

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 31, 2023

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Dear Sandra,

I marvel at the tremendous group of members who have volunteered for the Board of Trustees, Leadership Development Committee, and the Committee on Ministry for next year (July 2023-June 2024). I have absolute confidence that each one of them will be effective, enthusiastic, energetic, and engaged in moving Mission Peak UUC forward next year.



As a member of the board for this last year, I have found the work to be so fulfilling. This board has succeeded because we are a team. We work together, support each other, have each other's backs, make sure things get done. A good team is greater than the sum of its parts, and this has been an excellent team. Next year's team will start with the foundation of this and previous years, and will continue to build and energize our congregation.

We have lost some members and friends over the last year, as we always do, and we have seen newcomers coming through our doors and onto our screens. We have a great new religious education coordinator, and are seeing youngsters showing up again, especially for the Children's Chapels. The choir is invigorated and sounding better than ever under the direction of our new choir director. We have members and friends, near and far, stepping into new roles. You have heard our calls and you are Showing Up. Our new leaders will need all MPUUC members and friends to Show Up and bring your time and talents to our beloved community.

We need MPUUC. Our local community needs MPUUC. The greater world needs MPUUC and what it represents. And MPUUC needs each of us as active participants. We're looking forward to working together with each of you as we continue making the whole MPUUC team greater than the sum of its parts.

Gayle Tupper

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## This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.



### From Sameness to Choice A Flower Communion Fable

This fable explores how people who find themselves in places of Sameness learn how to discover Choice. It is the story of Bob who represents everyone that yearns to leave the safety of sameness and to trust they won't get lost or forgotten by being authentically themselves in a vastly diverse world. By accepting his own – and others - differences, Bob discovers the power of love to attend, accept and appreciate being different as beautiful.

Rev. Greg Ward and Ariel Smith-Iyer will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Peak Performers under the direction of Von Bringhurst will provide our music.

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### 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%.

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### Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, June 4th immediately after the service. We will have a number of items to vote on (details and agenda were sent out via a Constant Contact email on May 21 - below is the agenda and proposed budget), and we will need a quorum of voting members, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. As a reminder, while all are welcome to attend, only active members will be allowed to vote.



**PLEASE REVIEW BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH**

We hope to see all of you there, either in person or on Zoom.

## Agenda

Click [here](#) to see the agenda, including the proposed set of officers, Committee on Ministry members, and Leadership Development Committee

## Proposed Budget

Click [here](#) to see Suzette's video for the budget -- we expect to have an update shortly on the amount of rent required, so the final budget recommendation will be a little different.

Click [here](#) to see the proposed budget -- (see note above)

Please click [here](#) for Mission Peak's Annual Report for 2022-2023

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## Share the Plate for Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association Juneteenth Celebration in May

Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association (SNA) is sponsoring the first Juneteenth Celebration in Milpitas. Our goal is to honor our Black Milpitas ancestors, celebrate our rich cultural heritage, African and African American history, and continue to unite our diverse community while connecting residents with valuable resources and services.



*Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:*

Write a check to MPUUC with "SNA" 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 "SNA" on the memo line) 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 "For "SNA" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

**Please note we will be collecting for SNA until June 4.**

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Please remember to send in your donation for Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association by June 4.

More information on Milpitas's First Juneteenth Celebration can be found here:

**[JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY JUNE 17. READ HOW WE CAN BE PART OF IT.](#)**



## 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)

## 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](#)

## UU Ups and Downs: Lessons from the Past

Former UUA President, Rev. Dr. John Buehrens Six-part UU History Course with emphasis on the bay area. Sundays this summer online via Zoom Webinar. Each class will run 4:00-5:30 pm PT. July 9, 16, 23 August 13, 20, 27 Pay what you can \$25-90 [Register Here](#)

Members & Friends!

Help with Outreach efforts. It's easy!!

1) Join our MPUUC facebook page

When you see something interesting OR see the flier go up about services --- simply "share" with your own feed.

2) Grab one of these fliers and print a few

Then you can post at local coffee shops or public bulletin boards in your area

- [Flier #1](#)
- [Flier #2](#)
- [Flier #3](#)
- [Flier #4](#)

A little effort by each of us will make a big outreach movement!

Thank you,  
Your Outreach Committee  
Valerie, Beth, Kathi, Allysson, and Suzette

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## Service project collaboration with FUMC

Our neighbors at First United Methodist Church have invited us to join them in a service project. If you are interested in this collaboration and want to join the discussion please let Ariel know, she's making a plan to meet with them over zoom in order to talk about the possibilities. The projects they have been involved with in the past have focused on collecting donations for both the local food pantry and shelter for unhoused people, as well as backpacks for kids who need them. We can share the service projects MPUUC has found fulfilling and in our collaboration together make a larger impact in our community. For more info: [DRE@mpuuc.org](mailto:DRE@mpuuc.org)



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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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### Men's Fellowship Coffee Time on Friday, June 2

The next joint Mission Peak UU and First United Methodist men's fellowship coffee time is planned for this Friday, June 2, 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 breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast egg sandwich dishes are available. We set up in an area of the tables on the side toward Sundale Avenue where there seems to be less noise from other groups, which facilitates conversation.



Please let me know if you're coming so that enough tables can be arranged. Thanks. --  
E-mail [Holmesfam@comcast.net](mailto:Holmesfam@comcast.net). Hope to see you there, John

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### Experience Human Nature at Its Finest!

Saturday, June 3, 2023  
1:00–3:00 p.m.  
Don Ramie's house  
35982 Cabral Dr.  
Fremont, CA 94536

There's a party at Don's house and you're

invited! Don has made a set of intriguing cards with quotes from books by leading psychiatrists and social psychologists. We will take turns drawing a card and let the discussion begin!

Snacks and drinks will be provided, but you will need to get your own transportation. Or call Don if that's a problem.

Sergio, the friend of our congregation from Nicaragua, will be there to show that human nature is truly universal! Don's brother, Jerry, might also show up to prove he's human as well.

Any questions, call Don at (510) 791-6842 or write an e-mail to [donramie2@gmail.com](mailto:donramie2@gmail.com)



## JUSTICE CORNER

### Two Steps For Immigration Justice: For Asylum, For Afghans & Vets You Are Needed Now By Our Immigrant Neighbors



Immigrant communities, both those who have arrived in the U.S. and those that are arriving at our borders are being let down by our federal legislators.

- On one hand, proposals are being circulated that would virtually eliminate pathways to humanitarian protection or extend Title 42-style expulsions for two years – except with even fewer protections and no exemption for unaccompanied children. Together these render an asylum system out of alignment with our Unitarian Universalists values
- On the other hand, negotiations for bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation are languishing despite urgency as Afghan parole status will expire during the Summer of 2023.

But we can help our legislators meet the moment, and overcome the challenge.

Click [here](#) to continue reading

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

Join SURJ and our partners this summer at the [22nd Century Conference: Forging a People-Powered Democracy](#). This conference will gather the pro-democracy movement to weave relationships, sharpen



strategies, and equip people with skills and resources to effectively block the rise of the authoritarian right while advancing pro-democracy strategies and campaigns. We'll convene onsite in Minneapolis, MN on July 6-9, 2023 with limited online access.

### 8th Principle Learning

*Omar*, by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels

Share:

Premiered on May 27, 2022 at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, S.C., an innovative and compelling opera about enslaved people brought to North America from Muslim countries, a musical work that respectfully represents African as well as African American

traditions, expanding the language of the operatic form while conveying the humanity of those condemned to bondage.

[Click here to read](#)

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## Denominational Affairs

Please find updated information on the UUAGA conference June 22-25, 2023 in the link below.

Join us online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

[Click here for more information](#)



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## 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](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)) and our temporary treasurer, DeAnna Alm. ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org).
- Please send any questions to both the treasurer email ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)), which is being monitored by DeAnna Alm and also to Sandra ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org) immediately.

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## Board Briefs

Board briefs from both May 2023 MPUUC Board meetings.

The board met on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, and on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

- Approved spending the \$500 currently in Fellowship Budget by rolling it into the restricted Fellowship Fund.
- Approved accepting delegation of authority to approve operating expenses and reimbursements. The purpose of this is to increase clarity, speed, and efficiency of reimbursements while maintaining necessary oversight.
- Discussed the upcoming Annual Meeting, which will be on Sunday, June 4, 2023.
- Voted for Volunteer of the Year. Results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on June 4.
- Discussed potential candidates for the 2023-24 Board of Trustees, assigned board members to reach out to those members, and discussed the results. Additional outreach is to be conducted this month to fill leadership positions.
- Scheduled an additional Board meeting for May 16, 2023 to further discuss



leadership positions and the 2023-24 budget.

- Approved special summer collections for June (Sandwich Squad), July (Esthetics), and August (Fellowship).
- Discussed Widening the Circle to reach out to our own congregation to enable growth, and to light a fire under people to get them to say yes to leadership roles. Noted that establishing diversity is real work, and that we are a real voice, an antidote to those who are trying to submerge diversity.
- Approved a budget to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on June 4.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, June 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](http://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

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**Save the dates!** Or at least one date,  
for a **Spit and Polish Party at MPUUC**  
*Fri July 7th from 9:30-11:30am*  
*and / or*  
*Sat Aug 5th from 9:30-11:30am*



Come lend a hand to make our spiritual home at Cole Hall inviting to all! We'll be washing windows, vacuuming the perimeter, wet mopping, wiping out drawers and all manner of cleaning projects to get our physical space ready for a new congregation-year. More details and the chance to sign up for specific tasks coming in the weeks ahead. For now we hope you'll pick a date and save it! Questions? Comments? Reach out to Graham Bell or Ariel Smith-iyer who are leading this effort.

warmly,  
Ariel

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## 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](http://house.gov)  
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631  
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553  
Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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