

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 29, 2021

Greetings!

Hello Everyone!

My name is Jen King. My wife, Melissa, and I have been members of Mission Peak UU for about 15 years. I'm writing to you today to let you know that I submitted my resignation for the positions of President-Elect of the Board and Sunday Services Coordinator, effective December 31st, back in early November. It was a difficult decision for me to step away from these positions, however, I will continue to serve as head of Fellowship (including head of the Black & White Gala) and Organizer of the Common Read at MPUUC. I got to a point in November where the responsibilities of all four positions were negatively affecting my physical and mental well-being as well as my desire to participate at MPUUC at all. A change was necessary if I was going to remain a member of MPUUC. So I met with Rev Greg and DeAnna Alm (Board President) to come up with a solution that would work best for both me and the congregation.



I'm sharing this with all of you as an introduction to an ongoing series of Congregational Conversations that will be taking place over the next several months. On January 9th there will be a discussion after the service about the future of Religious Education at Mission Peak, and on January 30th there will be a discussion about how we can fulfill the Board and Committee responsibilities needed to run our congregation. Additional conversations, which have yet to be scheduled, will cover how we can reach out to the communities surrounding Mission Peak and how to increase membership at MPUUC. PLEASE plan to attend and participate in these important discussions. Mission Peak is at a critical juncture. These congregational conversations about the future of MPUUC are important and we need everyone to participate in selecting a path forward.

Jen King

**This Sunday's
Service:**

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



Starving Autist - Neuro-Queerity / Gender Vaguerly / Privilege

What is important to understand about truth? Beauty? Justice? Equality? Diversity? Liberation? And what if we were to hear about such concepts from someone who sees and experiences life from a neurodivergent perspective? Could we really count on recognizing truth, beauty, justice, equality, diversity and liberation if we didn't seek out and embrace such a perspective?

Joshua Schwartz, MSW will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Greg Ward. 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.

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.](#)

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.

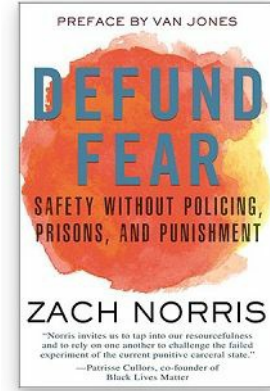
Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week's discussion will be about Neuro divergency – specifically, our understanding and engagement with folks who experience life somewhere in the margins of dominant culture's understanding of 'neuro-typical'. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#). Next week's discussion will be on Laughter. What makes us laugh? What does laughter give us that we can't get anywhere else? To whom have we turned for this valuable resource?

UUA Common Read 2022

The book chosen by the UUA for the 2022 Common Read is *Defund Fear* by Zach Norris. Group discussion of the book will start in February. You can buy the book from the UUA Online Bookstore, Books on B (a local independently owned bookstore in Hayward), The Collective Oakland or Marcus Books (independent black owned bookstores in Oakland), or Amazon. More details

about our group discussions of the book will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact Jen King.



JUSTICE CORNER

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Fellow MPUUC Members,

Our opportunity to join and SUPPORT the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) is coming up. We will conclude this year's GUEST AT YOUR TABLE program with a collection at our Service on January 9.



Whether your passion is climate justice for indigenous communities, immigrant rights, community empowerment or refugee support you can be part of the UUSC community of action providing training and support for local efforts to address all these needs. While you may not be the one who works directly in such efforts, your support for UUSC provides the funding to make these justice actions happen.

UU JUSTICE MINISTRY OF CALIFORNIA –

Making Changes for Good Works

We are looking forward to 2022 with new programs and training to help advance justice across California! We hope that you will join us!

In 2022 we will be developing new Youth & Young Adult programming, community based organizing and training, and creating a space that deeply centers the marginalized in and around our communities. If you have not already done so, please read this message from Rev Dr Betty Stapleford on behalf of our Board of Trustees.



[2021 Letter of Hope for Justice in 2022!](#)

Welcome to a reimagined community and UUJMCA in 2022!

<https://uujmca.org>

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.

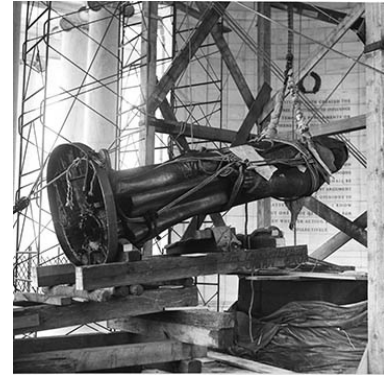
Image: Meeting of the Virginia House of Burgesses, 1619. Library of Congress.



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



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 31st.



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

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.

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.



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, or if you are a landlord who is owed rent, visit <https://www.fremont.gov/keepfremonthoused>.



Please Join Us For General Assembly 2022!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 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.**

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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