

# This Week on the Peak

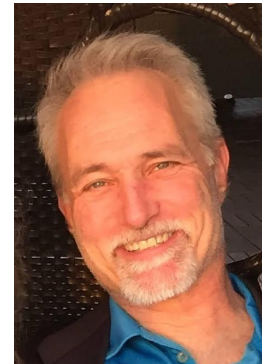


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 25, 2022

Greetings!

I'm sick. It's a painful, debilitating sickness and I worry it might be terminal. I've felt these symptoms and know they've gone unheeded for a long time. At least I know from where my sickness comes and can trace it back to the many sources.

It comes from supermarkets in Buffalo, NY. and Boulder, Co.; a railyard in San Jose; a birthday party in Colorado Springs; a convenience store in Springfield, MO; a Synagogue in Pittsburgh; churches in Sutherland Springs, TX, Charleston, S.C. and a U.U. church in Knoxville, TN; a Walmart in El Paso; a FedEx warehouse in Indianapolis; a music festival in Las Vegas; massage parlors in Atlanta; a Waffle House in Nashville; a gay nightclub in Orlando; a movie theater in Aurora, CO.



Yesterday, nineteen children were murdered in Uvalde, TX. Elementary school students attending their last week of class before summer vacation. The loss of these children, the devastation of their families, the trauma carried forth by survivors, and the implicit curriculum in the school are things which will never be erased – and all are part of the sickness. What makes it seem terminal is when the social stethoscope is applied, and we notice that distinct rattles of Sandy Hook Elementary School can be heard; as well as Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Oxford High School, Santa Fe High School, Columbine High School. Robb Elementary School is, tragically, nothing new. Just the latest statistic on this horrific list of shame.

What makes me fear this is terminal is that the shame which should have been an instant wake up call to [dis]arms, has become only the latest boundary we have sped past. We are all frogs in water coming to a boil.

The rest of the world sees us as insane. And the fact that we continue to call these events 'unexpected tragedies' when they are both predictable and preventable, means the rest of the world is probably right. Each news story of innocents killed has revealed politicians throwing their hands up and judges siding with the constitutional right to shoot rather than civilians right NOT to be shot. It is soul numbing to witness. The sickness I've come down

with is the feeling that society is telling my soul to acquiesce to something no healthy, sane person would ever accept.

Our congressional and judicial systems have followed the trance-like dance of legislators who are so deep into the pockets of gun lobbyists that we are all in a conga-line toward moral abyss. [HERE](#) are some of the dozens of things that can be done. Refusal of legislators to do anything – much less EVERYTHING – to save innocent lives is evidence that the money and power they receive from soul-less gun lobbyists is more important than their responsibility to protect our safety and civil liberties.

Please [Call your Senators!](#) [Call your U.S. Representatives!](#) Take action. In a just society, power doesn't belong to gun manufacturers, lobbyists, politicians, judges or even the lost individuals who seek a trigger to the powerlessness they feel. Power belongs to the people who learn to speak and act and work together for a better future.

Rev Greg Ward (he, him, his)  
[minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org)

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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.**



## We Need One Another

A favorite reading from our hymnal begins this way: “We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.” We all need comforting in these times, as we are barraged daily with news of pandemic deaths, climate catastrophe, systemic oppression, and war. How can we give shelter to each other in these times of fear, loss and grief? Can our Unitarian Universalist faith offer us comfort?

Rev. Bonnie Dlott will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Various Mission Peak Artists 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.

## 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".

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## 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 22 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](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org)

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## 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.

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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 lay led. We will talk about who is the 'we' that we need when we are struggling? How is the trust earned that places such people on your primary list of contacts? How do these people respond such that they are most helpful? What does reciprocity require? How are we the people who others call and what do we do when called upon? The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week's discussion will be about how we have gone about drawing the map of our heart. We will do a bit of cartography of our emotions and the feelings that inform our thoughts and actions. We'll explore the lexicon of our feelings and how adept we are at the nuance between our emotions.

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## Annual Congregational Meeting

## 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 were sent out via a Constant Contact email on May 22), 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.

Please click [here](#) for Mission Peak's Annual Report for 2021-2022

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## Line Dancing Event in Cole Hall

Mission Peak UU is invited to join the United Methodists for their inaugural Line Dancing Event in Cole Hall this **Friday, May 27th at 4:30-5:30**. This session is free, no talent or prior experience is required! Our instructor is Michael Quebec, popular local adult dancing teacher. This will be a trial session and if everything goes well, it will continue during the summer every other Friday. Even if you don't think you want to dance, please come and tap your feet to the music. It will be great family fun! Note that this event will be following the Alameda County guidelines regarding the wearing of masks, which means they are recommended but not required. If you have questions, please contact Donna Potter, [dpotterhome@mac.com](mailto:dpotterhome@mac.com).



## JUSTICE CORNER

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](#).

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## 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>

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## 8th Principle Learning

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



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## 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.

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## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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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**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](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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