

This Week on the Peak

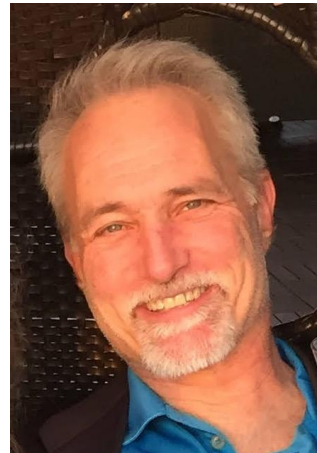


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! March 17, 2021

Greetings!

We are less than six short weeks away from the Installation where you – as the congregation – and I – as the minister – will enter into a covenant of ministry together. The Covenant we have been working on – the **MPUUC Covenant Among Members** – has been benefitting from all your wise and creative feedback. It has been helping us understand the benefits of having an intentional covenant, how it helps unite us, that we may aspire toward ideals of deep compassion, mutual trust, and a commitment to just and fair relationships.

The Board is hoping that MPUUC members will be ready to vote on adopting it at a special Congregational Meeting on April 18. At that meeting we also hope to vote on a second covenant. The second Covenant is the **MPUUC Covenant Between the Minister and the Congregation**. Last week, you may have read what I shared about **Why Do We Need Two Covenants?** I encourage you to read it again.



I want to tell you what it means to me. I have not been working so hard on this because I have too much time on my hands. I work on these covenants – the 2nd one in particular – because being a minister – and being a minister HERE – is very important to me. So important I want to protect it with the care and guidance of people I respect and trust. The best thing I know about how to keep a promise is to make it with lots of witnesses – people who will help hold that promise in place.

The 2nd Covenant describes the heart of the installation. Indeed, it is the heart of the promise that roots my ministry here. I remember, back in 1999, when I entered my first settled ministry, I was stunned when I realized that the Covenant that the congregation and I would read together during that Act of Installation would be something that I just wrote. And no one in the congregation – not the board, or the Committee on Ministry or anyone – needed to see it beforehand. And that is – by and large – the way it happens in all congregations. I have learned a lot since then and that's why I think it's better – it's stronger – when it is a covenant that is created together.

There is a section following the 2nd Covenant that invites you to share your impressions. Please use this opportunity to share what you think. How could this Covenant help make our shared ministry together as strong as possible? I look forward to hearing your thoughts. Starting on Sunday, March 21, there will be a survey to gather feedback for this covenant as well.

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.

Finding Happiness

Give up on all the Gods 'out there' who've promised to save you. There is only one thing that will save you, that CAN save you. That one thing requires all your acceptance, all your reverence, all your perseverance and all your commitment. People have been looking for it and yet stepping over it, chasing it and yet being haunted by it since time immemorial.

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:

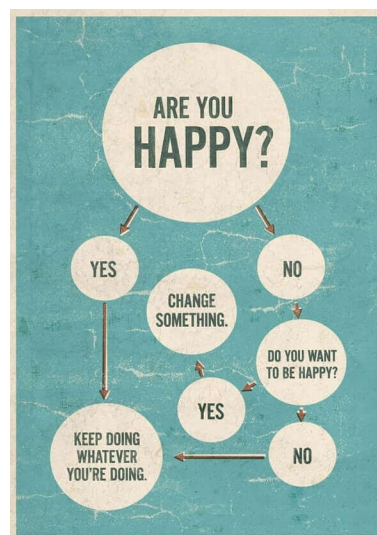
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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%.

A message from Rev. Greg:



This past Sunday there was some special music and a special message that was accidentally left out of the service. If you were one of the many who LOVED the All Souls Washington DC Choir with Jen Heyman directing, you'll want to see **THIS SEGMENT**.

It's Canvass Time of Year!

We are getting ready for our yearly pledge drive, or Canvass, where we make a pledge for our upcoming fiscal year which starts July 1, 2021, and ends June 30, 2022. Our theme for Canvass this year is, "Love Right Through!" and we will be holding 1-on-1 "Connection" meetings with each person in the Congregation to talk about your pledge.



You should have received an email with information about Canvass; please read through the email and accompanying links. We also have a webpage this year with detailed information about Canvass. I invite you to check that out as well at this [LINK](#). If you have questions please contact Melissa Holmes at treasurer@mpuuc.org.

Daytimer's Discussion Group

The Minister's Daytimer Group meets this Thursday (March 18) at 10:00 a.m. This week's topic is "The 2nd Covenant we're developing at MPUUC" (What?!? We're working on TWO COVENANTS?) Yes, this one is the covenant we are making with the minister. Come explore why. Come explore these two fundamental questions used in Community Organizing. 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 (March 25 at 10 a.m.) is about Generosity: who taught us about generosity and what were they generous to? To what are we generous and who do we want to teach about generosity?

We are Ordaining one of our own!

In the Unitarian Universalist denomination only congregations are able to ordain ministers. The Mission Peak UU board voted in January to jointly ordain Robert Alex Jensen on June 6th, along with the congregation where he is serving as an intern, First Parish in Wayland, MA. Alex grew up in our congregation and is graduating from Harvard Divinity School with a Masters of Divinity degree in May. When he graduates, he will have all of the credentials to practice as a UU minister and was accepted for fellowship by the UUA.

Mission Peak UU is accepting donations to help pay for his ordination costs. An ordination committee with Steve Wallcave, Alex and some members from First Parish in Wayland, MA are planning the ordination. Both congregations are donating to fund the ordination. First Parish donated \$1500 to the ordination fund and Mission Peak UU has donated \$500 from our reserves. We are accepting donations with the goal of raising \$1000 to fully fund this exciting event. It's an honor that our congregation helped plant roots for our next generation of ministers!

For more information contact Steve Wallcave.

The Mission Peak Media Exchange is LIVE!!

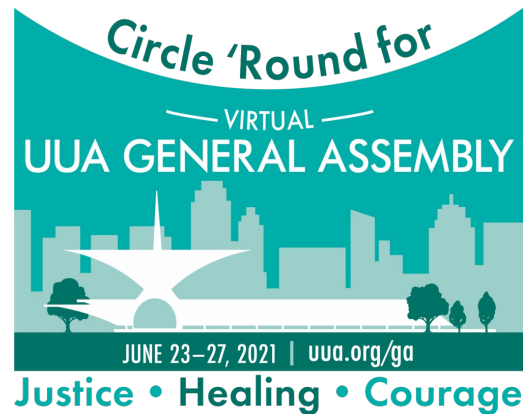
Jen has finally gotten all the donated materials entered! There are now over 950 items in the Media Exchange spreadsheet (books, cookbooks, audiobooks, DVD's, music CD's, and puzzles) that have been donated so far. Please click on this link to see what is available:

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. Items that have been 'claimed' are removed from the spreadsheet. Items you request will be dropped off for you "no contact".

Jen King

Virtual General Assembly 2021: Register Now!

Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association and in our congregations. We study ways to implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes.



- Registration is open! Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person. [Learn about registration details.](#)
 - [Volunteer Applications](#) are open for those who want to volunteer to lower their costs to attend. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.
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JUSTICE CORNER

Asylum and Immigration Committee

A.B. 937, the "VISION Act," is a new bill in the State Assembly aimed at preventing immigrants in California jails and prisons being transferred to ICE custody. IM4HI, the group we are partnering with in accompanying Sergio, is setting up meetings with CA Assembly members Bill Quirk (District 20) and Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (District 16) to discuss. If you are in one of these districts and would like to participate or know more, please contact Meredith Miller (annmeredithmiller@hotmail.com) or Gala King (gking@im4humanintegrity.org).

Join UUJMCA and our Partners for our 2021 Regional Justice Convenings!

These convenings are an opportunity to deepen our faith-rooted work for justice, learn about active legislative efforts and statewide actions, and take a "deep dive" into UUJMCA's Core Campaigns for 2021 (including: Defund Police, ICE out of California, Fossil Free California, and Medicare for All).

This year we are especially excited to root our conversations & community in a model for

putting our love into faithful and intentional action for collective liberation. Through breakout conversations and issue-specific campaigns, we'll have an opportunity to engage in how love resists, love accompanies, and love creates, and where we are called to be as individuals and communities.

[Regional Justice Convenings Dates](#)

Kathi Bayne



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

[Action: BIPOC \(& White\) Caucus on Climate Justice Session](#)

"A small group of us, working collaboratively with the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, are moved to form a new community: A BIPOC caucus focused on the intersections of racial, environmental and climate injustices. Our thinking is inspired by the UU Seventh Principle (respect for the interdependent web of all existence) and the Eight Principle (accountably dismantle racism and all other oppressions). This caucus is held monthly and the first 5 sessions are open to all, and will include both a BIPOC and a White caucus space.

This is a call to invite all people to join hands and gather to reflect on the current moment of climate emergency, exchange our aspirations and learn how our UU values can strengthen our commitments." [Register for the March 18 session here.](#)

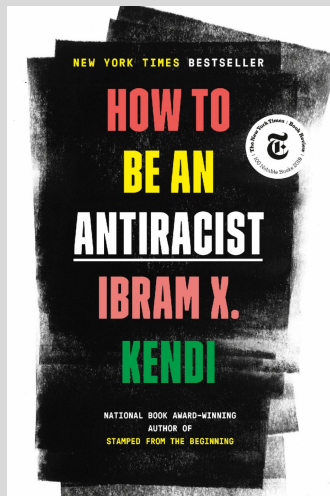
[Education: Reading & Discussion of How to Be an Antiracist](#)

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.

You'll probably want to order the book now - it's very popular. You might consider supporting Marcus Books, the first independent black-owned bookstore in the US, conveniently located in Oakland. <https://bookshop.org/shop/marcusbooks>

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

[Please register by clicking here.](#)



Board Briefs

The board met on March 10 at 7 p.m. and:

Discussed the current governance structure, which is not working in the best way for a congregation of our size.
Approved combining our 3 Councils into a single Council until that time when more Councils would enhance our operation.

Planned for April Super Council meeting.

Approved \$500 as budget for ordination of Alex Jensen and authorized a special donation to raise additional funds for that ordination.

Approved an additional \$500 for the installation of Rev. Greg Ward.

Approved congregational meeting on Sunday, April 18 to vote on the Congregational Covenant and the Minister/Congregation Covenant.

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, April 14, 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



Tri-City Interfaith Council News

The Tri-City Interfaith Council invites you to **'INTERCONNECTED'** The Anniversary of 'Shelter in Place' – March 18th at 7:30 pm. This service acknowledges the sacrifices made to save lives. Advanced registration is available by clicking on the link.

MPUUC Supports Temple Beth Torah

A few weeks ago, immediately after our Jewish neighbors, Temple Beth Torah, was defaced with a swastika drawn on the building, the Board and Rev. Greg sent a letter to Rabbi Avi Schulman and the members of the temple citing our support to stand with them against hate. On March 12, they posted the letter with thanks on [their facebook page](#).

HUMOR CORNER



"You wouldn't think that losing an hour would affect you after losing an entire year, yet here I am."

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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