

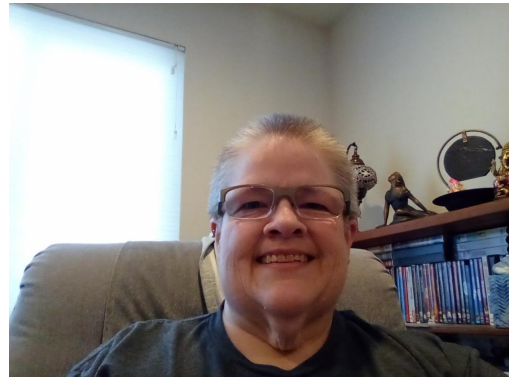
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 23, 2022

Greetings!

Hello, MPUUC! My name is Michelle Wallace, and I am a member of the board. I have been attending MPUUC along with my wonderful wife Katherine for about 14 years. I have been involved in a variety of events, committees, and my favorite, the choir.



I grew up in central Indiana; we lived on a pig farm, and my family attended a small country church. Leadership was the purview of the men in the church, so the minister, the elders and deacons, and the members of the board were all men. When as an adult I started attending a Unitarian Universalist congregation, I was a little surprised to find that the minister and some of the church officers were women.

Because of my conservative upbringing, it took me a little while to get used to this. It had never occurred to me that I could be on a church board one day, so a few months ago when there was an opening for a trustee at large, I was asked if I would be willing to serve in that role. My immediate reaction was, "Oh, no! I can't do that!" The more I thought about it, the more I realized that there was no reason why I couldn't be a contributor to the governance of our congregation, so I said yes.

Serving on the board of my beloved community is an honor. It gives me a chance to have input on the direction of our congregation. It's also a way to use my time and talents to give back to a congregation that has given me so much over the years. I feel blessed to be able to represent my fellow congregants by attending monthly board meetings and participating in worship services. Thank you for this amazing opportunity!

Michelle Wallace

This Sunday's

Service:

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



Tombaugh stained glass window

"Is Pluto a Planet? The Blessings and Perils of Labeling"

We generally feel that labeling and categorization of people is bad, but I have learned that sometimes it is valuable. In a recent sermon Joshua Schwartz explained that the autism label helped in self understanding, and after that service, in break-out room discussion, participants noted how accepting and receiving labels of lesbian and of dyslexic had relieved perplexity and stress. Nevertheless, labeling can also be very damaging, with racial labeling coming immediately to mind.

In this message I will take the question of whether the astronomical object Pluto should be labelled a planet or a dwarf planet, and explore both the blessings and the perils of labeling, and develop some tentative criteria for useful versus damaging labeling. I will apply some of these criteria to labeling of people, and will include some of my own pet peeves of misleading terminology.

In widening the circle of knowledge of how to use labeling as a blessing, we can widen the circle of our understanding of others, and widen the circle of loving community.

Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. David Gibbons, Knuti VanHoven, Jo Ann Schriener, UUCU choir 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.

Share the Plate! Funding Drive for Safe Parking Vehicles Fund (There is still time to donate)



Our Courageous Love Hero - Fremont for Everyone - doesn't have non-profit status, so their leadership team selected the Fremont Safe Parking Vehicles Fund as the recipient of our monetary donation. The Fremont [Safe Parking Host Site Pilot Program](#), launched on January 31, 2022, is designed as a safe, transitional space for individuals living in their vehicle. It's a rotational model, with four faith-based organizations across the city hosting individuals or couples on their site for one month before rotating to the next site. Volunteers staff the check-in and check-out process in the evenings and mornings, fostering a community for our unsheltered neighbors. The pilot program currently has capacity for 15 passenger vehicles. **The Safe Parking Vehicles Fund**, run by the City of Fremont, helps individuals living in vehicles with the means to repair their vehicles, pay for registration, smog check, etc. This allows car dwellers to go to work, look for housing, and to participate in the Fremont Safe Parking program.

Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:

Write a check to MPUUC with "SPVF" in the memo line and mail 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 an envelope with a check (with "SPVF" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "For SPVF") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "For SPVF" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%



CIRCLE OF LIFE

This is a new section of Week on the Peak from your Encouragement Committee. Each week, we will post those sharings during Sunday's Joys and Concerns that we were given permission to share. We encourage you to follow what is on the hearts of your fellow members and reach out on occasion to celebrate and console those you care about. Here are the [Joys and Concerns](#) from this week. If you would like your joy or concern to

appear in the Circle of Life, contact the Encouragement Committee at ecteam@mpuuc.org



Masking Continues at Cole Hall



In order to maintain the safety of all our members, Mission Peak UU is continuing to require masking inside and outside Cole Hall during services. While Alameda County Health is allowing some public places to stop requiring masks as of February 16th, places that serve more vulnerable populations (like hospitals and schools) are still mandated to mask, and we are following that example.

Safety Policy for Hybrid Services 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 have such masks available in Cole Hall on Sunday mornings. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if fully vaccinated and boosted. Because 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.

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.

Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister’s Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week’s discussion will be lay led and deal with the purpose and potential problems of labeling things. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week’s discussion will be led by Rev. Greg.

JUSTICE CORNER

UU Ministry for Earth

Feed your spirit, and get galvanized!" - Emma's Revolution

Spring is coming! “**Get Rooted, and Get Ready!**” is UU Ministry for Earth’s theme and call to action for our [2022 Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism](#).



Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism is an invitation to embody the time from the Spring Equinox (March 20) through Biodiversity Sunday (May 22) as one of educational power, spiritual grounding and accountable action for climate justice.

From our Climate Convergence on World Water Day (March 22), to a course on Ecology as Scripture, from our Caucus forums to our Earth Day worship celebration (April 22), we are excited to journey with you in the months ahead!

Please click [here](#) to read the full spectrum of programming for **Spring for Change**:

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Sunday, February 27 • 2:00 – 4:00 pm

[Visionary Organizers Fighting Colonization](#)

Indigenous people are leading and winning fights to protect people, the planet, and what is sacred. Come listen to, learn from, and be inspired by visionaries who have been organizing at the forefront of movements from Minnesota to Palestine to the Philippines. Three brilliant community organizers will speak with us about the ongoing colonization of these places, and the politics and strategies of decolonial resistance. We will be joined by Big Wind (Two Spirit member of the Northern Arapahoe tribe), Mohammed El-Kurd (Palestinian author and organizer), and Angelica Lin (with GABRIELA speaking on the Philippines). The event is sponsored by [Catalyst Project](#) and [SURJ National](#). There will be Spanish language interpretation, sign language, and closed captioning. [More info here](#) and [register here](#)



8th Principle Learning

Brian Lehrer Podcast: [“Ijeoma Oluo on Uprisings, Exhaustion and Leveraging White Privilege For Justice”](#).

BRIAN LEHRER
a daily politics podcast



WNYCSTUDIOS

[Will you join us to sharpen your skills this spring with our Skill Up Spring Series: Action Center 101 Soup to Nuts?](#)



What's a Skill Up?

This is our monthly series of trainings on organizing skills to help build our UU the Vote and Side with Love Volunteer Squads and help YOU build stronger teams in your congregation and community. We'll start the session with some spiritual fun and then launch into our training. This is also a chance to find out how to get more involved as a Side with Love volunteer and meet members of the Volunteer Squads.

[Sign up now](#) to come live, or be the first to get the recordings!

Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, February 9:

- Heard a presentation from DRE Shawn on possibilities for configuring the Children's RE program going forward and discussed this.
- Received an update from Canvass chair Valerie on this year's Canvass plans.
- Discussed responses to the Congregational Conversation survey and possible



steps to move forward.

- Identified potential General Assembly delegates from MPUUC and approved some funds to offset their expenses if desired.

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, March 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

**Please Join Us For
General Assembly
2022!**



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

The General Assembly Housing Reservation System is Now Open!

The GA Housing Reservation System offers premium amenities, discounted rates, and the best networking opportunities for in-person GA attendees. By booking in our hotel block, you assist the UUA in effectively controlling meeting space, attrition and penalty fees; all of which directly benefit you and the future of General Assembly. Additionally, the UUA is able to negotiate on behalf of our block of attendees for [sustainability](#) and [accessibilities](#) requirements. Get a head start on your travel plans and book your housing today on the [GA Housing Reservation Page](#).

Dormitory housing at Portland State University and information about home hospitality, if available, will be published in March 2022. [Reserve Now!](#)

Safety and Wellness in Portland

In compliance with UUA and Oregon Convention Center guidelines, entry to General Assembly 2022 in Portland, OR is open to people who are fully vaccinated. Additionally, the OCC's requirement of vaccination extends to all contracted service providers working in the facility.

[Oregon Convention Center COVID-19 Safety Measures](#)

In addition, masking is required and physically distanced seating options will be reserved in our meeting spaces.

Register Now for In-Person GA 2022!

[Registration is now open](#) for in-person attendance.

UUA General Assembly 2022: Virtual Registration Opens March 1 June 22-26, 2022

[Can't view email? Click Here to View as Webpage](#)

Virtual Registration for General Assembly Opens March 1.

Do you enjoy the convenience and accessibility of remote General Assembly participation? GA 2022 again offers virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. [Virtual Registration](#) opens March 1st.

Multi-Platform General Assembly: Choose Your Platform

In-person Registration is required for all live GA events and programming taking place in Portland, Oregon. In-person registration includes access to virtual content available on the GA app, powered by Whova. In-person registration is the same process for delegates and non-delegates; delegates may register before or after determining their delegate status. General Assembly registration is required for all in-person participants, including in-person delegates. [Register now!](#)

Full Virtual Registration is required for access to virtual GA programming, including workshops, worship services, the Ware Lecture, featured speakers, Opening and Closing celebrations, exhibits, entertainment, and networking. Virtual GA programming will be streamed on the GA app, powered by Whova. Delegates will use the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. Virtual registration is the same process for delegates and non-delegates; delegates may register before or after determining their delegate status. [Register starting March 1](#)

Business-only Virtual Registration provides access to the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. Payment is not required but a donation to offset production and platform costs is suggested. Business-only registrants will access to delegate chat rooms but will not have access to GA programming, the GA app, networking opportunities, or the exhibit hall. GA delegates are strongly encouraged to register as Full Virtual Registrants. [Register starting March 1](#)

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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