetary donations and we'll do the shopping for you. If you have any questions or are looking for ideas, please contact Jen King.

As the one woman planning team Jen IMPLORES you not to wait until the last minute. Take a break from worrying about the election and think of fun things you'd like to do with your friends at MPUUC. Remember, funding MPUUC means funding our liberal voice for social justice in Fremont and beyond.

This week's action items:

- Donate, Donate, Donate – We need Auction Items, Raffle Prizes, and items for the Boutique. There are many, many ways to participate in the Black & White Gala – no one should feel left out! Please email Jen King to officially offer your donations. Auction and Raffle donations are due by Thursday, November 5. Boutique items we need right away!
- Buy, Buy, Buy – Head to the boutique to buy your Event Tickets. PLEASE do not wait until the last moment.

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## First Annual MPUUC Fudge Off

Every year we try to find new things to add to the Black & White Gala. This year we're "sweetening" things up with the first Annual MPUUC Fudge Off! So what exactly is a Fudge Off and how does it work?

1. We need at least three more people to volunteer to make fudge. Fudge entries are due to Jen King by Friday, November 5. Please email Jen King if you'd like to enter your fudge in the Fudge Off.
2. We need people to serve as judges for the Fudge Off. A judging spot will cost you \$10 and will get you samples of all entries into the Fudge Off. There are currently 5 Judgeships left. Judgeships can be purchased in the online B&W Boutique (<https://mpuuc.square.site>)
3. The winner of the Fudge Off (as determined by the judges) will win a prize (currently TBD) along with great acclaim and notoriety.
4. The winner of the Fudge Off will offer a pound of fudge to be auctioned off in the Black & White Auction.

So, basically this is just a good excuse to make and eat lots of fudge while raising money for Mission Peak. Sounds pretty good to me!

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## Request for Class Proposals - Adult Education – Winter 2020

The Adult Education Committee is seeking proposals for classes for the Winter quarter - Jan through March of 2021. This is an opportunity for you to share what you know with others.

During this pandemic, members have been successfully conducting classes via Zoom. This past quarter, we offered a couple of Book discussions and some other classes. Past topics have included Buddhist meditation, art and spirituality, the Enneagram, and celebration of the sacred feminine. Classes can vary from one-time events to meeting every week.



How can you submit a proposal? Contact Linda Messia at 510 792-1539 or email her [lmessia@yahoo.com](mailto:lmessia@yahoo.com) with your course information.

Please submit your proposal no later than Nov 15th. Thank you!

## Zoom Tips Week 4

Hello,

Here are our Zoom tips for the week. Enjoy!

### **TIP #4 Make space/Take space**

As excited we can get to chat with people in our breakout room, it's important to make sure each person in the room has a chance to talk. We call that Make space/Take space. If you've been quiet, participate more; if you've been participating a great deal, leave space for others to participate more. Everyone will enjoy getting a chance to speak and we just might learn something new about someone else!

### **TIP #5 Put a photo on your screen**

We get it. Sometimes you don't want people to see you "live." Did you know that rather than just having a blank screen showing, you can use a photo of yourself? A photo is much more welcoming. (You do need a zoom account to do this. They offer a free account.) Here are some links to help you.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201363203-Customizing-your-profile>

<https://www.guidingtech.com/show-profile-picture-instead-video-zoom-meeting/>

The Membership Committee

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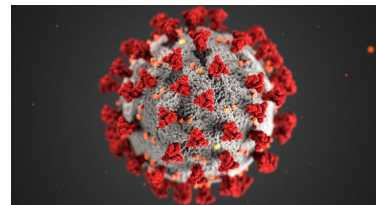
## Opportunity to help with Mission Peak UU sound and video in Cole Hall and over Zoom

We need to purchase new audio and visual equipment for Cole Hall since most of our equipment was stolen in the August burglary. We are looking for people interested in helping us specify what to replace it with. We want to be able to continue offering services over Zoom after we are able to return to Cole Hall so we will be looking at what works best for both in Cole Hall and over Zoom. Please contact Steve at [wallcave@mpuuc.org](mailto:wallcave@mpuuc.org) if you are interested!



## Covid-19 Task Force Report Available

The Covid-19 task force recommendations are now posted in the member's only section of the web site. The task force was formed to help the board decide on how and when to have a partial startup in Cole Hall. If you have trouble finding the report email Steve at [wallcave@mpuuc.org](mailto:wallcave@mpuuc.org) to get a copy of it over email.



## Board Briefs

The board met on October 21 at 7 p.m and:

Discussed and approved the Board Work and Communications Agreements.  
Discussed the Board Covenant.  
Reviewed the Priorities for the Minister

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 [mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only](http://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

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

## 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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## 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

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