

# This Week on the Peak

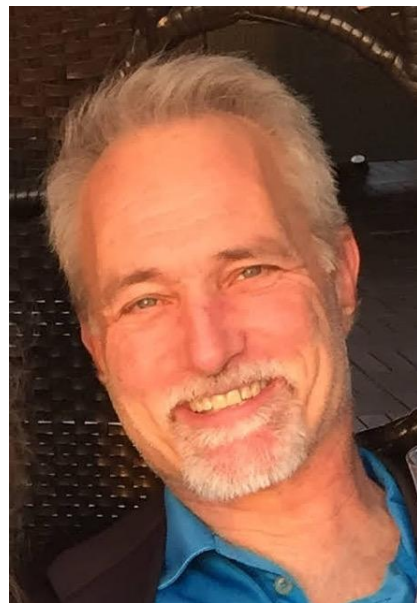


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 10, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Mission Peak is in a crossroads moment. If you care about this congregation, it's time to pay attention and act. We are emerging from a global pandemic where we – appropriately – responded with extraordinary caution to save lives. We tried our best to stay connected from a distance. Our caution likely saved lives. But it cost us. It cost us members. It cost us leadership. It meant that fewer people had to do more to get even part way to what we once did easily at full strength.

The Board is – right now – putting together a proposed budget for you to vote on. The budget we will likely include two new staff members. Two new AMAZING staff members. Ariel Smith-Iyer and Von Bringhurst are inspired, energetic, creative, skillful and visionary leaders. They are catalysts. They have exactly the gifts to make the most of the volunteers who show up to support them. They do not have magical powers to do for us what we will NOT do for ourselves.



In many ways we had a very impressive stewardship campaign this year. Over half of those who made a pledge, expanded their commitment and increased their pledge. If you were one of these people, THANK YOU!!! Your commitment is essential right now.

But these financial commitments cannot be given in lieu of personal and volunteer commitments. We cannot hire people to be the community for us. NOW is the time to show up. Use this moment to take advantage of this incredible staff support for the simple reason, if we can't increase membership and leadership, these staff will not be here a year from now (partly because we won't be able to afford them and partly because they will find ways their talents can make a bigger difference elsewhere).

Right now, we are in a radical experiment for our survival – both within and beyond the congregation. And the biggest factor determining success is showing up. How we commit to showing up now, post-pandemic, is every bit as important as how we committed to distancing at the pandemic's onset.

I commend to you three things:

1. Show up in the congregation. If you live at a distance, show up for services on line

and turn your camera on. Put your pronouns in (which announcements to gender-fluid / queer, trans folks that it is safe for them to show up). If you are local, show up in person and let people see your smiling face.

2. Say 'yes' to leadership. Say 'yes' to the dynamic collaboration that Ariel, Von, the Board and I are proposing. Community engagement is exactly the antidote that authoritarian movements fear (Authoritarianism thrives on malaise and anxiety).
3. And say 'yes' to diversity in all its forms. Allysson McDonald has been doing some amazing work organizing with a coalition of black leaders in Milpitas to host a [THRIVING JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY JUNE 17. READ HOW WE CAN BE PART OF IT.](#)

Evidence abounds that the US and the world are experiencing authoritarian suppression of diversity and liberal values. This congregation, like diversity itself, cannot be assumed to survive. Survival comes from showing up and bringing our commitment for diverse communities with us.

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

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## This Sunday's Service:

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

### Love You Forever

Our relationship with our mothers is one of both tenderness and tension. Rare indeed is the individual who had every need of mothering met by the mother they were given. It is part of our rite of passage to be born into absolute dependence, struggle with differentiation to achieve independence and then, if we're lucky, to build a meaningful interdependence. This is a sermon written by Rev. Greg and his mother in the last few years of her life as they tried to make sense of the love they shared.

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



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**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%.

## Share the Plate for CHDC in April

Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) is a well rated 501(c) group working for a more equitable future by helping Bay Area black families purchase and keep their homes through down payment assistance, closing cost assistance, and financial management education. Please help support CHDC by sharing our plate



*Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:*

Write a check to MPUUC with "CHDC" in the memo line and mail 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 an envelope with a check (with "CHDC" on the memo line) in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "For "CHDC" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

**Please note we will be collecting for CHDC until May 14.**



## 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)

## 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, we will be exploring the many facets of our relationship with our mothers. Mothers have an impossible job with unreasonable expectations. And yet, the essential cultivation of global beneficence would be mortally wounded without their service of loving the vulnerable. We will explore the complicated intersection with our mother – and / or with our child. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)



# Children's Chapel

Sunday May 28th during service  
following the Time for all Ages



We'll sing a song and read a book together, then have free-play time. Parents/grandparents/caregivers are welcome to join us or remain in service.



**Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

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## SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND SERMON WRITING FOR FUN AND PROPHET - May 11 and May 18 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

In this annual class, Rev. Greg will encourage all participants to explore stories from within their own lives that may have universal life lessons. What are the powerful stories of your life that taught you your most valuable truths? We will both explore these stories with the group and we will find out more about turning them into a compelling sermon – or part of a service with others. [SIGN UP HERE](#) or contact Rev. Greg for more information.

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## Parent / Grandparent Discussion Group Forming

Calling all parents and grandparents! Do you sometimes feel like you could use some support navigating the demands of parenting/grandparenting? Ever find yourself at a loss, longing to be heard or to hear that others share the same struggles? If those questions resonate then this group is for you. Fill out this [brief survey](#) to help us determine the important details: when to meet and what to discuss. Please respond by May 21st so we can get a group together for June. If there is enough interest this group will continue to meet monthly.

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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Wednesday May 24th, 6-8pm potluck and mosaic stepping stone project kick-off event

Come eat dinner together in Cole Hall then clear the tables and enjoy a little right-brain creative project, arranging our collected broken pieces together to become something new, and useful and beautiful- to become stepping stones to lay in the garden bed out front of Cole Hall. Children's Chapel will be once a month and part of their activities each month will be watering the plants. These stepping stones will help little feet find their way through the garden without trampling the things we're growing there. [RSVP](#) preferred.



## JUSTICE CORNER

### Biden Eyeing The Border

*The U.S. should comprehensively reform its immigration laws, policies, and practices, to honor the humanity of migrants and would-be migrants*



**Washington, DC** - Last week on April 27, 2023, the Biden Administration announced “sweeping new actions to manage regional migration ” ( [U.S. Dept. of State](#) ) ahead of May 11, 2023 when Title 42 is set to end as part of the expiration of the national COVID-19 public health emergency ( [DHS Fact Sheet](#), and [HHS OIG flexibilities Ending](#) ).

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) has been monitoring conditions at the southern border and our government’s responses. UUSJ has been advocating for the values of Unitarian Universalists to promote more just and equitable national policies that reflect the worth and dignity of every person. We believe some of the actions announced do not help and will cause harm.

We urge the Administration to drop some of the aspects which make access to asylum more burdensome and unavailable and only implement, in a thoughtful way, the positive aspects of this plan.

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"UUSJ believes that the U.S. must; 1) comprehensively reform its immigration laws, policies, and practices, to establish systems that, among other things, honor the humanity of migrants and would-be migrants, respectfully and efficiently considers their requests for asylum and other protections and benefits; and, 2) provide accessible pathways for citizenship to people who want to raise families and fully participate in our republic. We understand this to be consistent with our faith’s call to “respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person,” and that includes that “no human being is illegal,” said **Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director, UUSJ**.

[See the full UUSJ comment on Biden's plans to lift Title 42](#)

Co-sponsored by UUSJ

Democracy: Its Value and for Whom?

Friday, May 19, 7:30pm ET / 6:30pm CT / 5:30pm MT / 7pm ET

Online (and In-person) - [Register](#)

Co-sponsored by UUSJ

A panel discussion titled Democracy: Its Value and for Whom? with four excellent speakers:

- Danielle Allen, Harvard professor and founder of Partners in Democracy
- Tania Vitvitsky, direct experience with the importance of democracy in Ukraine
- Tanisha Sullivan, President of Boston's NAACP
- Jim Tull, an expert in international conflict management

Sponsored by First Parish in Concord Social Action, Reclaim Our Democracy, and the Democracy Action Team of UUSJ.



### Meetings With House Staff On Democracy

In the last several weeks, the Democracy Action Team has been meeting with House staffers to determine what democracy legislation can move forward. The team had an informative conversation with three offices:

- Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules, cosponsor of H.J. Res 13 and End Dark Money Act
- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Member of the Jan. 6 Commission, sponsor of H.J. Res 13, and cosponsor of the End Dark Money Act
- Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Co-Chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus and sponsor of the CLEAN Elections Act and the Restoring Faith in Elections Act

UUSJ had useful conversations with each office about the current situation in the House. Staff still consider it very early in this session of Congress and, at least for now, the Freedom Caucus members are driving what is being discussed.

### Want To Join The Engagement With The House?

Email Fred Van Deusen, Democracy Action Team Convener at [democracy@uusj.org](mailto:democracy@uusj.org).

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

### Revoke Hiring of the Man Who Killed Breonna Taylor



Residents of Carroll County, Kentucky need your support in opposing the recent decision of Chief Deputy Robert Miller to hire former Louisville Metro Police Officer Myles Cosgrove. Cosgrove was fired for violating policy and procedures by using deadly force in the killing of Breonna Taylor on March 13, 2020; he entered Taylor's home with a no-knock warrant obtained with falsified statements and killed the 26-year-old unarmed, innocent Black woman. The Carroll County community wants to feel safe—demand that Sheriff Miller rescind his hiring of Cosgrove by [adding your name to this letter](#).

## 8th Principle Learning

Dwyane Wade, the Miami Heat's all-time leading scorer and who has trans daughter, no longer lives in Florida. He says he left Florida because his family 'would not be accepted' there.

[Click here](#)

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## Denominational Affairs

Please find updated information on the UUAGA conference June 22-25, 2023 in the link below.

**Join us online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

[Click here for more information](#)



## 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.

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

On Tuesday May 16, the MPUUC Board will have a special (virtual) board meeting to finish preparing the 2023-24 Operational Budget which it will present to the congregation for a vote on June 4th. If you would like to listen or be part of the conversation, you can attend using [THIS LINK](#).



BOARD MEETING

**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)



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