

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 13, 2021

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Greetings!

Since mid-October, we have been participating in the Beloved Conversations Racial Justice training program along with Rev. Barbara Meyers, who has been part of the program for ministers. As members of the ARO (anti-racism/anti-oppression) Task Force, we volunteered to be the first in our congregation to participate in it. The program



has been offered to congregations since 2010; however, this is the first time it has been done virtually. Every 2 weeks, a new lesson is provided with a wide variety of resources, including readings, poetry, videos, and music. There were 6 small group meetings with our 4-person “Learning Pod” as well as questions for personal reflection and 4 facilitated large group sessions.

We started out imagining what the world would look like without racism and then examined various aspects of white culture that prevent this from happening, focusing on the changes we can make within ourselves. This included shifting from leadership to followership, letting go of control, being open to change, leaning into discomfort and creating brave space (rather than staying in safe space).

Over 1,200 people participated in the current program and were divided into 4 affinity groups: white lay people, white ministers, lay people of color and ministers of color. The program is offered by the Fahs Collaborative of the Meadville Lombard Theological School and has 3 phases; this first course focuses on “within” work that each person needs to do as an individual. The second phase is “among,” which is work at the institutional level for the systemic change needed in our congregations, and the third phase is “beyond,” which is work outside our congregations, with our local communities. The first course will be presented again in the spring, starting in March. Funds are available from Mission Peak to help offset the fee for the course.

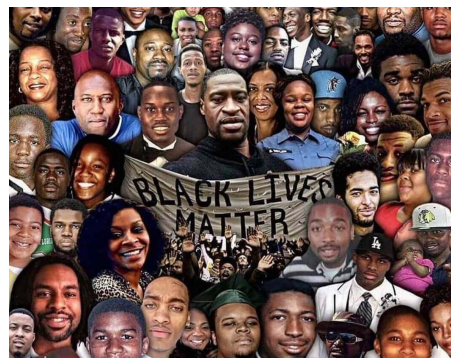
For more information go to: <https://bcvirtual.meadville.edu/>

Holly Ito and Michelle Wallace

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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.**



## Strange Fruit

Abel Meeropol, like many of us, saw something he could not unsee. And he took it extremely personally. He connected the dots that wove a web of interdependence between himself, black men who were terrorized by racism, the children of spies, and the song no one liked but everyone remembered. This is a sermon about the prejudice that condemns and the acts we undertake for liberation.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Michelle Wallace. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. 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%.

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## President's Update

Welcome to 2021! Unfortunately things don't change overnight. We have months ahead of taking safety precautions to prevent Covid-19. Our congregation is humming along - well singing! We had a wonderful

Christmas Eve with music by our talented musicians who also performed for the Mission San Jose Los Posada. We're halfway through the congregational year and looking forward to completing the covenanting process and to a virtual installation for Rev. Greg in the spring. Happy New Year! ~ Allysson



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## Daytimer's Discussion Group

The Minister's Daytimer Group meet every Thursday morning at 10:00 am. This week's topic is "Black Lives Matter – What have we been seeing and what have we been learning about systemic racism?" violence and civil unrest threatening our democracy. All are welcome to join us. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#). (Or you can find the link on the MPUUC website and events calendar). Next week's topic (January 21) is "How can we have helpful conversations with those who have different political views."

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## UUA Common Read – Start Date Moved to January 31 – Please Join Us!!

As you may or may not know, each year the UUA chooses a Common Read – a book that all UU members are encouraged to read and come together and discuss. This year's Common Read selection is Breathe by Imani Perry. We at Mission Peak UU will be pairing this with Between The World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Both books take the form of letters from black parents to their children. Each book is less than 200 pages and they are available in physical book, Kindle, and audio book form from Amazon; Breathe is available in physical book form from the UUA Book and Gift Shop; and both books are available in audiobook format from [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org). ([continue reading](#))

Jen King

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## Request / Opportunity for Video Editing Help:

Rev. Greg and the Worship Team is looking help with some video editing on Fridays to help with producing the Sunday Worship service. This will involve learning / using Google files, folders, docs, slides, Quicktime, iMovie, (or other video editing software) create videos from .mp3, .mp4, .doc, .pptx files to be shown in church video-streamed worship. These are very creative and useful skills creating video transitions, titles, captions, sync music and words, and tell stories in electronic multi-media. Please send a note to [minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org).

Rev. Greg

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## Mission Peak Media Exchange Fundraiser

Have you run out of things to read yet? Need new movies to watch? Are you tired of your music selections? Let's mix things up a bit and raise some money for Mission Peak at the same time! Jen King is setting up an online store (much like the Boutique for the Black & White Gala) which will be filled with used books, DVD's, and CD's donated by Mission

Peak members and friends. Once the store opens you will be able to 'purchase' Books/DVD's/CD's for a minimal price (around \$2 per item) and they will be delivered to your doorstep. If you have donations for the media sale, please drop them off on Jen's front step or contact her to arrange for a pick-up. Fiction, Non-Fiction, Cookbooks, etc. are all welcome. Please no textbooks, magazines, VHS tapes, or cassette tapes. The Media Exchange Store will go live by the end of January and will run as long as we have inventory and customers. At the end all remaining items will be sold to Half Price Books and the money donated to Mission Peak. So, start cleaning out your libraries and get excited for new reading/watching/listening material!

Jen King

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## Engage in the Fremont Climate Action Plan

Among MPUUC's Climate Justice activities is engaging in the **City of Fremont's Climate Action Plan (CAP)**. The City has recently launched a community engagement forum called **CAP Consider.It** (<https://fremontclimateaction.consider.it/>) for the community to weigh in on climate action measures that Fremont could undertake. You can comment on suggested measures, propose new ideas, and respond to feedback. The forum will remain **open until the end of January**, so **please visit the forum** and help inform our local climate action priorities! More virtual community meetings are also being planned.



Erik Alm  
Climate Justice Committee Chair

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## Register Now for Regional Assembly 2021: Love Right Through

This has been a difficult year and we have done many things to Love Right Through all the challenges. Join other UUs for an afternoon of celebrating our accomplishments and challenges with sharing from spotlighted congregations. Engage with small groups around shared identity and how that impacts church and life. Hear what is happening for good in the world and opportunities yet to come.

Regional Assembly will run from **12 pm- 5 pm (Pacific) Saturday, February 13th**, opening with a lively celebration, welcoming, and congregational spotlights before a break headed into identity-based discussion groups and back for collective sharing and more celebration. [Register Now!](#)

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## HANGING IN, HANGING ON: WOMEN & RELIGION PCD 2021 VIRTUAL RETREAT

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 am to 8 pm

There will be touch groups (affinity circles), learning sessions, a scavenger hunt, memorial for lost members (Liz Fisher and Meg Bowman in 2020), opening orientation, and closing to share our lives. Fee is \$25. Net proceeds will be split between Women & Religion Continental and International Women's Convocation. To be added to the retreat email list, send a blank email to [PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io).

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**JUSTICE CORNER**

## Young Adults Reflect on Climate Feminism in All We Can Save

Over the span of ten weeks, a small group of UUYACJ network members met every Saturday to discuss each chapter of [All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis](#): Co-edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, and Katharine K. Wilkinson, the book weaves a quilt of voices, each sharing their vision for what feminist climate justice can mean. Combining poetry, essay, and visual art, this range of artforms celebrates the diversity of walks of life, theories of change, and skills we need to create climate justice. Read UUYACJ reflections and [start your own circle!](#)

Learn more by clicking [here](#)

## Intergenerational Climate Circle - Session #2

Thursday, January 14 at 4-5:30pm PT / 5 MT / 6 CT / 7 ET

As the climate movement mobilizes for this important decade of action, grounding in intergenerational wisdom is a powerful tool. UU lay and professional leaders and social/eco-justice activists are invited to participate in intergenerational dialogue to share stories, memories, and lessons of social movements past and present. These spaces are intended to cultivate a deeper understanding and relationship among and between generations. Co-hosted by UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Network, UU Ministry for Earth, and Elders Climate Action.

RSVP [here](#)

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## Apply for the GROW Fellowship!

**APPLY** by February 1

Young Adults are invited to apply for the upcoming GROW Fellowship, a collaboration between the UU College of Social Justice and the UUA's Thrive Program for Young Adults of Color. Building on past sessions of GROW (Grounded and Resilient Organizer Workshops), this cross-movement cohort will gather over weekly 1-hour sessions on Monday evenings, starting mid-March through mid-August. Fellows will receive a \$250 stipend. Email Alex Sherwood, [asherwood@uua.org](mailto:asherwood@uua.org) to apply and for more information.

## January

[Food Justice Month Panel Discussions](#) (Hosted by First Universalist Society of NY)

- Tuesday, Jan 19 at 4pm PT/7pm ET: Food Security and Hunger in NYC
- Tuesday, Jan 26 at 4pm PT/7pm ET: Food Waste and Composting

## The Next Step in Addressing Homelessness in Fremont

The number of people living in vehicles in Fremont increased by 266% between 2017 and 2019. The City of Fremont is launching a [Safe Parking Strategy](#), to provide people living in vehicles with a designated place to park that is secure and provides access to health and safety amenities. The City is seeking community input thru a 5 minute survey open until Monday, January 25, 2021. Click [here](#) for information.

Allysson McDonald

## Asylum and Immigration Committee

The President-Elect has promised to roll back the last administration's changes to immigration policy, but we will still need to work to remind him that we remember this promise. Here is a petition that some of us on the Asylum and Immigration Committee

have signed, from Faith in Action's LA RED campaign:  
<https://faithinaction.salsalabs.org/takeactionnow/index.html>

Meredith Miller

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



**Education:** [Black Police Officers Describe The Racist Attacks They Faced As They Protected The Capitol](#)

Two Black officers told BuzzFeed News that their chief and other upper management left them totally unprepared and were nowhere to be found on the day. **CONTENT WARNING:** Contains some strong language in quoting the officers.



**Action:** ["When We Build Power, Expect Resistance"](#)

The Movement for Black Lives calls on supporters to demand the impeachment of President Trump and the expulsion from office of all Senators and Congresspeople who voted against certifying the election. You can call your elected representatives or sign a petition hosted by a partner organization, Working Families Party, [here](#).

### Board Briefs

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



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

## HUMOR CORNER

Went to my first social distancing Christening last Sunday



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](https://missionpeakuu.org)



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