

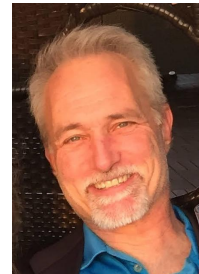
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 22, 2021

Greetings!

In 2005, Carlton Pearson was the Bishop of Higher Dimension Evangelical Church – one of the largest and most vibrant places of worship in Tulsa, OK. 6000 people – mostly African American – attended worship every Sunday. Unable to ignore or dismiss the reality of the Rwandan genocide, Pearson realized he could not continue to preach that the deaths of so many innocents were due to their failure to the sin of failing to accept the gospel. His conversion to what he called, ‘the gospel of inclusion,’ was problematic for many in his tradition whose faith was tied to the notion that sin was the justification for how God could turn away from the suffering of people. Pearson began preaching that God did not justify innocents being killed. They were not excluded from God’s Love. They were included. And God suffered greatly in their pain. This didn’t fly well for his people. They began to leave in droves. Pearson’s Gospel of Inclusion cost him his following. And, eventually, his church.



What shook everyone – conservatives as well as liberals – even more than Pearson’s conversion, was what he did next. He affiliated with the Unitarian Church in Tulsa known as All Souls and invited the remaining 500 – still loyal – still mostly African American – parishioners from Higher Dimensions to slide under the broader, more theologically inclusive, Unitarian umbrella.

Good story, right? Happy ending, right? Well... there’s more you need to know ([Keep reading](#))

Rev. Greg
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Hello All – Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for all of your wonderful responses to the survey I posted in last week’s newsletter. Your

were REALLY helpful. I would like to announce that once again this year we will be holding a COMPLETELY VIRTUAL Black & White Gala*. While we all agree that we would rather meet in person, it is generally accepted that it's still not safe for everyone to do so. Many of you expressed interest in participating in an outdoor event, but, despite the fact that we're in the middle of a drought year, I'm not willing to try to plan an outdoor event in November. A hybrid event was also a possibility but ends up being almost twice the work and some people inevitably end up feeling left out. So, we have made the executive decision to hold the event completely virtually once again. We will have multiple outdoor, in-person events next spring/summer – I promise!



So, What Does This Mean? Well, we will still have an auction, a boutique, a basket raffle, and a fudge making contest. We will also meet for a fun evening on Zoom on November 6th from 7:00-9:00 pm – PLEASE put it on your calendar now! One thing we have decided to forego this year, in the interest of saving money and effort, is the goodie bags. So, you will need to source your own goodies & beverages for the Zoom gathering on November 6th (I know you can do it!).

What's Next? Now that we've decided on the format for this year, we need to get busy planning!! Below you will find links to forms where you can provide details for items you would like to donate for the auction, boutique, and/or basket raffle. Follow the links for information regarding what we're looking for in terms of donations for each of these. The links and information are also available via the Black & White Gala page on the MPUUC website (under the Connection menu). I will also be setting up a couple of Zoom drop-in brainstorming sessions in the upcoming weeks if you need help coming up with ideas for items you might want to offer or if you have an idea, but want help hammering out the details. The first one of these will be Wednesday, September 29th @ 7:00pm (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84321753643?pwd=TmtQekxxQ2FvYjNmM0Frb3Y4Qk9YUT09>).

You all did an AMAZING job of participating last year (as you do every year) and ensuring the event was a success. I know we can do it again this year! – Jen King

{FYI – Terri King was the winner of the drawing for 25 free Basket Raffle tickets – Congratulations Terri!!}

[Service Auction Donation Form](#)

[Boutique Item Donation Form](#)

[Basket Raffle Donation Form](#)

*For those of you who are new to our congregation – the Black & White Gala is our annual fundraising event which consists of: A service auction, a boutique of handmade items, and a raffle of theme baskets. All of this, in non-pandemic times, is accompanied by a fun event with delicious food and drink and sometimes entertainment.

Jen King

This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to hybrid services. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for how to attend services.

How We Can All Help Keep it 100

Rev. Dr. Xolani Kacela is committed to honoring truth. One of the truths he knows, deeply, is what it means to serve. He has served in the U.S. military as a chaplain, served on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee with Rev. Greg, our UUA Nominating Committee and on our Commission on Appraisal. He is currently serving as minister of our Las Cruces, NM congregation. The other truth that he knows deeply, is the experience of being black in America - as well as being Black in Unitarian Universalism. He has recently completed two books: 'The Black UU Survival Guide' and 'Jumpstart Your Allyship.'



Rev. Xolani 'xk' Kacela will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. 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.

Sunday Services – Need Volunteers to do Aesthetics

We need volunteers to do Aesthetics for the In Person services in Cole Hall on the Third and Fourth Sundays of the month. Doing Aesthetics involves arriving early for the service and decorating the pulpit area in Cole Hall. No heavy lifting or furniture moving is involved. This job enables you to let your creative side out as you use fabrics (provided), flowers (you would need to provide these, but they're entirely optional), and other decorative items to decorate the area around the pulpit in Cole Hall. The job also entails setting out a chalice, the chime, the stones for the sand table, etc. Training will be provided. If you are willing to volunteer for this job, please contact Jen King ASAP. Thanks!

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

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.](#)

Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister’s Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week’s topic will be about ‘keeping it 100.’ ‘Keeping it 100’ is a phrase that is being used, particularly around racial justice, when we successfully live up to our fullest integrity, instead of excusing, equivocating, explaining, or defending. When have you struggled to ‘keep it 100?’ The link to the conversation has changed and can be found if you [Press here](#). Next week’s topic will be about the ‘Gospel of Inclusion.’ It will be asking us to all look at ‘who are OUR people. And where do we draw the line between ‘our people’ and ‘those people.’ In scriptural terms, we might ask, ‘who is my neighbor?’

RE-WIRE ANTI-RACISM CLASS

Rev. Greg will lead a once / month 8-month course (3rd Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.) on learning how to be a white ally. This class is based on the popular course to come out of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa OK called RE-WIRE. Participants will take a close look at how ‘whiteness’ has been historically and systemically developed over time to maintain the dominant place in the cultural hierarchy, extending a set of privileges or disadvantages to people depending on their racial, ethnic or cultural identity. The readings, assignments and exercises in this class will be perspective changing and prepare participants to better understand what is required to be white allies. There is required reading and a small donation requested to participate. If you are interested, here’s the [SIGN UP FOR RE-WIRE](#)

UUA's Disaster Relief Fund

If you’ve been looking for a way to help out with all the disasters hitting our country, consider donating to the [UUA’s Disaster Relief Fund](#). Grants from the Disaster Relief Fund support Unitarian Universalists experiencing hardship, congregations damaged by disaster, and the broader communities with which our congregations are in relationship. The majority of Disaster Relief Funds are deployed in the larger community through grassroots organizing networks.

Your support makes it possible for people who may not be able to access FEMA, Red Cross, or other institutional resources to find help through their local UU congregation or partner. It's a special way that Unitarian Universalism can be a bedrock in these times.

JUSTICE CORNER

Civic Engagement Committee

Folks are encouraged to write a letter to Senators Padilla and Feinstein to break the Filibuster in the Senate and pass the Freedom to Vote Act that was introduced on September 14, 2021, to ensure that all Americans will have their right to vote protected.

The 3 sections of the Bill will protect-

1. Voter Access and Election Administration
2. Election Integrity
3. Civic Participation and Empowerment

Our RIGHT TO VOTE must be protected and our Senators must know that their constituents-WE THE PEOPLE -want the Senate to pass legislation to ensure the RIGHT TO VOTE. UUtheVote and UUSJ are working with other faith-based groups to reach ALL Senators with this message.

You can use this link from UUSJ to send your letter: [Online letter writing platform](#)

Upcoming UUA Action

Promote the 2021 UUA Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) within your congregation to [Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy](#)

Information about an October 6 AIW event will be coming soon

ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION COMMITTEE (ARO) RECOMMENDATIONS

[Ready to take action against racist sheriffs? Join our phone bank with SURJ Buffalo Sat. Oct. 2 from 12-3 ET to talk with white voters about law enforcement reform and help win this race.](#)

Despite Democrats holding a 2-to-1 advantage over Republicans in Erie County, NY, voters have elected Republicans as Sheriff for the last 24 years. We know this is because white Democrats have taken the racist law-order bait used by the Right, and SURJ members are needed to organize white Democrats towards Kim Beaty, a Black Democrat candidate running for sheriff who is ready to work with the movement.

8th Principle Learning

The Cha show

Cha Sears-Bearfield interviews Marcie Alvis-Walker, who has been taking about race and gender intersectionality.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CKg-Vmhp1q6/>

Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, September 8:

- Discussed reports from the minister and executive team.
- Reviewed committee reports to their board liaisons.



The program council will meet on Saturday, October 2 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, October 13 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

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:

Links to videos of three sessions sponsored by Tri-City Interfaith Council and the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

- o Defusing Hatred <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPULJub12Eg>
- o Everyday Peacemaking <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlyDmLizTmo>
- o Courageous Conversations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9fN960C-4M>

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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