

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 30, 2022

Dear Sandra,

We need to give thanks every dawn for the gifts of life, for each breath drawn. For everything that keeps us living, we speak our words of true thanksgiving.

– from the poem “Giving Thanks” by Joseph Bruchac.

- Cars blocking each other in
- Bathroom counters covered in stuff
- Unrecognizable bed rooms
- Shoes strewn
- Meaningful conversation
- “Mom? Mom. Mom!”
- Dirty dishes in every room
- Empty soda cans littering the counter
- Unmade beds
- Air mattresses
- Dirty dishes, full dishwasher
- Dogs barking, fighting, animal toys everywhere
- Cooking, baking, and more dishes
- Full fridge - empty fridge - full fridge - empty fridge
- Uncontrollable laughter
- Full garbages that no one wants to take out
- Relaxing in the hot tub under the stars
- Sibling rivalry
- Catan, Game of Things, Scattagories, Pinochle
- Dirty laundry piles everywhere



~~While these things drive me crazy, I am incredibly lucky and blessed!

I hope you found reasons to be grateful and made memories with loved ones this past week. I spent a week at our farm in North Carolina, and the kids found their way to this new home from their locations. Being thankful for the time doesn't mean it was without stress. I often find that family time can be more stressful than not.

The house was NOT quiet this week with six adults and five dogs. While we love and miss each other, living together, even for a few days, is challenging. I miss the easy days of always being right and making the rules. Learning to communicate with each of them in an adult-to-adult positive and productive way is hard. Disagreeing with elements in their lives

or decisions they make – it's hard to hold my tongue and even harder to share my feelings with compassion, honesty, and without judgment. We are all still learning that sharing opinions does not imply judgment or wrongfulness. I appreciate that Rev Greg's sermon and our post-service conversation a few weeks ago reiterated this and reminded me to keep checking myself, my words, and my reactions in all areas of my life. We can always grow and improve.

This is the season to focus on thankfulness and name what you are grateful for. I am thankful for my biological family, the one I raised and the one I was raised in. I am also thankful for the family I create and belong to that has nothing to do with biology — my friends, coworkers, students, and MPUUC. This MPUUC family helps me bring the best of myself to my other family groups.

Thank you for being you & Happy Fall!
Suzette Takei

P.S. I encourage each of you to take the time to read Rev. Greg's 'Report to the Congregation' that he writes each month. Not only is it enlightening, but it's an easy and entertaining read. The information he shares each month encompasses the various happenings of our congregation and things we should all know and be aware of. We do have a significant board change coming soon. Terri King resigned as Treasurer effective December 1st to focus on her family and its needs. She leaves a hole that will not easily be filled, and the board is looking into solutions. We are open to ideas and volunteers that might be able to fill this role. Email: president@mpuuc.org to share ideas or investigate what this position requires & needs.

This Sunday's Service:

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

Disability Justice

The UUA has recently made a commitment to make disability one of the social justice issues it will focus on. We will look at this topic, the history of disability in our denomination and where we are called to take it as the future unfolds. Rev. Barbara has been involved in disability issues during her ministry and will give her perspective on the struggle.



Rev. Barbara F. Meyers will lead the service and assisting will be Michelle Wallace. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Peak Performers 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.

Share the Plate: Guest at Your Table

Ever since it committed to providing response to the suffering of the Holocaust, the Service Committee has been part of extending Unitarian and Universalist values across the globe. Each year for the last 40 years, the UUSC has brought the world – its people and its possibilities – to us. Four places in the world are chosen where our UU values could be the difference between life and death. A few courageous activists living in those cultures invite us to be guests in their communities. We get to appreciate the power and beauty of their cultures as well as the significant threat to health and safety.

For the next four weeks (Nov 6 – Nov 27) we are asking you to set an extra plate at your table. The cost of one meal, each night for 28 nights buys us the chance to see the connection between the difference that's needed and the difference we can make. Guest at Your Table Boxes are available in Cole Hall or [online](#). You can access the stories of [this year's hosts](#) as well as seeing the [difference you can make](#). Together, let's learn about people directly connected to human rights work, reflect on our own lives, and raise funds to advance justice in communities near and far. Thank you for the love that turns into justice.

We will be collecting through December 11.



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. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

Asylum Committee Update

Wonderful news! For the past two years we have been walking with Sergio on his asylum journey, and have finally received news that the judge has decided favorably on his case. DHS/ICE still have 30 days to appeal the decision, otherwise, it will become final December 28, 2022. Thanks to everyone who has supported Sergio through these difficult years!

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 3; Cookies and Carols: a MPUUC cookie-decorating party!

Join us Dec. 3 at 6 pm to decorate some cookies, take some home, and enjoy some warm company and festive music! Attendees are encouraged to bring a dozen or so undecorated cookies of your choice, but extra cookies will be available. We will have outdoor refreshments and an outdoor seating option for those who prefer. Masks required indoors.

RSVPs appreciated but not required to Lisa Newstrom, lmnewstrom@gmail.com



Friday, December 9: Hot Cocoa, Wine, Fire Pit, S'mores, 7:30pm @ Suzette's

Let's relax and enjoy the evening together! We'll wing it — just come hang out and relax a bit. Dress warm for an outdoor fire pit. But we can always move indoors for some pinball and pool.

RSVP to Suzette (president@mpuuc.org)

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

Men's Fellowship Coffee Time on Friday, December 2

To the men of FUMC and MPUUC-



The next men's fellowship coffee time is planned for this Friday, December 2nd 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 pastries and a variety of breakfast egg dishes available. **Hope to see you there. Please let me know if you're coming so we can set up enough tables.** Thanks. -- E-mail Holmesfam@comcast.net.

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 is 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

Engagement of Senators to Move Electoral Count Act Reform

If The Senate Does Not Act Now, The Next Session Is Improbable
Democracy Action Team - Action Hour
Tuesday, December 6
12pm ET • 11am CT • 10am MT • 9am PT

[Register](#)
[Or Donate](#)

Pushing for Social Justice in a Tough Political Environment

Tuesday, December 6 – Online Event
8pm ET • 7pm CT • 6pm MT • 5pm PT

[Sliding Scale Sliding Scale Tickets Available Available](#)

UUSJ proudly presents Reverend David Beckmann, President Emeritus of Bread for the World, and Coordinator of Circle of Protection.

State of Our Democracy:

Racial Oligarchy And Fiscal Conservatism, Ending The Anti-Tax Era
Tuesday, December 13
8pm ET • 7pm CT • 6pm MT • 5pm PT

[RSVP](#) – Free Online Event

[Vanessa Williamson, Ph.D.](#) is a Senior Fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution. Vanessa has written for outlets such as Dissent, Washington Post, New York Times, the Atlantic, and Teen Vogue. She has appeared for NPR, CSPAN, CNN, and

CNBC. Vanessa is the author of Read My Lips: Why Americans Are Proud to Pay Taxes, and co-author of The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism. Doctor Williamson engages the public on topics of school segregation, tax opinion, tax politics, anti-union legislation, voter registration strategies, democracy and organizing, taxpayer citizenship, philanthropy, as well as austerity and white supremacy. Do not miss Vanessa's comments with a mind toward our work for social justice in the 118th Congress.

[Join UUSJ Witness List](#)

A December Concert, the Winter Solstice, & Giving Season
Next Monday evening, feed your spirit and be galvanized!

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

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.

8th Principle Learning

Sunday, December 4 • 12:00 – 2:00 pm
[Calling-In Your Family for the Holidays](#)

The holiday season is fast approaching and with it can come the anxiety, fear, and concern of speaking to family about white supremacy and its harms. Join SURJ SF for their December Dialogue and discuss how to be proactive in addressing white supremacy at the holiday table. You'll talk through strategies and activities that you can start doing now to prepare yourself for the critical work of calling family members into racial justice. Attendees are encouraged to extend the invitation to friends and family.

Board Briefs

Board briefs from November 2022 MPUUC Board meeting.



The board met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

- Approved October minutes and attachments to be posted on website.
- Approved the updated Executive Charter.
- Continued to update the Board policies. Sections are being reviewed and updated each month so the entire document can be adopted in its entirety when all sections are completed.
- Discussed revising the weekly Sunday Service Board announcements.
- Began brainstorming ideas for upcoming Canvass. Canvass Chair will participate in upcoming discussions regarding next year's Canvass.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, December 13 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!

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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