

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 1, 2021

Greetings!

The Impact of Mission Peak

Hi, I'm Don, Don Ramie. I became a member of Mission Peak in 2014, and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I will always be thankful for the many gifts received. The love and friendship would have to be number one. And the sense of belonging, and being seen and appreciated. Some Sundays I have something bothering me, but I always feel better after being with you all. It's like a sanctuary (actually, it IS a sanctuary!). I've found encouragement and deep life lessons from the sermons, counseling and example of every pastor who has served here. And we nurture and teach each other as laypersons as well. It always amazes me what you get when a group of thoughtful, caring individuals have time to listen to each other and speak their truth.



I'd like to mention some real ways I've changed since joining you here. I am much less likely to take offense to heart, knowing that people are not to be "thrown away" if they happen to rub me the wrong way once in a while. That we need to tell someone if they have offended us, instead of harboring resentment and brooding in our cave—or worse, complaining to someone else about them. That Don is more than the cardboard cut-out identity that he's carried around and defended since first grade. I really don't know what I'm capable of, or who I really am, except it's not static but evolving. And that's exciting and wonderful to anticipate. I've learned that giving and service kind of grow on you, and are an antidote to despair about the condition of this old world. And trying new things is worth the fear that it may be too hard. That open, curious, and hopeful naturally bubble up when we take a breath and realize this is a new moment. I now see that mystery and paradox are good things, not intolerables that must be replaced with some comfortable "certainty." That the attitude of worship and adoration can be directed toward the generalized glimmer of life and existence itself, even if we don't all call it the same thing.

Thank you, Mission Peak, for all this and much more! So much sharing, so much beauty, so much true religious experience, so much healing.

Don Ramie

This Sunday's Service:

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



Mystery Pageant Theater 2021: A Pandemic Odyssey

MPUUC has a long history of children and youth pageants many of which were designed and written by our own community! Join us as we walk down memory lane with highlights of pageants past and special appearances by some of our favorite performers.

Lisa Newstrom will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Shawn Snavley. 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.

OK, I'm ready for
Sunday services
at Cole Hall!



Why Is Cole Hall So Cold??

Because it is 4 times harder for Covid-19 to spread when there is good air circulation, we are currently keeping all doors open during Sunday services. We may close 1 or 2 if there is a lot of wind or rain. We are providing what heat we can, but please dress warmly. We are sorry for the necessity! -- MPUUC Covid-19 Task Force.

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 discussion will be an open discussion with lay facilitators..The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week’s discussion will be led by Rev. Greg.

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 and dress warmly. 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.

MPUUC B&W Boutique is Still OPEN

Don't forget that the online boutique is still open. There are LOTS of handmade earrings and unique items for holiday teacher gifts. Our cool purple MPUUC t-shirts can also be purchased through the boutique. Please include us in your holiday shopping plans. <https://mpuuc.square.site/>

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

The POWER of the Youth Vote

MPUUC has volunteered at Youth Voter Movement events since 2018. Over 7000 young voters have been registered to vote. A recent presentation with the League of Women Voters featured Julie Dunkle and student Claire Zhu.

You are encouraged to watch the presentation by Claire Zhu and hear her research on the **POTENTIAL** of the *Untapped Power of Young Voters* - [The Untapped Power of Young Voters](#) -click to watch video.

Side with Love

Learn about taking social justice action with other UUs through **Side with Love**. **Side with Love** is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) and all are welcome to join. [Subscribe to get updates](#). In order to bring UUs together with community partners to do the work the Side with Love Action Center is a place where we unite in work towards a world where we all thrive.

Side with Love Action Center: sidewithlove.org/actioncenter

If you are interested in learning more about the resources that the Action Center can offer or the actions that UU folk are creating and supporting - the Action Center

Guide is uplifting and informative. You can download it easily to read at your convenience. <https://sidewithlove.org/actioncenterguide>

If you are curious about events coming up that you might want to participate in - or tell others about - such as phone banks to support the Build Back Better Act these are listed on the website at: <https://sidewithlove.org/events>

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

For learning about race and racism, there is a fabulous podcast from *Scene on Radio*, a 14-part documentary series of podcasts called "*Seeing White*." These are highly recommended. The first two podcasts are:

S2 E1: Turning the Lens

Events of the past few years have turned a challenging spotlight on White people, and Whiteness, in the United States. An introduction to our series exploring what it means to be White. By John Biewen, with special guest Chenjerai Kumanyika.

S2 E2: How Race Was Made

For much of human history, people viewed themselves as members of tribes or nations but had no notion of "race." Today, science deems race biologically meaningless. Who invented race as we know it, and why? By John Biewen, with guest Chenjerai Kumanyika. Photo: The Monument to the Discoveries, Lisbon, Portugal. The highlighted figure in the center

8th Principle Learning

We are planning a number of activities to get congregation members ready for the vote on the 8th principle at next year's congregational meeting.

- January 23 - Paula Cole Jones worship and workshop with multiple congregations participating
 - February 6 service focused on the book *Caste*
 - March 20 service focused on the book *The Color of Law*.
 - May 15 ARO service with 4-5 testimonials about anti-racism with congregational conversation after
-

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

HELP! Winter Donations for Abode Services

We will be collecting donations for Abode Services between now and Sunday, December 21. 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
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Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who participated in last night's vigil. The circle of light we created brought both awareness to the devastation of homelessness and prayerful remembrance of those who died this past year. The names were too many; naming each beloved person out loud was of the utmost importance. A special thank you to our faith leaders: Shamsa Rafay, Barbara Meyers, Rakhi Israni, Tia Pelz, Zoe McCoon, and Chao Khun Prasert. It was an honor to stand with such deeply prayerful people.

If you would like to view the vigil, it was recorded and can be found through any of these links.

Direct link: https://youtu.be/ztFR_BRzuNU (permanent)

Also at: <https://saintj.com/abodevigil> (until next November)

and at the Saint James' homepage of <https://saintj.com> (until Saturday)

Have a blessed week.

The Reverend Lori A. Walton, Rector
St. James' Episcopal Church
Fremont, California

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, 2022 online 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.**

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



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