

# This Week on the Peak

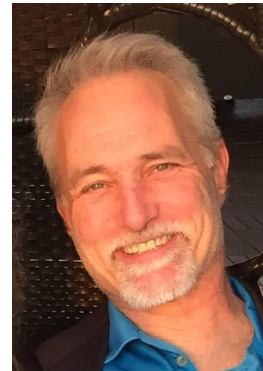


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 22, 2021

Greetings!

Dear Mission Peak Members and Friends,

It has been quite a full year for our Mission Peak Community and, as we look back, we are so grateful for the connections within and beyond this community which have sustained us. The impact of Covid 19 cannot be overstated. It has emerged as one of the most defining challenges in the congregation's lifetime. Our response has been compassionate, thoughtful and creative. Choosing to prioritize one another's health and safety – and that of society at large – we sacrificed some of the comfort and joy of our gathering together.



Faced with unprecedented decisions, our Board and the Covid Task Force acted carefully and quickly, integrating a variety of safe practices into our Sunday Worship and Community Events. Our team of Worship Hosts brought technology, innovation and troubleshooting together to produce some of the most consistent and skilled hybrid services within the denomination. Our various Music Teams (Shauna Pickett-Gordon and Peak Performers, David Lefkort and Peak Rocks, Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven, Jay and Jessica Steele) have been extraordinary – with great skill and commitment, consistently inspiring our gatherings. Our Sunday services have continued to inform and inspire thanks to a whole host of volunteer brilliance helping Rev. Greg.

Our Committee on Ministry with Drew Wilson organized a series of Congregational Conversations around covenant which resulted in a Covenant Among Members as well as a Covenant Between Members and the Minister. This paved the way for us joining together in April for a hybrid installation service celebrating Rev. Greg's call to Mission Peak.

Under the skillful leadership of Rev. Barbara Meyers, we formed a new configuration of Pastoral Associates called the Encouragement Committee. This committed band of volunteers have helped us follow and respond to those members who have faced challenges or experienced milestone moments which drew upon and added to the care of the community.

[Christmas Letter from Rev. Greg and Staff](#)

## Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

We have transitioned to hybrid services. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](http://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.

### Christmas Eve Service The Journey to Bethlehem - 2021



This Christmas Eve service will explore the journey to Bethlehem from a surprisingly unconventional lens: what would the nativity story look like if it happened today. Who would play the various roles? Which part would the shepherd play? Who would be the Wise ones? Who are Mary and Joseph today? And what will the Angel proclaim about the child?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Beth Schaefer. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Peak Performers, Peak Rocks, Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven, Paul K Davis, Jessica and Jay Steele will provide our music.

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## This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to hybrid services. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](http://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.

### Learning from the Magi

(Using the visit of the magi to advocate that religious traditions should accept input from other traditions, leading to a review of the six broad sources from which Unitarian Universalists look for guidance and inspiration.)



12-20  
© 2012 The Home, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com  
"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping."

Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Jo Ann Schriener 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.](#)

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## Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister’s Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week’s discussion will be about the Journey of the Magi – In particular, we will explore those people who showed up – sometimes out of the blue – to bring you an unexpected gift that let you know you were ‘blessed.’ The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week’s discussion will be on Neuro divergency – specifically, our understanding and engagement with folks who experience life somewhere in the margins of dominant culture’s understanding of ‘neuro-typical.’

# JUSTICE CORNER

## 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.

### S2 E3: Made in America

Chattel slavery in the United States, with its distinctive – and strikingly cruel – laws and structures, took shape over many decades in colonial America. The innovations that built American slavery are inseparable from the construction of Whiteness as we know it today. By John Biewen, with guest Chenjerai Kumanyika.

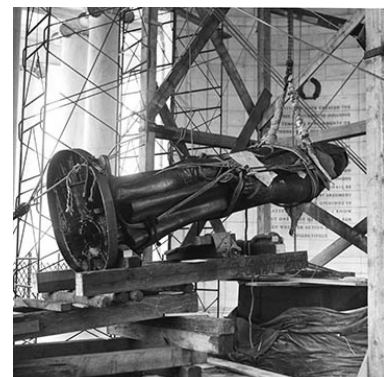
**Image: Meeting of the Virginia House of Burgesses, 1619. Library of Congress.**



### S2 E4: On Crazy We Built a Nation

“All men are created equal.” Those words, from the Declaration of Independence, are central to the story that Americans tell about ourselves and our history. But what did those words mean to the man who actually wrote them? By John Biewen, with guest Chenjerai Kumanyika.

**Image: Bronze Statue of Thomas Jefferson being erected in Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C., 1947. Photo credit: National Park Service.**



## 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

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## Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, December 8:

- Discussed the upcoming Courageous Conversation meetings on January 9 on Children's RE and on January 30 on Congregational leadership
- Approved the update of the COVID-19 safety policy for food after services and at special events
- Approved the Encouragement Committee charter
- Reassigned the President-Elect's committee liaisons
- Brainstormed possible Fellowship events
- Approved Canvass/Stewardship focal points: ARO, Fellowship, and Outreach/Membership
- Discussed replacement of the President-Elect, who has resigned effective December 31<sup>st</sup>.



The next board meeting is on Wednesday, January 12 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](http://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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## Have fun while supporting local charities!

One of Fremont's largest, oldest, and most festive Christmas displays **Crippsmas Place** is open through December 31. Walk or drive through this cheerful neighborhood any evening where homemade decorations of cartoon and animated movie characters show their Christmas spirit in bright lights and colors. This winter wonderland is a fun holiday tradition for almost 40 years!



Candy canes will be given out and cash donations for this charity fundraiser will be accepted. We're delighted the Crippsmas Club has named the Fremont Family Resource Center as one of their recipients this year which will benefit our **Giving Hope Urgent Needs Fund** as described by FRC Administrator Judy Schwartz in this short [video](#).

Crippsmas Place is now through December 31 from 6 - 10 p.m. You'll find over 50 houses decorated in this north Fremont neighborhood. Click [here](#) for a map.

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## Afghan Refugee Help Fund

The City of Fremont's Human Services Department continues to raise funds to provide assistance to newly-arriving Afghan refugees or those still in Afghanistan in unsafe conditions.

You can make a donation to the **Afghan Refugee Help Fund** by visiting their website at [www.fremont.gov/ARHelp](http://www.fremont.gov/ARHelp).



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## VIRTUAL Las Posadas 2021

Fremont's annual multi-faith Las Posadas music festival is on zoom again this year. It is nine evenings, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. December 15th through 23rd, of seasonal music with a short re-enactment of Joseph and Mary knocking on the door of the inn. Our Peak Performers is providing the music on Sunday evening Dec. 19th, and members and friends of MPUUC are participating in the music on five other nights. For a schedule of the events, and to request the zoom link, email [LasPosadasFCAC@earthlink.net](mailto:LasPosadasFCAC@earthlink.net) by noon of the first day you wish to listen.

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## Need Help with Rent or Utilities Due to COVID?

Our **Keep Fremont Housed** rental assistance program has already helped hundreds of Fremont families affected by COVID-19.



**Funds are still available** to help more families! If you or someone you know is having trouble paying rent or utilities due to COVID-19, **o r i f y o u a r e a l a n d l o r d w h o i s o w e d r e n t,** visit <https://www.fremont.gov/keepfremonthoused>.

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## 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.**

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## *Walking with Uncertainty*

### **Labyrinth Walk to observe the Winter Solstice**

Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Joy T. Barnitz, M.Div.

*Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator*

at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church

2791 Driscoll Rd, Fremont, CA 94539

Masks required

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**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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