

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 5, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Dear Peak Performers, Rev. Greg, Rev. Barbara, Peak Rocks, all the musicians of Mission Peak, and everyone who serves in or enjoys this beloved community: Thank you from the bottom of my very full heart for the past nearly-nine wonderful years.

I started directing the choir's rehearsals on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, intending only to tide the church over for about three months while they searched for a replacement—which would be their first paid choir director. Lo, things worked out differently! Here we are in 2023. But working with the Peak Performers has been one of my most treasured experiences -- I wouldn't want to have missed it.

The pandemic tested our mettle, but the choir's love of making music together brought them back week after week on Zoom. How strange and unnatural it was at first to try to rehearse that way -- in virtual company but physical isolation, with the internet turning our sound all weird. But we all learned how to "do choir virtually" and record ourselves. My dear partner, Drew Wilson, became our audio engineer. Everybody learned to count, find pitches, breathe, and sing their parts in isolation, even better than when we were all singing "in the room." My hat is off to them! And, we have had new and old members join us, even from other congregations and across state lines.

Everyone has contributed greatly. Special thanks go to Jo Ann Schriener, who has flexibly and good-naturedly accompanied us at the piano and sung alto; and to Drew, whose constant support both administratively and technically have freed me to "do my thing" with the choir.

I'll miss this bunch (that's an understatement). But it is such a great joy to see MPUUC hire their first choir director, and to know that the Peak Performers are in very good hands. Here's to your new era of music!

Love,
Shauna

This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for how to attend services.

Easter as a Second Language

Have you ever had someone tell you a story and it was so hard to understand, it felt like they were speaking in a foreign language? Unitarian Universalists have, for much of their recent history, had that kind of experience when listening to the story of Easter. This Sunday, we will look at the words and explore their usage - much like is commonly done in English as a Second Language courses. Perhaps, at the end of the class, we might finally understand what some people mean when they talk about Easter.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Don Ramie. Worship Host will be David Gibbons. Jay and Jessica Steele will provide our music.



Whether you are attending services in Cole Hall or remotely, you can donate 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

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](#)

ARO workshops on Microaggressions and Religious Wounding

Rev. Barbara Meyers and Rev. Greg Ward

Wednesday April 12 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Microaggressions.

Learn what microaggressions are and how it's possible to 'call people in' to a new way of engagement. Marginalized identities report often feeling uncomfortable in UU spaces, including MPUUC. Studies show that when 10-20% of a community is knowledgeable redirecting such conversations, marginalized folks feel safer and more at home.

Wednesday April 26 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Religious Wounds .

Many people have been wounded by religious communities they've been a part of. This has been particularly true of people identifying as LGBT. Come and learn about how this happens and how we can be a compassionate and welcoming home at MPUUC.

[Sign Up](#) for these workshops. We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome to MPUUC's outing to Fremont's Museum of Local History:

Please join ARO, Rev. Greg, Religious Education's Ariel, and Mission Peak Congregation members after the service **Sunday, April 23**, to visit **Fremont's Washington Township Museum of Local History located at 190 Anza St., Fremont, CA 94539** (about 5 minutes from the Church).

We will meet for lunch at **Mission Coffee Roasting Company** (151 Washington Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539) at **12 noon**. Then, we will head to the Museum a couple blocks away.

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 with questions.

Garden Cleaning event after Service * Sunday April 9

Happy Spring ALL

Mission Peak is blooming with new energy and it is so exciting. Like a Spring tulip just

emerging from the soil, new growth is popping up everywhere.

Saturday evening the 8th is our Seder, the first since before Covid; Sunday is Easter with our hybrid Service and music; followed by our in-person Easter Egg Hunt for small folk with the Methodists.

AND NOW, due a special request from members there will be a Garden Clean Up after the Sunday Service.

If you aren't planning to hunt for eggs or go to a family event and you feel the need to pull weeds and rake, stay with us after the Service...with a pair of work shoes. Tools are on site, and a limited amount of work gloves will be available.

Hot crossed buns and coffee and companionship will greet the hearty souls who stay.

HAPPY SPRING!

If you have questions contact Valeries4kids@aol.com

Thursday April 13th: All ages potluck dinner and game night Ockerman 7/8 from 6-8pm (in-person)

This week we meet in Ockerman 7/8 to come together over shared food- either homemade or store bought, all food contributions are welcome! We'll light a chalice to kick things off and then tuck in to our stone-soup-style dinner. If you're not sure about eating indoors with others you're more than welcome to come for the second hour when we'll likely be done eating and playing some games. If you plan to come for dinner it would be helpful to RSVP so we know how many chairs and tables to put out, simply send an email to dre@mpuuc.org and let us know how many in your party or fill out [this super short rsvp](#). It would be so great to have you there! And if this week isn't possible we'll be glad to see you at future potluck & game night events rolling out all spring.

RSVP preferred but not required.

Saturday April 15th: calling all dogs and dog lovers! Lake Elizabeth dog park (map [here](#)) 10-11:30AM (in-person)

Dog party for all MPUUC people and their canine family! Herbal tea and pastries will be on hand. [RSVP](#) if you want there to be enough pastry for you:)

RSVP not required.

Wednesday April 26: All ages potluck dinner and game night Cole Hall from 6-8pm (in-person)

This week we meet in Cole Hall to come together over shared food- either homemade or store bought, all food contributions are welcome! We'll light a chalice to kick things off and then tuck in to our stone-soup-style dinner. If you're not sure about eating indoors with others you're more than welcome to come for the second hour when we'll likely be done eating and playing some games. If you plan to come for dinner it would be helpful to RSVP so we know how many chairs and tables to put out, simply send an email to dre@mpuuc.org and let us know how many in your party or fill out [this super short rsvp](#). It would be so great to have you there! And if this week isn't possible we'll be glad to see you at future potluck & game night events rolling out all spring.

RSVP preferred but not required.

Men's Fellowship Coffee Time on

Friday, April 7

To the men of FUMC and MPUUC -

The next men's fellowship coffee time is planned for this Friday, April 7, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont. Parking is in the parking lot adjacent. There is a range of coffees and teas and juices, plus breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast egg sandwich dishes are available. We now set up in a different area of the table on the side toward Sundale Ave to reduce the noise from other groups. It seemed to be quieter, conducive to conversation.



Please let me know if you're coming so that enough tables can be set up. Thanks. -- E-mail Holmesfam@comcast.net.

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 folk in the UU community, a little intimidated but willing to learn. I was met with welcome, patience, humor and support by some extraordinary folk 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

[Stranger At the Gate](#)

The Academy Award winning Stranger At the Gate is an amazing true story of a Muslim community showing compassion and love to a stranger who was planning to harm them. An important 30 minutes to understand what can lead to prejudice and a change of heart.



**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, Núu-agma-tǎnvǎ-pǎ (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) and our temporary treasurer, DeAnna Alm. (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 and treasurer@mpuuc.org.

- Please send any questions to both the treasurer email (treasurer@mpuuc.org), which is being monitored by DeAnna Alm and also to Sandra (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 and 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

For more details about meetings or questions email 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

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841





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