

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 17, 2021

Greetings!

Hello, my name is Drew Wilson and I am chair of the consolidated choir and music committee as well as the contact person for the choir. I am a charter member of our congregation, and I also worked with other founders to write the original by-laws and establish the initial governance of Mission Peak. Of all my roles since then, the longest lasting one has been that of a member of the choir. The choir was started only a few years after Mission Peak was founded, and it has continued since, even through Covid!



Since music and singing have been such an important part of Mission Peak's life and mine, I wanted to tell you about the newly restructured music committee, and our plans for the future. The committee consists of Jay Steele, Jo Ann Schriener, David Lefkort, Paul K. Davis, and me. Shauna Pickett-Gordon consults in her temporary role as virtual choir director. We meet a minimum of twice a year and more often as needed. Currently, the choir provides music on the first Sunday of the month, Jay on the second and fifth Sundays, David and Peak Rocks on the third Sunday, and Jo Ann Schriener on the fourth. We consolidated the music program under one committee to encourage more variety on each Sunday, and to plan for the future after Covid. Already, the choir's hymn recordings support "virtual congregational singing" on first and other Sundays. Also, you've heard solos and duets from choir members, other singers, and instrumentalists (piano, violin, viola, recorder, trumpet, trombone). Planning for the future is becoming the focus of the music committee as we proceed. Depending on what the congregation can afford -- how much we grow in pledging, numbers and enthusiasm -- we see a lot of exciting possibilities for our future.

It would help our minister to have a single point person to work with for worship music. The choir has been advocating for a paid choir director for some time, but, with the variety of music in our congregation, it is clear that what we really need is a music director. Music directors work more hours and get paid more, but such a person can coordinate an integrated music program for all Sundays of the month as well as leading the choir. Instead of the choir singing two anthems on the first Sunday, we could sing one anthem per Sunday on up to three Sundays, with a variety of instrumental pieces played by our other musicians. We could also start a children's or youth choir, and maybe a chamber

orchestra like we had many years ago. Perhaps there are even ways we could contribute music to social justice events in the community and/or organized by Mission Peak.

Some of this is reality already, some is feasible now, and some is a dream. The “dream” parts will require a much larger congregation, and plenty of generous pledges! But I would argue that anything we can do towards this musical dream will be an exciting investment in MPUUC’s future. Churches around the country report that a strong music program tends to increase attendance; for many, music is a big part of the emotional and spiritual side of worship. Evening and Saturday events enrich the whole community and “get our name out.” A congregation’s music program attests to a vibrant, loving community, and it invites newcomers and the community in.

I am excited to be a part of MPUUC’s music program, and to help guide its development. I hope this glimpse of future possibilities is also exciting to you, and I hope you’ll consider helping in any way you can. We can always use more musicians and more supporters at MPUUC!

Drew Wilson

P.S. On Sunday, March 7th we will be premiering the choir’s first virtual choir video featuring the choir singing “I Dream a World.” I hope you can join us for the service.

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.



The High Lonesome

There is a liminal space of time - between listening and healing - where we get a glimpse of our soul. Bill Monroe, one of the fathers of Bluegrass, called this space 'the high lonesome.' He watched soldiers walk home along railway lines while mourning and moaning about all they'd lost. This is a service to see if we can respond to loss with learning instead of yearning. A commitment to how things could be rather than condemnation of how things have been.

Rev, Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson.. 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%.

Memorial Service for Maria Luisa Macias on February 28, 2021

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation invites you to a virtual Memorial Service in honor of our dear friend Maria Luisa Macias at 2 p.m. (Pacific Time) on Sunday, February 28, 2021. The service will be led by Rev. Greg Ward and Rev. Barbara Meyers. Guests are invited to join in celebrating the life of Maria Luisa and remembering her vibrant spirit.

To join the virtual Memorial Service, please use this link: [here](#)



The Mission Peak Media Exchange is LIVE!!

We have created an online spreadsheet that lists most of the items that have been donated so far (we're still accepting donations and entering items). Please click on this link to see what is available:

[Link to Media Library Catalog](#)

Multiple 'categories' have been included to try and help you find items you're interested in. Paperback's are \$2 each, all other items (Hardback books, Cookbooks, DVD's, Audio Books) are \$3 each. Ordering instructions are available in the spreadsheet.

Daytimer's Discussion Group **TIME CHANGE**

The Minister's Daytimer Group meeting for THIS THURSDAY ONLY at 11:00 am (February 18, because Rev. Greg got a last minute appt. for a vaccine at 9:45 am). This week's topic is "Reconciliation - How do we go about the work of repair? What does reparations mean?" 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 25 at 10AM) is "Leadership – how must / how can leadership incorporate Love as an operational principle?" Come explore ways love has come to you and where you've carried it.

JUSTICE CORNER

Why is housing so unaffordable in the Bay Area?

This is a local company that could build low cost housing.
<https://youtu.be/hU4rp-efn-l>

These explain why high end housing is built even when a large percentage of it remains empty.

Episode 1:
https://youtu.be/sSya366_pUI

Episode 2:
<https://youtu.be/evPGyvvtuhE>

Episode 3:
<https://youtu.be/RE0ejvfcYb0>

Episode 4:
<https://youtu.be/fW5SoOq0CRw>

Episode 5:
<https://youtu.be/kFsTQpQEjSw>

Episode 6:
<https://youtu.be/WGccrS3HgMY>

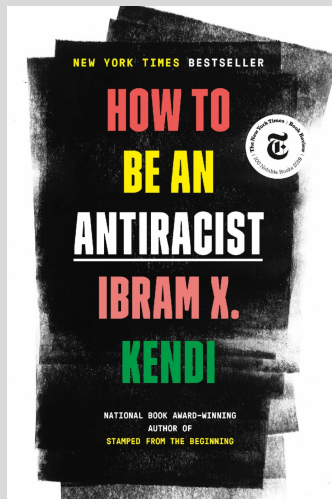
Katherine Rubie

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](#)



Special Opportunity: Reading & Discussion of How to Be An Anti-Racist

Colleen Arnold will facilitate a study group of Ibram X. Kendi's book **How to Be An Antiracist**. Come discuss this #1 New York Times bestseller with us and discover what the New York Times calls "The most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind." This is a must-read for anyone who wants to go beyond awareness to the formation of a just and equal society.

Dates: Sundays, **April 11, April 18, May 2, May 16**, all 11:30-12:30)

[Please register by clicking here.](#)

Education/Action: "New Day Rising" Conference

Saturday, February 27, 2021, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm PST (with breaks)

Is your congregation ready to take a new step in changing white supremacy culture? Want to learn what your fellow



congregations are working on, and how you might apply it at home? Join a continent of UUs as we explore next steps in creating Beloved UU Communities. [Get more information and register here.](#)

“Small actions can make a huge impact.”

PATRICK JURNEY



The League of Women Voters Fremont, Newark, Union City and the American Association of University Women invite you to a presentation by environmentalist Patrick Journey Thursday, March 4, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Journey will explain how the Fremont Green Challenge provides concrete, actionable, affordable, small endeavors we can undertake to alleviate some environmental concerns. To register go to [this link](#) More info. [here](#)

Board Briefs

The board passed 2 motions by email voting:

- 1) Asked treasurer to apply for a second PPP loan and gave details on what actions to take to do that.
- 2) Allow outdoor events starting Mach 1st using the previously approved guidelines at "[about-->congregational documents](#)" portion of web site.



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

***My truck load of
antidepressants
has arrived.***



**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

Stay Connected



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 missionpeakuu.org



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