

# This Week on the Peak



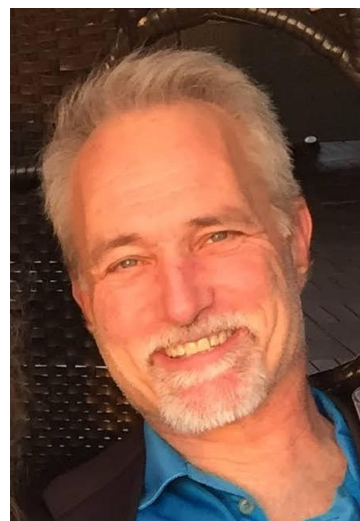
## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 14, 2022

Dear Sandra,

"I am sorry. Forgive me" were the words many of the apartheid perpetrators originally cited. But what the victims - the elder South African tribespeople - heard through their translator was 'Ndicela uxolo,' was so much more.

I'm retelling a story from Mpho Tutu van Furth, daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu. Like her father, Mpho is an Anglican priest. But she was stripped of her post when she married a woman. She is also the author of 'The Book of Forgiving' which addresses her work in South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation process.

Mpho points out that in western culture it is common to wrap an apology with the language of individuality. Confessing apologies are all about MY mistakes. Thus, "forgive me" is all about ME.



But what the tribes' people heard - 'Ndicela uxolo' - actually translates as, "I ask for peace." It is an ubuntu apology. It is about WE. Not ME.

Ubuntu is an African (Nguni Bantu) term that roughly translates as 'I am because we are.' In other words, 'my individuality can only emerge when I work to repair our solidarity.' The reconciliation that honors YOU, heals ME and restores US.

I was raised UU in a different culture. My mother was Jewish. She taught me about the days of awe - the days between Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the day of Atonement). It is the most holy time in the Jewish year where we're called, first, to repair any estrangement before embarking on a new enterprise. Such repair, in the Jewish world, is holy work. Our best WE is not possible until the best ME and the best YOU each set down burdens of anger, guilt, hurt, shame, suspicion and defensiveness to become an unencumbered US.

In MPUUC's covenant, our first aspiration is about trust.

*We aspire to the highest levels of trust.  
To be trustworthy, we will show up,  
do what we say we will do  
and communicate with kindness.  
To practice trust, we will focus on the best within people.*

Each one of us is inherently worthy. And each one of us makes mistakes. But mistakes never cancel worth. Recognizing each other's worth keeps us from discounting ourselves and each other. And it presents US with our best path forward.

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.**

### **Walking Upstream to the Original Water Communion**



Our annual in-gathering service - the Water Communion - is a mainstay of many (if not most) UU Congregations. This year we will look back on where it came from, how it changed, and reflect on what might be some of the most important aspects of the service to honor.

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

## **Water Communion**

This Sunday we will celebrate our annual ingathering ritual of Water Communion. We're going to explore the origins of this practice and its effort to help each person connect their individual essence to the great collective of our shared purpose. If you are with us in Cole Hall – or if you're with us from afar – we want you to think about two things:

1. Have / bring a container with a little water representing some value you were taught in your origins; and
2. Consider what worthy cause you would like your value to contribute toward

As we pour water into the communion bowl we will share our story. Example:

## Share the Plate

Our Share the Plate partner for the month of September is Side with Love. Side with Love is a public advocacy campaign of the UUA that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression.

We will be collecting until September 30. 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 "Side with Love".



## 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 are the [Joys and Concerns](#) for the past 4 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 masks (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](http://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. The topic this week is the about seeking solace and strength in moments where we feel disenfranchised. How have we successfully gone about seeking solidarity and support when we have feelings of being cut off, isolated or marginalized? We will explore the history of our Water Communion ritual from the lens of its origins – as an effort at organizing support among women leaders as they encountered the resistance of a patriarchal UU establishment. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

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## COVID Survey Results

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to complete our recent survey regarding Covid-19 and how it affects attendance at MPUUC. We know it is easy to feel “over-surveyed,” but especially when so many folks are attending virtually, it is the easiest way for us to attempt to contact and hear from our members.

Due to our reading of current scientific thought and the preferences of our responding members, it appears that we do not need to make any significant changes to our Covid-19 policies. Our Zoom services are a popular choice for many, and we expect they will continue as long as we have the technical and personnel support we need to make them possible. We have cut down the wording of our pre-service safety announcement in order to make it more concise, but we are continuing to require attendees to be masked, keeping doors open as much as possible, and requiring that eating and drinking be done outside Cole Hall.

Follow this [link](#) to read some additional details of the results.

## Boutique News

Sign Up to be a Vendor at the Boutique on November 5th. Cost is \$30 per table. Please share with your crafty friends & family!

Link: <https://bit.ly/vendor-nov5>

What will you contribute to the boutique? Sign up to donate items or donate your time to help make the boutique successful!

Link: <https://bit.ly/help-nov5>



# Cute Nails by Brandi

No time for a mani / pedi? No fret!

Color Street makes gorgeous designs  
that can be applied at home.



Brandi will be at the boutique in November! She will let you try Color Street and has a huge selection for you to choose from & take home!

### WE'VE GOT SPIRIT

Collegiate Collection

Our Collegiate Collection features officially licensed limited-edition nail strips representing schools across the country. Available for \$5.95 USD.

Alabama	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Colorado
Connecticut	Delaware	Florida	Georgia	Hawaii
Idaho	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Kansas
Kentucky	Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts
Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri	Montana
Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New Mexico
New York	North Carolina	North Dakota	Ohio	Oklahoma
Oregon	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	South Carolina	South Dakota
Tennessee	Texas	Utah	Vermont	Virginia
Washington	West Virginia	Wisconsin	Wyoming	

## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### Sunday, September 18th: Picnic at Cole Hall

Plan to bring a bag lunch to enjoy some fellowship after service for in-person attendees. Zoom attendees, have your snacks nearby and we'll have the iPads passed around to connect virtually with you.

### Friday, September 30th: Fire Pit & S'mores

RSVP to enjoy some fellowship and treats under the stars! I'll start a fire and have all the marshmallows and S'mores fixings. You bring a jacket, blanket, and favorite beverage or treat to share. Let's hang out and enjoy a relaxing evening outdoors together. 8pm at



## JUSTICE CORNER

### Get Out the Vote with Reclaim Our Vote! Phonebank with SURJ Marin

Sundays • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

#### [Get Out the Vote with Reclaim Our Vote](#)

Join SURJ Marin to call eligible voters who have been purged from voter roles. Connect on Zoom every Sunday from now until the election. Sessions will start with training, then you'll work together to reach out to disenfranchised voters. For decades, voter suppression has disenfranchised millions of citizens, especially in communities of color. Let's come together to reclaim our democracy!



[SURJMarin.org/Events](https://surjmarin.org/Events)



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

Sunday, September 18 • 2:00 – 4:00 pm

#### [Teach-in on Reparations for African Americans in California and San Francisco](#)

Come learn the latest on reparations from California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber and Black community leaders Dr. Theopia Jackson, Eric McDonnell, and Dr. Rev. Amos Brown. This event is sponsored by the San Francisco Black & Jewish Unity Coalition, Congregation Sherith Israel, and Third Baptist Church of San Francisco. Join in person at Congregation Sherith Israel or stream online.

**Location:** 2266 California Street, San Francisco



Saturday, September 24 • 11:30 am – 4:30 pm

#### [LSPC/All of Us or None Community Block Party](#)

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) and All of Us or None invite you to their annual block party featuring a day of amazing people, food, and fun. Come out to support this SURJ partner organization and enjoy live music, a bike raffle, face painting, games for kids of all ages, community organizations offering information and services, and yummy food hot off the grill.

**Location:** LSPC's Freedom & Movement Center, 44th and Market St., Oakland



### 8th Principle Learning

In [Two Resources for Aspiring Anti-Racists](#), SURJ's Erin Kane shares info about a new book from W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz, *Do the Work!: An Antiracist Activity Book* and Heather McGhee's new podcast, "The Sum of Us," a companion piece to her book of the same name that examines what racism costs everyone. Both resources are inspiring, enlightening, and entertaining for anyone interested in anti-racist work.





**END  
RACISM**

**BUILD  
PEACE**

**International  
Day of Peace**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

**Lake Elizabeth, Fremont (Peace Pole by Boat House)**  
**5:00 PM Walk around the Lake    6:00 Ecumenical Prayer Service**

**Join Us!**



explore and integrate new understandings  
of our individual and collective spiritual  
and religious journeys

**FALL CAUCUS**  
**SAT, OCT 1**

a BIPOC-only Zoom event  
10 AM - 1 PM Pacific  
[tinyurl.com/DRUUMM-Oct1](https://tinyurl.com/DRUUMM-Oct1)



## Mission Peak Money Matters: Contact Info

Responsibilities for Mission Peak UU's financial processes are shared between our administrative assistant, Sandra Lange ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)), and our treasurer, Terri King ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)).



- Sandra handles most ongoing operational tasks, such as pledge tracking,

- reimbursement requests/status, contribution statements, and the like.
- Terri focuses on budgeting, reporting, and overseeing our financial processes.
- Please feel free to contact either of us. When in doubt about which of us to contact, don't worry - reach out to either of us, and we will forward to the other if necessary. If something is time-critical you may want to contact both of us.

For all official MPUUC money matters, please be sure to use our MPUUC email addresses and NOT our personal emails.

Thanks!

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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](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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