

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 2, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Hello, Mission Peak friends,

My name is Beth Schaefer and I'm the new president of the Board, who you voted in at the congregational meeting in June.

By way of a personal introduction, I grew up in Madison, WI, married my husband, John, after college, and we headed west. After graduate school in biological sciences, I worked as a science journalist and developed college science textbooks. Later, after developing and running a program for creative writing as a therapeutic tool for people with depression and various mental illnesses, and writing a book on this topic, I became mom to our daughter, Amy (15), and now spend time on pursuits including volunteering and writing another book, a spiritual memoir.



As you may recall, a very short time before the annual congregational meeting in June there was still no president on the slate of officers to be elected. Yikes! But then our 2022-23 president, Suzette Takei, sent out an impassioned letter that really hit home for me. Very soon the actual existence of MPUUC could be at risk, and no one was on deck for this position to try to help lead us in a positive direction. I thought for a couple of days, Suzette's letter going through my head, then let her know I would do some board position if one of the slated officers would be president. She countered by telling me she thought I, myself, could do the president's job. Not what I was expecting! But a couple of discussions later I agreed to accept the position. And I'm glad I did.

So far we've only had one meeting of this new board, but I already think we've got an excellent group: Jay Steele (treasurer), Michelle Wallace (secretary), and members-at-large Kathi Bayne, Stephen Longfield and Valerie Stewart. This year we're focusing on outreach – welcoming new members into the Mission Peak family by letting people know about our values and goals and our amazing array of Sunday services, activities and people. We've got a terrific group of folks running our Outreach Committee: Kathi Bayne, Allysson McDonald, Valerie Stewart and Drew Wilson. Please help them out -- post the flyers that are on the Welcome Table each Sunday, attend the great events coming up, let your friends on Facebook and other

media know what you love about us – get involved! This is a time MPUUC really needs you.

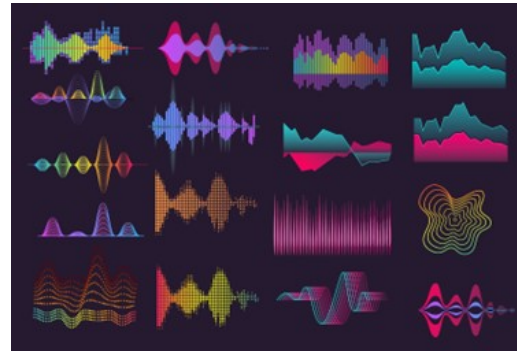
I'm looking forward to working with you in the coming year. Please let me know if you have ideas, questions or concerns. I'd be very pleased to hear from you and I'll do my best to assist and work with you. Thank you for all you do for Mission Peak!

Beth Schaefer

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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.



### 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 Bringhurst, 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!

Von Bringhurst will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. MPUUC Musicians 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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## 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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## 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.

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### Men's Fellowship Coffee Time on Friday, August 4

The next joint Mission Peak UU and First United Methodist men's fellowship coffee time will be this Friday, August 4, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont. There is a range of coffees, teas and juices, plus breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast egg sandwich dishes are available. If possible tables will be set up tables in the area on the side of the room toward Sundale Ave where there seems to be less noise from other groups which facilitates our conversations. (If that area is occupied look around, the group will be in some other area) If you know someone feel free to bring him along.



Please let Doug Green know if you plan to come so enough tables can be arranged for our group. ([dgreenfamily15@yahoo.com](mailto:dgreenfamily15@yahoo.com)), contact Steve Wallcave with any questions.

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**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.

Snack contributions to coffee hour are most welcome.

## Backpack Drive is NOW!

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.



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](mailto: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](#).

## Final Work Party this Saturday, August 5th, 9:30-11:30 AM.

This is our final work party to help make our physical home in Cole Hall be inviting to newcomers and reflect the care we share for Mission Peak. If you weren't able to join the work party last month we hope you can make the time to come this Saturday. Various projects have been identified and the tools will be supplied. All you need to do is follow [this link](#) to sign up. Many hands make work light! Help us spruce up the space in anticipation of the new congregational year ahead. 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**



## **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](#)

## 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](#)

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### 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>

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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 treasurer, Jay Steele. ([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 Jay Steele 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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**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](https://missionpeakuu.org)



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