

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! June 28, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Since I'm new to the field of professional Religious Education it was suggested to me that I seek out a mentor. Rev Greg suggested several and I've had the great pleasure of connecting with one of those from his short list, a highly seasoned DRE who is – human – gold. This week I came to her asking for advice on how to approach prayer with children. It's something we dance around (figuratively, not literally) during the monthly Children's Chapel but nothing I've spoken about directly- if you haven't already figured this out let me fill you in: I can be a little timid. Since I'm still learning the ways of MPUUC I sometimes worry that my personal understanding of the divine won't match yours. "What if prayer is a concept that makes parents feel uncomfortable?" I ask her. My mentor is not timid and she has a depth of understanding that's almost childlike. "Deep, deep inside ourselves is the part of ourselves that is connected to everything outside of ourselves," she explains. "Prayer helps us reach that place." As we continued our discussion we came back around to my nagging fear that I'll say something that makes someone else uncomfortable. She pulls out a quote from a Religious Educator she admires, Joy Berry, who said, "Faith is wrought, not taught." There's a lot in that little line. What I take from it is that faith forms in the fire of our lives, we help it find shape when we come together in worship and in fellowship, being alive and lively in this living tradition we share.



With an aim to be alive and lively I'm excited to tell you about a few MPUUC things that I'm looking forward to. There's going to be a baby and child blessing! It's been a hot minute since Cole Hall hosted one of these and we're really excited to offer this special ritual to MPUUC families who have welcomed a child into their lives in the last few years. Stay tuned for more on this. We're also planning an RE kick-off event on Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>. Knowing that the beginning of the school year is a time of fresh starts for families, as well as a time people move and put down new roots, we hope to welcome new and old friends into this welcoming congregation. It's also when we hope to announce some adult RE programming for the year ahead. If you want to be part of this momentum then I welcome a chat with you. Shoot me an email and I can give you a call or we can plan a zoom.

## 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.



### The Sky is Falling! The Sky is Falling!

What is happening to our democracy? Banned books, the Dobb's decision, the repeal of child labor laws, a flood of anti trans laws, and Florida's most recent law prohibiting Chinese people from purchasing property in the state. All of this is dangerous, and damaging to democracy. Though recent word from TN supporting free speech was welcome news, the onslaught continues. How dangerous are things really?

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Kathi Bayne. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Peak Performers 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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### Summer Special Collection for June: Aesthetics

This month we will be collecting for Aesthetics, for more beauty both inside and outside Cole Hall

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

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

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## 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)

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## 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](#)

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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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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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Youth Group (middle and high schoolers) Meet Up, Saturday July 1st 7-9pm

We'll be lighting a small bonfire in the parking lot so we can roast s'mores, trying out all the different ways we can dream of to put melted chocolate and roasted marshmallow between 2 graham crackers. We're inviting youth and their advisors from neighboring UU congregations to join us for an evening of fun and relaxation.

RSVP required - please click [here](#)

## There is a new Park in Fremont!!

JULY 7 - 4 pm GRAND OPENING celebration

MPUUCers, come out in your MPUUC t-shirt and join the celebration of a new PARK in Fremont. The park is located at Dusterberry and Peralta - the Dusterberry Neighborhood Park! Great playgrounds for children! (limited parking) This is the Ribbon cutting and Grand Opening celebration. This is a great opportunity for us to show up in our community, join in a celebration and invite others to join our community of Open Minds and Caring Hearts. See you there!

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## Spit and Polish Party, Friday, July 7th \*and\* 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](mailto:ARIEL.DRE@MPUUC.ORG)**



## 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

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

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

[2-Part Virtual Divestment Training](#)



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.**

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## 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/>

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## Denominational Affairs

### 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>



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 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>

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## 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](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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## 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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**Celebrate Summer Solstice with a Refugia Worship:** You are invited to a special, interfaith "Refugia Worship Service" on June 24 at 2:00 p.m. at United Church of Christ Fremont, 38255 Blacow Rd. This service seeks to create refugia: a space of refuge and hope. We will lament (passionately express our anger and grief), reconnect with the earth, act on an issue in the climate emergency, pray. and sing. Learn more [here](#). RSVP to [freucc@gmail.com](mailto:freucc@gmail.com)

View on Mission Peak website by clicking [here](#).

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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





Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 [missionpeakuu.org](http://missionpeakuu.org)



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