

This Week on the Peak



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

Greetings!

I am the Rev. Barbara Meyers, your affiliated community minister. I'm writing today as the chair of the Encouragement Committee.

The mission of the Encouragement Committee is to encourage the entire Congregation to care for each other. We will endeavor to deepen the sense of community and caring within the Congregation by providing support during times of need, and connection during times of separation.

The Encouragement Committee extends the ministry of the church. In a religion like ours, which has such a strong tradition of congregational empowerment, sharing the ministry makes sense. Encouragement Committee members practice a form of lay ministry. They occupy a unique position in the lives of MPUUC members as trained pastoral caregivers.



The Encouragement Committee currently has 7 members plus the parish minister. I am currently serving as the chair and Jo Ann Schriener is the secretary. Colleen Arnold is a training consultant to assist in training for the committee. Other members of the committee are John Porter, Julie Ganzlin, Don Ramie, and Lucienne Bouvier. At our monthly meetings we discuss situations of congregation members in need, and determine who will take the lead in trying to address the need. Rev Greg is the main contact for people who have needs that we can assist with.

We have periodically done surveys of the congregation to see what kinds of help they may be able to provide; for example, rides, meals, shopping, house/yard/pet care, or visits. These are people that might occasionally be asked to help out a fellow congregation member in need.

If you have questions, please let me or Rev. Greg know.

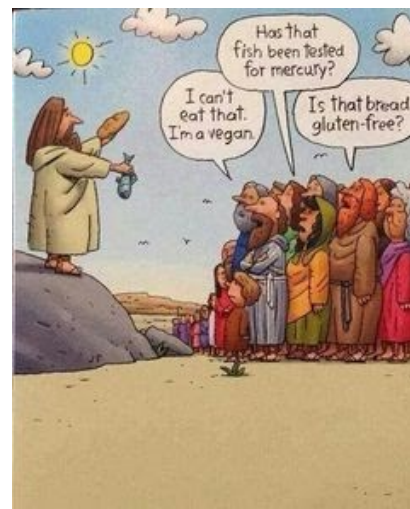
Barbara Meyers

This Sunday's Service:

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

Miracles Amidst Mayhem

Miracles are not necessarily the currency of Unitarian Universalists. We deal more in discussion groups, spreadsheets and a stack of assorted policies. When it comes to those things, we have it all over Evangelicals and Catholics. But when it comes to miracles we're in last place in the religious pantheon. Which is too bad. Because we could use a miracle or two when it comes to some of the areas where we're trying to make a difference: holding our elected leaders accountable, racial equity and justice, helping the hungry, unhoused and the poor. Our efforts in these arenas seem less successful lately. Maybe the real miracle comes in continuing to believe our efforts will prevail.



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Calista Ames. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. 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.

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 about Miracles. *What is the purpose of miracles in scripture? In literature? In the world? We've heard of miracles, but have we experienced them? If not,*

why not? The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week's discussion will be on Reinterpretation – and, specifically, reinterpreting the miracle of the Christian birth story we celebrate on December 25th to be about the miracle of the Cosmic birth of planet, our galaxy and our universe.

Holiday Potluck - December 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

We will be having an in person Holiday Potluck on Saturday, December 11 @ 6:00 pm. Please join us in person at Cole Hall if you are vaccinated. Weather permitting we will have tables set up outside on the patio for those who would rather not eat inside. As per MPUUC's Covid-19 Task Force policy all attendees who would like to eat inside must show proof of vaccination. Everyone, both inside and outside, must be masked when not actively eating. Please dress warmly. Please bring a dish to share. Plates, napkins, utensils, and 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 a Zoom meeting has been set for the same time – Saturday, December 11 @ 6:00 pm (link below) - so you can log in and have your dinner together and visit online. We still need someone to be the Zoom Host for the online 'potluck'. Please contact Jen if you are willing to help out in this way.

[Zoom link](#)

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

For MPUUC community members who are looking for UU-led social justice activities in California to partner with, or just learn about what other UUs are doing, look no further than [The UU Justice Ministry of California](#) , which is laying the groundwork for an intentional 2022, filled with new ways to connect justice leaders, critical resources for congregations, and invaluable training for our youth, UUs, and those aligned in principle.

Check out their webpage above for more information.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL YOUTH
EVENT

THE MOUNTAIN TOP & UURJ PRESENTS



A WINTER YOUTH
VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Join us for a virtual worship designed
for middle school & high school aged youth of Unitarian
Universalism. Our theme for this worship is BELONGING.

DECEMBER 11TH | 7PM MST

Featuring experiential activities and your
favorite UU worship music. Register at:
<https://bit.ly/deworship>



We are happy to announce our newest collaboration with [The Mountain Top](#): A BIPOC UU Community and [Colorado UUs for Racial Justice](#) on a new monthly Saturday evening Youth Virtual Worship time together.

[#ReimagineCommUUnity](#)

Our First Worship Service will be on December 11, 2021 @ 6pm PT

[Register Here](#)

This worship is open to ALL Middle and High School Youth.

Our Theme is: Belonging

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 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

UUSC's Virtual Human Rights Leadership Celebration

Thursday, December 9

You are invited to UUSC's virtual Human Rights Leadership Celebration on **Thursday, December 9, 2021**, at 7:00 PM ET / 4:00 PM PT.

We are delighted to feature [Isabel Wilkerson](#) as the evening's keynote presenter. Ms. Wilkerson is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, and author of the critically acclaimed, New York Times bestsellers *The Warmth of Other Suns* and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*.

[For more information, and to register for the event, please visit this page.](#) While donations are not required to attend, we ask that you consider making a special gift in support of UUSC's work to advance social justice around the world

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 reconnect 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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