

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! July 12, 2023

Dear Sandra,

We are to be graced with a Child Dedication soon



You have probably heard -at least once- the origin story of Mission Peak....a group of parents in a play group seeking a liberal faith community where they and their children could share values of inclusion and spiritual exploration and do good in the world.

Rather than holding Christian-style baptisms or christenings, most Unitarian Universalist congregations have child dedication ceremonies for infants and children. Many of the first generation of Mission Peak children are pictured here with our 1999 Interim Minister Howard Dana- many of them were dedicated in this Congregation:



Unitarian Universalists believe that every child brings new life and hope into the world. The Ceremony of Dedication, is an opportunity for the community to bless the child and celebrate the blessing of this gift of life. The ceremony does not make the life of the child sacred; we believe that life is sacred inherently. When we dedicate a child we acknowledge the truth that each child's life is sacred and hold that truth in the light of our faith.

UUs understand that we are all part of the interconnected web of all existence. The community is part of the fabric that holds all human life, the story of many shared lives woven into our cultures, and the saga of each individual. We are who we are,

in part, because of the love and guidance and the inspiration and ideals that we receive, especially from those who parent us. And the church community has the privileged role not only of supporting the parents in the sacred task of nurturing life but also of weaving the threads of culture—history, values, arts, wisdom, visions—into a fabric that can enfold the family. We are all blessed when we welcome the child into the human family and give our blessing to the child's life as they begins their journey.

Child dedication ceremonies are usually crafted by the parents, the congregation's minister, and religious educator working closely together. Many will include the following elements:

- A blessing for the new life of the child
- An expression of the parent or parents' hopes for the child
- A promise by the congregation to support and nurture the child

A variety of symbols and rituals can be used. In our time as a faith community MPUUC our earlier Child Dedications have included:

- water, a universal symbol of blessing and life
- the gift of a flower, a symbol of life's beauty and the unfolding of life. If the flower is a rose, we remove the thorns, in the hope that the child's life will be filled with as few thorns as possible and that when there are thorns the child will always be surrounded by a caring community
- the gift of a book, a sign of our commitment to lifelong learning

The UU Ceremony of Dedication celebrates with gratitude the wonder of each child, claiming each life as sacred and giving thanks in response to the gift of the divine mystery, which dwells within us all and within the community of life. Mark Sunday August 13, on your calendar to be a part of this special day at Mission Peak.

Valerie Stewart

This Sunday's Service:



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PITTSBURGH · JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

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

UUA General Assembly 2023

General Assembly 2023 was eventful with a new UUA President selected, much work on Article II of the UUA bylaws, and some inspiring speeches. Come learn what is happening in your denomination.

Rev. Barbara Meyers will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jay Steele will provide our music.

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%.

Summer Special Collection for July: Sandwich Squad



Before the pandemic, a number of our adults and young people got together regularly to make sandwiches for organizations helping people in this area who are struggling. This is all part of our congregation's community outreach mission, and we have reinstated the program. Please donate, if you are able, to fund Sandwich Squad in one of these ways:

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

Write a check to MPUUC with "Sandwich Squad" 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 "Sandwich Squad" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Sandwich Squad") 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 Sandwich Squad" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%



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

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](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Sunday, August 6th has a *lot* in store!

Please plan to spend the better part of this Sunday with us: in worship, in music, in learning and in service! Folk of all ages are welcome.

The Sunday service will be: **Music at Mission Peak: A Harmonious Future**

This service will explore the range of music possible as we transition to more live performances and, eventually, an expanded music program. Von Bringham, our new choir director, will lead the service, the choir will sing both in-person and virtually, and other Mission Peak musicians and musical groups will delight you with their live and virtual offerings. A magnificent celebration of our musical future at Mission Peak!

Following service there will be coffee hour and then a special **presentation of musical sound gardens** by David Gibbons. Folks are invited to enjoy their coffee and snack as usual, then tuck back into Cole Hall for the performance/Q&A/instrument sampling.

Following the music presentation there is an opportunity to participate in a **joint service project** with our friends at FUMC. Together we will have collected the supplies needed to pack 25 backpacks for children and youth in Abode's rapid re-housing program. We will meet in one of the Ockerman rooms to work together and fill the backpacks from 1:00 until the task is complete.

Snack contributions to coffee hour are most welcome.

Spit and Polish Party, Friday, Saturday, August 5th, 9:30-11:30 AM both days.

Come lend a hand to help tend to the care and keeping of our physical home in Cole Hall. Various projects have been identified and the tools will be supplied. All you need to do is pick a day to come and follow [this link](#) to sign up for a task or two. Many hands make work light! Help us spruce up the space in anticipation of the new congregational year that begins July 1st. Questions? Reach out to Graham or Ariel who are collaborating on these work parties.

Summer Picnic - Sunday August 13

Click [here](#) for flyer.



MISSON PEAK UU CONGREGATION

SPONSORED BY ARO

SUMMER *Picnic*

SUNDAY AUGUST 13TH FROM 12-4PM

WE'LL BE IN CENTRAL PARK AT D2 PICNIC SPOT, FREMONT

**IT'S A BBQ AND POTLUCK
ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING A DISH THAT REFLECTS THEIR
CULTURE OR HERITAGE**

**FRIENDS, FAMILY & NEIGHBORS
ARE WELCOME**

→ **RSVP REQUESTED
SCAN THE QR CODE
OR EMAIL ARIEL DRE@MPUUC.ORG**



Backpack Drive

MPUUC is collaborating with FUMC to help Abode with their back pack drive. This year we will help 25 kids feel better prepared to start a fresh year of school by providing them with a new backpack full of supplies, including a new t-shirt and socks. These youngsters are part of 14 families in Abode's rapid re-housing program. Please visit [this SignUpGenius](#) to see what supplies are needed and purchase what you can. These can be dropped off at Cole Hall in the box labeled "Backpack Drive", placed near the Joys and Concerns table, any Sunday between now and July 30th. All donations must be received by the morning of Saturday August 5th, which is the MPUUC Spit and Polish Party (facility beautification party) from 9:30-11:30.

MPUUC & FUMC
Backpack Drive
TO BENEFIT 14 FAMILIES IN ABODE'S RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM
SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE WHAT IS NEEDED
AND TO SIGNUP TO CONTRIBUTE OR EMAIL
ARIEL FOR MORE INFO DRE@MPUUC.ORG
donations due by Aug 5th
PARTY ON SUNDAY AUG 6TH AFTER SERVICE TO
STUFF THE BACKPACKS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS
AT FUMC

If you want to help but can not purchase supplies to be dropped at Cole Hall, be in touch with Ariel about how you can support this effort, dre@pmuuc.org. Our plan is to join together with FUMC on Sunday August 6th, after service, with all the necessary backpacks and supplies on the tables. We will fill each backpack and label it with the name of the child it is being put together for. All backpacks will be delivered to Abode on the following Monday.

See post on our website by clicking [here](#).

It's plum season in the Mission Peak garden- help yourself!



JUSTICE CORNER

Are you familiar with the UU Minister Association's Berry Street Essay? Offered annually during Professional Days before General Assembly, this event began in 1820 when the "Rev. William Ellery Channing, Minister of the Federal Street Church of Boston, invited all Massachusetts ministers known to be liberal to meet in the vestry of his church (whose entrance was on Berry Street)."

Since then, the Berry Street Conference has convened every year since 1820 (save for one, during World War II), making the Berry Street Essay the oldest lecture series in the US.

The 2023 Berry Street Essay was offered by the Rev. Cecilia Kingman, titled ["My Little Pony Was Right": Reflections of Fascisms Without and Within](#). In it, Rev. Kingman reflects upon the rise of authoritarianism, right-wing ideology, and fascism both within Unitarian Universalism and in the wider world.

Side With Love joins Rev. Kingman in a two-session interactive opportunity for UUs to engage with this essay and the kinds of faithful responses it demands on behalf of our UU faith.

Join us!

• [Session 1: July 17](#) at 8pm ET / 7pm CT / 6pm MT / 5pm PT

• [Session 2: August 14](#) at 8pm ET / 7pm CT / 6pm MT / 5pm PT

PRE-REQUISITE: Watch or read the 2023 Berry Street essay, ["My Little Pony Was Right: Reflections on Fascism Without & Within"](#) by the Rev. Cecilia Kingman

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Sundays, July 9 & July 16 • 10:00 am – 12:00
pm

[2-Part Virtual Divestment Training](#)

SURJ SHOWING UP FOR
BAY AREA RACIAL JUSTICE

Community Ready Corps (CRC), a SURJ partner organization, defines wealth as access to money above need. CRC Allies & Accomplices is hosting a virtual 2-part training for white folks with wealth and/or wealthy networks. The training will be participatory with a presentation, big and small group discussion, and solo journaling. You'll develop skills, tools, and goals to effectively practice divestment and organize white wealthy people in

your life to join you! RSVP asap.

8th Principle Learning

5 more UU congregations adopt the 8th Principle (MPUUC 6/2/22 is number 197)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thprinciplelearningcommunity/permalink/1235950263956156/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thprinciplelearningcommunity/permalink/1218962052321644/>

Denominational Affairs



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

RESULTS:

Sophia Betancourt was elected UUA

president by over 95% of the delegate vote

All **other candidates for elected positions** were elected with the exception of Dick Burkhart

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/volunteer-nominations-ga-2023>

Preliminary approval the Article 11 Commission passed to allow work to continue by

[*Preliminarily Article II Proposal*](#)

There were 5 approved amendments

30 by Viola Abbitt

[Amendment 30 to Article II - Proposed by Viola Abbitt](#)

26 by David Schwartz

<https://discuss.uua.org/t/amendment-26-to-article-ii-proposed-by-david-schwartz/1076>

52 by John Millspaugh

<https://discuss.uua.org/t/amendment-52-to-article-ii-proposed-by-john-millspaugh/1102>

5 by Matthew Johnson

<https://discuss.uua.org/t/amendment-5-to-article-ii-proposed-by-matthew-johnson/1049>

13 by Kathi Bayne (*MPUUC, Thank you so much for your help!*)

<https://discuss.uua.org/t/341-kathi-bayne-within-our-congregations-and-in-society-at-large/544>

The following **Acts Of Immediate Witness** were passed:

- [*Affirmed: AIW: Rise Up to Stop Cop City \(PDF\)*](#)
- [*Affirmed: AIW: Organizing for Health Equity \(PDF\)*](#)
- [*Affirmed: AIW: Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival \(DACA\) with a Pathway to Permanent Residence \(PDF\)*](#)

The following **business resolution** was **NOT** passed

[**“Complete Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry and Subsequent Reparations” \(PDF\)**](#)

Board statement on the business resolution

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/board/announcements/statement-against-2023-business-resolution-complete-divestment>

Board Briefs

Board briefs from the May 23-25, 2023 email Vote, the Annual Congregational Meeting, and the June 13, 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.

Electronic Vote regarding Sabbatical Minister May 23-25, 2023

President Suzette Takei requested an email vote about the Sabbatical Minister nomination for Reverend Jim McKinley, as recommended by the Committee on Ministry. The board unanimously approved COM's recommendation. Information about Reverend McKinley was given at the Annual Congregational meeting on June 4. *Week on the Peak*, June 21, 2023 has additional information about Reverend Greg's upcoming sabbatical.



The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on June 4, 2023, at Cole Hall for those present in person, and via Zoom for those attending online.

- The coveted Volunteer of the Year Award was given to our Zoom hosts, who make our hybrid services possible. These hosts are Erik Alm, Graham Bell, David Gibbons, and Steve Wallcave.
- The recommended slate of candidates was approved unanimously:
 - BOARD
 - President: Beth Schaefer
 - Treasurer: Jay Steele
 - Secretary: Michelle Wallace
 - Trustee-at-Large: Kathi Bayne
 - Trustee-at-Large: Stephen Longfield
 - Trustee-at-Large: Valerie Stewart
 - COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM): Reverend Barbara Meyers, Alan Davis, Paul Clifford
 - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Paul K. Davis, Julie Ganzlin, Eric Ryan
- The proposed budget was approved unanimously.
- Rev. Greg spoke about Rev. Jim McKinley, who will be the Sabbatical Minister while Rev. Greg is on sabbatical.

The current (outgoing) board met on June 13, 2023, with all members of the incoming board also in attendance.

- The current and incoming board discussed the upcoming board transition, and the transition for new officers and trustees, with training/mentoring for new board members.
- Approved adding \$45 for Congregational Administrator Professional Expenses. This fits within the board's authorization to increase up to 10% of budget.
- Payment for August picnic at Fremont's Central Park (details to come) will be made in the current fiscal year because of the payment due date.
- Discussed coffee charter for purchasing supplies for coffee hour after Sunday services.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, July 18 at 7 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

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 our treasurer, Jay Steele. (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 and treasurer@mpuuc.org.

- Please send any questions to both the treasurer email (treasurer@mpuuc.org), which is being monitored by Jay Steele and also to Sandra (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 and treasurer@mpuuc.org immediately.

SCAM EMAILS AGAIN

If you have received an email that says "odd request" or something similar, **IT IS NOT FROM REV. GREG!**

Please don't respond as they are phishing for those who will. Please just delete.



The only emails that you will receive from me will come from minister@mpuuc.org or revgsward@gmail.com.

Thank you all who have been vigilant and notified me.

Rev. Greg Ward

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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 missionpeakuu.org



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94537

[Unsubscribe office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by minister@mpuuc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!