

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 2, 2022

Greetings!

Hello Everyone!

I'm Colleen Arnold, and I've been a member of Mission Peak UU for 11 years. I started attending Mission Peak when I was looking for a progressive spiritual home for myself and my family. Y'all haven't seen my family in a minute, so here's a recent picture of us.



Over the years, I've served as the Board secretary, Vice President of the Board and a Board trustee (as well as helped with the Black and White Gala, Canvass, RE, and Sunday Services Team). Each role on the Board had different challenges, but the best part of being on the board or a committee is being part of a team that discusses and works on whatever goals MPUUC is striving towards, and finds creative answers to whatever challenges the congregation is facing. I never felt that I was facing any of it alone - it is always a group effort.

Currently I serve as Chair of the Committee on Ministry. Along with committee members Terri King and Alan Davis, and alongside Rev. Greg, we try to keep a finger on the pulse of the congregation. We report to the boards the trends we see and hear. In these times of COVID, it's been challenging to figure out how healthy our ministry as a congregation is. But we do see some trends.

What we're seeing lately is burnout, fatigue, and caution. If you came to the congregational conversation last Sunday, you heard the Board President, DeAnna Alm, tell you that the Leadership Team asked 10 people if they'd serve as the next President of the Board. All 10 said no. There were different reasons for each, and in our small groups last Sunday we heard some of them. People are tired, not sure about the direction Mission Peak UU is taking, and feeling cautious about putting themselves in a leadership role when they've experienced our congregation as not 100% supportive.

We on CoM tried to address some of this uncertainty through our work last year on the

Congregational Covenant. If we agree (as we voted to do) to aspire to act according to the Covenant, we should be working to support each other and understanding that none of us are perfect. We're not even trying to be perfect, we're trying to maintain a thriving, supportive community that welcomes both diversity and new members who want to join us.

We're all doing our best. And your best is what we need - not perfection, not high-level skill, just a willingness to work on the team that's moving Mission Peak forward. I implore you to consider how you might be part of that team, and fill out the survey that Mission Peak sent out yesterday.

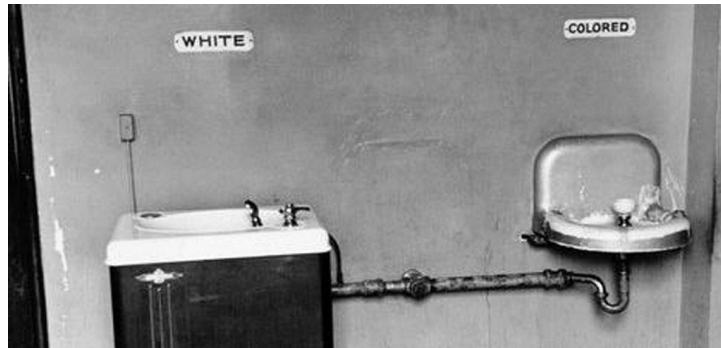
Thank you for all you do to keep our community going,

Colleen

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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.**



## **How the Dye is Caste**

A number of things aren't routinely taught in U.S. or World History. A number of interesting truths aren't recorded for posterity for the simple reason they don't cast those in power in the best light. One such telling bit of recent world history is how when those in the Third Reich were looking around for models on which to base their 'Aryan Super Race' model they turned to a surprising source: the United States. In this sermon, we will explore a good deal we didn't know about hierarchy and subjugation which may wind up being our unintended legacy.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. 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.**

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## 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](#).

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## Congregational Conversation Follow-Up

Thank you so much to those of you who were able to join us for the Congregational Conversation after the service last Sunday (1/30). You should all have received a follow-up email which included a link to the Time & Talents Survey and several informational attachments. The Board is requesting that everyone participate in the Time & Talent Survey (<https://forms.gle/4SPYcZKPPXnG1dPT9>) before February 7. Please reach out to any Board members with any additional comments or concerns you may have. Thanks!

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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 power and social hierarchy. In our society, who has the power? How did they get it? Who do they empower and who do they disempower and how? In what ways is our economic system or health system determined by power? The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week's discussion will be on the power of love to change the world. How has Love fueled a social movement. How does its presence or absence affect change in general?

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**JUSTICE CORNER**

**Tuesday, February 8 • 7:00 – 8:15 pm**  
**[Partner Voices Speakers Series: Initiate Justice](#)**

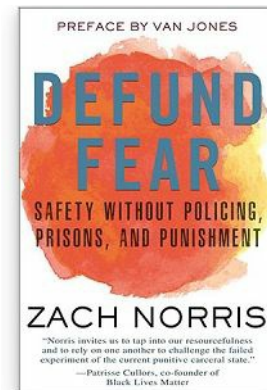
SURJ Bay Area is presenting the second event in our speakers series featuring our Black, Indigenous and people of color-led accountability partners. This series gives the community an opportunity to hear from our partners, learn about what they are doing in the community, and find out how we can support their work. Join us to hear from [Initiate Justice](#), a group 100%-led by people directly impacted by incarceration, with over 45,000 inside members, over 200 inside organizers, and over 200 outside organizers, all working to change criminal justice policy in California and end mass incarceration. Closed captioning will be offered and ASL interpretation will be provided if requested by Sunday, February 6. [Learn more and register here.](#)



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## UUA Common Read 2022 - Update

I know that I said that the group discussion of the book chosen by the UUA for the 2022 Common Read (Defund Fear by Zack Norris) would begin in February, but...I just found out that the discussion guidelines provided by the UUA won't be coming out until April. So...you still have time to purchase the book and start reading! 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. Additional information about the Common Read, including some things to think about as you read the book, can be found on the UUA website: <https://www.uua.org/read>. If you have any questions, please contact Jen King.



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

**Thursday, February 3 • 5:00 – 6:00 pm**  
**Friday, February 4 • 12:00 – 1:00 pm**  
**[SURJ Action Hours](#)**

Want to take tangible steps to end racial injustice and white supremacy? Join us for our first Action Hours of 2022! This is one way to truly *Show Up for Racial Justice* and it's just an hour a week. We meet over Zoom to take concrete steps together: calling elected officials, signing petitions, etc. There are two times each week to choose from—[sign up here](#).



We'd love to have you! Closed captioning will be available in the main room of Action Hour calls.

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## 8th Principle Learning

Life Kit Podcast: ["Interrupt the Systems" with Robin DiAngelo](#)



## 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 the 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](https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto: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/84451200000>

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/84451200000>

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Click [here](#) for flyer.

## 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



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