

This Week on the Peak

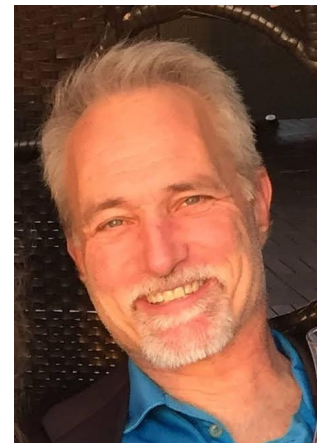


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 30, 2020

Greetings!

Dear Friends,

On Tuesday, some of you received an email from me with a subject line saying, "Peace be with you." It asked, 'how are you doing?' and requested a favor. IT WAS NOT ME. I'm sure I probably don't need to explain. You've seen this before. And, unfortunately, this was not the first time that electronic predators have knocked on MPUUC door, pretended to be something they're not, tried to take what isn't theirs, leaving a wake of deception, confusion and distrust in their wake. It wasn't the first time someone has pretended that they were me and tried to betray or manipulate people I loved.



If you want more information on how to identify or protect yourself from these kind of scams, here are two links from the UUA (this, unfortunately, happens in most churches)

<https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/scammer-pandemic> and
<https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/phishing>.

I feel sad when I think about how much more common it seems to have become... and how this sense of distrust, distance and polarization seems to be growing. Every day it seems like deception, manipulation and coercion is more the norm - and not just with people, but through the media as well. It's in the system. People are prey ON people. I liked it better when we prayed FOR one another.

And, of course, this comes on the heels of our Black Lives Matter sign being cut and splattered with red paint. And it was as I was thinking about these two things, I recognized something: if I was ready to be really honest, I'd have to admit that this kind of behavior: unkindness, treating people poorly and taking from them what is not ours - is not really new. It's been going on for hundreds of years in this country for people of color. I needed to swallow a few bites of humble privilege pie when I took a moment to admit that. Because I'm white - and a man - I haven't taken as much notice about the amount of pain being passed on. I haven't had to

So our choice to rededicate ourselves to rehang the banner and stand in solidarity with Black Lives

feels even more important. As we said in the dedication, 'for every act of hate, we will respond with an act of love.'

So, if you get one of those phony phishing emails with my name (make sure you check the email address - revgsward@gmail.com or minister@mpuuc.org - if it's spelled wrong, IT'S NOT ME).

But please, I really do want a favor. Rededicate yourselves. In this difficult time remember the promises that you made in our Water Communion Ceremony. I was so inspired, I turned them into a word cloud. When things get hard, I think of you. For every act of hate I see, I make sure to respond with an act of love. To each moment of deceit, I choose to bring honesty. To despair, I offer hope. Please, don't let the disregard and brutality breeding in the world steal your goodness. When they are mean, be kind. When you see hurt, bring healing. Be the love. Every time. That's how love wins



Peace and Love,
Rev Greg Ward
(he, him, his)

minister@mpuuc.org
(510) 972-3890

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.

Civilization is a Forest

My education would lead one to believe modern civilization developed in Europe, after the Middle Ages, and then spread to most of the rest of the world. I have learned that this is a big distortion. I now conclude that civilization has been progressively developing in many parts of the world. Modern civilization has roots everywhere. We owe thanks to our forebears in all parts of the world for essential components of our modern way of life.



Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Kathy Wallcave. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Bekah Troxler D'hand 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%.

OCTOBER 11 SHARE THE LOVE ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

We are excited to dedicate our service on October 11th to our beloved furry, finned, fun family members who bring a lot more love into our lives. They have blessed us. We want to take a moment to return the favor and there are many ways you can participate. If you would like to have a photo and a small part of your pet's personality shared, please use the link and upload a picture and fill in some information. Rev. Greg and Shawn will use this to share the love. We will also have a time to share names (and pictures) of pets no longer with us (except in our heart). Please use this [Share the Love link](#) to upload your pictures and information.

JUSTICE CORNER

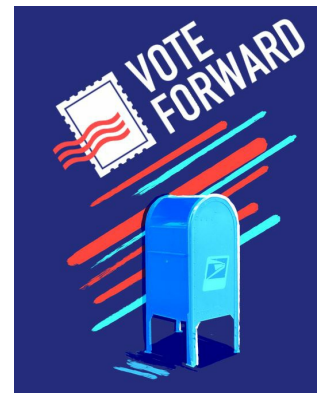
Our Black Lives Matter Banner was Vandalized

Recently, 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.



MPUUC GOTV letters

MPUUC writers have written over 5,170 GOTV letters and have written or inspired approximately 1,000 additional letters. Our efforts, combined with those of all Vote Forward volunteer letter writers, have produced 9.3 million letters to low propensity voters in strategic states and generated about 5 million dollars for the post office!



DONATIONS Needed!

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

Please Contact Meredith Miller for more information.

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/>

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.



Education: [Jordan Casteel, Portrait Artist](#)

Part of our anti-racism self-education should include Black creators. Our very own Don Ramie has written a short essay highlighting the work of the painter Jordan Casteel. Don delivered a live presentation on her work earlier this spring, and here he revisits that work.



Action: [Show your support the BREATHE Act on social media](#)

The Movement for Black Lives and allies nationwide have introduced a visionary bill, the BREATHE Act, which will divest our taxpayer dollars from brutal, discriminatory policing and invest in a new vision of safety and justice—a vision that allows all people to thrive and be represented and free. Publicly support the BREATHE Act today by posting on your social media platforms. [You can find examples and graphics in this toolkit.](#) You can start right away by making the attached image the banner or profile pic on your social media account!



New services available on website

Two new videos are available on our website! [Ooops!!!](#), the 9/27 service, has a video of the full service and [Perfect Strangers](#), the 9/13 service, has a video of the sermon. Like the many past services that have videos posted, these have [Video] after the title when you go to the "Service Archive" from the main web page (can also navigate there in the menu at "Worship"-->"Service Archive").

For more information about our web site please email webmaster@mpuuc.org or contact Steve

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 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

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



**Me: Alexa, what's
the weather going to
be this weekend?**

**Alexa: Why? Where
do you think you're
going?**

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:



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 | missionpeakuu.org