

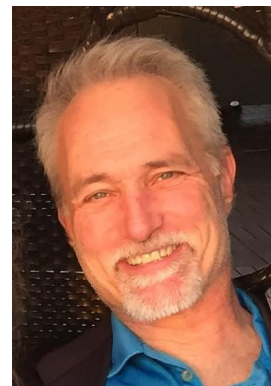
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 11, 2023

Dear Sandra,

I have received dozens of emails, texts and calls from people I love – many in this congregation – who've heard me share my sabbatical plans to visit Egypt and Israel this November and December. Many who know that my nephew, moved to Jerusalem in August to attend yeshiva have asked about him. I've been very moved by hearing that people are thinking of us. My nephew is safe. And, as of this article, plans for my travel in that region are still in place.



I am Jewish by heritage. I know from extensive family and professional religious study what it means to have your tribe targeted and persecuted. But don't take this to mean I am anti-Palestinian. I am anti-hate. I oppose terrorism as a manipulative escalation of fear, anger and ignorance – no matter who is behind it. My lifelong dream of visiting the holy land was never to be pro-Israel. Or pro-Christian (which is also part of my spiritual and familial heritage). My dream has been to surrender my indifference. Give up my bystander card. Learn about the pain and struggle on every side when hate is given weapons and tools to be violent.

History is filled with examples of how violence was used ideologically. The Bible – as well as other religious writings are multicultural depictions of hurt people hurting people. But, the upcoming presidential election, the extremism in Congress, and the way billionaires control global media platforms absent of any ethical rigor are all examples of how oppression permeates into political and secular society as well.

My personal belief is that – religious or secular - we cannot stay on the sidelines. We can no longer watch the game. We need to be part of it. And Unitarian Universalism is made for moments such as this. We have too much understanding and too much compassion to remain neutral in such times.

My deepest hope is that during the sabbatical both of us – Mission Peak and myself – will take a hard look at how we want our names to be written into history. And, that when we return together, we will have new ideas of how much more we can do together.

One opportunity is before you in the next couple weeks. On October 29, Mission

Peak will hold a congregational meeting to decide whether we are prepared to make a public statement endorsing the work of the California State Reparations Task Force (as presented on October 1 by Donald Tamaki). This is an opportunity to recognize the ways that hate and discrimination were bolstered by society's commitment to stay silent on the sidelines. We can be the first UU community in California to publicly support the work of the task force, calling our UU family to bring the full measure of our commitment to right relationship .

Thank you for giving this issue your attention. And for giving one another the care and consideration we all need to thrive together.

Wishing you love while I'm away, Greg.

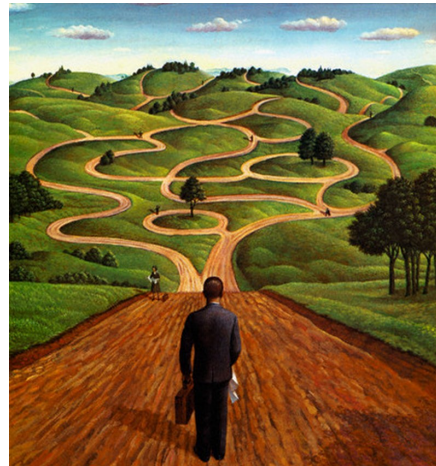
Rev Greg Ward (he, him, his)
minister@mpuuc.org

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.

Walking the Path that Comes to you

It goes by different names. Depending on the culture and the people and the period of time in which they found themselves, it's been called 'the journey.' Or 'the path.' Or 'the way.' But what they all have in common is a spiritual awakening. An alignment to bring their head and their heart and their soul in sync with everything else around them. Sometimes, to find it, it's necessary to go and walk the right path. Sometimes, however, the right path comes to walk with you.



Rev. Greg Ward and Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service. Graham Bell will be Worship Host and Peak Rocks 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%.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 29

The Board of Directors of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation hereby calls a meeting of the Congregation, to be held after service on October 29. The congregation will vote on whether to publicly support the statement: *We endorse the overall efforts of the California Reparations Task Force to study reparations for African Americans.* Voting will be done in person and on Zoom; absentee ballots are available by request at: president@mpuuc.org or secretary@mpuuc.org

Task Force member Donald Tamaki spoke and answered questions at our October 1 service. See the article by Rev. Barbara Meyers in this newsletter for more information on the topic.

Information for Reparations Vote

At the October 1 worship service, Donald Tamaki, spoke about the State of California Reparations Task Force Report. On October 29 our congregation will vote on a statement of support.

To prepare for the vote, we encourage you to read the [executive summary](#) of the reparations task force report before the meeting and be present in person or online to vote. [Hundreds of organizations](#) including the Tri City Interfaith Council have endorsed the report. You can watch a [video](#) of him giving the same presentation at Grace Cathedral I San Francisco that we heard him on October 1. Please see the [attached file](#) for an editorial from the San Jose Mercury urging support for the reparations work.

Share the Plate for October: TCIC

The TriCity Interfaith Council has been working for World Peace each fall since it's inception. This year, it is pursuing it's commitment to peace by attending two of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals: Providing nutritious food and Clean Water. We will continue to collect for TCIC through October.

Write a check to MPUUC with "TCIC" 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 "TCIC" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "TCIC") 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 "TCIC" in the message. 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. This week we have a special treat! Tune in to ask Rev. Greg a question about his sabbatical or have a conversation with our Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Jim McKinley a question. 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](#)

Please note the link has changed as we are using a different Zoom account.

REV. GREG'S SABBATICAL

In October, Rev. Greg will begin a 3 month sabbatical. Extensive planning has been done to make sure this time is collectively successful and rewarding. If you're just hearing about this, you'll want to read the [Sabbatical Brochure](#) that explains who will be MPUUC's Sabbatical Minister and what arrangements have been put in place and what you need to understand for this to be successful.

Mission Peak Leadership Assessment

Leadership is essential for Mission Peak to be successful. And feedback is essential for leadership to learn. The Committee on Ministry has a short survey that will help inform Rev. Greg and MPUUC leaders. Please take the [MPUUC Leadership Survey](#). In just 10-15 minutes, your insight can help leaders be even more successful. Although the survey requires we put our name, all feedback shared in Congregational Conversations will be without attribution.

What I Wish My Parents Knew film screening and discussion.

Come join us at 7PM on October 28th in Cole Hall. We will watch a 45-minute documentary film that explores the inner struggles of several children battling depression and anxiety and express in great detail what they wish their parents and families would have known and how they could have helped.

[Click here for more information.](#)

For more information contact Rev. Barbara Meyers at com_minister@mpuuc.org. For free childcare at event please email dre@mpuuc.org in advance.



Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

WHAT I WISH MY PARENTS KNEW

Youth Mental Health
FREE Film Screening + Discussion

TELL MY STORY
MWM MENTAL WELLNESS MEDIA

Saturday, October 28th
7:00 - 8:30pm

Methodist Church Campus
• Cole Hall
2950 Washington Blvd.
Fremont, CA

Childcare will be provided.
RSVP for Childcare at dre@mpuuc.org

FUDGE and FELLOWSHIP and JUDGES.....OH MY!!!!!!!

As our annual Black & White Auction approaches
(SAVE THE DATE - NOV. 18, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom)
so too does our annual **FUDGE-OFF!!**

The skilled **Fudge** Makers and **Fudge** tasting Judges of the MPUUC community are called into **fellowship** to decide the fudgemaker to be awarded the coveted **Golden Spoon trophy**.

Fudge Judges sign up as a taster before October 25 for \$30, fudge delivered 10/29.

Fudge Makers sign up by Oct 21!! Delivery for judging is due Sunday, Oct 29 at Cole Hall.

To sign-up email Valerie at ValerieMPUUC@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

October fellowship opportunity:

Potluck, game night and karaoke, **Saturday Oct 21st from 5:30-7:30pm**, Cole Hall. Mission Peak will provide cheese pizza, caramel apples and games for the kids- you bring your jolly self and a dish to share, if you can. Hope to see you there! [RSVP here](#) (preferred but not required).

Mark your calendars for November fellowship, **Saturday Nov 11th from 5:30-7:30pm** **Diwali themed dinner** / pot-luck. Diwali is the South Asian Festival of Lights. MPUUC will order some Indian food for all, you bring a side dish to share. Feel free to wear any South Asian clothes you may own or borrow. Small art project planned. [RSVP required](#) since we're ordering food to include in the potluck.

December fellowship opportunity, **Saturday December 9th**, cookie decorating and holiday singalong with our choir director, Von! More details to follow.

Check out our [website](#) to see some photos of Fall Fest which happened on Sat Sept 23rd. Many thanks to the volunteers and attendees who shared their time and energy that day! Stay tuned for how this may evolve and be in touch with Ariel if you have energy around environmental stewardship within the MP community or beyond. dre@mpuuc.org

JUSTICE CORNER

We're grateful for the courageous advocacy of Rev. Christina Branum-Martin, Rev. Misha Sanders, and all the Unitarian Universalists who are faithfully showing up to put Cop City on the ballot and to demand that the people of Atlanta decide. This morning UUs helped to deliver the over 116,000 petition signatures collected by the Cop City Vote Coalition in support of letting Atlantans decide if they want Cop City.



The City Clerk claims that they are not "legally obligated to verify signatures" because of the 11th circuit court stay ruling. We join with the Cop City Vote Coalition in calling on the City of Atlanta to honor the signatures and add the Cop City Referendum to the ballot TODAY.

Visit <https://bit.ly/StopCopCityBallotNow> to call the Atlanta City Council and view our sample script to tell City Council to add the referendum to the ballot today. See image descriptions in the comments.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

In 2009, I moved back to my hometown of 2,500

people in rural South Dakota to be a teacher. That same year, my little sister, who is Native, started kindergarten and was called racist names on the playground by her classmates.

While my sister faced unchecked racist bullies, I was buying classroom supplies and being chastised for talking about race in my middle school classroom. Both of us were unsupported by our school system. Our 100% white school board had been organized into the divide-and-conquer worldview of the far right, believing that honest conversations about race were the problems in our schools, and not the lack of funding we received.

This year, SURJ is launching our first ever school board campaign, "All In for All Students." We've recruited a cohort of 17 teams across the country that are working at the school board level in their local communities, some supporting candidates running for election and others working on issues like fighting for trans kids' rights.



[Our first phone bank is this Wednesday at 6 pm ET where we'll be calling other SURJ members to turn them out for this work.](#)

[Can't make that phone bank? Give a donation to support our work to grow our school board work this year.](#)

8th Principle Learning



Georgetown University and Jesuits donate \$27 million to foundation for descendants of enslaved people

By [Nicole Chavez](#), CNN

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/14/us/georgetown-university-jesuits-enslaved-people-gift-reaj/index.html?fbclid=IwAR1u4RyH5N-nl4Mbd4RNBMI6DPtnASLUykkBmTZ00SRSpq5YgwAQSEr-Zc>

Denominational Affairs

Unitarian Universalist Pacific Western Region

Your Pacific Western Region Transitions Team is extending a special invitation to you to join us for our Regional Town Halls on Zoom, **Tuesday, October 17, 6-8pm Pacific/7-9pm Mountain/5-7pm Alaska/3-5pm Hawaii**, and **Saturday, October 21, 10am-12pm Pacific/11-1 Mountain/9-11am Alaska/7-9am Hawaii**.

Our goal is to gather feedback on our ideas for the future of the region and to see what ideas, hopes, and dreams you might have for a new Pacific Western Region that more

fully supports and connects its communities. There will be opportunities for you to participate in online polls, and in conversations with members of other communities in our Region. Our goal is to engage with UUs throughout the Region in ways that will give you a voice in the future of our Region, from programs offered by our Regional staff to our upcoming Pacific Western Regional Assembly, April 19-20, 2024, at First Universalist Church of Denver.

Here are ways that you can help:

- share [this video](#) with your congregation this Sunday, and/or share it to your social media and congregation's website
- Include [this announcement](#) in your congregation's bulletin this Sunday
- Share this newsletter with those in your congregation who can also be partners in helping get the word out about the Town Halls
- [Register for the Town Hall at this link](#) and encourage others in your congregation to do the same.
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If you have any questions, please email us at transitionsteam@pwruiu.org.

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 treasurer, Jay Steele. (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 Jay Steele 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 and note that our broker information changed this year.
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Share the Plate Suggestions

8 times per year (once a month, September – May) MPUUC organizes a special collection for a worthy agency that promote our values in the larger world. We try to select some local agencies, some denominational agencies and, occasionally, some global agencies. You can help by suggesting what agencies would be good candidates for this special fund, reaching out to connect with a representative to address the congregation and share it's mission. If you know an agency that would be a good justice partner with MPUUC, [sign up here](#).

Making announcements

If you've ever had an announcement you wanted to share about an upcoming MPUUC event or meeting but didn't know how, you're in luck. This [Announcement Sheet](#) will go directly to Sandra, our Administrator (to put in the OOS); or to a Board Member (to announce at a Sunday service. Deadline for posting Sunday announcements is Thursday at 5pm.

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](https://www.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



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