

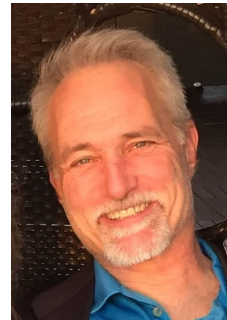
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 16, 2020

Greetings!

My family while I was growing up was a million miles from perfect. There were five of us, not counting the indoor and outdoor pets we had. The animals were numerous and included mice, rats, gerbils, fish, cats, rabbits, snakes, lizards and parakeets (and those were only the ones we *knew* about). We also pet sat. And did a few foster animals. Not all of our pets liked each other too well. Sometimes that led to moments where family members didn't like each other too well.



Our home was familiar with chaos. And a little drama. As well as a few moments where one family member's needs got overlooked. I don't think we would have ever made it into any Journal of Good Parenting or Family Habits to Emulate Playbook.

But one thing we did do well is we showed up. When someone needed something, we were there. Whether it be a favor or a ride or some assistance to care for an animal or reach the top shelf. There were moments of struggle or sadness or hurt. But we learned that if we were brave enough to let someone know, there were a million ways we could come together to ease the pain. And it taught me that the worst pain of all was the thought of having to face my struggles alone. Sometimes, for the really hard things, we just went to my mom. But, somehow, it always turned out that everyone turned out, pitched in and showed up.

On **Christmas Eve**, we are going to have a call for the **Ministerial Discretionary Fund**. This is the fund that goes to make sure those in our family have what they need. That there is no struggle that goes unanswered, no need that winds up with people feeling alone.

Over the years, I've seen this fund help people travel to their parent who had to undergo unexpected surgery. It's bought groceries after a lay-off, paid part of a doctor's bill to be able to keep insurance, bought someone flowers when they desperately needed to see something beautiful in sight.

But mostly what I've seen the Ministerial Discretionary Fund do is to remind people that

they are not alone. That being part of the church means that they are part of a family. That there is never a struggle so bad that people will turn their back. It's not about having to tell everyone. Sometimes our struggles are too tender. And yet, somehow it helps people show up just when they are needed most.

We are a community that is very diverse in our needs and resources. Please consider making a contribution to the Ministerial Discretionary Fund in your end of the year giving.

None of us is perfect. But none of us needs to be. We just need a family around us who shows up when there is a need.

Send a check to MPUUC with 'Ministerial Discretionary Fund' in the memo line. Your care will reach across a hundred or more people.

Peace and Love,

Rev. Greg
(he, him, his)

minister@mpuuc.org
(510) 972-3890

Guest At Your Table

Thank you for your attention and being part of the larger conversation with the guests we brought to the table through our UU Service Committee Guest at Your Table Program. This year we learned a little about the immigrant communities from Guatemala (and Nicaragua); The Choctaw tribes in Southern Louisiana, Communities on the Marshall Islands suffering from rising sea levels and refugees from Burma who found relief and welcome in Malaysia. Your contribution makes their chances – and all our hearts – bigger. A donation of \$40 or more is recognized by our UUSC partners. Please send whatever you can to MPUUC with GAYT (Guest at your Table) in the Memo line. We will collect, bundle and send these contributions by the end of the year.

Thanks from your GAYT Team – Holly Ito, Shawn Snively and Rev. Greg Ward

Daytimer's Discussion Group

Our first Daytimer's Discussion Group was a lovely gathering. We explored the holiday traditions that we grew up with, the ones we kept, the ones we miss, the new ones we found as we grew and how many of them are different this year. This week's discussion will be **'The Greatest Gifts (The Ones We've Given and The Ones We've Received)'**. This is not just about Holiday Gift giving (although it can be). It is about the gifts that made the biggest impression, or difference – whenever they showed up (or whenever we gave them in a moment that mattered). [Join us at Daytimers](#) (one hour) at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

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.



Holiday Pageant

Hoshmakatu is a jaded Camel who's long had others greed strapped to his back. Now he turns his back on the world. He would have entirely missed the miracle that would save his life but for a Lamb who believed in him more than he could believe in himself. Join us for our first ever virtual pageant!

Rev. Greg Ward and Shawn Snavley will lead the service. Worship Associate Shawn Snavley. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Peak Rocks 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%.

Winter Solstice Zoom Social – Monday, December 21 @ 7:00 p.m.

“From out of the darkness and cold, light and hope return.” The Winter Solstice this year marks not only the start of our planet’s journey towards the longer, ‘lighter’ days of Spring and Summer, but also our moving ever closer to what we hope will be a brighter future for the United States, and the hope of a vaccination and an end to COVID quarantine. Please join us on Monday, December 21 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom for a Winter Solstice Social Gathering lead by Colleen Arnold & Jen King. The event will include time for reflecting on 2020, sharing our hopes for 2021, and having some good old fashioned fun.

Please click on the link below to register for this event. Once you’ve registered you will receive an email with instructions for accessing the Zoom session for the event.

[Click here](#)

Jen King

No Approvals for In-Person MPUUC Events

As you are probably aware, Covid-19 cases are surging in California and Governor Newsom has placed stricter limits on the ability of people from different households to gather together. As Mission Peak UU continues its attempts to guard the safety of its members, friends and the community at large, at this time we will not be approving any in-person MPUUC events. The Covid-19 response task force (DeAnna Alm, Steve Wallcave, Eric Ryan) will meet again in January to see how things look at that point. Feel free to contact any member of the task force if you have any questions.

Peak Performers singing in Fremont Las Posadas



The annual Las Posadas festival, cosponsored by the Fremont Cultural Arts Council and Old Mission San Jose, will be via zoom this year. It is nine evenings of pre-Christmas music and comedy, from Tuesday December 15th through Wednesday December 23rd at 7:00 p.m.. MPUUC's Peak Performers are providing the music on Wednesday December 16th, and Jo Ann Schriner is providing gathering music every evening beginning at 6:45 p.m.. To register to receive the zoom link send an email request to LasPosadasFCAC@earthlink.net.

Save the Date for Regional Assembly 2021: Love Right Through

Please watch this newsletter and the PWR website for more details on our virtual Regional Assembly:

Love Right Through

February 13, 12-5 PM (with district-specific programming on February 12 and a worship service on February 14)

A Virtual Regional Gathering

Virtual General Assembly 2021

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. Let's reach record-breaking attendance June 23-27, 2021! Registration opened December 1, 2020 and costs \$200 per person. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan are available. You are warmly invited you to [submit a Program Proposal](#). We are looking for programs that are the best of the best - adding tremendous value to this experience. Proposed programs should provide meaningful opportunities for learning and skill development, as well as address one or more of the following focus areas - liberatory theology, grief and trauma healing, community of communities, preserving connection to Milwaukee, and social justice. See the [Program Proposal Guidelines](#).

Congratulations! MPUUC Re-certified as Welcoming Congregation

In November we received notice that we had successfully completed the Five Practices of Welcome Renewal for 2020. We received sincere congratulations from Rev. Michael Crumpler, LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director for the UUA, on our ongoing commitment to LGBTQ+ welcome and inclusion in and beyond Fremont, CA. He said it was a pleasure to read about all we have accomplished and the powerful work we've done to ensure that MPUUC is meeting the needs of queer and trans congregants and the wider community.



In 2002 Mission Peak UU completed the Welcoming Congregation Curriculum at that time and voted to apply for certification from the UUA, which we received. In 2018 the UUA instituted a renewal process Which we completed last year through holding two worship services focussed on GLBTQ+ issues, observing 6 Welcoming Days, holding an intergenerational LGBTQ+ Webinar, and supporting a Welcoming Project. For more information on UUA LGBTQ programs and activities, please visit: [Welcoming Congregations](#). If you would like to participate in planning MPUUC's programs to fulfill our renewal for this year, please contact Michelle Wallace or Kat Rubie.

ADULT EDUCATION WINTER 2021

The Adult Education Committee is pleased to announce its course offerings for the 2021 Winter Quarter. All classes will be offered on Zoom, and links will be sent to registered students prior to the beginning of the class. To sign up for a class, please email Linda Messia at lmessia@yahoo.com.

To view class brochure, click [here](#).

Linda Messia

JUSTICE CORNER

SHOP BIPOC BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Please consider shopping at black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) businesses this holiday season.

Click on the Amazon link below:

[Amazon Link](#)

UU The Vote

Election Defenders, a UU partner is offering GOTV (Get Out to Vote) activities for the GA state election run off, including knitting and phone banking

From home:

- Print out [coloring pages](#) made by our wonderful and talented Election Defender artists and post your creations on social media
- Participate in our [countdown](#) on Saturday at 6pm, local time
- Knit hats and scarves or sew face masks to distribute among Georgia voters—find instructions [here](#)
- **Sign up to phone bank for the [New Georgia Project](#) or [UU the Vote](#)**

[Sign up for the phonebank on Thursday, December 17 at 7-9pm ET/4-6pm PT](#)

Vote Forward

Please click the link below if you would like to send letters encouraging registration and voter turnout in the Georgia election January 5, 2021.

<https://votefwd.org/>

Crediting Our Activities helps get us funding and support of our work

PLEASE, If you have not already done so, contact Kathi to let us know how many letters, postcards, phone calls or texts you have completed this year.

Thank you,
Kathi

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



Education: ["7 Principles of Black Lives"](#)

"Our Unitarian Universalist faith is what CALLS US to say that Black Lives Matter.

We see a direct link between the 7 UU Principles and the Movement for Black Lives. We — those of us at the Movement for Black Lives Convening, along with other Black UUs — created this document to present to our faith the 7 Principles of Black Lives."



Action: [No Sheriffs at Peralta Colleges](#)

Sign this petition that urges the Peralta Community College District to terminate its \$4.1 million contract with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and invest in Black and Brown students now! Take a stand and mobilize Peralta students, faculty, and staff to get the state funding needed to create real opportunities for Black and Brown students to thrive academically and be safe.

Board Briefs

The board met on December 9 at 7 p.m. and:

Decided that no in-person MPUUC events would be approved until the shelter in place order is removed

Approved a revised contract and job description for the Office Administrator

Approved additions to the Board Agreements

Adopted Covenant, Fellowship, and ARO as our visioning points for the coming year and canvass



Approved a \$1000 donation to FUMC to help with the new Internet installation with the money coming from the PPP fund

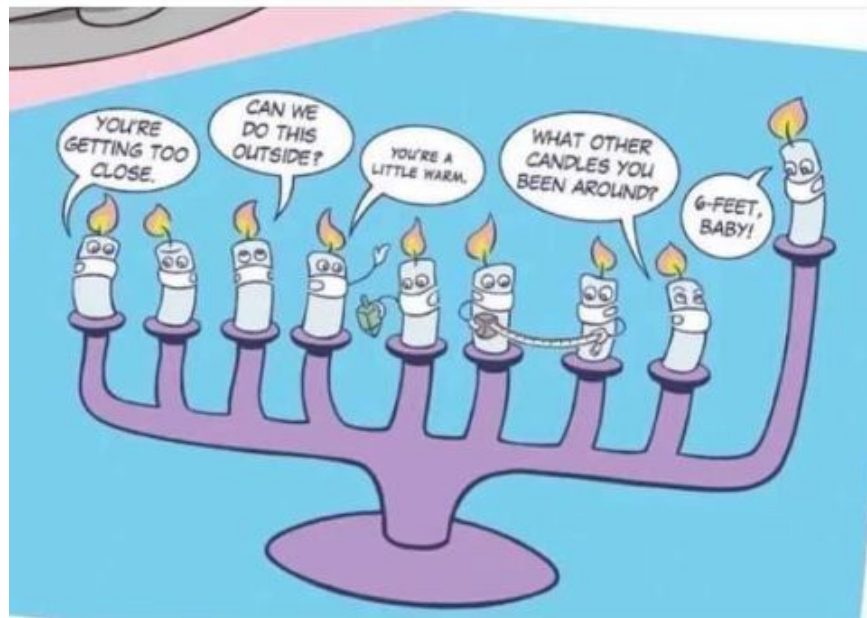
The next board meeting is on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

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

Please contact president@mpuuc.org for more information about future board meetings.

HUMOR CORNER

Chanukah 2020! OY



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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