

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 25, 2021

Greetings!

Greetings!

My name is Eric Ryan, and I am a member of Mission Peak and its Board of Trustees. I have been on the board for 2 years and have 1 year remaining in my term. If there is ever any aspect of the congregation you wish to discuss, please bring it up with me or any other board member. You can recognize us because one of us reads the announcements at the start of each service.



I live near the boundary of Fremont and Union City with my partner Allie and our recently arrived daughter, along with several delightful roommates and dogs. I work in San Jose in the semiconductor industry, doing process and integration R&D. For fun, I enjoy listening to Jazz, playing Ultimate frisbee and board games.

Allie and I moved to Fremont from the East Coast and began attending MPUUC around 5 years ago. Initially I was only attending services, but as my involvement with Mission Peak grew, so did my understanding and appreciation for the community. I also served on the Membership Committee and in the Sandwich Squad. On the board, I've mainly been active in the Justice Council, and as part of the Governance Evaluation and Covid-19 Response task forces.

I enjoy membership at Mission Peak because I've found it a good place to meet people and find community, along with opportunities and inspiration to do our part to improve the world. If you have not already, I encourage you to get involved in the inner workings of the congregation, such as by joining a committee or activity whose mission speaks to you. There is much to do, but it is rewarding work.

I hope to see you everyone in some manner soon,

Eric Ryan

## 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.



### Courageous Conversations and the Spiritual Art of Reconciliation

He had bumped up against it his whole life: condemnation, derision, contempt, exclusion... But he could never wrap his head around it. He couldn't understand it. 'How can they hate me, if they don't even know me?' he asked. This simple question propelled him. It transformed his anger to energy, his fear to curiosity, his despondency to courage to confront his oppressors. This service is about one man's story of learning how to challenge 'haters' without ingesting hate. It is about taking the prejudice that builds walls and using it as energy to build reconciliation instead.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Jay and Jessica Steele 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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### From Rev. Greg and the Encouragement Committee

Yvonne Hughes and her family would like for everyone at Mission Peak to know that Ron died peacefully late this morning, in the loving company of his children and their family. Yvonne asks for a few days before calls so that she can spend some tender time with family. She greatly appreciates emails and cards of love for Ron and support for the family. Knowing how many have enjoyed close, supportive relationships with Ron and Yvonne, this may be difficult news to accept. We encourage you to reach out to Rev. Greg and/or a member of the Encouragement committee ([minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org); [ecteam@mpuuc.org](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org)) to help process this great loss. Also, on Thursday, September 2 at 10:00 am, Rev. Greg and Daytimers will gather to process our grief.

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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 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:



DeAnna

Alm

She/Her/Hers

*Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

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Please don't delay! If you send in your information by **August 31st** it will give Sandra, our office manager, time to get new tags ready 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.

To volunteer or find out more information please contact Jen King - [jenking@alumnae.mtholyoke.edu](mailto:jenking@alumnae.mtholyoke.edu).

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## JUSTICE CORNER

Hello Friends,

Like many of you, we are saddened and shocked by the recent events unfolding in Afghanistan and our hearts are with the many people whose lives, liberty, and homes are being threatened. In the coming months, we are expecting what could be the largest refugee migration since Vietnam.



Fremont is home to the largest Afghan diaspora in the US, and a number of those refugee families will soon be calling Fremont home.

JFCS has taken the lead on organizing aid and resettlement efforts. They've put out an Amazon wishlist for supplies that families may need upon arrival.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CW3QPCLGZMBC/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_1?\\_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist&pldnSite=1](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CW3QPCLGZMBC/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist&pldnSite=1)

We hope you can join us in contributing a few items to make our neighbors feel more at home.

**Thank you all and stay safe!**

The Fremont for Everyone Team

**We're teaming up with Vote Forward to write 1.5 million letters to Virginians—and we need your help. Will you take one hour and write 20 Vote Forward letters?**

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



## 8th Principle Learning

Article: [“A Quick Read for White People Who Don’t Consider Themselves Racist”](#)



### Friday, August 27 – Sunday, August 29 [Teach Truth Pledge Days of Action](#)

Lawmakers in at least 28 states are attempting to pass legislation that would require teachers to lie to students about the role of racism, sexism, heterosexism, and oppression throughout U.S. history. To raise public awareness about the danger of these bills, the [Zinn Education Project](#), [Black Lives Matter at School](#), and the [African American Policy Forum](#) invite educators to make their *Pledge to Teach Truth* public in gatherings at historic sites nationwide. Although bills and budget resolutions are being proposed (and in some cases passed) in specific states, the threat to teaching—and the need for solidarity—is everywhere. [Sign the pledge](#). Learn how to participate in the Teach Truth Pledge Days of Action and [receive a toolkit here](#).

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### 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](http://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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### Women & Religion Virtual Retreat:

## NEW BEGINNINGS

Saturday, September 25, 10 am to 4 pm on Zoom

Are you interested in making NEW BEGINNINGS with new friends and old? The Pacific Central District Women & Religion group is hosting a fall retreat. We'll have learning sessions, affinity circles, and a keynote speech on the proposed 8th UU Principle by Paula Cole Jones. (See [www.8thprincipleuu.org](http://www.8thprincipleuu.org))



Regular registration is \$25; for women 18-35 and first timers: \$10. Scholarships are available.

To register before the September 20th deadline, go to <https://www.pcduur.org> and click the link for the Google registration form.

## 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](http://house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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