

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 19, 2021

Greetings!

Dear readers,

Since August 2020, our congregation has been accompanying an asylum seeker from Central America named Sergio. Allie King introduced the idea in 2019, and led us through the training period. After Allie went on maternity leave, Meredith Miller took over coordinating the team, which has included Kathi Bayne, Jen King, Ingrid O'Brien Avery, Don Ramie and Valerie Stewart.



Sergio

Sergito, Johandry and Yadira

It has been wonderful to get to know this fine young man, who is taking classes at Laney College studying to be an electrician. He lives in the Piedmont neighborhood of Oakland in a small suite of rooms provided by a dear lady of the city. Sergio's English has progressed rapidly, and he is quickly learning skills needed to thrive in the United States—and help other immigrants like himself.

Sergio was forced to flee his home country after speaking out against the government. He endured unspeakable violence on his journey, and contracted COVID while in ICE detention once he reached the United States. His resilience has been extraordinary.

Sergio has a wife and two young sons still in Central America, living with his parents. Obviously, they long for the day they can be together again. At this point, he is awaiting his hearing before an immigration judge. The hearing date has been moved repeatedly, and has recently been pushed back clear into 2023. His work permit was supposed to arrive in

December but has also been delayed. We have helped Sergio with expertise, encouragement, transportation, and assistance totaling \$1500 (including a nice 2003 Mazda). The monetary amount was voted on last summer by the congregation. Our official accompaniment responsibilities ended in January, but some of us are continuing to be friends of Sergio and will definitely accompany him to his hearing, whenever it does arrive. Sergio's attorney has repeatedly marveled at how Mission Peak is truly a congregation that "walks the talk" when it comes to lending a hand to those who struggle. We have never done anything for Sergio that he did not thank us for. Every time. No matter how small the kindness.

"Here is Sergio's greeting to our congregation: 'Thank you for all your help and compassion.'"

– Meredith Miller and Don Ramie

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.



Dancing Badly

Anything worth doing is worth doing badly. That's because to do things well, or for goodness' sake, or 'for good' we must begin where we are - which is often with little experience and a lot of heart. And one of the great blessings of starting where we are is discovering all the room we have to learn and grow.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Peak Performers, Knuti VanHoven and Jo Ann Schriener 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%.

Special Worship Announcement

Our Worship Hosting Team has been working extraordinarily hard to facilitate the return to Cole Hall. Because Covid has taught us to 'stream' and extend ourselves outward to the larger world, we have reconnected with those who moved away. And we have committed ourselves to remaining connected by practicing a 'hybrid' approach to simultaneously presenting service for a live audience AND streaming all over the globe. Sunday, May 30, we are going to have our first step toward that by streaming from Cole Hall. The Worship Team will be in Cole Hall and we will stream to everyone. We hope to grow more accustomed to our new equipment. We hope to work toward our first in-person / streaming hybrid service for everyone on June 20.

For next Sunday, May 30, Rev. Greg and Rev. Barbara will present, 'Tolling of the Bells' – a service to name and honor those who have passed in the previous years. We will recognize those who have died from Covid, those who have died from Violence, Those in the UU World (including MPUUC) who've died as well as those in your personal family who've died. If your family has lost someone in the past year, we will include them in the names we read if you let us know by adding their name to the [LIST OF LOVED ONES WHO'VE DIED IN THE PAST YEAR](#).

Daytimer's Discussion Group

The Minister's Daytimer Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week's topic "Region, Culture, Travel and Transformation – Who has taught you to see the way you see? How have places and people taught us to be the way we are? How can travel – and stepping out of our comfort zones – provide a check on our reality?" 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, "Tolling of the Bells" – this discussion is in prelude of our Service on May 30. We will explore the people we have lost this year. We will reflect on those taken by Covid... those taken by violence... Those taken in the larger UU community, MPUUC and our personal family.

Michael Dowd Discussion Postponed to May 27th

On May 27th from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Rev. Michael Dowd will engage in a 90-minute discussion of his video presentation, "[The Big Picture: Clarity, Compassion, and Love-in-Action](#)," which you are invited to watch between now and then. That program builds on content in his two TEDx talks and his book, Thank God for Evolution, which was endorsed by 6 Nobel Prize-winning scientists, noted skeptics, and by religious leaders across the spectrum. The Zoom link for this 90-minute discussion is:

Topic: Michael Dowd's Discussion

Time: May 27, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[Click here](#)

Meeting ID: 947 1023 6690

Passcode: 506412

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,94710236690#,,, *506412# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Ordination of Alex Jensen to the Unitarian Universalist

Ministry

Sunday, June 6th, 2021
12:00 PM Pacific / 3:00 PM Eastern

All are invited to join us for a virtual event and celebration for this joint ordination of Alex Jensen by Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation and First Parish in Wayland.

RSVP here: <http://www.ordainalex.com/>



Religious professionals, clergy, and seminarians are invited to gather at 11:15 AM Pacific / 2:15 PM Eastern on the Zoom link for centering prayers before the service. This will be followed by a tech runthrough before the start of the service.

We will display a virtual procession of religious professionals. Please send your picture, name, and professional title(s) to info@ordainalex.com by May 31st, 2021 to be included.

The Ordination service will start at 12:00 PM Pacific / 3:00 PM Eastern and will last about an hour in duration.

Save the date - When Alex is back in Fremont we will be celebrating the Ordination with him outside of Cole Hall on June 20th at Noon.

Additional information will be posted to the website closer to the date. The Facebook Event can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact info@ordainalex.com.



Vaccine Help

If you are having difficulty finding or signing up for a Covid-19 vaccine appointment, please email vax@mpuuc.org and we will help you sign up. All Covid vaccines are free of charge.



JUSTICE CORNER

Friday, May 21 • 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Reimagining Community Safety and the Role of Transformative Housing Solutions



Join **EBHO** staff in reviewing how demands to defund the police and reimagine public safety connect to the work of housing justice. Over the last year, Black-led community protest has produced a nationwide reckoning with the role of policing and how we create safety and security, including demands to defund the police and invest in housing, healthcare, and healing. Participants will engage in collective reflection, a small-group discussion, and leave with ideas of how you can advocate for collective community safety that includes quality, affordable homes for all low-income people, rooted in just communities. [Register here](#).

Kathi Bayne

ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION COMMITTEE (ARO) RECOMMENDATIONS



Thursday, May 20 • 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Intro to SURJ Bay Area with speaker from Jewish Voice for Peace

Come learn about SURJ Bay Area at a special, virtual introductory meeting and find out how SURJ moves white people to act for justice, with passion and accountability, as part of a multi-racial majority. Hear about our current work and activities including Study & Action, committee work, upcoming workshops, and events. A representative from **Jewish Voice for Peace** will also be speaking about the current situation in Palestine. We'll answer your questions and share all the ways you can get involved in the movement for racial justice. [Register here](#).

Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, May 12:

- Approved the Path to Services proposal from the reopening task force
- Approved adding a Reparative Justice line item to the 2021/22 budget
- Approved the updated Outdoor Events and Office Use policy
- Corrected the GA delegates and added an alternate
- Approved the planned special summer collections
- Approved the proposed 2021/22 budget to be presented at the annual meeting
- Approved the covenant between Rev. Greg Ward and Rev. Chris Schriener
- Approved the right-sizing task force charter



The next board meeting is on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7 p.m.

The annual meeting is on Sunday, June 13 at 11:30 a.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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