

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 16, 2023

Dear Sandra,

My name is Stephen (he/him), and I am serving as a member-at-large of your Mission Peak Board of Trustees this year. This is my first time serving on the board, and I am honored to represent you. If there's ever anything about the congregation you want to discuss, or if you've ever wondered what goes on at the board meetings, I'm happy to chat, either in person or online.



As an introduction, I grew up all over: born in the UK, raised in Missouri, Illinois, Connecticut, São Paulo, Bakersfield CA, and then went to college in Massachusetts, and grad school in New York. I've called the San Jose area my home for the last 8 years, where I work as a software engineer. I met my wife (Tiffany) in grad school, and just this year we have welcomed our first child into our life, and I'm loving all of the joys and challenges of fatherhood.

We have a great board this year--Beth Schaffer as President, Jay Steele as Treasurer, Michelle Wallace as Secretary, and Kathi Bayngie and Valerie Stewart as the other members-at-large. We've only had a few meetings so far, but we're already working well together, and putting together a lot of great events this year. If you are willing and able to get involved, please talk to any of your board members about the opportunities available. MPUUC needs you!

Looking forward to working with all of you as a member of your board,

Stephen Longfield

This Sunday's Service:

**Service can be attended
in-person at Cole Hall or**

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



A Slight Change of Plans

What is it about change that makes us feel so terrified to face and yet so terrific to have experienced. Something happens at our core that feels existentially vulnerable when we release control on certainty. Sometimes fear of change is so powerful we will foresake everything in order to avoid facing it. The relationship we forge with change will determine our circumstance, our company, our politics and our legacy. In this service we will finally ask the question, 'what's so good about change?'

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Worship Host will be Graham Bell. Peak Rocks 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 August: Fellowship and Community Building

This Sunday's Special Collection is for Fellowship and Community Building. Everything that happens at MPUUC happens because we do it together - in common cause, with shared sacrifice, in solidarity with trust and appreciation. We believe it is fundamentally important to take the time to know and care about each other. We break bread together to understand one another and learn about our deepest hopes and concerns. True communities DO justice because they know each other and care.

We hope you will support this Special Collection to make Fellowship robust and fun. Because when we care for each other we work hard to help build the world we all deserve.

To support this very worthy cause, mail your check to MPUUC at the address on the screen. Doing so will help turn proximity into familiarity, which becomes understanding, which becomes connection, which - together - we turn into justice, outreach, and a great deal we can be proud of.

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

Write a check to MPUUC with "Fellowship" 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 "Fellowship" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Fellowship") 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 Fellowship" 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. This week's topic is what we consider when we are facing change. What are the questions we have about the circumstances we're facing? What are the questions we ask ourselves? The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

Please note the link has changed as we are using a different Zoom account.

To Support those caught in the Maui Fires

If you have been concerned from the news about what's happening for Maui residents and want to help, we have several colleagues who are working with Hawai'i Community Foundation. HCF will not be collecting a fee for donations to the Maui Strong Fund; 100 percent of the funds will be distributed for community needs. You can use this link to [Donate to Maui Strong](#)

New to Unitarian Universalism or to Mission UU Congregation?

Mission Peak UU Congregation (MPUUC) is excited to announce that Rev. Greg Ward and I will be offering a one-day class, New To UU. It is a chance for people who are new to Unitarian Universalism and/or to Mission Peak UU Congregation to learn more about the denomination and about our particular congregation. It will also be a chance for you to share your story and to ask any questions you may have. The class runs about 2 hours and is scheduled for Sunday, August 27 at 11:30, after the Sunday service. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

Please let me know if you might be interested and available on that date. As always, let me know if you have any questions about the New to UU class or anything else about our congregation. We hope you can attend!

Take care,
Kathy Wallcave
Chair, Membership Committee

PS-Though I am on the Membership Committee, this is an introductory class for sharing, learning, and exploration. Some people attend the class and then want to explore further. Others are ready to become a member. Each attendee is invited to discern their next step.

Share the Plate Suggestions

8 times per year (once a month, September – May) MPUUC organizes a special collection for a worthy agency that promote our values in the larger world. We try to select some local agencies, some denominational agencies and, occasionally, some global agencies. You can help by suggesting what agencies would be good candidates for this special fund, reaching out to connect with a representative to address the congregation and share it's mission. If you know an agency that would be a good justice partner with MPUUC, [sign up here](#).

Making announcements

If you've ever had an announcement you wanted to share about an upcoming MPUUC event or meeting but didn't know how, you're in luck. This [Announcement Sheet](#) will go directly to Sandra, our Administrator (to put in the OOS); or to a Board Member (to announce at a Sunday service. Deadline for posting Sunday announcements is Thursday at 5pm.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER



TA DUM TA DUM TA DUM

Have you felt the recent drumbeat of activity at Mission Peak? Sunday Services are alive with music and fellowship and promises of being in community together. It is exciting isn't it? And there is more coming up.

A Fall Boutique – OCTOBER 14 - Saturday at Cole Hall for all you (and your friends) who love handmade crafts and person-made/created goods - we plan to fill Cole Hall with lots of creatives who can sell their goods, with a table of items donated from talented MPUUCers as well.

The BLACK & WHITE AUCTION - NOVEMBER 18 - Saturday evening on Zoom
Yes, we are still Zooming for the Auction- it allows us all to be together and have fun, from wherever we may be and still share our talents with fun events and delicious food experiences – among those talents.

Of course, while there is a small Team forming to put these two events together – we always need helping hands. Can you help- there are so many ways- can you write, can you proofread, can you research? Can you send emails? Can you help on October 14 to set up/take down at Cole Hall? For the Auction – will you offer an event as in the past? As you know there are some food items, skills, and events that are so popular that folks bid for years before they make a successful bid. Will you be part of an “MC” Team?

If you will help for either or both events- please email Valerie at Valeriempuuc@gmail.com let her know which event or events you'll help with and what you can do, or leave your phone number for a call back.

We look forward to Betting Better Together!

JUSTICE CORNER

Right now, asylum seekers are forced to comply with unnecessarily long waiting periods before they are able to legally work in the United States. Without the ability to work, people seeking asylum are deprived of the right to earn an income and support themselves and their families.

Please consider writing to your member of Congress and ask them to support the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 1325). If passed, this legislation would shorten the waiting periods and make it easier for asylum seekers to obtain a work permit and contribute to their communities.

You might find this links below helpful

[Draft letter](#)

[Addresses of our local Congressmen](#)

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

From Ministry for Earth Create Climate Justice Final Q&A

Stories and Songs of the People, by INITC

Saturday, August 19th
Starts at 10am HT/ 1pm PT/ 2pm MT/ 3pm CT/ 4pm ET

Join the InterNāional Indigenous Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (INITC) for *Stories and Songs of the People*, a hybrid event taking place at the University of Hawaii, Maui and online.

Join us for a virtual gathering of intercultural, interfaith sharing of experience and knowledge for the profound social, cultural, economic, legal and environmental issues reflecting the impacts to the health and well-being of our collective Nations and our Planet. We invite you to join us individually or create your own in-person gathering and then join us virtually as a group as we gather on the island of Maui.

[Sign-up for this day of learning](#)

8th Principle Learning

Dr. Leslie Picca, professor and Roesch chair in the social sciences at the University of Dayton, explains how we can work toward anti-racism in this video, part of the University of Dayton Anti-Racist Lecture Series.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6J8h65rfg4>

**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.

Board Briefs

Board briefs for July 18, 2023 board meeting:

- This board meeting was conducted jointly by Suzette Takei, out-going board president, and Beth Schaefer, new board president.
- Unanimously approved a two-year lease agreement with FUMC for the period beginning July 1, 2023. The rent for the 2024-2025 year, which begins July 1, 2024, will increase by no more than the annual Social Security cost-of-living increase for the year, but will be capped at 2.5%.
- Email accounts and google groups for officers have been updated to be used by current board.
- Unanimously approved the Consumables Charter put forth by Steve Wallcave to allow all event planners to inventory, coordinate and appropriately shop for paper plates, napkins, etc.
- The fall equinox festival put on by the Tri-City Interfaith Council will be held at MPUUC on September 23.
- Discussion of possible dates for the Stewardship events for MPUUC for the 2023-2024 year: Canvass, boutique, auction. Agreed that the canvass must begin about March 15- April 1 in order to collect pledges and plan next year's budget. Several proposals for which months to schedule the boutique and auction. This will be discussed with past leaders of these events and voted on at next board meeting,



Board briefs for August 8 will be posted in an upcoming Week on the Peak.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 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!

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



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