

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! March 22, 2023

Dear Sandra,

### CANVASS

We are Better Together! We have had some wonderful Canvass Gatherings. We have shared time as a community, whether in eating soup together or being together, in the same room or on Zoom, to speak about the values we hold in common and the way we want to be in the larger community and within our beloved community, and to renew our financial commitment.



Speaking of finances, our savvy elders remind us that there are some tax advantages to various forms of giving. If you are old enough to have an IRA that requires an annual distribution (70 ½), you can have all or some of that amount made payable to Mission Peak. That is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution by the IRS, and is an amount that can be deducted from your income. For younger members, charitable donations are still able to be counted as “Itemized Deductions” on your California State Tax Return, even if you are using a Standard Deduction amount on your federal income tax filing.

We know and appreciate that all of us at Mission Peak do what we can do in supporting our Beloved Community to continue to grow spiritually and create strong fellowship among us. And, we always do it **Better Together!**

Canvass Team – YOU ROCK! Suzette Takei, Rev. Greg, Graham Bell, Kathy Wallcave, Gayle Tupper, DeAnna Alm, Julie Ganzlin, Yvonne Hughes, David Gibbons, Steve Wallcave - you all make this Canvass possible.

With gratitude  
Valerie Stewart, Canvass Coordinator

---

## 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.



## The Brain Trust Behind Any New Deal

From the very beginnings of this 'experiment called democracy', the U.S. has been caught in the middle of an age-old fight: between the founding fathers (who were land-owning, educated, white men) and the second tier (in terms of privilege) and ever more populous in number: the people. Much of the official-speak that comes from us includes phrases like 'We the people...' but for the most part, it was elite wealth at the center and the people in the margins. But for a short time, the margins gathered together and occupied the center. In this service we will recall that moment and praise the person who helped it happen.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Beth Schaefer. 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%.



## 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)

---

## The Mission Peak UU Safety Policy for Services and Events changed March 8th

We encourage attendees to be masked inside, using N95 (or equivalent) which are more effective than cloth or surgical masks. We have such masks available in Cole Hall on

Sunday mornings. The end of the mask requirement does not mean the end of COVID-19, which will remain present in our community. We are allowing attendees to decide which tools to use to keep themselves and others as healthy as possible.

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 Safety Policy on how we allow services in Cole Hall and other events 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.

Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about the 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. This week will explore that old statement about "there are NO free lunches!" I don't know about you, but I can't think of a single person born into this world who was asked to pay up front before they were placed in the mother's arms. What do we mean by 'free lunch' and why would we not want to offer something to the hungry? The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### Mission Peak UU Passover Seder

A Seder is a meal where the story is told of the liberation of Hebrew slaves from ancient Egypt. It is a fun tradition with storytelling, singing and sharing of food where we are reminded that freedom is as important today as it was thousands of years ago.

Please come join us for a **Passover Seder and potluck** on **Saturday April 8th at 6:00PM** in Cole Hall (on the campus of First United Methodist Church), 2950 Washington Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539.

- Please bring a dish to share for the pot luck (**no bread please, we eat matzoh instead**).
- We are asking for a \$5 donation for adults to help cover costs of the ceremonial foods and decorations.
- Children are encouraged to come.
- Please let us know you are coming by filling out this form so we can set up the correct number of tables and prepare the ceremonial food.

This is mainly an inside event but outside and Zoom options will be added with enough interest and volunteers for set-up.

To come please [signup here](#).

Contact [wallcave@mpuuc.org](mailto:wallcave@mpuuc.org) with questions.

---

## LAST CHANCE: LET MPUUC BUY YOUR 1 YR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAACP

Because of our very generous response in the January share the plate for the NAACP, the MPUUC Board of Trustees is offering to purchase a 1 year membership in the NAACP. This helps us of all to be more informed about current anti-racism work and how we can be part of it. You can take advantage of this offer by clicking [MPUUC + NAACP](#) and fill out the form and MPUUC will sign you up and pay for your 1<sup>st</sup> annual membership. All funds raised not used in providing annual membership fees will be donated to the NAACP general fund. Thank you for your commitment to end racial injustice.

---

# JUSTICE CORNER

I (Cal Ball) came to activism late in life after retiring from a career in music and then technology. I didn't know anything except that I wanted to do something to contribute to making the world more equitable for all. Armed only with my lofty goals, I reached out to folks in the UU community, a little intimidated but willing to learn. I was met with welcome, patience, humor and support by some extraordinary folks that had been doing this work for years.



Now I coordinate Side With Love's [Skill Up Series](#), our monthly trainings on organizing skills to help YOU build stronger teams in your congregation and community. When I think about our Skill Ups, they mirror my experience: welcoming, fun, and educational offerings to help all of us get to a higher level in this work that we cherish of harnessing love's power to stop oppression.

[Will you join us this semester?](#)

This Spring, our Skill Up Theme is "**How to Talk About Hard Things.**" You are heartily invited to attend these very informative and rich workshops that not only cover high-level concepts but also offer practical guidance and hands-on practice. Each topic will be delivered by experts and long-time organizers with special knowledge and experience presenting

- **Apr 23 - [Facing the Apocalypse With a Smile](#)**, led by Rachel Myslivy, Side with Love Climate Justice Organizer
- **May 21 - [What Do Impacted Communities Need - How Would I Know?](#)** Led by Rev. Michael Crumpler, UUA LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director

## [UUA Trans Day of Visibility Virtual Party for Trans/Nonbinary Families](#)

**Friday, March 31st**  
**8pm ET / 7 CT / 6 MT / 5 PT**

As legislators pass harmful laws in states all across the country and as people of faith and no-faith fight back, we want to remind transgender/nonbinary families that they are not alone.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that every body is sacred. This will be a time of reflection, celebration, and renewal as we prepare for what is and whatever is coming our way.

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

Dear Friends,

(Our letter this month comes from our **new Co-Director of Programs, Rev. Kelly Dignan!**)

I'm so excited to join UU Ministry for Earth! Our vision is a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for each other and for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people. That's the world I want to help create. Rev. Daniel Lawlor will continue to lead development and communication while I lead programming. The staff and Board are amazing, and it's great to be part of the team. I'll be working 20 hours per week and look forward to interacting and co-creating with all of you over time.

I'm a Unitarian Universalist minister and identify as a white, cisgender, straight, currently fully-abled woman committed to dismantling systemic oppressions, such as racism, ableism, and heteronormative beliefs. I believe we can replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect.

I had a 22-year career in business and was an executive coach when the idea of seminary wouldn't leave my heart and soul. My Master of Divinity comes from Iliff School of Theology, and I am an adjunct instructor there teaching UU History. I've served as pastor of three congregations and know the power of UUMFE in congregational life. I offer spiritual coaching to individuals, and am on the Board of Directors of [UU Wellspring](#), a program for spiritual deepening.

Born, raised and still living in Denver, Colorado, I honor the sacred land of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Nuu-agma-tuvu-pu (Ute) and Očhéthi Šakówiŋ (Sioux) people whose governments and cultures are still alive. I've been exploring my own indigenous roots and spirituality for the past five years, and in the process have deepened my relationship with Earth and all her inhabitants through practice and direct experience.

I'm married to Pete Dignan who teaches Climate Action for Business and the Certificate in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy at University of Colorado Leeds School of Business. He and I are Unitarian Universalists together and are grateful for this faith tradition. Between us, we have four grown children and a grandchild, all of whom live in Denver near us.

It's an honor to support the UUMFE mission to be a wellspring of spiritual and educational grounding and practical support for bold, accountable action for environmental justice, climate justice, and the flourishing of all life.

Love,  
Rev. Kelly Dignan  
Co-Director, Programs

## 8th Principle Learning

**A brief history of anti-Japanese/ anti-Asian policies in the U.S.** by Heather Cox Richardson

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thprinciplelearningcommunity/permalink/1180652802819236/>

---

## Mission Peak Money Matters: Contact Info



Responsibilities for Mission Peak UU's financial process are shared between our Congregational Administrator, Sandra Lange ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)) and our temporary treasurer, DeAnna Alm. ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)).

- Sandra handles most ongoing operational tasks, such as pledge tracking, reimbursement requests/status, contribution statements, stock donations, and the like. If you are submitting a reimbursement request, please send to both [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org).
- Please send any questions to both the treasurer email ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)), which is being monitored by DeAnna Alm and also to Sandra ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)). This will ensure that any financial questions are answered promptly.
- **Important note** - if you are making a stock donation/pledge, please notify Sandra at [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org) immediately.

---

## Board Briefs



Board briefs from March 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.



The board met on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

- Approved the creation of a new budget line item called a Matching Pledge fund to be used for Canvass.
- Approved an updated Covid policy effective as of March 8, 2023.
- Finalized and approved updated Board policies.
- Accepted the new Personnel Policy Manual.
- Approved updated wording for the Minister's contract regarding sabbatical leave.
- Scheduled the Annual Meeting to be at Cole Hall and via Zoom on June 4, 2023.
- Approved making an employment offer to Von Bringhurst as Choir Director.
- Approved moving \$8,000 from Special Funds to Matching Pledge Fund for 23-24 Canvass Campaign.
- Met with Mission Peak's new Religious Education Coordinator Ariel Smith-Iyer, and learned of some of her great ideas for RE.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 pm.

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](http://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

## ACT NOW!

### Call your Elected Officials!

Calls can make a difference! Contact your representatives to alert them to your views!

Assembly Member Alex Lee 408-262-2501  
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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 [missionpeakuu.org](http://missionpeakuu.org)



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94537

[Unsubscribe office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!