

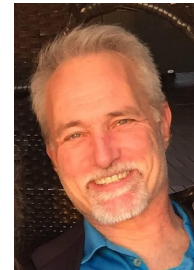
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 20, 2021

Greetings!

Somewhere in the universe there is, I believe, a great mirror reflecting back to us who we are. We try, most of us, to project our best intentions. We cast high ideals into the universe and feel confused whenever we see hurt and hate and rage reflected back to us. This is disheartening to our oft unspoken supposition that our influence will count for something. That if we demonstrate we care, we should soon find ourselves flush with dividends of our care. Paid with interest. And its only after staring unblinking into that mirror with a deserving quid pro quo expression, that we see the words at the bottom corner of the mirror, barely visible through the layers of caked-on bird droppings: "Things in this mirror are more complicated than they seem."



I write this as we swear in a new president. 'New' in the sense of replacing the defective, cracked and broken model we got when we bought into 2017. Not 'new' in the sense of, well, being old. And in the same color and gender specifications of the vast majority of models that have dominated that stage. Sigh. Something new, nonetheless. And like our country, I also try reflecting something new. Hope. Faith. Love. A willingness to strive toward goodness in this world with plenty of paths leading to the contrary.

Lucy, my wife, is filled with the spirit of this new moment. She wept and cheered during the inauguration. To her, it felt like a new promise in the wake of recent chaos. I usually try to be more even keeled. Less susceptible to the ups and downs of our political climate. Resisting the urge to issue statements soaked in blind optimism I might have to retract later. But, this time, I want to follow her lead. And for one simple reason.

I am no longer willing to surrender my power to love prophetically in the face of chaos. I know the universe reflects back contempt, entitlement, selfishness and hate. Especially because the mirror, I suspect, is partly sponsored by Twitter and Facebook. And what it reflects will sometimes prompt me to doubt my own efficacy to 'be the change I want to see.' This year, I want to liberate myself from this quid pro quo policy that's been written into my mind.

So, I hereby exercise my right to choose my response rather than go with the violence of white nationalists or the vote pandering hissy fits of some elected officials. Like the Dalai

Lama suggests, I want to “Choose kindness whenever possible. And kindness is always possible.”

But, I need your help. Because this is an aspiration that’s hard to sustain without support. And good company. Just like I love Lucy, when the news gets grim, so we all need love when hurt and hardness are reflected back upon us from so many parts of the world.

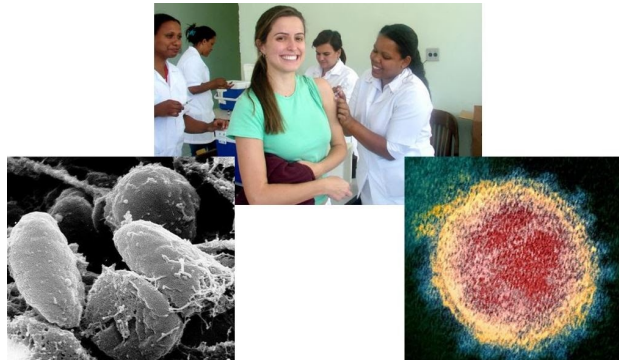
Let’s just start with the 30 days of Love our ARO team describes below. And see if we can build the world we dream of.

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.



Beginning a Pandemic

This past year we experienced a great pandemic, perhaps the twentieth or so in recorded history, and it continues. Like previous disease pandemics, it was accompanied by a pandemic of illogic, untruth and selfishness. Let us work, during this new year and new presidential administration, to infectiously spread a pandemic of logic, truth and love.

Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Kathy Wallcave. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jo Ann Schriener and Knuti VanHoven 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%.

It is with tremendous sadness that we share the news of Jackie Porter's passing this past Tuesday morning. Jackie died in the company of John and family and many of the people who provided such loving care. John has been buoyed by the many cards and notes of love and support that have made their way to he and Jackie over the last few months. Your expressions of condolence remain welcome and appreciated even if he can't respond as promptly as he might wish. The Family is gathering to consider options for a celebration of Jackie's life and that news will be shared as soon as decisions are made.

Rev. Greg Ward

Daytimer's Discussion Group

The Minister's Daytimer Group meet every Thursday morning at 10:00 am. This week's topic is "How can we have helpful conversations with those who have different social or political views." You may wish to review the **50 Questions** that can deepen a conversation. 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 28) is "Beginnings Require Endings" (What do we want to begin? And what in our life needs to end to give us the extra room and attention to begin something in earnest?).

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.

Rev. Greg

Sustainability on the Local Front

Participate in Fremont's Online Climate Action Forum
at Fremont.gov/CAPConsiderIt

Erik Alm
Climate Justice Committee Chair



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!](#)

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.

JUSTICE CORNER

[We invite you to our](#)

[12th Annual 30 Days of Love](#) 30 Days of Love begins on Sunday, January 17- February 15, 2021,

30 Days of Love will focus on four themes from a recently published report called Widening the Circle of Concern, developed by the Commission on Institutional Change to address white supremacy and other oppressions within Unitarian Universalism. Widening the Circle of Concern offers a thematic blueprint for our current political and social moment. Each week, we will share a 'playlist' or 'menu' of activities for individuals to interact with, connected with our weekly theme.

[Living Our Values in the World](#) (January 17 – 23)

[Hospitality and Inclusion](#) (January 24 – 30)

[Educating for Liberation](#) (January 31 – February 6)

[Restoration and Reparations](#) (February 7 – 13)

[Side With Love Sunday](#), February 14

Evaluation February 15

We're excited to share a preview playlist so you will be ready to enjoy 30 Days of Love 2021. Join us as we experiment, innovate, and learn

Read:

[Widening the Circle of Concern: Theology](#)

Watch:

[For Us \(For 2021\)](#) by J.L. Shattuck

Listen:

[Pop Up Concert](#) with Emma's Revolution

Worship:

["Elements of Healing: Building an Altar, a Ritual for Grieving and Healing"](#) offered by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson

Take Action - Protect Newark Wetlands

The Sierra Club has organized a petition to protect the wetlands (Area 4) in Newark that has been approved by their City Council for development. Area 4 is identified as a key opportunity for nature-based adaptation for sea level rise — a space for wetlands to migrate upland, providing flood protection for the community in the decades to come

and critical habitat for endangered wildlife. Developers secured approval from the City of Newark to pave over 559 acres of open space adjacent to the Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, trucking in over 100,000 dump trucks of fill to construct 469 luxury housing units — all atop restorable wetlands within a 100-year FEMA flood zone that is anticipated to be completely inundated by sea level rise.

It is now up to the state regulatory agencies whose job it is to protect San Francisco Bay to step in and stop this destruction. [Urge the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission \(BCDC\) and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board \(Water Board\) exercise their full regulatory authority to protect the “Newark Area 4” baylands before it is too late.](#)

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 seeks 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

Justice Council Meeting Preponed!

Is that a thing? We had to change the date of our bimonthly Justice Council meeting because of a conflict with our Pacific Western Regional Assembly on the 13th. Our meeting is now scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 6 at 3:30. I believe I now have a UU related meeting every Saturday in February, LOL! At any rate - if you are interested in justice - racial, housing, healthcare, climate, etc. you are invited to join us via zoom for about an hour and a half while we review the work of the various justice committees and plan out what's next, offering support and coordination amongst the committees and the with the board. This is the work of the council. This is where we discuss Love Heroes and other community partners (share the plate), common read plans, civic engagement opportunities, our developing climate action engagement program, asylum accompaniment, anti-racism work, LGBTQ+ welcome, and other activities and programs. Want to get involved? Contact me - Allysson McDonald

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



Education: “[**The black hole in the white UU psyche**](#)” by Mark Morrison-Reed

“What is the consequence of not knowing Unitarian Universalism’s black history? We have embraced a false narrative about who we are.”

Action: From Showing Up for Racial Justice - Bay Area

[SURJ Action Hour](#) is now back in full swing every Monday, Thursday, and Friday. This week alone, we're taking action to:

1. Demand that prison and jail officials take immediate steps to stop the ongoing COVID outbreaks at Central California Women's Facility and Santa Rita Jail
2. Tell CA lawmakers to pass legislation to stop the coming wave of evictions and implement critical tenant protections

[Join us for Action Hour sessions every Monday and Friday from 12-1 p.m., and every Thursday from 5-6 p.m.](#) Together, we can make an impact on these critical issues!

Board Briefs

The board met on January 13 at 7 p.m.and:

Agreed to apply for a second PPP loan if fiscal requirements are met

Appointed delegates to the February 13th Pacific Western Regional Meeting

Voted to increase the Worship budget by \$1684

Voted to ordain Alex Robert Jensen jointly with the Wayland UU congregation

Approved a combined board policies document

Approved the Music Committee charter and chair Drew Wilson and increased the Music budget to \$1000

Approved creation of a Minister Evaluation Task force, chaired by DeAnna Alm

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, March 10, 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

For more details about meetings or questions email president@mpuuc.org



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 Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841

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