

This Week on the Peak

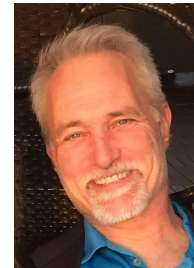


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 3, 2021

Greetings!

I'm re-watching the Harry Potter movies. All eight. I like seeing them all in 10 days rather than the 10 years it took to make them. I've done this with other epic series. Star Wars. Star Trek. Lord of the Rings. Here's why.

I'm impatient. I find it hard to not know how the epic struggle of good and evil will work out. Partly, because it feels like the same epic struggle we're facing in our lives, our country, and the world. Love vs. fear. Order vs. entropy. Connection vs. chaos.



I like watching characters learn and grow. Face fears. Take risks. I like seeing how those who work for good discover strength within them, which translates into strength between them. Being intentional about love does that. Those who work for hate – only for themselves – never seem to last. Their strength or cohesion falters and fails them. Hating the same people can be a powerful – and unifying – force. But it is fleeting. And hate is difficult to control. What we project outward, eventually turns inward.

The Committee on Ministry has been working hard, bringing us into a **Conversation about Covenant** – about what unites us. To help us decide to what we are most true, as individuals and a community. And how we will use that truth. These conversations take time. And require care. Just to find the right words to guide us. But in so doing, our efforts together to find the right words imbue them – and us – with power. As Prof. Dumbledore wisely said, "Words are our most inexhaustible source of magic, capable of both inflicting injury and remedying it."

There is a **Covenant Survey** that we hope you will fill out. 10-15 minutes of intention, when multiplied by a hundred people, translate into a whole lot of magic. And it will prepare us for a conversation – THIS SATURDAY @ 9:30 am ([Here's the Link](#)) – to help us find the words which will bring connection. In world struggling with division, it seems like well placed attention.

"Dark times lie ahead of us. There will be a time when we must choose between what is easy and what is right." - Albus Dumbledore

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.



A Tad Too Much Sanity

Don Quixote travelled the world fighting windmills. He had a keen eye for the romanticism of what was 'right' and 'just.' So much so, few others recognized what he was so ardently trying to point out. As he would make a charge against injustice, others would accuse him of fighting windmills. Sancho Panza would, ever-so-carefully, be there to pull him from precipice of disaster. What do we do in this world on the brink of disaster with so few Don Quixotes and so many Sancho Panzas?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman.. Worship Host will be Drew Wilson. Peak Performers 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%.

2021 Courageous Love Hero, Nyla Choates

Our Love Hero Award goes to someone who courageously

shows up to challenge oppression and violence. Our 2021 awardee, Nyla Choates, a high school senior, organized Milpitas's Black Lives Matter event and founded My Roots are Rich to empower and inspire by reinforcing the rich culture and contributions of African Americans. In 2020 they shared videos reading children's books. Choates was a whistleblower in 2019 when a teacher wore blackface. We share the offering this Sunday with her group. More about Nyla [here](#). More about Love Heroes [here](#).



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

Write a check to MPUUC with "My Roots are Rich" 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 "My Roots are Rich" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "For "My Roots are Rich") 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 "My Roots are Rich" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

Congregational Covenant - Please join us this Saturday at 9:30am

We will be continuing the conversation about developing our Congregational Covenant this Saturday at 9:30am. We've asked for feedback on the emergent properties and the statements that support those properties on our [survey](#) here. We'll be reviewing the results of our survey and continuing the development of affirming statements for our covenant. **We've received fewer than 15 responses**, so please take a few minutes and fill it out for us before Saturday.

The zoom link for our conversation is Rev. Greg's zoom room: <https://zoom.us/j/3956392285>

Heart Communion

As we move into our Spring semester we have a few opportunities that I would like to share with you.

We have an upcoming intergenerational service on February 14th. Since it is Valentine's day we would like to do a Heart Communion Service that we need your help to put together! We will have a story that we will need photographs of characters and a few speaking roles that need filled. If you are interested please sign-up using the following link: <https://forms.gle/exgYYcnGPAmn6hjo8>

Second, as part of our Heart Communion we would like to connect with one another by sending valentines to each other :) We would like to provide an opportunity for those who sign up to be partnered with another MPUUC child, youth, or adult that you will exchange valentines with :) To sign up for this opportunity please complete the following form for each participant <https://forms.gle/vL6bSfFk4URBNnp9>

Lastly, as a second part of our Heart Communion we invite you to send a Valentine to MPUUC. Tell us what you love about being a part of this community. What part of your heart do you want to put into our shared ministry together? What keeps you coming back to zoom worship no matter the zoom fatigue? What makes you want to rejoin us when we go back to in-person worship? If you plan to send us a part of your heart please email

Daytimer's Discussion Group

The Minister's Daytimer Group meet every Thursday morning at 10:00 am. This week's (February 4) topic is "Do-Overs" and "Over-and-Outs" – this is inspired by the Groundhog Day movie where Bill Murray's character is given the gift to replay his life and decide what's working and what's not. 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 (Feb 4) is "Love – Where it Came From and Where it's Going". Come explore ways love has come to you and where you've carried it.

JUSTICE CORNER

Addressing Race, Racism, and Bias with Willona Sloan

This **Thursday**, Feb 4 @ 7pm ET: [Addressing Race, Racism, and Bias](#): In this writing workshop, Willona Sloan, Strategic Storyteller & Literary Host, will lead participants to tackle issues of racism, bias, and social justice through guided writing prompts, and look at ways to engage in behaviors and attitudes that demonstrate respect for one another's identities and better cultural understanding. The workshop will include writing, reading, and discussion, and will offer a safe and inclusive environment for learning.

Find all our upcoming live events for 30 Days of Love [here](#).

SURJ Bay Area Study & Action 11 Week Series

February 16 - April 29 - choice of days

Are you looking for a learning community to challenge racism? Would you like to find out how to take action locally and be accountable? Join us as we examine white supremacy and resistance movements to build skills to challenge racism and take action in our communities. Through weekly reading and facilitated groups, we study the histories and systems of that which we resist, we deepen our understanding of injustice, and we learn to take strategic, effective action to dismantle white supremacy and support Black and people of color-led organizations fighting for racial justice. Study & Action is free, but you must RSVP for your choice of 1 of 3 days. Space is limited.

[Study and Action Series - SURJ Bay Area](#)

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

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841

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