

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 5, 2022

Greetings!

Hello and Happy New Year! My name is Allysson McDonald, and I am a member of the board. You've heard me say that for the last few years, and it is still true, however my role was changed last fall. At our October meeting the board designated me as "on special assignment" for the remainder of the congregational year. I have been excused from attending Executive Team meetings and Board meetings in order to work with Rev. Greg and possibly other volunteers with the goal of reorganizing and rejuvenating Mission Peak UU's Small Group Ministry program.



Why? SMG provides vital community to our members, and also provides an entry point other than Sunday Services for people who might be interested in what we have to offer.

According to the [Small Group Ministry Network](#), *Small Group Ministry* is intentional lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. "Small" means a group with a *maximum* of 8-10 people, including facilitator. Groups of this size provide an opportunity to relate on a more intentional level. "Group" is a gathering of individuals, sometimes selected at random, sometimes selected for a specific interest or characteristic, that meet over a period of time. "Ministry" is the process or act of caring or being present with another. This relates to the spiritual as well as the physical and emotional well-being of the group participants.

They say that the *power and promise of SGM* are Intimacy, Ultimacy and Growth. *Intimacy* is the increased depth of relationship that comes from meeting over time, the willingness and ability to *listen* without comment or advice, to *learn* from others, and to *share* from the soul, beyond the surface. *Ultimacy* focuses on meaning and significance, rather than details, information or outcome. *Growth*: Small Group Ministry provides opportunities to grow leaders and the potential to grow churches in numbers, and in generosity, cooperation, and sense of well-being. This growth occurs when people are connected.

These are the reasons I volunteered to work on revitalizing our Small Group Ministry program this year. We currently have two ongoing groups - a women's group whose point person is Beth Schaefer, and a men's group whose point person is Ty White. My goal is to

get at least one more group started this year. Are you someone who would like to participate? Are you someone who would like to be trained to facilitate a new group? If so, please contact me ASAP!

Allysson McDonald

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## **This Sunday's Service:**

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



### **A God Who Laughs**

Becoming an adult is serious business. So serious, in fact, that many of us lose our sense of humor - or, exchange it for something we think will be more useful - along the way. Has this been the case for you? Did you, one day, set aside your mirth, your Imagination or whimsy, only to come back and find it missing? How about playfulness? Are you operating from less than you were originally given? And where will you discover and coax back such essential tools now that you recognize their value?" After the service we will explore the history - and the future - of our children and youth programming.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Calista Ames. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. 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.**

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**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.

For more information about UUSC and its programs, please visit their [website](#).

## Updated 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-kg95/> - 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](#).

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## COMMUNITY

We want to hear your voices! There are congregational conversations scheduled for immediately after the service on **January 9th** (about the future of CAYRE) and 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.

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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.

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## Positive test result for attendee of January 2nd service

We have been informed that someone who attended the January 2nd service in person has tested positive for Covid-19. At the time they attended, they were not experiencing any symptoms. By Tuesday 1/4 they had some mild throat irritation and tested positive.

If you attended the January 2nd service in person also, we encourage you to get tested for Covid-19, ESPECIALLY if you are experiencing symptoms of a head cold, having a fever, or are feeling ill in any way. Even if you are not feeling ill, taking a test could help prevent any further spread by informing you of an asymptomatic infection.

If you do test positive, please advise the Covid-19 Response Task force (DeAnna Alm, Steve Wallcave and Eric Ryan), as we will take it into consideration as we all do our best to help keep our Mission Peak UU families safe.

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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 events one year ago – January 6, 2021 when the capitol was attacked. We will explore the related events which threaten rights and threaten our democracy. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week's discussion will be on remembering our civil rights heroes and sheroes.

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The promise of democracy is not a partisan issue. It is a moral one. This **Thursday, January 6**, I will be leading a Vigil for Democracy. **From 6:30pm – 7:30pm** we will grieve those who were killed in the failed militarized coup on the U.S. capitol. We will reflect on those disenfranchised by gerrymandering, attacks on voting rights and the repeal of women's rights to control their

bodies. Please join me in creating this space for those within – and beyond – our MPUUC community. You can [Sign Up for this Vigil by going to this webpage](#) and clicking on the Vigil that is 'hosted from Fremont.' You should see Greg Ward as the host. You can [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIGIL](#)

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## Join CaYRE for our first MPUUC Courageous Conversation

This coming Sunday CaYRE will be facilitating a courageous conversation about the role of Religious Exploration in our community and what the future of Religious Exploration will look like as we are transitioning into a new year. CaYRE will be sharing stories from the work we have done over the years and has worked very hard to provide structure for what we hope will be a very meaningful conversation. Please bring an open heart and sense of curiosity as we embark on the first of several conversations about the future of our community. This will be a hybrid event that we hope everyone will stick around for as it relates to all of our community. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to our DRE by email at [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org) or our CaYRE team at [cayre@mpuuc.org](mailto:cayre@mpuuc.org).

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## 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 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)

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## Fremont Climate Solutions Ambassadors

Many of us at MPUUC joined their local Climate Challenge last year at [werenew.net/](http://werenew.net/), which included MPUUC as a group participating in the Fremont Green Challenge. There is a new opportunity to further that commitment in helping our community to be more resilient, sustainable, healthy, and prepared for disasters. You can now join Fremont's Climate Solutions Ambassador Program to do just that! All you need is passion for a greener and better world. The program provides the support and coaching



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needed to reduce emissions, save water and money, and make our community more resilient. This would take about one hour a week from February through June to make a significant impact on climate change.

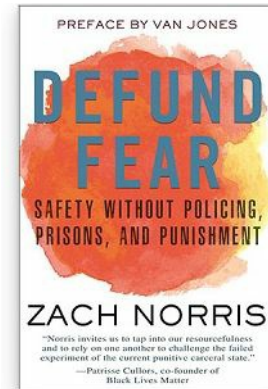
Learn more and register [HERE](#) to become a Climate Solutions Ambassador. Patrick Jurney is the Community Organizer who helped us at MPUUC promote the Fremont Green Challenge, and is helping introduce people to the Climate Solutions Ambassador Program.

Want to hear more before signing up? Attend a 30-minute virtual information session to get more details and see if this opportunity is right for you. Sign up for any of the information sessions [here!](#)

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## 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

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### UUSJ- Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

MPUUC Members

If you haven't heard of the efforts and activities of the [UUSJ- Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice](#)- you might be uplifted and invigorated to see their eNews and read about the 7 Principals-based actions that are being taken, to affect the public policies that will shape our nation for years to come- especially in this month of January.



If the January 6, 2021 Insurrection is of special interest to you, you might want to sign up for

### **Brookings Webinar: The January 6 Insurrection: One Year Later**

January 6, 2022

10:00-11:30 a.m.ET/7:00-8:30 a.m.PT

#### [RSVP\(& Details\)](#)

A year ago, a violent mob broke into the US Capitol trying to stop the certification of the electoral vote of Joe Biden and overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election in favor of Donald Trump. The insurrection was, thankfully, unsuccessful. But its echoes continue to reverberate. On January 6, Brookings Senior Fellow and Lawfare Editor-in-Chief Benjamin Wittes will moderate a discussion on the anniversary of the Capitol riot.

### **PPC's National Interfaith Prayer Service and Procession**

January 9, 2022

## Promo Video June 2022

3-4:30pmET (Service) - 4:30- 5:30pmET (Procession)

Location: National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, DC

The Poor People's Campaign: National Call For Moral Revival invites UUs to join a 90-minute **National Interfaith Prayer Service in D.C.** The Service will end with a procession down 14th Street to Freedom Plaza where we will consecrate the plaza for June 18, 2022, Mass Poor People's and Low Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington with a Litany of Declaration and prayers.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 18, 2022

## Moral March On Washington

RSVP Now & Find a Bus: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/rally-map/>

## Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

### In Remembrance of MLK: No Celebration Without Legislation - D.C. Peace Walk, by Deliver for Voting Rights

January 17, 2022

9:00-11:00 a.m. ET

Location: 1st SE & Potomac Ave SE, Washington,  
DC

Details: <https://deliverforvotingrights.com/>

Deliver for Voting Rights is calling on President Biden and Congress to end the filibuster and deliver on voting rights now. This year for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, members of the King family along with faith and civil rights leaders, and voting rights advocates will join together to demand voting rights legislation now.



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## 8th Principle Learning

What's CODE SWITCH? It's the fearless conversations about race that you've been waiting for! Hosted by journalists of color, our podcast tackles the subject of race head-on. We explore how it impacts every part of society — from politics and pop culture to history, sports and everything in between. This podcast makes ALL OF US part of the conversation — because we're all part of the story.



### [CodeSwitch Podcast](#)

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## Board Briefs

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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## 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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## 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>.

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## 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.**

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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](http://house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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