

# This Week on the Peak

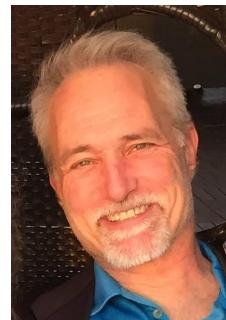


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 6, 2021

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Greetings!

As I write this, COVID is raging. People are being turned away from hospitals near where I was born because they are beyond capacity. White nationalists are storming the White House. To say I hoped more love and understanding would prevail is an understatement.



Like many of you, I am glad to be saying goodbye to 2020. But it's naïve to think we can shut the door on conflict and hurt and pain. The genie is out of that bottle. And though I am not God and cannot waive my arms and fix the problems of the world, neither can I ignore my part in resolving them.

This Sunday we are going to continue our conversations about covenant. Covenant is really just an intentional promise to hold in mind a vision of the impact Love could have if we focused it in a particular place – with particular people. To partner with those people to understand exactly what that love looks like in action and to promise, encourage and support one another to embody those actions and make real the love we know is possible.

In November, we had a conversation about what our version of 'Beloved' community looks like. We described or imagined such versions. Though each was unique, among all the versions described there was a resonance. From that resonance, The Committee on Ministry distilled what we heard into **Ten Emergent Properties** – The qualities that make Beloved Community what it is for us, in this moment.

We are calling everyone back into conversation after service this Sunday because we want you to explore these emergent properties more, to narrow in on what of those properties would most uniquely and productively resonate as the core of our covenant.

We also explored over 60 different UU Covenants from congregations similar to us, extracted the individual statements, boiled them down and cleaned them up. There is a theory that says that if you took all the statements from all UU covenants and removed redundancy, you would wind up with around **23 Unique Covenant Statements** (at least, that's what it was in our case). It's our work to figure out which of those statements will help us bring to life the emergent properties of our unique Beloved Community.

Please plan to be with us this Sunday. There is a place for you in this community. There is room for your heart in this conversation.

Rev. Greg  
(he, him, his)

[minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org)  
(510) 972-3890

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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.**



### Begin with the End in Mind

Steven Covey wrote the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Habit 2 urges us to begin with the end in mind. That habit calls us to begin each day, task, or project with a clear vision of our desired direction and destination, and then continue to flex our proactive muscles to make things happen. One of the best ways to incorporate Habit 2 into your life is to develop a clear and focused aspiration. This is a sermon about living our life with our intentions in mind.

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

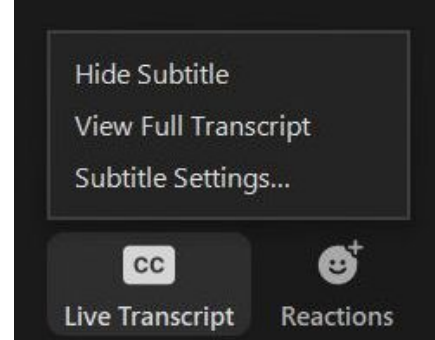
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
P.O. Box 545  
Fremont, CA 94537-0545  
(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)

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%.

### Zoom Tip - Closed Captioning

We have enabled closed captioning of our services to make them more accessible. It is easy for you to turn it off on your device if you do not need them or make the text larger if that helps you. Click on the CC box and select desired setting if you are connecting with a PC.



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## Share the Plate to Feed the Hungry!

This month we will give our second Sunday offering to Tri-City Volunteers Food Bank which provides food and low cost clothing and household items to residents of Alameda County. They serve up to 16,000 individuals EVERY MONTH through their marketplace and bag lunch programs. With a budget that barely breaks \$600,000, they are able to distribute over 6 million pounds of food annually. Click [here](#) for more information.



*Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:*

Write a check to MPUUC with “TCV” in the memo line and mail 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 an envelope with a check (with “TCV” on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating “For “TCV”) in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose “Special” as the donation type. Please state “For “TCV” in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

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## CONVERSATION ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The Minister's Daytimer Group meet every Thursday morning at 10:00 am. This week's topic is changed from it's intended topic so that we can come together in a prayerful stance for the 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 14) is “Black Lives Matter – What have we been seeing and what have we been learning?”

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## Join The Common Read – There's Still Time!

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). Both books are also available in all formats from the Alameda County Library. If you are interested in participating please purchase the

books and start reading ASAP. If you need help acquiring the books please let Jen King know.

Jen King will be leading the discussion of both books as one of our upcoming Adult RE offerings. We have scheduled four 2 hour discussion sessions (although there is a good chance they won't run the entire 2 hours). The discussion sessions will be from 1:00-3:00 pm via Zoom on January 17 & 31 and February 14 & 21. If you would like to sign up for the class, please just let Jen know and get the books and start reading. We all need another Zoom meeting like we need a hole in the head, but these books are important and worth reading and discussing and each interaction, even via Zoom, brings us into closer fellowship as a congregation.

Jen King

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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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## Meditation & Dharma

The Winter quarter of Adult Ed classes is upon us, and I wanted to remind everyone of the "Meditation and Dharma" offering on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 7 to 9 PM. The first class will be next week on January 14th.

This quarter is a great time to join since we will be starting a book from the beginning. "Training in Compassion," by Norman Fischer, is commentary by a Zen priest about a Tibetan mind-training practice which uses a set of slogans to communicate ways to cultivate compassion and resilience in your life. It's not as obtuse as that last sentence makes it seem; this book was so enjoyed and it prompted such good dialogue that it was an unanimous decision by those in the class last year to restart the discussion. (I can also point you to the list of people if you want a second opinion.)

While we are isolating, the format is to do individual meditation for the first half-hour followed by a discussion by Zoom between 7:30 and 9. Beginning meditation instruction will be offered the first few classes from 7 to 7:30 by prearrangement, so that's not a hurdle. If you are interested, please sign up thru Adult RE or contact me by any method on the congregational directory. I'll be sending out meeting information and a Zoom link this weekend.

Until then (and beyond), take care all and stay safe,

Eric Dittmar

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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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## 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](#).

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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

Upcoming JUUstice Collective calls are being scheduled to connect folks working/interested in the following issue areas:

- Climate Justice
- Economic Justice
- Immigrant Justice
- Racial Justice & Abolition

<https://uujmca.org/clusters-collectives/justicecollectives/>

The graphic features the logo of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of California on the left. The main text reads "California JUUstice Collectives". Below this, it says "Connect with Unitarian Universalists around the state working to make justice happen in California. Share resources, ask questions, and collaborate on events & actions, when you join our new California JUUstice Collectives today! Join the conversation. [uujmca.org/collectives](https://uujmca.org/collectives)". On the right, a blue box titled "Connect on these issues and more!" lists various issues: CLIMATE JUSTICE (Indigenous-Led Action, Ending Fossil Fuel Dependence, Green Sanctuary), ECONOMIC JUSTICE (Housing & Ending Homelessness, Worker Rights & Safety, Ending Corporate Personhood), RACIAL JUSTICE (Black Lives Matter Organizing & Support, Ending Islamophobia, Prison Abolition & Criminal Justice Reform, Resourcing Communities), and IMMIGRANT JUSTICE (ICE out of California / Abolish ICE, Immigrant Services & Protections, Sanctuary & Accompaniment).

[CreateClimateJustice.net](#) (CCJnet) platform with CCJnet's Outreach Specialist, Diane Brooks. This is a

great way to learn how to navigate and fully utilize the site. These calls are held three times monthly, on every 1st [Wednesday at 4 p.m. Pacific/ 7 p.m. Eastern](#), every 2nd [Tuesday at 4 p.m. Pacific/ 7 p.m. Eastern](#) and every 3rd [Monday at 5:30 p.m. Pacific/ 8:30 p.m. Eastern](#). You must register in advance for this meeting; after registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the Zoom meeting. [Register here](#)

Kathi Bayne

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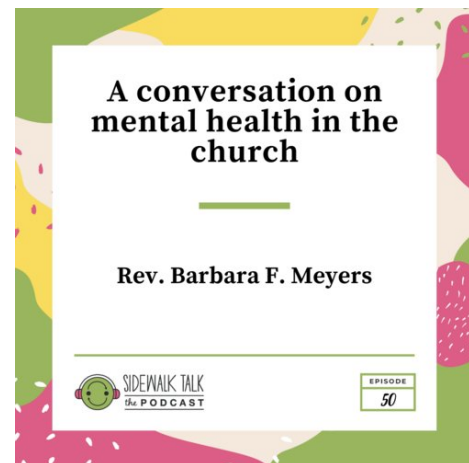
## UUA Article II Study Commission

Who are we? The Article II Study Commission (A2SC) was appointed at the 2020 Virtual General Assembly, to complete a review of the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This process is outlined within the bylaws of the Association and is required every 15 years. The A2SC has released an introductory message and reflection of their first six months engaging their charge. This first blog post is available [here](#).



## Sidewalk Talks

Rev. Barbara Meyers was interviewed in a podcast from the Sidewalk Talk organization about her ministry and her involvement with Sidewalk Talk. Take a listen: by clicking [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.

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## 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



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