

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 3, 2023

Dear Sandra,

We're in May. And, since I was raised by two teachers, and I am married to a teacher, and I'm in my 25th year of ministry, my frame of reference for time passing has always been – not the calendar year or the seasons – but the school (church) year. And, one of the things that leaders in school / church year do in May is reports.

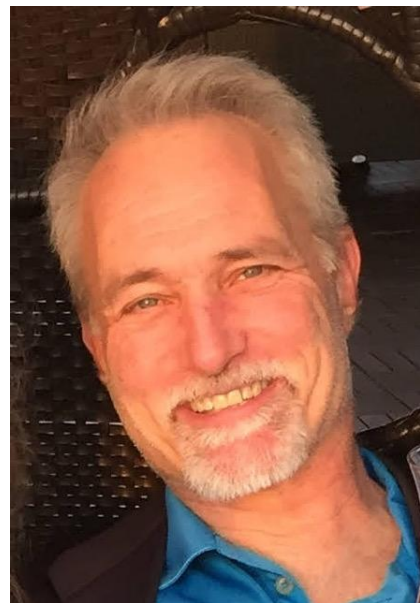
Whether it's report cards or annual reports, it basically amounts to 'evaluating' how we did against what we were asked to do. You may be someone who hears the word, 'evaluation' and get nervous, associating such a process with judgment. There is a strong tendency to want to avoid such processes to avoid the harshness of criticism, shame, or guilt. Why not just skip all that, we might ask.

There's a saying that states, 'If you don't care where you're going, any path will do.' But I think what distinguishes people in school – and in church – is that we're people who DO care where we're going. It matters to us that we make the most of our lives, our community, and our world. It matters that we follow through on our aspirations. Comparing our efforts against our ideals are where we discover meaning being made. So, I like to think of this process as 'e-value-ating.' A soul-full check-in about how powerful, effective, and resilient our values have been – especially Love and Justice – at making a difference.

If you are one of the people helping to fill out a report at this time, I hope you'll summon the theme of the month – courage – and explore some important questions:

- Did we start with values, ideals, aspirations we wished to enact?
- Did we have needed resources – equipment, time, funding, people – to make the difference we wanted to make?
- How did we do against the challenges presented?

Asking and answering these questions is the heart of courageous learning. And we are all courageous learners. It's what makes us better as people and as a community. It is what makes more Love and Justice possible.



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.



A Religion that Sends You to Hell

As a theological thread in the fabric of religion, Unitarian Universalism comes from two separate strands that didn't give much credence to the notion of Hell. Early Unitarians are said to have believed themselves created too good by God to be sent to such a place. Universalists, on the other hand, believed that God was too good to send anyone there, much less create such a place to begin with. Yet the widespread references to such a place - even today - is evidence that many people not only believe in it but are quite willing to tell people to go there. What is a modern Unitarian Universalist supposed to think?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Peak Performers with Von Bringhurst 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%.

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.

Calling All Sages!

In May of 2021, we had a Sages Sunday, where we honored those in our congregation who were 80 years old, or more. This June we will welcome new sages to our "Sages Circle." If you turned 80 as of May 2021 and have not yet been contacted by me, PLEASE let me know by May 11th. We don't want to miss anyone.

Kathy Wallcave kwallcave@gmail.com



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. This week, we will be exploring the notion of Hell. When did you first find out about it? How was Hell presented by the authorities in your life? How do you hold – and pass on – the idea today. 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

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.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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.



Men's Fellowship Coffee Time on Friday, May 5

The next joint Mission Peak UU and First United Methodist men's fellowship coffee time is planned for this Friday, May 5, 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 set up in an area of the tables on the side toward Sundale Avenue where there seems to be less noise from other groups, which facilitates conversation.



Please let me know if you're coming so that enough tables can be arranged. Thanks. -- E-mail Holmesfam@comcast.net. Hope to see you there, John

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.

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](#)

No One Dies Alone seeks Volunteers

Washington Hospital has created a new volunteer program called No One Dies Alone (NODA) to train and coordinate end of life companions for those who are passing away in the hospital. They are educating, empowering, and organizing interested volunteers to sit vigil in the hospital room and to help create the conditions for a dignified death for a patient who is actively dying at Washington Hospital.

Interested parties may contact JB Goodier, Spiritual Care Coordinator at Washington Hospital for more information: (510) 818-6569 or jeremy_goodier@whhs.com.

YouTube links:

[The Birth of No One Dies Alone](#)

[A Nurse's Personal Story Participating in No One Dies Alone](#)

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) 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 April 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.

The board met on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

- Approved Lucienne Bouvier as a potential General Assembly delegate or alternative. Rev. Ward will coordinate with potential GA delegates for MPUUC representation.
- Continued transition to new financial software. Noted that the Treasurer position is



- much easier than it used to be.
- Discussed summertime Share the Plate collections.
- Discussed recruitment for Board positions for 2023-24 and coordination with Leadership Development Committee.
- Approved the updated Membership Committee charter.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, May 9 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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