

# This Week on the Peak



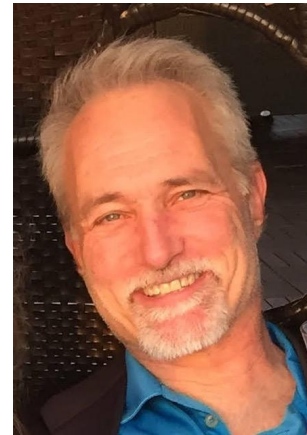
## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 8, 2021

Greetings!

ShanahTova (Pronounced) shaNAH toVA)

It is the Jewish greeting of Rosh Hashanah. Roughly translating as 'Good Year,' it is a blessing – wishing upon those around us a good year before them. Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the Jewish calendar year. And the days of awe.

The days of awe is a holy time. As it was explained to me – the son of a Jewish mother in a non-practicing household – this time marks a chance for a new start. A chance to begin again. An opportunity to leave behind whatever burdens or brokenness we may be carrying – broken dreams, broken hearts, broken promises... It opens the door to begin again.



It truly is a time of transformation and blessing. Something that most of us – and the world – could really use. The catch? It asks us to reflect deeply on how our lives – our choices and actions – have impacted others. It asks us to be honest. Did something we did result in hurt? Even unintentional hurt?

Suddenly, it may seem this is asking us to feel bad – something that most of us have had more than enough practice at (thank you, very much) and none of us appreciates about religion much. So, we might prefer to skip this part. But think about it on a bigger scale. Would you offer companies that leave oil spills that hurt countless ocean species a clean start if they avoided reflection or atonement? How about the hedge fund investors who got rich while causing the '08 mortgage crisis?

As a society, I think we put too much emphasis on punishment and not enough on restoration. The part about Days of Awe that I love so much is the Jewish believe that if they earnestly prepare their hearts with reflection, atonement and making amends, that God will not punish them, but love them. And He will write their name in the book of life for another year.

That never became my tradition. But as a UU, I promise you that I will love you – and this community will love you – and we will celebrate how much easier it is for love to be

exchanged when we recognize our impact, own the hurt caused, and live with an open heart. In truth, we will love you no matter what. But love does seem to flow more freely in places free of old hurts.

Rev. Greg  
(he, him, his)  
[minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org)  
(510) 972-3890

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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.**



## Will Goodness Triumph Over Terrorism? A Minister Takes Odds at Six to One

On this second Sunday in September, we will reflect back on the 20 years that have passed since 9-11. We will call to mind the day which was supposed to change everything and ask how it did. Most notably, we'll ask whether - and how - this has been a catalyst to our truest selves.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. 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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## SHARE THE PLATE with Fremont ARHF

Our September Share the Plate (Sept. 12,

2021) will support the resettlement of Afghan refugees. Fremont is home to one of the largest Afghan communities in the Country and many residents and businesses have asked how they can help. The City of Fremont's Human Services Department is raising money to provide direct assistance to Afghan Refugees who are arriving to the Tri-City area (Fremont, Newark, and Union City) from Afghanistan. The Afghan Refugee Help fund will be managed by the City's Human Services Department, which will work with local Afghan partner organizations to determine the priorities and needs of those new arrivals to our country. Funds will be used for housing, food, clothing, and other items or services to assist refugees expected to arrive in our area.



*Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:*

Write a check to MPUUC with "Fremont ARHF" in the memo line and mail 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 an envelope with a check (with "Fremont ARHF" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "For "Fremont ARHF") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "For "Fremont ARHF" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

For more information see <https://www.fremont.gov/ARHelp> and share with your social networks.

## 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.](#)

## Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week's topic "Where were you on 9-11?" will ask us to reflect on the impact of 9-11 and how it changed us, and how it changed the world? 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 will be about "Promises". As we prepare to celebrate our Water Communion, we recognize 'Communion' isn't something that everyone practices. But we've all made promises. What were the most important promises made to us? And what have been the most important promises we made to others? To ourselves?

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## 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.

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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?**

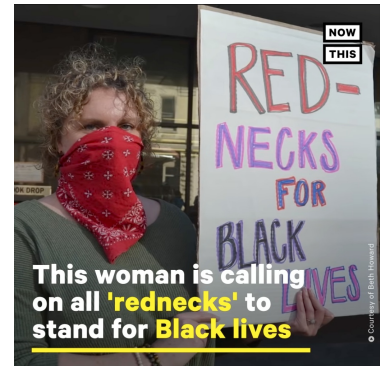
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# ANTI-RACISM ANTI-OPPRESSION COMMITTEE (ARO) RECOMMENDATIONS

## 8th Principle Learning

The video below may be hard for you to listen to. Please listen all the way through with an open mind. It is enlightening and worth listening to.

Video: **“The Game Is Fixed” Against Black People in America**



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## Board Briefs

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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## 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>

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**Tuesday,  
September 21,  
2021 -TCIC 2021  
International Day  
of Peace**

Please click [here](#) for flyer.



## International Day of Peace was established by the United Nations in 1981.

Please join us as we unite with millions  
of people of all faiths & traditions  
throughout the world to pray for peace.



Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6pm

RSVP for Zoom link at [TCIC.WeAreOne@gmail.com](mailto:TCIC.WeAreOne@gmail.com)

May peace prevail on earth.



## 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))

## Fall 2021 Virtual Retreat



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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