

This Week on the Peak

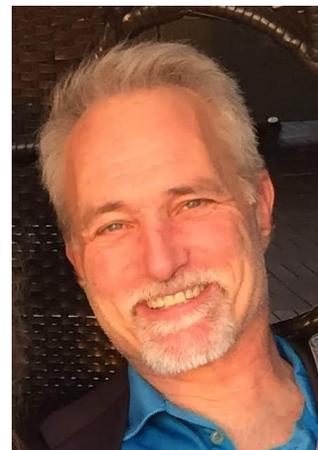


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 21, 2022

Dear Sandra,

It feels like we have all traveled a long way into this advent already... and through the coldest time of the year, too. We've adjusted to less light and the instincts to hibernate that come upon us. And yet, I also expect many of us feel the call of traditions deep in our bones: to light the lights, sing the carols, find the bonfire or hearth, raise our glasses and see how our own life looks reflected in the eyes of others. As stalwart and stoic as we have all learned to be during Covid, we never let go of what calls us into community.

Last week, I read again that community is at the very top of the list of things people turn to in the most challenging moments. Something about knowing we are in the adoring glow of others rekindles our spark when our own light is low and allows us to feel something shining within (as well as around us). There is a well-practiced art in discovering that even when we are all by ourselves, we are not alone.



I feel so blessed to be with you all. I treasure the times I get to be with you on Sundays. I love that you allow me to come into your homes – virtual or in person – and know the joys and sorrows that line your path. My heart opens knowing your hearts have opened for me – and Lucy and Molly. I often wish we could be beside one another and witness together the joy that builds in seeing our lives woven together in shared concern.

It was a blessing to write this year's [2022 MPUUC Holiday Letter](#) and feel myself bound up in your lives. I continue to believe that what we have is only beginning. That the love we foster is yearning for an even larger expression.

Thank you for your care and generosity – for your contributions to the Ministerial Discretionary Fund which allows us to say 'YES' to each other and the questions of care and community in our life.

Please know, whether it is Christmas or Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Solstice or something else altogether that burns bright at the center of your winter, that there are – at the very least – a hundred of us who love you and wish for warmth and light in the days ahead.

Rev Greg Ward (he, him, his)

For some, Christmas may not be the time of homecoming or reunion that we look forward to. It may be the first Christmas without someone they've loved for many years. Others may face the possibility it could be their last. If you would like a little unconditional loving company on your Christmas, Rev. Greg will be in his Zoom room from 12:00 – 1:00 pm to visit ([click HERE](#)). All feelings welcome.

This Sunday's Service:

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



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday December 24, 5:00 pm Cole Hall

In this traditional Christmas Eve Service, we will dive into the legends - and some of the confusion - around Christmas and the many holidays that have been woven into it. We will recognize the Grinchiness that the world sometimes displays and help make sense of how and why the season's most meaningful rituals emphasize gratitude, hope, good cheer, joy and peace among all people. We will sing carols and tell stories and - most of all - we will gather together - in person and on line - to unleash the goodness within us all. We may even have a visit from a sage seasonal ambassador of hope and love.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Beth Schaefer. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jo Ann Schrinier and Knuti Van Hoven will provide our music.

(Sunday Service replaced with Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24th at 5PM)

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%.

Share the Plate for December: Minister's Discretionary Fund

One of the things about being in a covenanted community is having one another's backs. The ministerial discretionary fund this past year helped people get to the doctor; buy gas; get food when they – or their family – was sick; pay an unexpected bill; helped prevent eviction; bring or deliver flowers to let them know they are loved and not alone. This is a fund that isn't a line item in our budget. It is dispersed with love by Rev. Greg and our Encouragement Team. If making sure there is a loving response feels important to you, we would love your support. Write a check to MPUUC with Minister's Discretionary Fund in the memo line. We will take a collection at the Christmas Eve service, but you can write a check any time. Your generosity turns into love all year 'round.



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

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 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. We welcome all voices who wish to participate in discussion on interesting topics. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

MPUUC Members — Did you know that you can plan an event or gathering and post it here for others to join in your fun?? Take a minute to think about what you like to do and let's try to start a wave of social gatherings (zoom or in person)! It's all up to you:) Send an email to president@mpuuc.org and I'll get it added to WoTP.

NEEDS HOST (you choose the date & time): Murder Mystery Party (zoom)

I will deliver to you everything you need to host this fun murder mystery game. You host and lead the party to figure out "Who done it". Sure to be a super event!

BOOKCLUB (fiction) ANYONE? There's been an expressed interest in a book club....anyone interested in joining? Email: president@mpuuc.org and I'll put those of you who are interested together.

CROCHET, KNIT, YARN CRAFTS?? Maybe those of us who are crafting want to get together once a month or every other week (zoom or in person) to create and chat. Email: president@mpuuc.org and I'll put those of you who are interested together.

Want to host a social event on zoom or in person? Just email me & I'll help you get it into WoTP. president@mpuuc.org

Black & White Auction

Black & White Virtual Auction

FEB. 11TH, 2023



December

Answer the phone! Talk to a B&W Auction helper to determine your talent and what you can provide to the Auction.

January

- Buy your ticket for the event! \$25 pp
- Confirm your auction donation



Fudge-Off

Make enough fudge to provide 6-8 pieces to 6 judges.

*If you win first place in the competition, you owe one batch of fudge to the winner bid at the auction.

Fudge Judges Needed

Judge the Fudge!

\$25 gets a variety box of fudge delivered to your door at the end of January.



Contact Kathy Wallcave to participate in the Fudge Competition. kwallcave@gmail.com

Contact Colleen Arnold to offer a donation. colleenag@sbcglobal.net



MPUUC's B&W Auction
is our largest fundraiser of the year!

MPUUC Enters the New World of Online Advertising

Everyone Welcome! That's the invitation MPUUC is extending to any newcomers checking out our December 24 service. While we are always a friendly and nurturing group, we're now trying something new to let people know about us: Digital pop-up ads that are being sent to tens of thousands of readers by the East Bay Times and its related groups every day during the next month.

One of the groups being targeted is people looking for a place of worship – it's amazing what those algorithms can do! While we might not have thousands knocking on the doors of Cole Hall, it would be exciting to get hundreds of hits on our website and have some fraction of those decide to come visit.

Keep an eye out for our ad to appear in your email box soon!

Items Needed for the City's Homeless Care and Response Team

The City's Homeless Care and Response team needs items to distribute to our unhoused neighbors through the Clean Start Mobile Hygiene Unit, the Winter Relief Program, and the in the field. Two items in extremely high demand right now are tarps and sleeping bags. If you're interested in making a donation, review the [complete list](#) of items needed. Instructions on how to arrange a drop off are also included. The last day to drop off items in 2022 is December 22 by noon. However, items will be needed well into 2023 and donation drop offs will resume after the holiday closure.

[Email](#) Paula Manczuk-Hannay if you have any questions.

[Click here for more information](#)

JUSTICE CORNER

[Tell Senators To Support The Child Tax Credit & Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

Stewardship and Development staff will be available via email (development@uua.org) and phone (888-792-5885) to assist with year-end giving questions from 9am - 5pm Eastern Time between December 20-23 and December 26-30, and from 9am - 4pm Eastern Time on December 31.



Remember the last day for making a 2022 donation is Saturday, December 31 . We suggest you [make year-end gifts online](#) to avoid any mail delays. Thank you!

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

[SURJ \(Show up for Racial Justice\)](#)

CURB, a Black-led statewide coalition of more than 80 organizations, is working to reduce the number of people in prisons and jails, reduce the number of prisons and jails, and shift spending away from incarceration—and toward things that actually keep people safe, such as housing, healthcare, and jobs. As leaders of the #CloseCAPrisons campaign, CURB co-coordinates five statewide workgroups that are pushing demands for California to close 10 prisons in 5 years and engage in a just transition away from prisons and towards a safer, healthier California.



USE YOUR VOICE

Join Californians United for a Responsible Budget's (CURB) #EyeCandyCampaign. California's prisons are racist, toxic, and harmful. In California, 68% of people sentenced to Life Without Parole are Black or Latinx, and 80% are people of color. It can be hard to talk to loved ones and neighbors about the need to #CloseCAPrisons, but these eye-catching graphics are a great place to start! Over the next 5 weeks, CURB will be posting Eye Candy graphics that highlight an issue that's exacerbated by CA Prisons and what we can imagine for our communities once prisons are dismantled. [Use this toolkit](#) to access and share the graphics on your own social media, and amplify CURB's [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) posts.

LSPC organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights, and to reunify families and communities. They build public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts, and the prison system, and advance racial and gender justice in all their work. LSPC has been focused on getting bills passed, helping the communities they serve, and continuing their vision of restoring civil and human rights, including through programs such as Re-entry Training, Community Organizing, Computer Basic Trainings, Quest for Democracy, Community Giveback, FriendsGiving, and Welcome Back Home Dinner.

[Show up for real people and real justice, not reductive systems and inhumane cages, by making a donation to #ShowUpRiseUp today.](#)

USE YOUR VOICE

Support Pomo Land Back! Jackson Demonstration State Forest is the largest state forest in California at nearly 50,000 acres. It is located in the unceded ancestral Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki territory of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. Since its inception in 1947, the State has primarily managed this forest to cut it for profit, not preserve it. Ongoing logging, road-building, and herbicide use have seriously damaged the ancestral cultural resources of the Tribe and devastated this beautiful, bio-diverse ecosystem of redwoods. [Please sign the Coalition to Save Jackson State Forest's petition](#) demanding EQUAL co-management of State lands between Tribes and the State. You can also [donate to the Tribe's legal strategy here.](#)

8th Principle Learning

How To! With Charles Duhigg:
["How To Fight Racism in Your Town"](#)



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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