

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
December 14, 2022

Dear Sandra,

Peaceful greetings. I'm Graham Bell and I have the pleasure of being the Chair of the Facilities Committee. Our committee is one of the best to belong to since we have no formal meetings, work on fun projects, and sometimes we get to use power tools (yeah!).

Our mission is to have Cole Hall, the Office, and other facilities that Mission Peak Congregation uses fit the needs of our worship service, office staff, and the general congregation.

It turns out being on the committee is super easy. For example, Eric Dittmar recently oiled the front doors of Cole Hall so they would be easier to open and close. Instantly, Eric was a part of our Facilities team when it came to my attention.

If you have done some maintenance chore and I haven't noticed, please let me know. I want everyone to be recognized for their contributions to us having a safe, comfortable and convenient facility.

Other members of the facilities team include Steve Wallcave, David Gibbons, and Mark Henriques. Steve is my sounding board whenever I come up with a crazy idea. If he says it's okay, then we usually go ahead with it. David is great at identifying and fixing any wiring problems we might have. Mark was on a scaffold pre-COVID helping with putting in wiring along the ceiling. Thanks to all of you for sharing your time and talents.

Most recently we have added six (6) air purifiers to our Mission Peak services at Cole Hall, so we can have the doors (mostly) closed and stay nice and warm during the winter services. I have even heard someone say they feel even better with the purified air in Cole Hall. If you have not been to Cole Hall recently, come and check it out.

After the very successful Boutique Fair, we did some de-cluttering of the Hall, so we have more room. We also have upgraded the stage (chancel) so it is easier for the Worship team to navigate and use.



Perhaps you have an idea or see a need that we can address at Cole Hall. Please let me know what we can do or if you would like to join our team.

Yours in Fellowship,

Graham Bell

This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to hybrid services. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for how to attend services.



The Gift of Greatest Price

The midwinter holidays are filled with generosity and gift giving. Christmas, in particular, has made gift-giving so central that it's sometimes hard to remember that it is not the true purpose of the holiday. The commercialization of Christmas and the juggernaut force with which advertisement campaigns have co-opted the season almost require us to put things in perspective. In this service, we will explore what gifts we have received in our lives that teach us the most about ourselves, our lives and the season.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Beth Schaefer. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Peak Rocks will provide our music.

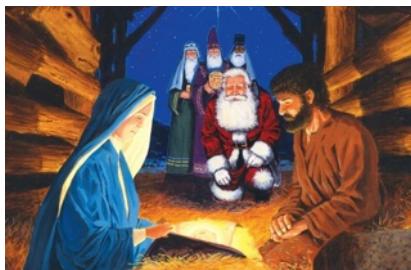
15 MINUTE HOLIDAY PAGEANT CHALLENGE

We are going to have a pageant video THIS SUNDAY (Dec. 18) and we need YOUR help. We're asking everyone to take 15 minutes to dress up like one of the characters in the pageant (as you imagine it) and snap a photo. Upload your photo [HERE](#) (make sure to put your name and the name of your character in the filename) and Rev. Greg will include you somewhere in the pageant story! This pageant is minimum time, MAXIMUM FUN. For [more details](#).

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday December 24, 5:00 pm Cole Hall

We will explore the meaning of Christmas from the perspective of its two primary prophets. There will be singing, stories, a chance to light candles and maybe even some cookies.



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 for December: Minister's Discretionary Fund

One of the things about being in a covenant community is having one another's backs. The ministerial discretionary fund this past year helped people get to the doctor; buy gas; get food when they – or their family – was sick; pay an unexpected bill; helped prevent eviction; bring or deliver flowers to let them know they are loved and not alone. This is a fund that isn't a line item in our budget. It is dispersed with love by Rev. Greg and our Encouragement Team. If making sure there is a loving response feels important to you, we would love your support. Write a check to MPUUC with Minister's Discretionary Fund in the memo line. We will take a collection at the Christmas Eve service, but you can write a check any time. Your generosity turns into love all year 'round.



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

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.

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's topic is about gifts and gift-giving. When you stop to think about it, what was the most memorable gift you've been given? What was the most memorable gift you gave someone else? What made them meaningful? Come

explore your history of exchanging gifts and love. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

JINGLE MINGLE MIX

MPUUC Holiday Dinner Party
Saturday, December 17, 2022 5:30 PM PT
Greg & Lucy's House
1768 Osage Avenue Hayward, CA 94545

If you are in the area and can make it, we would so love to have you! If you are NOT in the area, we would love to have you drop in on Zoom and say 'Hi!' (between 7:30-8:00 at [Here is the ZOOM LINK](#)) For those who can join us in person, there will be a wonderful dinner, music, games, laughter and fun. [Here is the Link to RSVP.](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

MPUUC Members — Did you know that you can plan an event or gathering and post it here for others to join in your fun?? Take a minute to think about what you like to do and let's try to start a wave of social gatherings (zoom or in person)! It's all up to you:) Send an email to president@mpuuc.org and I'll get it added to WoTP.

Saturday, December 17: Holiday Dinner & Party (in person)

Rev. Greg & Lucy are hosting a dinner party for all! Check your emails and phones for the evite. Make sure to RSVP so there is enough food for everyone. Dinner, drinks, and dessert will be served. Come hungry! In case you didn't see the invitation – link to evite: <http://evite.me/Tz3ka4kKCE>

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!

BOOKCLUB (fiction) ANYONE? There's been an expressed interest in a book club....anyone interested in joining? Email: president@mpuuc.org and I'll put those of you who are interested together.

CROCHET, KNIT, YARN CRAFTS?? Maybe those of us who are crafting want to get together once a month or every other week (zoom or in person) to create and chat. Email: president@mpuuc.org and I'll put those of you who are interested together.

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

Black & White Auction

Black & White Virtual Auction

FEB. 11TH, 2023



December

Answer the phone! Talk to a B&W Auction helper to determine your talent and what you can provide to the Auction.



January

- Buy your ticket for the event! \$25 pp
- Confirm your auction donation



Fudge-Off

Make enough fudge to provide 6-8 pieces to 6 judges.

*If you win first place in the competition, you owe one batch of fudge to the winner bid at the auction.



Fudge Judges Needed

Judge the Fudge!

\$25 gets a variety box of fudge delivered to your door at the end of January.

Contact Kathy Wallcave to participate in the Fudge Competition. kwallcave@gmail.com

Contact Colleen Arnold to offer a donation. colleenag@sbcglobal.net



MPUUC's B&W Auction
is our largest fundraiser of the year!

MPUUC Enters the New World of Online Advertising

Everyone Welcome! That's the invitation MPUUC is extending to any newcomers checking out our December 24 service. While we are always a friendly and nurturing group, we're now trying something new to let people know about us: Digital pop-up ads that are being sent to tens of thousands of readers by the East Bay Times and its related groups every day during the next month.

One of the groups being targeted is people looking for a place of worship – it's amazing what those algorithms can do! While we might not have thousands knocking on the doors of Cole Hall, it would be exciting to get hundreds of hits on our website and have some fraction of those decide to come visit.

Keep an eye out for our ad to appear in your email box soon!

Families in Need - Kids in Need

From Suzette Takei (the teacher, not MPUUC President)

I work at Robertson Continuation High School in Fremont. I teach Algebra and Physics and provide mentoring support to new teachers and struggling students. My school's enrollment is about 160-180 students at any given time. RHS is one of three Title 1 schools in Fremont, but because we serve the students that are suspended, expelled, unit deficient, and/or homeless the poverty level and trauma are very high. We have the highest number of English Learners, Special Education, and Homeless students of any high school in the Tri-Cities area.

If you might be willing and able to offer some assistance to these local families, please click this link to find out more. [CLICK HERE to read more](#)

JUSTICE CORNER

[Tell Senators To Support The Child Tax Credit & Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

Stewardship and Development staff will be available via email (development@uua.org) and phone (888-792-5885) to assist with year-end giving questions from 9am - 5pm Eastern Time between December 20-23 and December 26-30, and from 9am - 4pm Eastern Time on December 31.



Remember the last day for making a 2022 donation is Saturday, December 31 . We suggest you [make year-end gifts online](#) to avoid any mail delays. Thank you!

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

SURJ (Show up for Racial Justice)

CURB, a Black-led statewide coalition of more than 80 organizations, is working to reduce the number of people in prisons and jails, reduce the number of prisons and jails, and shift spending away from incarceration—and toward things that actually keep people safe, such as housing, healthcare, and jobs. As leaders of the #CloseCAPrisons campaign, CURB co-coordinates five statewide workgroups that are pushing demands for California to close 10 prisons in 5 years and engage in a just transition away from prisons and towards a safer, healthier California.



USE YOUR VOICE

Join Californians United for a Responsible Budget's (CURB) #EyeCandyCampaign. California's prisons are racist, toxic, and harmful. In California, 68% of people sentenced to Life Without Parole are Black or Latinx, and 80% are people of color. It can be hard to talk to loved ones and neighbors about the need to #CloseCAPrisons, but these eye-catching graphics are a great place to start! Over the next 5 weeks, CURB will be posting Eye Candy graphics that highlight an issue that's exacerbated by CA Prisons and what we can imagine for our communities once prisons are dismantled. [Use this toolkit](#) to access

and share the graphics on your own social media, and amplify CURB's [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) posts.

LSPC organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights, and to reunify families and communities. They build public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts, and the prison system, and advance racial and gender justice in all their work. LSPC has been focused on getting bills passed, helping the communities they serve, and continuing their vision of restoring civil and human rights, including through programs such as Re-entry Training, Community Organizing, Computer Basic Trainings, Quest for Democracy, Community Giveback, FriendsGiving, and Welcome Back Home Dinner.

Show up for real people and real justice, not reductive systems and inhumane cages, by making a donation to #ShowUpRiseUp today.

USE YOUR VOICE

Support Pomo Land Back! Jackson Demonstration State Forest is the largest state forest in California at nearly 50,000 acres. It is located in the unceded ancestral Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki territory of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. Since its inception in 1947, the State has primarily managed this forest to cut it for profit, not preserve it. Ongoing logging, road-building, and herbicide use have seriously damaged the ancestral cultural resources of the Tribe and devastated this beautiful, bio-diverse ecosystem of redwoods. [Please sign the Coalition to Save Jackson State Forest's petition](#) demanding EQUAL co-management of State lands between Tribes and the State. You can also [donate to the Tribe's legal strategy here](#).

8th Principle Learning

How To! With Charles Duhigg:
["How To Fight Racism in Your Town"](#)



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](#)
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553
Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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