

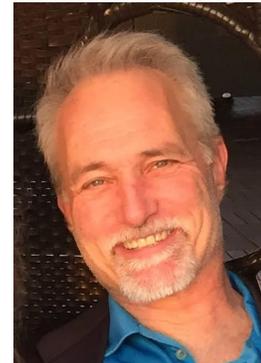
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 18, 2022

Greetings!

This week, we held our 7th RE-WIRE class. RE-WIRE is a program I have led here that challenges us to think about white culture and how it shapes society. Most of us are not accustomed to thinking in terms of 'white culture.' Other races have 'culture.' Black culture. Hispanic culture. Asian culture, etc. But 'white' isn't so much a culture as it is just 'normal'. Background reality. This is exactly what makes it the most powerful culture – it's unquestioned normative influence.



The reason why I wanted to offer this class – and the reason we've had 13 people enroll in it – is because of the incredible wave of scholarship emerging that cites overwhelming historical evidence regarding the ways our country was built by establishing a racial caste system that repeatedly and systemically exploited non-white peoples to profit and advantage white interests. And the way this exploitation has been whitewashed as 'the American Way.'

This scholarship comes on the heels of technology which has allowed us to create audio and video recordings of actual events of abuse and exploitation. In the same way that televising racist abuse in Birmingham (fire hoses and attack dogs) and Selma changed the course of civil rights, modern phones have changed the narrative of systemic racism and critical race theory.

This Sunday, our ARO (Anti-Racism / Anti-Oppression) team will be presenting a service about what we've been learning and how this learning has changed us. The learning has been hard. And uncomfortable. We've grown to realize that part of 'white culture' is our own history of privilege of turning away from situations where non-whites are repeatedly victims of white exploitation, white violence, and conscious and unconscious assumptions of white supremacy.

Part of what the service will ask us to consider is the motion we will vote on at the congregational meeting on June 5. Please read the motion (posted below in the announcement of this Sunday's Congregational Conversation). Come to the service and stay for the conversation afterward.

Last year we took the first step of posting a 'Black Lives Matter' sign. What we're doing with our ARO team, our RE-WIRE class and this vote is the next step – 'walking the talk.' It is uncomfortable. But until we face our discomfort, our BIPOC siblings will remain the primary targets of exploitation and violence.

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.



8th Principle

In this service we will share some of the stories of our racial history that we recall with pride and that for which we still hold regret. As UUs, we will acknowledge our important, inspiring, compelling and confusing journey toward racial justice and what has led us to this point of feeling like we need an 8th Principle - something that explicitly announces that racial justice is an intentional core principle of UUism. We will talk about what happens if we pass the 8th Principle and what happens if we don't.

Our MPUUC Anti-Racism / Anti-Oppression Team will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Michelle Wallace. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jo Ann Schriener and Knuti VanHoven 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 a check 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%.

Congregational Conversation

This Sunday, after the worship service from our ARO team exploring what we've learned and how we've been changed by studying our history (both UU and U.S.), we invite anyone who is interested to come into a congregational conversation of deep listening to explore our upcoming vote on UU's 8th Principle. The conversation will be in Rev. Greg's Zoom room (which will be posted in the chat during the worship service). This is the motion that MPUUC will vote on at the congregational meeting:

We, the members of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, make a spiritual and moral commitment to hold ourselves accountable to create a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by dismantling racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. Thus, we endorse the 8th Principle Project's recommendation that the UUA amend article two of the UUA's bylaws to add an additional principle focusing on anti-racism and anti-oppression.

Share the Plate

Last month's Share the Plate was for LEAF and we collected \$520.00 Thank you to all who contributed.



This month's Share the Plate will go to NAMI and we will be collecting until May 29. Please either drop a check in the mail or leave a check in MPUUC's mail slot. Please indicate in the memo line that it is for "NAMI".



CIRCLE OF LIFE

Each week, we post the previous Sunday's Joys and Concerns that we were given permission to share. We encourage you to make room in your heart for the hopes and fears of your fellow members. Reach out to celebrate and console those you care about. Here's the [Joys and Concerns](#) for May 15 as well as the prior 3 weeks. If you would like your joy or concern to appear in the Wheel of Life, contact the Encouragement Committee at ecteam@mpuuc.org

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) which are more effective than cloth or surgical 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 will be an active exploration of anti-racism and anti-oppression. Why is it receiving so much attention now – both in our country and in our denomination? What are your thoughts about the possibility that learning about racism might be a moral / spiritual practice? Why else would so many religions participate in racial justice work? The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week's discussion will be lay led and will be about how and why we need one another. How do we ask to have our needs for support and companionship met? How do we show up when asked?

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, June 5th immediately after the service. We will have a number of items to vote on (details and agenda to follow later this month), and we will need a quorum of voting members, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. As a reminder, while all are welcome to attend, only active members will be allowed to vote.



JUSTICE CORNER

SUICIDES AT SANTA RITA JAIL – PLEASE HELP

Leonard Brown, a young man suffering from psychosis, died of suicide while in custody last month at Santa Rita Jail. And he is not the first. This is yet another painful event for families and community members who have lost imprisoned loved ones or fear for the safety of those denied the dignity of appropriate treatment for painful brain disorders.

The Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails (ICJJ), is planning to **PROTEST** the needlessly brutal treatment of prisoners at Santa Rita Jail. Please join ICJJ, along with the Families Advocating for the Seriously Mentally Ill (FASMI) and members of the Care First Jails Last coalition, NAMIs in Alameda County and more.

Where: Alameda County Board of Supervisors office, 1221 Oak ST (near the Lake Merritt BART station).

When: Tuesday May 24, 11:30,

We will keep you informed as the exact logistics of this protest emerge.

Rev. Barbara Meyers, Mental Health Ministry MPUUC, ICJJ
Peggy Rahman, FASMI

Saturday, June 18 • 4:30 pm

[Poor People's Campaign: Moral March on Washington, D.C.](#)



Any nation that ignores nearly half of its citizens is in a moral, economic, and political crisis. There were 140 million people who were poor or one emergency away from economic ruin *before* the pandemic. Since March 2020, while hundreds of thousands of people have died, millions are on the edge of hunger and eviction and still without health care or living wages, while billionaire wealth has grown by over \$2 trillion. Join the [Poor People's Campaign](#) for a Moral March on Washington and to the Polls, a generationally-transformative declaration of the power of poor and low-wealth people and our moral allies to say that this system is killing *all* of us and we can't...

we won't... we refuse to be silent anymore. [RSVP here.](#)

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

A wonderful experience!

"The Jubilee III experience far surpassed what I had been expecting. First Unitarian Church of Honolulu had participated in two previous in-person Jubilees and I just couldn't imagine a virtual experience being so successful. It became obvious that the trainers had gone above and beyond in preparation; the virtual experience was, in some ways, better because of the face-to-face feeling of intimacy on screen that can happen even when someone speaks to the whole group, the close honesty afforded by break-out rooms, and the relatively long meal breaks, which make one feel totally refreshed and able to think clearly for the next session...Jill Rabinov



For more information and sign up, please click on the link below.

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/calendar/jubilee-3-622>

8th Principle Learning

Article: ["Until Black Women Are Free, None of Us Will Be Free"](#) by Keeanga- Yamaha Taylor



Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness for 2022

The UUA makes two types of social witness statements which are voted on at General Assembly (GA): Statements of Conscience (SOCs), which arise from Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIS), and Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs). There are 6 proposed AIW's and no new CSAI's this year. An AIW is a statement about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations and groups. They express the conscience and carry the authority of the GA delegates. For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Social Witness process in general, or about this year's proposed Actions of Immediate Witness specifically, click [here](https://www.uua.org/action/process) <https://www.uua.org/action/process> You may contact our GA delegates, Kathi Bayne or Lucienne Bouvier if you'd like to provide input.



UU Women Action Hour

May 22 6:30-8:00 p.m. (CT)

The UU Women's Federation is teaming up with the Texas UU Justice Ministry for a virtual Action Hour focusing on leaving Texas to have access to abortion. See the flier to sign up. (Click [here](#) for flier)

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation is pleased to present

UU Women ACTION HOUR
a special Zoom event

LEAVING TEXAS TO HAVE AN ABORTION: A CONVERSATION WITH
REV. ERIN WALTER, TEXAS UU JUSTICE MINISTRY

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 8:30-9PM CT

Join us as we hear from Rev. Erin Walter, Executive Director of the Texas UU Justice Ministry... and hear what's happening on the ground in the fight for reproductive justice, with reflections and actions that will be relevant to living your UU values, wherever you live.

Rev. Erin will share reflections from her work in the fight for abortion rights, reproductive justice, LGBTQIA+ rights, and more, including her recent flight from Texas to New Mexico to accompany 20 people seeking safe and legal abortions.

You'll also hear from UUWF Director Ann Weisener about UUWF's new vision, and how we can fight for gender, racial, and economic justice together.

Please join the conversation! You don't want to miss this time to connect and get inspired to act!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, May 11:

- Got an update on the DRE search process
- Reviewed the proposed 2022/3 budget
- Voted and approved the slate of candidates for the 2022/3 board to be voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting
- Voted and approved the statement of support for the 8th principle to be voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting
- Agreed on the final draft of proposed bylaw changes to be voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting
- Assigned tasks related to the annual meeting



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, June 5, after the service.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, June 8 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 Opened 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](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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