

# This Week on the Peak

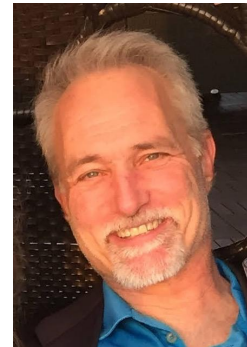


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 6, 2021

Greetings!

There are some peak moments occurring throughout our world right now – the kind of moments that have the power to help us measure our lives and define our purpose. Our Peak Community is trying to help us recognize, prepare for and respond to these moments. Showing up for these opportunities is one of the things that can be difference making.

One such opportunity is THIS SUNDAY – as the service description and follow up below explain, this service has been a moment where multiple ministers and congregations recognized an opportunity and seized some of the momentum. This helps us to recognize the gravitas that our generation is feeling and gives us the opportunity to shift into the mindset that will dramatically shift our culture. It feels like an example of how none of us can do anything really big by ourselves. But coming together, well, that is a different story. For those of you who are interested in exploring anti-racism more deeply with other curious and supportive people, consider taking the [Upcoming RE-WIRE Class](#).



On Sunday October 17 we will have a service about grief. And in particular, what I hope to explore is how grief is often a sacred messenger of truths and lessons too important to be swept away in loss. For this service, I ask you to spend some time contemplating the things that you have grieved or are still holding in grief. Our work in the service will be distinguishing what part of grief continues to lift up that we can't afford to let go of and what part of grief is draining us without much return.

On October 24, we will honor – and bless – our animals. This extends to those animals who live in our hearts (past) as well as those who live in our homes (present). And we will especially honor the blessing that never ends of having had our lives changed by another living creature who expands our heart and prepares us to love. Pet owners are welcome to bring their pet to Cole Hall or have them present to be seen and virtually blessed by the congregation. Please [send in pictures here](#) of your pets who you want to have remembered (remember to title the picture with your name and the name of your pet).

Rev. Greg

## 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.

# 8th Principle

"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."

## Why an 8th Principle

The 8th principle was developed and written by Paula Cole Jones and Bruce Pollack-Johnson, and they were the first to encourage the Unitarian Universalist Association to adopt it.

A joint service with First Unitarian Church of Oakland, The UU Congregation in Santa Rosa, UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale, Mission Peak UU Congregation, Unitarian Universalists of Petaluma, and the UU Church of Davis.

Bruce Pollack-Johnson will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Collaborative Effort of 5 Congregations 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.**

## VERY SPECIAL SERVICE THIS SUNDAY

Our guest speaker Bruce Pollack-Johnson is a very sought-after leader who helped start our current denomination-wide exploration of an 8th principle - emphasizing our core commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression. When other congregations found out we were bringing Bruce, they were jealous - and excited!! They asked if they could be part of

it. That's how our service came to include 5 Congregations and 8 ministers and lay leaders. The 'shared' part of the service will actually start at 10:30 a.m. So, because our own personal Joys and Concerns is important for us to connect and care, we're going to 'frontload' that to happen earlier than usual. Be prepared to come and write your J&C in the book or chat EARLY. The service will go a little longer - till around 11:40. And we'll have some special time to visit with our guest speaker. This is going to be exciting - a service you won't want to miss.

Rev. Greg Ward



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## RE-WIRE ANTI-RACISM CLASS

Rev. Greg will lead a once / month 8-month course (3rd Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.) beginning October 19. The key objective of the class is 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 establish and maintain dominance in the socio-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 some required reading and a small donation requested. If you are interested, here's the link: [SIGN UP FOR RE-WIRE](#)

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## Catching a Glimpse of Your Larger Identity

*"I am not small because I am a part of the universe, and the universe is not small."*

– Barbara Williams Pemberton

We can *"expand into a more capacious self which has left its previous boundary behind."*

– Edwin Burt

Our Minister Emeritus, Dr. Chris Schriener, will be teaching an adult RE class at UU Palo Alto via Zoom, October 25, November 1 and 8, 7 to 9 PM. The series is entitled, "Opening the Great Window: Catching a Glimpse of Your Larger Identity", and Mission Peak folks are also invited to attend.

When we were younger we may have felt full of potential, open to many paths and varied experiences. Before long most of us narrowed our vision, limiting ourselves to a few simple story lines. This unique workshop invites you to open the window wide once again, tapping the wisdom of brain science, philosophy, and spiritual traditions for a lively exploration of your larger self. The class will draw upon three chapters of Dr. Schriener's book, *Do Think Twice: Provocative Reflections on Age-Old Questions*.

To allow interaction, enrollment in the workshop will be limited and pre-registration is required.

Contact Marilyn Austin at [areclasses@uucpa.org](mailto:areclasses@uucpa.org) in order to get the zoom link. MPUUC members who do not already have Chris's book, *Do Think Twice*, \$15.00, can contact him at: [cschriner@uuma.org](mailto:cschriner@uuma.org). He can also provide a fuller list of themes included in the class.

Please click [here](#) for flyer.

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## ONLY 31 DAYS UNTIL THE BLACK & White Gala!!!

Donations are starting to trickle in. It's getting real! Please use the links below to submit your donations. If you need help coming up with ideas or want help with the details, please feel free to call me @ 510-299-2825.

Upcoming dates to be aware of:

- October 13 - Online Boutique goes LIVE
- October 24 – Fudge Off Entries due to Jen
- October 29 – Deadline for Auction items

[Auction Donation Form](#)

[Boutique Donation Form](#)

[Basket Raffle Donation Form](#)

[Fudge Off Entry Form](#)

Jen king

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## 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!

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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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## Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister’s Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week will be hosted by Paul Davis and Graham Bell as Rev. Greg is away doing a memorial. This week’s topic is ‘Columbus Day – Revisited’. We will remember what we were taught about Columbus and the ‘discovery’ of America as well as the social / political turmoil that has surfaced since ‘discovering’ more about Columbus’ motives and methods. Is honor due? To whom? For what? And what’s our responsibility as citizens? The link to the conversation has changed and can be found if you [Press here](#). Next week’s topic will be about Grief – exploring some of the great griefs of our life as something more than uncomfortable feelings. What is the life-giving message that grief has to impart?

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# JUSTICE CORNER

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### PWR Regional Assembly

**When:** Friday, February 4 through Sunday, February 6, 2022  
**Where:** Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, [1441 Quivira Road, San Diego, CA](#) or participate from home

The [latest details](#) including registration, accommodations, tentative schedule, workshop proposals, and vendor and volunteer information can be found on our website.

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### Wednesday, Oct 13, 7-9 pm ET/4-6 pm PT

- “The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice. Healing. Courage.”
- “Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action”

[RSVP for 10/13](#)



Wednesday, Oct 6  
7-9 pm ET / 4-6 pm PT  
Register: [bit.ly/CSW-convening1](https://bit.ly/CSW-convening1)

Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities

Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy

Wednesday, Oct 13  
7-9 pm ET / 4-6 pm PT  
Register: [bit.ly/CSW-convening2](https://bit.ly/CSW-convening2)

The COVID-19 Pandemic:  
Justice. Healing. Courage.

Undoing Systemic White Supremacy:  
A Call to Prophetic Action



[www.uua.org/action/process/csais/fall-social-witness-convening](http://www.uua.org/action/process/csais/fall-social-witness-convening)

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

**Thursday, October 14 • All Day**  
**[National #TeachTruth Day of Action](#)**

On George Floyd’s Birthday—October 14th—educators across the country have pledged to teach the truth about structural racism and other forms of oppression, especially in the face of bills at the state level that attack anti-racist education. This national day of action is co-sponsored by [Black Lives Matter at School](#) and the [African American Policy Forum](#), and is supported and endorsed by the Zinn Education Project, the National Education Association, SURJ chapters, and other organizations nationwide. [Learn how you can get involved here.](#)

### 8th Principle Learning

#### Gift from Rev. Greg - Re-Wire Anti-Racism Class

We appreciate Rev. Greg’s offering of the class and we encourage everyone to participate if they can.

### Board Briefs

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, October 13 at 7 p.m.

Program Council met on Saturday, October 2

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)



**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://www.house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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