

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 4, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Greetings and Happy New Year. I'm Meredith Miller, a member of Mission Peak's Asylum Committee. This team was brought together in 2019 by Allie King, who like so many of us was appalled by stories of family separations at the border. As most of you already know, we were matched with Sergio, who sought asylum here after being forced to flee Nicaragua. He left behind his young son and his wife, who was then expecting their second child.



Now, three years after Sergio's arrival in the United States, I am overjoyed to report that his asylum has been granted! The judge handed down her decision in November, and the government had 30 days after that in which to file an appeal, which it did not do. I literally jumped for joy when I got the news.

Sergio can now begin the process of applying to bring his family to the US, which is currently taking between 12 to 18 months to accomplish. We are hoping and hoping it doesn't take that long in this case, and that Sergio can soon be reunited with his family and hold his youngest son for the first time.

On a personal note, I have been so grateful to serve on this committee with Don Ramie, Ingrid O'Brien Avery, Jen King, Kathi Bayne, and Valerie Stewart. So many others in the congregation have pitched in with donations of clothes and other resources, and, just as importantly, with companionship, encouragement, and assurance that he belongs here.

Sergio has written that although the days of waiting were very hard, "there were always people here who he considers angels that helped him see the light in the darkness, gave him shelter when he was cold, and supported him when he was at the point of falling." He plans to be at the service on February 12 to thank you all in person for your support.

Meredith Miller (she, her, hers)

This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to

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



Belum

Greek philosopher Heraclitus once talked about our quest for stability and permanence and the pain that's inevitable in a world that never stops evolving. He said, 'The only thing constant in this world is change.' Buddhists have a similar take, citing 'impermanence' as a more accurate descriptor of what we often call 'reality.' This is what led them to the third noble truth which describes suffering as brought about by attachment to the way things are. Before we can get to anything resembling enlightenment, we have to learn to accept change.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Drew Wilson. Worship Host will be David Gibbons. Jay and Jessica Steele 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%.

January's Share the Plate will be taken on January 15

– During our shared worship service with our First United Methodist hosts. This offering will go to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the country and it was one of the key agencies involved with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s efforts with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Its work focuses on many things: from police brutality to COVID-19 to voter suppression. It seeks to disrupt inequality, dismantle racism, and accelerate change in key areas including criminal justice, health care, education, climate, and the economy.



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

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](#)

A New Bhavacakra (the Buddhist “Wheel of Life”)

Sunday, January 22, 12pm, Cole Hall

Eric Dittmar is giving a talk about his reimagining of the Buddhist Wheel of Life and debut Don Ramie’s completed painting of the new version. Eric will explain the origin of and ideas behind his revision using simplified graphics, and then present and discuss Don’s Bhavacakra. He won’t try to convince you the teachings depicted are the “one-true belief system,” although he hopes it sheds some light on these Buddhist principles or maybe makes you a little curious.

The talk should take about a half-hour, but the format will depend on how many attend and there will be time afterwards for questions. Bring a bag lunch if you want for before or after.

To the men of FUMC and MPUUC-

The next men’s fellowship coffee time is planned for this Friday, January 6, 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. We’ll be setting up in a different area of the table areas probably on the side toward Sundale to reduce the noise from other groups. 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.



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.

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!

January 8 – YOU ARE INVITED to CELEBRATE with Tiffany and Stephen Longfield...soon to be new parents.

Mission Peak is hosting a BABY SHOWER for the new "Kiddo"!!

After the Sunday Service in Cole – join in-person or in

a Zoom Chat Room (we are hoping this works!) as Mission Peak joins together to celebrate the upcoming birth of a new child. Tiffany and Stephen have been the 4th Sunday Set-Up Team for as long as they have been members of Mission Peak. Stephen also plays bass in Peak Rocks. The “Kiddo” is due in February, and we are all excited to welcome this new person and support Tiffany and Stephen as they enter parenthood. The Kiddo needs a changing table, so members of Mission Peak who wish to contribute - please contact Valerie Stewart.



If you plan to attend the Baby Shower- please RSVP to Valerie-
ValerieS4kids@aol.com by Saturday, January 7.

JUSTICE CORNER

Hello and Happy New Year,

My name is Jolly Hollamon, and I'm the Climate and Justice Organizer with the UU Justice Ministry of California. My recent work in the last year has involved working with UUMFE to stop Line 3 and with the VISION allies coalition to phase out oil drilling in Los Angeles neighborhoods. I'm so grateful that I had that experience.

The reason I'm reaching out is because I'm involved with the UU Young Adult Divestment Caucus. We have written a business resolution proposal for General Assembly 2023 that calls upon the UUA, through the UU Common Endowment Fund, to divest its endowment from all aspects of the fossil fuel industry. The divested funds will then be redistributed as reparations to Indigenous, Black, and brown communities over the next few years. I invite you to read the full resolution (and the introductory letter that goes with it).

Since we are proposing this business resolution through the petition process, we need 250 signatures in support from members of congregations. Additionally, there can be no more than 10 signatures from any one congregation. **My ask of you is that you share this resolution with your congregation and gather signatures in support.** The information on how to do so is also in the attachment below. It's acceptable also to scan the signed petition sheet and email back to me if that's easier.

Please see the resolution and and petition to sign in the PDF [here](#)

In warmth and gratitude,
Jolly

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Jolly Hollamon (they/them/ello)
Climate Justice Organizer,
[Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California](#)
Phone: 919-349-6964 / Email: Jolly@uujmca.org

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

SURJ Morning Wake-Up Call and Human Billboard

Friday, January 13 • 7:30 – 8:30 am

As part of the Anti Police-Terror Project
(APTP)'s 9th Annual Weekend to Reclaim
MLK's Radical Legacy, SURJ will be sponsoring

a morning rally and human billboard at Rockridge BART. Join us to hold up banners and signs that lift up the true radical legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We are also excited to come together in person to kick off a new year of building a strong, loving community, in solidarity and liberation.



Please wear masks and practice social distancing. SURJ will provide masks, hand sanitizer, and chairs at the site as well. Please [register here](#) to let us know you're coming, and learn more about APTP's 9th Annual Weekend to Reclaim MLK's Radical Legacy here.

Location: Rockridge BART Station, 5660 College Ave., Oakland

8th Principle Learning

Essay: [“Racist or Anti-Racist” by Ibram X Kendi](#)



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 a treasurer (treasurer@mpuuc.org).

- Sandra handles most ongoing operational tasks, such as pledge tracking, reimbursement requests/status, contribution statements, stock donations, and the like.
- In the absence of a treasurer, please send any questions to both the treasurer email (treasurer@mpuuc.org), which is being monitored by our President, Suzette Takei and also to Sandra (office@mpuuc.org). This will ensure that any financial questions are answered promptly.

Board Briefs

Board briefs from December 2022 MPUUC Board meeting.



The board met on Tuesday, December 13, 2022:

- Approved November minutes and attachments to be posted on website.
- Approved \$2000 increase in the Worship budget through the rest of the 2022-23 fiscal year. This item is to cover honoraria for non-MPUUC speakers when Rev. Greg is away. This information will also be noted for operations budget planning for the next fiscal year.
- Discussed the vision for the upcoming Canvass with Valerie Stewart, Canvass Chair, who

attended this part of the meeting.

- Approved Valerie Stewart, Kathi Bayne, and Michelle Wallace as MPUUC delegates to the 2023 Pacific Western Region (PWR) Regional Assembly.
- Received update that Paul Clifford has agreed to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Ministry.
- Approved \$1000 from the PPP account (federal Paycheck Protection Program loan was forgiven) for payment to Kristi Wagner, Financial Consultant, for assistance with the financial transition from the old system, ICON, to the new system, Quickbooks.
- Continued updating wording on 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.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, January 10 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

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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