

This Week on the Peak

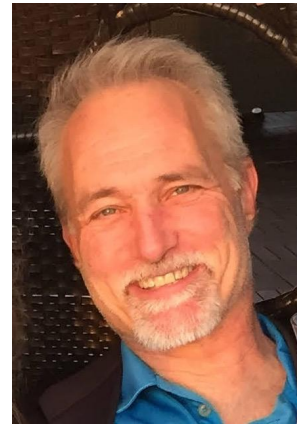


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 19, 2022

Greetings!

The one class I think I've taught the most in my congregations over the time I've served as a minister (second only to 'New to UU') is a class called 'A Year to Live.' It's a class based on Stephen Levine's book by the same name, and it was presented as a critical reflection of the hypothetical question: what would we do if we suddenly found out that we had only one year to live? The class is not about frightening people. It's actually about getting in touch with what really matters. Values clarification.

Examining all the assumptions we make and the rote decisions that are baked into our day-to-day life. It's about understanding the work necessary to take our life off of auto-pilot and turn on a radical, conscious, and intentional way of engaging this 'one wild and precious life' we've been given.



I mention this here for three reasons.

First, one of the 12 sessions (one session a month for a year) was about making determining the 'moments that mattered.' For most of us, these were between 5-10 specific moments over our 70+ years life we might pull out from all the rest and recognize the significance of that time. Of the person / people. Of the accomplishment. We also try to lift up moments *we thought* would matter but, perhaps, didn't. What was the difference? Often, it was the degree to which we – and the situation we were in – was changed. It was often about fears faced and the amount of freedom and clarity gained. Moments that matter bring real, useful, understanding, empathy, compassion, confidence, etc.

Second, a class toward the end asked us to manage our bequests. But unlike the administration of our actual life estate, this process allowed us to bequest truth, or lessons learned. We would bequest them to someone particular who meant a lot to us, who we thought could benefit from some hard-won insight. This was often a touching realization because it would couple together the values and the people who had meant the most to us.

But the main reason I share this here is #1 epiphany that I – and many others – walk away with at the end of the class. Where – in all the world – could we expect to wrestle with, learn, integrate, and benefit from core life lessons if not from the church – our chosen family – people who have promised to love us and who we promised to learn and grow and change with.

It's time to ask ourselves – in this time of great uncertainty and change – how are we making moments that matter for ourselves and others? How turning challenge into truth and who is the beneficiary of that process? The congregation is a laboratory in which we learn, and which produces the discoveries that change lives. If you have a chance to be challenged, to learn and grow and to make a difference because of your place in the community... I'm grateful. It means we're doing our job.

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.



Why an 8th Principle?

For as long as the U.S. has existed, two things have been true: (1) Unitarians have exerted a religious influence; and (2) people of color have been exploited, enslaved and treated as expendable. There has not been a time where Unitarians have been silent on the issue. Addressing racism has always been an issue we've identified as a goal. But it has never risen to be a core purpose - and principle - of our existence. As we approach our 200 year anniversary in this country, are we ready to name ending systemic racism as a core principle?

Paula Cole Jones and the UU Congregations of Northern California will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Greg Ward. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Lu Ann Higgs, Sheryl Counter, Anne Hillman, and Pat Moore-Pickett, UU Church of Davis, Dara Olandt and UUs of Petaluma Jen Hayman and the All Souls DC Choir will provide our music.

Note: For this service we will be joined by two other congregations: the UUs of Petaluma and the UU Church of Davis. We will start at our normal time of 10:00 – BUT – that will be OUR special time for Welcome and Announcements and Joys and Concerns. We will be joined by the other congregations for the start of the service with Paula Cole Jones at 10:30. Please come to the service ready to share the Joy or Concern you are carrying in your heart.

The service on January 30th is about 'Secret Powers'. In a world where challenges abound, we could use all the superheroes we can get. What Secret Power do think we have, or we could use? [Click here](#) to see what we have and add your own.

Building a Culture of Inclusion Workshop After Service Sunday, January 23, 2022

Building the Beloved Community is about building a culture of inclusion. Is this our unfinished business or is it the bridge to a vibrant future for Unitarian Universalism? Over 140 congregations and UU groups have had positive votes to adopt an 8th Principle that calls on us to build the Beloved Community. And many more votes are in process. Will we heed the call?

(Continue reading by clicking [here](#))

The 8th Principle of UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Sunday Service
January 23rd
10:30am
by ZOOM

with
Paula Cole Jones,
an originator of the
8th Principle

To enter this worship, go to:
<https://mpuuc.org>

POST-SERVICE
opportunity:

Save the date
for for a
workshop on
the 8th
principle from
1-4pm

A collaborative worship
service sponsored by:

Mission Peak Unitarian
Universalist Congregation,
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Davis,
and the Unitarian
Universalists of Petaluma

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

Safety Policy for Hybrid Services in Cole Hall

Because of the large surge from Omicron, attending in-person services at Cole Hall is an inherently risky activity, both for the attendees and for the people they have contact with throughout the week. If you are OK with that risk we welcome you. We are blessed to be able to offer an excellent virtual worship experience, and encourage anyone concerned about COVID-19 risk to take advantage of that.

We 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. **We encourage people to wear N95 (or equivalent) or surgical masks which are more effective than cloth masks. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if recently vaccinated or boosted.** Because it is apparent that vaccinated people can still spread the disease to others, we strongly encourage those in contact with unvaccinated or immunocompromised people to attend services outside or via Zoom.

Where to get Masks:

Cloth masks offer significantly less protection than surgical, N95, and KN95 masks. Now that these masks are widely available, the Covid-19 response team strongly recommends acquiring and using masks with higher levels of protection. Below are two sources of quality masks:

<https://bonafidemasks.com/powecom-kn95/> - KN95 has ear loops, from US distributor

<https://shop.projectn95.org/> - Many different choices of N95 and KN95 masks

Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about our [Covid-19 safety policies](#).

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.



COMMUNITY

We want to hear your voices! There is a congregational conversation scheduled for immediately after the service on **January 30th** (about congregational leadership). These will be in hybrid format, so you can participate in person or via Zoom. Please plan to stay, to listen, and to add to the conversation.

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 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism. We will reflect on what it is, why it is, how it came to be and whether we want to embrace it as core to our purpose. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#). Next week's discussion will be on leadership and power.

HELP US MAKE OWL SEX EDUCATION HAPPEN

Our CaYRE committee is working hard to offer Our Whole Lives Comprehensive Sex Education a priority this Spring but we are in desperate need of participants to make that happen! Please help us outreach to other communities and families who may be interested in having their 7th-9th grade youth participate in our program on Sunday afternoons this Spring. Please share the following website with anyone who may be interested <https://mpuuc.org/owl/>. You can also direct anyone with questions to our DRE by email at dre@mpuuc.org

JUSTICE CORNER

Civic Engagement

In-Person Voter Registrations at Local High Schools - Volunteers requested

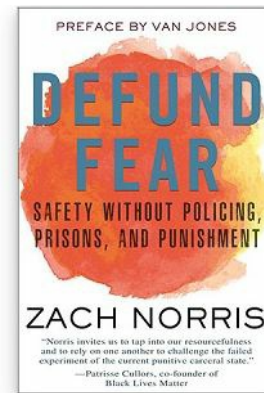
Greetings All!

It is time for Voter Registration drives again and the Youth Voter Movement (YVM) leaders are at work. YVM will be doing in-person voter registration drives at local high schools this Spring, from February through April. YVM is teaming up with a youth education-advocacy group called GEN-Up. Each school has a team of 1-6 student leaders. There are dates set for 4 of the 8 local high schools. All students, staff and volunteers will be masked and approx. 95+% will be fully vaccinated/boosted. We hope you will be able to join YVM for this very important project to help protect the future of our democracy.

(Continue reading by clicking [here](#))

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.



Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, January 12 and:

- Discussed the Committee on Ministry's report on the state of the congregation
- Discussed plans for this year's canvass
- Approved funds to buy KN95 masks for Cole Hall
- Approved the updated COVID safety policy
- Discussed possible uses for remaining PPP funds
- Discussed plans for Congregational conversations
- Discussed and approved a revised charter for tCe Committee on Ministry



The next board meeting is on Wednesday, February 9 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

Tri-City Interfaith Council's World Interfaith Harmony Day

Join us on Zoom to celebrate our diversity
in harmony -

Saturday February 5, 2021
7pm-8:30pm
Register for Zoom link

World Interfaith Harmony Day Building Bridges

Saturday February 5, 2021
7pm-8:30pm
Register for Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84481112202>

In 2010 the United Nations established "World Interfaith Harmony Week" as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.

Religion and Pluralism

We live in a multi-religious society and world, yet people of different faiths are too often marginalized, excluded, and even attacked for their beliefs, appearances, and identities.

How can religion serve to foster interfaith harmony, peace, and fellowship? How can we begin to see ourselves in people of other faiths, while also recognizing that they have their own unique perspectives and challenges?

Explore these questions with an interfaith panel of Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh speakers.



Tri-City Interfaith Council
Islamic Networks Group
Compassionate Fremont
Fremont Human Relations Commission
Union City Human Relations Commission
Alameda County Human Relations Commission

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84481112202>

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Click [here](#) for flyer.

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](#)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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