

This Week on the Peak



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

Greetings!

We are in a special time... from a number of different perspectives...

It's a time of waiting, says advent. A Christian call to inward reflection. Gestation. The inward revelation of chaos and complexity finding order. What starts as outward confusion, inwardly becomes peace, hope, Love. (Christian – Nov 29 – Dec 13)

It's a time of miracles, says Hanukkah. A reverent nod to ancestors who, against all odds, resisted assimilating into the powerful cultures around them, keeping the spark of their ancient truths alive. (Hanukkah – Dec 10 – 18)

It's a time of sacred stillness say the Pagans who recognize the power of darkness to call life forth from the seed. Spring and Summer have power only as long as Fall and Winter magic precede them. (Solstice – Dec 21)

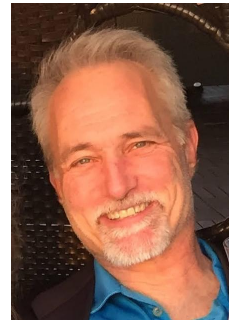
It is a jovial and generous time, says Modern Christmas. Although glimmer and promise always attracts greed and profit, at its heart, it's a reminder to share with those too often living too far from our heart. (Christmas – Dec 25)

It's a time of power and liberation, says Kwanzaa. Where black people cast off the residue of violence and subjugation and reclaim timeless and sacred rights of naming and reclaiming their own culture and celebrations. (Kwanzaa – Dec 26 – Jan 1)

It's a time of annunciation, say the Catholics, where a God becomes a human. (Annunciation Day – Dec. 8)

It's a time of enlightenment, say Buddhists, where a human becomes enlightened. (Buddha's enlightenment – Dec. 8)

It's a time of creative imagining called Festivus – for the rest of us – where popular culture gets to make up what's meaningful to us. (which, if you think about it, is the origin of most celebrations).



But, bottom line, it is a time where the meaning that is felt within each of us, for what has come before us, searches for expression with what is around us. Which means, we need each other. We may not all share the same holidays or recognize the same holy days. But what makes our chosen community significant is that we come together to recognize what is important to each other.

Every week, starting next Wednesday, I am going to have host a Daytimer's gathering. This is a mid-morning conversation with the minister (from 10:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.). It's time to connect around a topic which I'll try to name ahead of time. Next Wednesday's topic (Dec 16) is Holiday Traditions. So many of us will be having holiday moments which will be very different from 'usual'. We will have some opportunity to share our usual traditions, how they're different this year and some of the feelings we having because of it. You can be part of it by clicking on [THIS LINK](#) at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday Dec 16.

Sending Love as you prepare for the holidays,
Rev. Greg
(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.



Holiday Wars

There has been an important conversation going on for the last few years between Christmas Orthodoxy and holiday heretics. And the conversation breaks down like so many do - between the Davids and Goliaths. And it's all about who gets to control the narrative. But it's a story best not heard with our heads, but with our hearts. Rev. Barbara Meyers, a member of the ARO team will talk about another kind of narrative.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Drew Wilson. Jay Steele 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

Black & White Gala Wrap Up

Thanks to Sandra all of the ‘Donor’ and ‘Buyer’ letters went out last week. These letters let donors know who purchased their items, and let buyers know which items they purchased via the online auction. If you participated in the Black & White Gala Auction and have not received your letters, please contact Sandra. If you are a donor please reach out soon to those who purchased your donations. Many of the donations will not be fulfilled until after the beginning of the new year, but it’s a good idea to touch base now and answer any questions people might have (and it makes for fewer questions that I have to answer).

Also, as far as I know all boutique purchases have been delivered. Please let me know if you purchased something and did not receive it.

Once again a huge “Thank You” to all who contributed to the success of this year’s virtual Black & White Gala. Together we made it a success!!

Jen King

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 Schriener 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.



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

In a World Divided, Who Sides with Love?

In February we'll present an award to a local individual or group who courageously shows up to challenge oppression and violence. We'll also share the plate with them. Send nominations to Allysson McDonald by Dec. 11 with an explanation of why you are nominating them. The Justice Council will choose a recipient Dec. 12. For more information click [here](#). For a video on Side with Love click [here](#).



UU The Vote

On Saturday, November 21, 2020, our "How We Win: UU the Vote Election Debrief " gave us the opportunity to unpack our 2020 elections from the perspective of folks who have been building the groundwork for thriving and democratic communities. I hope this rich discussion supports us all as we continue our commitments to building thriving, safe, just communities and multi-racial democracy. Watch the recording [here](#).

Here are current efforts with partners for GOTV activities in the Georgia January run-off election.

If you want to participate in phone banking to voters in Georgia, UU the Vote is organizing phonebanks on Sundays and Thursdays, if you are interested please use the following links

[Sign up for the phonebank on Sunday, December 13 at 4-6pm ET/1-3pm PT](#)

[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

Asylum Seeker Accompaniment Team

if you are interested in joining or finding out more about the Asylum Seeker Accompaniment and Immigrant Support Team, please email Meredith at annmeredithmiller@hotmail.com, or send a text message (510) 301-6382..

Meredith Miller

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



Education: [“The empowerment tragedy”](#)

by Mark Morrison-Reed

What do you know about Black UU history? If the answer is, "not much," check out this essay. “Four decades have passed since controversy over ‘black empowerment’ nearly tore the Unitarian Universalist Association apart. Even now, UUs remain unreconciled over what was for many a life-defining fight.”



Action: [Anti-Racism 101: How to Show Up for Racial Justice](#)

Wednesday, December 16 • 6:00–7:15 pm

Join us as we come together in community to learn, empower, and participate in change. In the wake of the 2020 elections, we are facing a divided nation threatening racial justice and the lives of Black people. If you are feeling called to action but are not sure how to or where to begin, this workshop is for you. In this introductory workshop, we’ll start by understanding systemic racism as a system of advantage rooted in the beliefs and institutionalization of white supremacy, rather than a product of individuals who are “good” or “bad”. We’ll also discuss how individuals can engage in an ongoing practice of anti-racism to actively dismantle racism in their daily lives. Attendees will have opportunities to engage in small-group dialogue and create a plan for taking at least one action in support of racial justice within their personal spheres of influence. [Register](#)

[here.](#)

Hello Wonderful Congregation!

Although Maria Luisa is not taking phone calls right now, she enjoys mail. If you would like to send her a card to let her know you're thinking of her, please go to the Congregational Directory in the Members Only section of our web site to get her mailing address. Let's see if we can decorate her place with loving, supportive cards!



Please contact me if you have any questions.
Kathy Wallcave

Board Briefs

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, December 9 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



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



Share



Share



Tweet