

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 18, 2021

Greetings!

In a recent sermon we discussed the proposed new 8th Principle which is being considered to be added to the 7 Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The text of the new principle is:

***“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”***



The focus is on taking action to dismantle racism and other oppressions. The creators of the newly proposed Principle believe that it is necessary because of the realization of anti-racism educators that a person can believe themselves to be a “good UU” following the 7 Principles without dealing with racism and other oppressions at a systemic level.

To officially adopt the 8th Principle, the UUA Board of Trustees appointed a Study Commission to come to it with a recommendation in 2023. It will be voted on at two successive General Assemblies in 2023 and 2024. In the meantime, there is a grassroots movement among UU congregations to adopt the 8th Principle, with more than 120 congregations already having done so. Our ARO team at MPUUC plans to make this coming church year be a year of congregational study on the possibility of joining those congregations that are adopting it. We will be having learning opportunities during the year so that you can engage in the process.

Only in a UU congregation do we have the opportunity to participate in shaping the denomination, making a moral commitment to its future.

- The MPUUC Anti-Racism and Oppression (ARO) Team

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## This Sunday's Service:

**We have transitioned to hybrid services. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.**



## The God of Our Misunderstandings

The road to reconciliation has a great advocate and nemesis all in one: religion. On the one hand we hear religion's testimony of peace, harmony and compassionate co-existence. Yet, that's often countered by its absolutes, extremism and division. In this service, we look not at what 'they' (religious organizations) get wrong, but where 'we' (human beings) struggle in our instincts between connection and protection.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Jo Ann Schriener and Peak Performers will provide our music.

## Whether you are attending services in Cole Hall or remotely you can donate money and/or fulfill your pledge in the 3 ways shown below:

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%.

**If you are attending services in Cole Hall we will provide envelopes so you can donate money by placing checks or cash in the office mail slot.**

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## Safety Policy for Hybrid Services in Cole Hall

When we have volunteers to support a hybrid service we will provide three ways to attend the service — via Zoom, sitting inside Cole Hall, or sitting on the patio outside Cole Hall. Our worship leaders will either be inside Cole Hall or use Zoom to connect to the service in Cole Hall

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. **Because it is becoming apparent that vaccinated people can still spread the disease to others, we strongly encourage those in contact with children, and unvaccinated or immunocompromised adults to attend services outside or via Zoom.** We allow worship leaders, associates, and other service participants to be unmasked while speaking if they voluntarily disclose they are vaccinated and are 10ft apart from others who are not fully vaccinated.

The [board Safety Policy on how we allow services in Cole Hall](#) is in the “[About->Congregational Documents](#)” section of the [mpuuc.org](https://mpuuc.org) web site. If you wonder

how we are trying to keep us all safe as we gather together again, please read it. We expect to continue to monitor what is safe and make changes as needed.

We also have other board policies related to Covid-19 in section 18 of the board policies document, which is also in the “[About->Congregational Documents](#)” section of the website. [The outdoor event guidelines in section 18.2](#) will control how we would be able to have food or drinks outside after the service, or for special events. Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about either safety policy.

[Please volunteer to help us meet in Cole Hall every Sunday starting June 20th. Contact Jen King to volunteer.](#)

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Dear Mission Peak Members and Friends,

Thanks for keeping all the comforting homefires burning, even at a time where it may have felt like other fires are burning out of control. I'm very excited to be returning and rejoining you.

Lucy and I have fully moved into our home which is in Hayward, much closer to Mission Peak. We love it! We have more room, nice neighbors and a great place for our dog, Molly, to take her place as one of the great squirrel herders of all time. We've even planted a garden and are already getting fresh vegetables.

I got a chance to do a lot of reading in the time away and I'm excited about putting some of it to use. I will be working with the ARO team to offer a course called ReWire (based on the course I took with All Souls Tulsa) which uses covenant and support to help us explore the often unconscious assumptions holding harmful oppression in place. Please ask questions. The class will begin in early October.

Drop me an [Email](#) to say 'Hi!' and let me know what's been going on for you. Or, sign up on my [Calendar](#) to have a conversation. I'm really looking forward to connecting with you soon.

Rev. Greg Ward

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## REV. GREG'S EMAIL POLICY

Because email, without appropriate boundaries, has historically increased and begun routinely requiring more time than would allow for other basic ministerial and personal responsibilities, the following limits are being applied.

- If not designated in the subject line, I will assign all email a priority (high, medium or low) and respond to high priority first
- I will read and respond to email twice a day (90 minutes total). All email without a response will be deferred to the following day with increasing priority
- I will limit each email response to 10 minutes or two short paragraphs. If an appropriate response can't be completed in those limits, I will request that the substantive details be addressed in a phone or Zoom conversation. If you feel like your need requires a more substantive response, please sign up for a brief conversation using my [online calendar](#)
- If you think that your email has gotten lost in this process, please accept my apologies and resend with 'Response Needed' in subject line
- \*IMPORTANT\* Please don't assume that email is confidential. Communication requiring confidentiality is best done in person. In most cases, email confidentiality is readily granted when requested. Exercising intentional care with confidentiality helps minimize the damage of secrecy in cases of accusation, threat or situations where someone's safety could be compromised. Thank you for your understanding.

Communicating in a timely and accurate way is important to me. Thank you for understanding and working with me to help our efforts together be successful.

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## New Name Tags!

One of the most welcoming things we can do as a congregation is to wear name tags so visitors and new members can get to know our names without having to ask. Another way to be more welcoming is to give people an easier opportunity to share their pronouns. The Membership Committee is proud to announce that we are ordering new name tags that will feature a lanyard instead of safety pins. No more poking or snagging your clothing! Please click on this link to access the form to order your new name tag: <https://forms.gle/9MF5MNwibhEqkdZJA>. You will also have the option to state the pronouns you use.

Here is a sample:



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Please don't delay! We hope to have them available for our September 12th water communion service. When you feel ready to come to Cole Hall to attend a Sunday service in person, PLEASE put on your name tag. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks,

Kathy Wallcave, Membership Chair

P.S. We will keep the old name tags until October 3rd, in case you would like to keep it or have items (pins, ribbons) that you'd like to put on your new name tag. Let me know if you would like me to mail it to you, if you do not anticipate returning to Cole Hall before October 3rd.

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## The Sunday Service Team needs your help so we can have services in Cole Hall each week!

This is your chance to help us continue to be able to meet in Cole Hall every Sunday. We plan on a self-serve approach to chairs, hymnals and cushions when we start. While we would love to offer our traditional coffee hour after the service, we must prioritize getting volunteers to have the service in Cole Hall first so we will not be serving food or drinks at "coffee hour" until we have volunteers to fill all of the positions below. The following functions are needed to support a service in Cole Hall:

- Pulpit Set-Up/Take Down
- Aesthetics
- Greeters
- Safety Monitor
- Zoom and A/V host
- Key Holder

For Job descriptions see <https://mpuuc.org/services-in-cole-hall-starting-june-20th#volunteer>. Training will be provided.

## JUSTICE CORNER

### In the Budget, we Must Include Pathways to Citizenship for essential Workers and their Families

UUSJ joins #WeAreHome, Faith in Action, and Side with Love to insist that Congress include pathways to citizenship for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status holders, farmworkers, and all essential workers plus their family members who are not already US citizens or legal permanent residents.



We call on both the House and the Senate to consider using the reconciliation process to pass a budget that includes such pathways.

[Budget Advocacy: Pathways for Essential Workers](#)

### In the Budget, Congress must Take Bold Action for Climate, Jobs and Justice

The urgency of the climate crisis has again been brought home by horrific record heat waves, historic drought, and early-season wildfires. While the need for action has never been clearer, there is only a narrow path for getting adequate legislation enacted that will provide a realistic chance of stabilizing global warming in time to avert catastrophic changes.



This is a critical time, and UUs need to urge their Representatives and Senators to stand up for real and just action on climate.

[Budget Advocacy: For Climate, Jobs and Justice](#)

### The Defusing Hatred Program

Learn nonviolent communication skills in a safe environment and develop tools for responding to uneasy situations and hate speech beginning, Wednesday, July 21st at 7 p.m.

**Register in advance for these meetings, save the link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scuuqqDMoHNUToNhYkMFzHx-1gysl3gz>

Enjoy an informative, visual presentation followed by conversation and experience through role-play. Our trainer is Rev. Will McGarvey, Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, who developed this training

## ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION COMMITTEE (ARO) RECOMMENDATIONS

**Saturday, August 21 • 10:00 am –12:00 pm**

**Introduction to the Five Methods Webinar**

Join SURJ Contra Costa for a two-hour workshop given by [Community Ready Corps Allies and Accomplices \(CRCAA\)](#).

Learn how to practice the *5 Methods of Divestment and Weaponization of White Power and Privilege*, looking at skill-building, education, resources, money, and relationships. This work both supports Black liberation as well as helps you to avoid the persistent reestablishment of white supremacy, a phenomenon all too common even in explicitly anti-racist spaces. Devised by [Community READY Corps \(CRC\)](#), a Black grassroots organization that builds and supports Black self-determination. [Sign up here.](#)



**Jubilee III Anti-Racism Training Opportunity Via Zoom**

September 4-6, 2021

The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu invites PWR congregations to join them and Jubilee Trainers Paula Cole Jones, Dr. Leon Spencer and Lutricia Callair as they continue learning together about systemic racism. Whether you are beginning the journey or are already actively engaged in undoing systemic white supremacy in its many manifestations, you can be part of this life-changing weekend via Zoom. Church members, church leaders of any faith and community members are all welcome!

[Find details and register here.](#)

**SURJ**

Sunday, August 15, 22, 29 and September 12, 19 • 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Defecting From Supremacy: Joining the Struggle for Collective Liberation



For centuries, white men have been told lies—lies created to manipulate our most intimate sense of self and mold us into foot-soldiers of empire. Capitalism, white supremacy, and patriarchy fracture our sense of wholeness and keep us disconnected from one another. Standing on the shoulders of a long line of feminist and anti-racist leaders, we believe that personal and collective healing are essential practices to resist these disembodied and divisive forces. We also know that inner work must be accompanied by deep engagement in social movements striving to create a truly egalitarian democracy. Defecting from Supremacy is an online course from White Awake designed to help white men forge healthy racial and gender identities, cultivate emotional resilience, and gain political clarity as we join with people of color and people of all genders in the struggle for collective liberation. Registration runs through August 14. Fee is sliding scale: \$100-\$300. [Learn more and register here.](#)

**Board Briefs**

The board met on Wednesday, August 11:

- Approved delegating authority to the COVID-19 task force to make changes to the COVID-19 Safety policy. The board will be informed and can confirm the changes.
- Set the next Program Council meeting for Saturday, October 2.
- Discussed plans for the October 16 board retreat.



- Approved a Database Task Force to make a recommendation on moving the Membership database to the cloud.
- Streamlined the Sunday Service jobs to make finding volunteers easier.  
Agreed to have no coffee/refreshments at in-person services.
- Discussed process for deciding whether or not a service should be in-person or Zoom only. Agreed that the coordinator of Sunday Service volunteers will have authority to make a decision two weeks before a service based on volunteer signups, with input from worship leader/associate.

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, September 8, 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](https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

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## 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://house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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