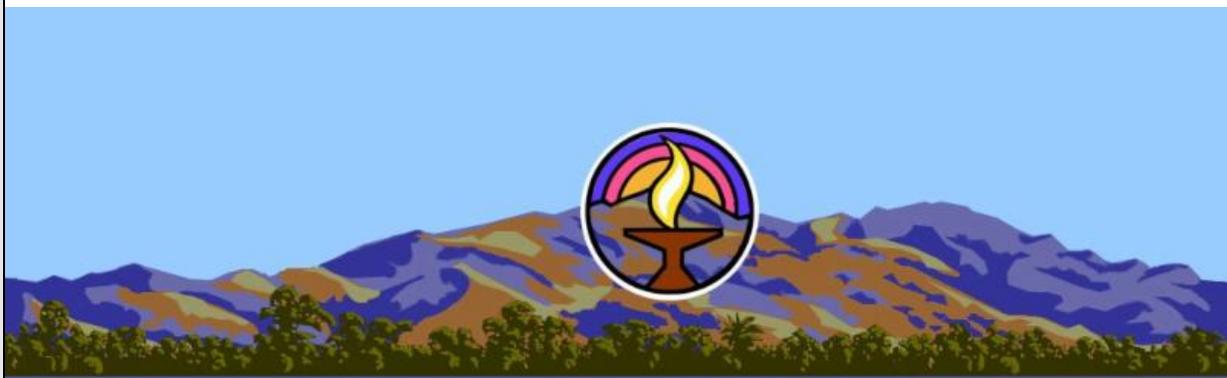


# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 21, 2022

Dear Sandra,

Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others.”

My ‘giving’ love language is acts of service which makes complete sense when you think about the various balls I constantly juggle and how busy I love to be. I’m not a perfectionist, just a problem solver. I show love by doing, by helping, by supporting, and by being competent enough for others to lean on. The pandemic and SIP brought back my kids and bustling household, and I loved it! Now that they are back to their adulting lives, I’m learning to change my ‘giving’ love language to fit through facetime and text messages, which leaves a big hole in my soul...one that I’ve decided to fill with acts of service to MPUUC.

My ‘receiving’ love language is touch and emotional honesty. With my family at a distance, I’m craving more human interactions and real connectedness, and I love coming to in-person services to meet that need. As we move through this next school year (I’m a teacher – everything revolves around the start & stop of the school calendar), I’m interested in building connectedness and fellowship within our congregation. Some may need that to happen via zoom, and others may be ready to join in-person gatherings. *Wherever you are is okay.* I hope to provide opportunities for both groups of individuals to feel safe and find fellowship.

I am very excited about the boutique on November 5th. I’m looking forward to meeting people I’ve only seen via zoom, listening to the laughter and hum of chatty conversations run through Cole Hall, and hoping for renewed energy and interest in MPUUC events. While the underlying historical purpose for the boutique, raffle, and Black & White Gala was fundraising, I hope this year adds increased fellowship, joint venture enthusiasm, and a sense of belonging.

MPUUC is an organization that believes in meeting each of us where we are in life, but it does need each of us to step in and step up. Meaning....participate! Decide what you need

### 15 Acts of Service Ideas:

1. Help with Sunday Services
  - a. Set up chairs
  - b. Be a greeter
  - c. Donate flowers from your garden for aesthetics
2. Share a talent
  - a. Donate a Raffle or Boutique item
3. Say ‘yes’ when asked to help
  - a. Set up / Clean up for boutique
  - b. Make some phone calls
  - c. Help with BWG Auction planning
  - d. Share Boutique items with friends & family
4. Join an MPUUC Committee
  - a. Membership Outreach
  - b. Choir
  - c. Sandwich Squad
  - d. Book Club
5. Renewal our covenant, contemplate what it means to you and call a friend to talk about it
6. Invite a friend to services (in-person or zoom)
7. Do some soul searching: What’s the change you wish to see? What’s one small step you can take towards being that change?
  - a. Reach out and make it happen
8. Deliver dinner to someone recovering from illness or who might need a little TLC
9. Send ‘snail mail’ love & encouragement cards to other members
10. Call someone from MPUUC that you haven’t seen in awhile, just to say hi
11. Plan a Fellowship event - no need to wait for Auction! Plan a ‘test run’ and let’s get together!
12. Write an article for WUTP
  - a. Contact Suzette Fakes
13. Write ‘get out the vote’ postcards
  - a. Contact Kathi Bayne or Valerie Stewart
14. Encourage a friend to share their talent. Help them get over the hump.
15. Host an online session
  - a. Campaign Committee needs hosts
  - b. Auction committee needs hosts

for you and then find a way to meet that need using MPUUC as a conduit. Our MPUUC congregational covenant states that we “embrace who we feel called to be...to create hope and justice.” Below are bullet points 1, 3, 4 and 8 from our covenant. These spoke to me as I tried to convey a little about myself and why I’m asking each of you to look deep and see if MPUUC can help you or if you can help MPUUC (they most likely are bidirectionally linked).

- *We aspire to the highest levels of trust. To be trustworthy, we will show up, do what we say we will do and communicate with kindness. To practice trust, we will focus on the best within people.*
- *We aspire to be a community where resources, opportunities and responsibilities are shared among all members.*
- *We aspire to be honest. We frame issues for accuracy and understanding rather than distort them for persuasive advantage.*
- *We aspire to build a community which values celebration and fun*

The joy of doing for others creates purpose, connection, and fills your own love bucket in the process. I’d like to invite each of you to be a host for a fellowship activity. If you love to do something, post it on the MPUUC calendar and see if someone else wants to join you. Here’s some examples:

- Midweek zoom coffee hour
- Football game watch party (house, pub, or zoom)
- Potluck and game night
- Tea & chat via zoom (or in person)
- Walk around Lake Elizabeth
- Sewing, knitting, crochet night (in person or zoom)

If you would like to host a zoom or in person fellowship activity, please reach out to me. I think it is more important that ever that we begin to socialize, re-engage, and build connections with one another. Check our new “Fellowship Corner” for events you might be interested in attending.

*“Belongingness has been proven to be a determinant and forecaster for academic and psychosocial success. Multiple disciplines (e.g., education, psychology, sociology) have documented the interconnectedness of an individual's sense of belonging and positive outcomes, as well as the barrier that belongingness creates in mitigating negative mental health challenges” (Takei, 2022).*

Have a wonderful week!

–Suzette Takei  
[president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

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## **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.**



## **Death by Hymn**

Sometimes singing an unfamiliar hymn in church can be really painful. Enough so, we may find ourselves looking ahead at the hymns scheduled to decide if we should attend on Sunday. There is an old Dutch proverb which says that 'Trust walks in on foot and rides out on a horse.' It's true enough in that trust takes a long time to build. It is incremental - one good experience at a time. But since no one is perfect and, invariably, trust is tested, if not broken altogether, how is it that we choose to begin accepting new contributions to trust building after we already determined that accounting came up short?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven, and Shauna Pickett-Gordon 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%.

### Share the Plate

Our Share the Plate partner for the month of September is Side with Love. Side with Love is a public advocacy campaign of the UUA that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression.

We will be collecting until September 30. Please either drop a check in the mail or leave a check in MPUUC's mail slot. Please indicate in the memo line that it is for "Side with Love".



### 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)

### Safety Policy for Hybrid Services in Cole Hall

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. We encourage people to wear N95 masks (or equivalent) which are more effective than cloth or surgical masks. We have such masks available in Cole Hall on Sunday mornings. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if fully vaccinated and boosted. 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 [board Safety Policy on how we allow services in Cole Hall](#) is in the "[About->Congregational Documents](#)" section of the mpuuc.org web site. If you wonder how we are trying to keep us all safe as we gather together again, please read it. We expect to continue to monitor what is safe and make changes as needed.

We also have other board policies related to Covid-19 in section 18 of the board policies document, which is also in the "[About->Congregational Documents](#)" section of the website. The outdoor event guidelines in section 18.2 will control how we would be able to

have food or drinks outside after the service, or for special events. Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about either safety policy.



The MPUUC Board would like to express our extreme gratitude to our regular Zoom hosts, Steve Wallcave, Graham Bell, Erik Alm and David Gibbons, as well as support person Melissa Holmes and remote monitor Jo Ann Schriener. Because you make a complicated job look so simple, it's easy for all of us to lose track of exactly how difficult a job it is. We recognize the preparation required, and the need to stay focused on the technical process of zoom casting while the rest of us are focused on the service.

Mission Peak UU has received a lot of positive feedback on and gratitude for how our services are made available and accessible online, and we sincerely pass those thanks on to you. We can provide a hybrid worship service because of the work you do, and the whole of MPUUC owes you a debt of gratitude for it.

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## Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. The topic this week is in support of the upcoming Days of Awe in the Jewish Calendar. It is about the times when we've been hurt or betrayed and our trust was broken. It is about what we needed to learn or do or reframe so that we could trust again after trust was broken. Those who've done it sometimes look back on the experience as a heart expanding one. Those who haven't done it can sometimes find that new endeavors become harder, conflicts seem bigger and, if we're not careful, lives can become smaller. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

## Boutique News

Sign Up to be a Vendor at the Boutique on November 5th. Cost is \$30 per table. Please share with your crafty friends & family!

Link: <https://bit.ly/vendor-nov5>

What will you contribute to the boutique? Sign up to donate items or donate your time to help make the boutique successful!

Link: <https://bit.ly/help-nov5>

# Cakes & Sweets by Shelly



Special THANKS to Shelly for providing our delicious after service cupcakes and the surprise "cake prize" on Sunday, August 28th & Rev. Greg's birthday cake on Sept 18th.!



If you weren't in-person on 8/28, don't fret! Shelly is a vendor at the boutique in November and will have treats to sell. She also takes special orders year round!



Make sure to stop by and grab a business card or take a cakepop to go!

Have a cake need before Nov? Contact Suzette and she'll put you in touch with Shelly now!



## FELLOWSHIP CORNER



**Saturday, September 24th:** Octoberfest Party 3-5:30pm (in person - outdoors)  
RSVP to Don Ramie to enjoy some German hors d'oeuvres, music, and fun fellowship in his outdoor bier garden. BYOD (bring your own drink- German beer, any beer, or any drink of choice to share).

**Friday, September 30th: Fire Pit & S'mores, 8pm**  
RSVP to enjoy some fellowship and treats under the stars! I'll start a fire and have all the marshmallows and S'mores fixings. You bring a jacket, blanket, and favorite beverage or treat to share. Let's hang out and enjoy a relaxing evening outdoors together. 8pm at Suzette Takei's House. RSVP via email: [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org) and I'll get you an address w/ directions.



**Monday, October 31st: Murder Mystery Dinner Party, 6pm** (in person - in doors w/ windows open)

RSVP to Suzette ([president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)) to attend this event. Space is limited to 8 total (so I have 6 spaces available). I cook gluten-free and can accommodate other food allergies or preferences easily, so don't let the food portion keep you away! You'll be

emailed the theme so you can dress up and come in character. Should be a great way to spend Halloween and get in a few good laughs.

**NEEDS HOST (you choose the date & time): Murder Mystery Party (zoom)**

I will deliver to you everything you need to host this fun murder mystery game. You host and lead the party to figure out "Who done it". Sure to be a super event!

*Want to host a social event on zoom or in person? Just email me & I'll help you get it into WoTP. [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)*

## JUSTICE CORNER

### Get Out the Vote with Reclaim Our Vote! Phonebank with SURJ Marin

Sundays • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

[Get Out the Vote with Reclaim Our Vote](#)

Join SURJ Marin to call eligible voters who have been purged from voter roles. Connect on Zoom every Sunday from now until the election. Sessions will start with training, then you'll work together to reach out to disenfranchised voters. For decades, voter suppression has disenfranchised millions of citizens, especially in communities of color. Let's come together to reclaim our democracy!



[SURJMarin.org/Events](https://SURJMarin.org/Events)



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

**Saturday, September 24 • 11:30 am – 4:30 pm**  
[LSPC/All of Us or None Community Block Party](#)

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) and All of Us or None invite you to their annual block party featuring a day of amazing people, food, and fun. Come out to support this SURJ partner organization and enjoy live music, a bike raffle, face painting, games for kids of all ages, community organizations offering information and services, and yummy food hot off the grill.

**Location:** LSPC's Freedom & Movement Center, 44th and Market St., Oakland



### 8th Principle Learning

In [Two Resources for Aspiring Anti-Racists](#), SURJ's Erin Kane shares info about a new book from W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz, *Do the Work!: An Antiracist Activity Book* and Heather McGhee's new podcast, "The Sum of Us," a companion piece to her book of the same name that examines what racism costs everyone. Both resources are inspiring, enlightening, and entertaining for anyone interested in anti-racist work.



explore and integrate new understandings  
of our individual and collective spiritual  
and religious journeys

# FALL CAUCUS

## SAT, OCT 1

a BIPOC-only Zoom event  
10 AM - 1 PM Pacific  
[tinyurl.com/DRUUMM-Oct1](https://tinyurl.com/DRUUMM-Oct1)



### Mission Peak Money Matters: Contact Info

Responsibilities for Mission Peak UU's financial processes are shared between our administrative assistant, Sandra Lange ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)), and our treasurer, Terri King ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)).



- Sandra handles most ongoing operational tasks, such as pledge tracking, reimbursement requests/status, contribution statements, and the like.
- Terri focuses on budgeting, reporting, and overseeing our financial processes.
- Please feel free to contact either of us. When in doubt about which of us to contact, don't worry - reach out to either of us, and we will forward to the other if necessary. If something is time-critical you may want to contact both of us.

For all official MPUUC money matters, please be sure to use our MPUUC email addresses and NOT our personal emails.

Thanks!

## ACT NOW!

### Call your Elected Officials!

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

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





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