

This Week on the Peak



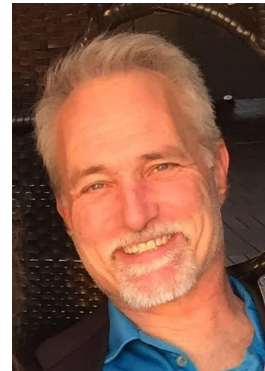
Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 17, 2021

Greetings!

"It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change." – Charles Darwin

I want to talk about change. Mostly, because there's an awful lot of it right now. And it's hard. And scary.

My choice of leaving engineering and entering seminary wasn't because I was dying for change. It was because I was seeing everything around me changing. And I could feel *it* changing *me*. I felt two urges: to double down, defend who I was and protect what I had. Or be part of the change I wanted to see.



The late 80s and 90s presented fissures of change (which are even more extreme today). Thousands died of AIDS while others watched in condemnation rather than compassion. Black men were being lost in the prison-industrial complex few questions. LGBTQ folks took up the playbook of the freedom riders and gender warriors asking exactly what 'liberty and freedom for all' really meant.

I looked for clarity by reading Unitarian history. I remember reading about Francis David who became the champion for religious tolerance – challenging the oppression and changing as he did so. David changed from his Catholic outlook, to Lutheran, to Calvinist and finally to being the court preacher for the Unitarians. He pushed for change – often and hard. He helped the Unitarians move from oppressed to influential. But it came to a head for even the liberal Unitarians when he asked for more change than they preferred. This month marks the 442nd year that they locked him in the Tower of Deva where he would eventually die. The charge for which he was convicted: 'innovation.'

I see now I wasn't dying for change – at least not like Francis David. But I also recognized that others were dying without change. Yes, the world was indeed changing me. I just wanted to be changing *it* as well.

I invite you to be the rare part of privilege that invites and incites change. Knowing it will change us in the process. It is the only way to change the world.

Rev Greg Ward (he, him, his)
minister@mpuuc.org

This Sunday's Service:

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



Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance that honors the memory of our transgender identified siblings whose lives were lost in the past year. Join us as we take time to hold space for the lives lost and explore how we as a community support the lives of our transgender siblings.

Shawn Snavley will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Greg Ward. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Peak Rocks 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.

Ron Hughes Memorial – November 20 at 1:00 p.m.

On Saturday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m. we will gather to celebrate the life and living of Ron Hughes. Those who knew and loved Ron know enough that this won't be a somber event as much as an appreciative sharing of stories and a joyful tribute to his love of life and love of people. This will be Hybrid Service (at Cole Hall AND live streamed). Some Safe-gathering protocol will be in place for Cole Hall and the off-site reception to follow the service. The link for those joining us virtually can be found by clicking [here](#)

The reception following the Service will be held at Massimo's Restaurant, 5200 Mowry Ave. in Fremont.

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.](#)

Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week's topic will be about the transgender community and what the world is like for the gender non-conforming. We will talk about the risks and realities as well as the responsibilities of allies. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#). Next week's topic will be about our values – what are the most compelling of our values and how do we live them out locally as well as globally.

Holiday Potluck - December 11 @ 6:00 pm

We will be having an in person Holiday Potluck on Saturday, December 11 @ 6:00 p.m. Please join us in person at Cole Hall if you feel comfortable doing so. Weather permitting we will have tables set up inside and outside on the patio. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Please feel free to bring a favorite game to share. We will also be decorating gingerbread houses.

For those of you who are not comfortable or able to meet in person we will set up a Zoom meeting for the same time – Saturday, December 11 @ 6:00 p.m. and you can log in and have your dinner and visit online. If someone would like to volunteer to be the Zoom Host for the online 'potluck', please let Jen King know.

Save the date

Christmas Eve will bring an exciting and relevant story of lessons and carols. We will start at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th in Cole Hall. We will hear a little bit about what it would be like if the journey to Bethlehem were held today – right here in Fremont. Come prepared to sing and carry the joy to the only place it can be born – in our hearts and in our times together.

JUSTICE CORNER

UU the Vote Skill Up: Get Involved in a Volunteer Squad Sunday, November 21, 1 pm - 2:30 pm PT / 4 pm - 5:30 pm ET

Our UU faith calls us to be lifelong learners, and organizing traditions teach that we need to share what we know for our movements to grow. So we are kicking off Squad Skill Ups: a monthly series of trainings on organizing skills to help build our **UU the Vote Volunteer Squads** and help you build stronger teams in your congregation and community. This is also a chance to find out how to get more involved as a UU the Vote volunteer and meet members of the Volunteer Squads. [Register here.](#)

Decolonizing Thanks Giving: a Virtual Worship Service Thursday, Nov. 18 at 4:30 PT / 5:30 MT / 6:30 CT / 7:30 ET

Unitarian Universalism's history, during the Civil War era, is directly connected to the creation of the mythos supporting the US Thanksgiving holiday and the historically inaccurate and harmful colonial narrative of "Pilgrims and the Indians," and the pageant traditions that perpetuate these harms. In recent years, UUs have made a [commitment to reconsider](#) the cultural and colonial foundations of this tradition, in counsel and relationship with First Nations and Indigenous communities. The [Harvest the Power](#) program and [Thanksgiving Reframed](#) worship service last year were a significant milestone in this effort, and the work of truth-telling, cultural healing, and transformation must continue. This virtual worship service, on Nov. 18th at 4:30 PT / 5:30 MT / 6:30 CT / 7:30 ET, intentionally crafted by centering Indigenous people and cultures, is an invitation to come together in that spirit. This service is presented by many Indigenous Unitarian Universalists in collaboration with Relations from local Tribal Communities, the UU Ministry for Earth & Side With Love.

Register HERE: <https://bit.ly/DecolonizingThanksGiving>

This program will be available to congregations to use in full (or some parts) for Sunday morning worship programs. Email [Aly Tharp](#) for inquiries.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Wednesday, December 1 • 7:00 – 8:15 pm

[SURJ Partner Voices Speakers Series: Community Ready Corps](#)

Mark your calendars and join SURJ at the launch of a virtual speakers series featuring our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color accountability partners. This is an opportunity to learn what our partners are doing in the community and how we can support their work. In this free inaugural virtual event, you'll hear from [Community Ready Corps \(CRC\)](#), a Black liberation organization that actively builds and supports self determination in all disenfranchised communities, particularly Oakland's Black communities. [More info and](#)

[register here.](#)

8th Principle Learning

Scene On Radio Podcast Series: [“Seeing White”](#)

We could break this down and send one episode a week (there are 14 episodes), or just submit it as one thing.

Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, November 10::

- Brainstormed possible ways to connect the congregation and the community.
- Discussed President-Elect Jen King’s resignation from the board, effective the end of 2021, and came up with a list of possible replacements to pass on to the Leadership Development committee. Jen will continue in other leadership roles in Fellowship and the Black and White service auction.
- Approved a list of possible delegates to the Pacific Western Regional assembly along with scholarship money to attend if needed.



The next board meeting is on Wednesday, December 8 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

Winter Donations for Abode Services

We will be collecting donations for Abode Services starting this coming Sunday (November 21) and ending on Sunday, December 12. Abode is very much in need of the items listed below. Please drop off your donations in the collection box at Cole Hall or at Jen King’s home. Another option is to give a monetary donation to Jen King and she will purchase items to give to Abode. Please be as generous as possible. Please NO used items.

Items Requested by Abode:

- Men’s Underwear - brief or boxers (size Med - 3XL)
 - Women’s underwear (size Med – XXL)
 - T-Shirts/Undershirts (size Large - 3XL)
 - Men’s & Women’s Pajamas
 - Men’s & Women’s Bath Robes
 - Bath Towels
 - Wash Clothes
 - Twin & Full Size Blankets
-

Please Join Us For General Assembly 2022!

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists for conducting business of the Association, exploring the theological underpinnings of our faith, and leaning fully into our mission and principles.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the

convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer a virtual experience with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who miss the in-person experience, GA 2022 offers opportunities to re-connect with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! **Join us June 22 - 26, 2022online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.**

View the [2022 Summary Schedule!](#)

Register Now for In-Person GA 2022!

Registration is now open for in-person attendance. Full-time registration is \$475 for adults, and \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers. [Financial support](#) for registration, lodging credit within the [GA room block](#), as well as a payment plan are available. In-person registration rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 1. **Registration for virtual participation will open March 1. Click [here](#) to register.**

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

“Making a Home Together” is the theme for the 60th annual program which will be hosted on Zoom on Monday, November 22, at 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Tri-City Interfaith Council (tcicouncil.weebly.com), the Thanksgiving service is a time for our community to come together to share the joys and challenges of a diverse community. You must register in advance to receive the Zoom link:

<https://bit.ly/interfaiththanksgiving2021>

The program includes prayers, music and dance from many local faith communities: Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, Sikh, Baha’i, Buddhist and Christian.

An offering to support the work of The City of Fremont’s Afghani Refugee fund and the Muslim Community Center in San Ramon which is also supporting refugees from Afghanistan will be requested.

For more information click [here](#).

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Making A Home Together

Monday, November 22, 2021 @ 7:30pm via Zoom meeting



Tri-City Interfaith Council

A COOPERATION CIRCLE OF



RSVP for Zoom link at
Sponsored by
Tri-City Interfaith Council
tcicouncil.weebly.com



Monthly Zoom Gathering for Trans and Non-Binary UUs (all ages)

Tuesday, November 23, 5 pm PT / 8 pm ET

Join the UPLIFT monthly gatherings focused on trans, nonbinary, and other not (completely or at all) cis UUs. Connect with other trans/nonbinary UUs and co-create support and community across our faith. All you need to bring is yourself (and other trans/nonbinary friends, if you’d like). Gatherings focus on getting to know each other and sharing collective dreams, ideas, and talents. [If you are interested in this space, and you aren’t cisgender, it’s a space for you.](#)

Save the date!

United Nations Official Commemoration of the
International Day for the Elimination of Violence
against Women

24 November 2021

UN Women is pleased to invite you to the upcoming official commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The event will take place virtually on Wednesday, 24 November 2021 from 10 am – 11.30 am (EST), kicking off the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.



The 2021 **UNiTE** campaign under its theme “Orange the World: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!” will highlight the universal nature of violence against women and girls and acknowledge the particular challenges related to COVID-19, humanitarian and conflict situations. It will also amplify successes to demonstrate that violence against women and girls is preventable and mobilize greater investment in the proven solutions.

The event will involve the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of UN Women, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Leaders of the Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence, civil society and women’s rights organizations, including **UN Trust Fund** grantees and more champions from across the world.

Register [Here](#)

Candlelight Vigil Monday, November 29, 2021 6-7 p.m.

St. James' Episcopal Church
37051 Cabrillo Terrace
Fremont, CA 94536
(Thornton Ave. at Cabrillo)

Please join us in person for an outdoor interfaith candlelight vigil to memorialize members of the homeless community we lost this year.

Masks are required for all attendees.

Please bring your canned goods to donate to our food drive. A video will be available for viewing after the conclusion of the event at saintj.com/AbodeVigil.

For more information, contact:

Amber Beeson at abeeson@abodeservices | (510) 657-7409 x213

Please click here for [flyer](#).



COMPASS: Navigating the Paths to Liberation Together

Saturday and Sunday, December 11-12

Come reflect on the theme of “interdependence” and how it guides us in our individual and communal lives. The weekend will include invigorating worship, special musical guests, and thought-provoking presentations and much more. (Yes, Rising Appalachia Trio will be there!)

Registration is now open. [Learn more about Compass and register here.](#)

Saturday December 11

Beginning at: 10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/ 1pm ET

And ending at: 6pm PT/ 7pm MT/ 8pm CT/9pm ET

Sunday December 12

Beginning at: 9am PT/10am MT/11am CT/ 12 pm ET

And ending at: 1:30pm PT/ 2:30pm MT/ 3:30pm CT/4:30pm ET

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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 missionpeakuu.org



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