

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 23, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Hello All,

I am Valerie Stewart, one of the Trustees-at Large for the next 2 years. I have been at Mission Peak, since there was a "Mission Peak UU Congregation". When my family moved to Fremont, I looked for a UU congregation in the Yellow pages. Even though Mission Peak hadn't been chartered as a formal congregation at that point in time- there was a listing in the yellow pages. I turned up at what was the "founding meeting" and have been here ever since.



The first ten years or so I was on the Committee now called CAYRE and taught Sunday school. So, the adult members rarely saw me, except at coffee hour after Sunday Services. Since I wanted a spiritual home for our daughter to grow up in, I felt it was my responsibility to contribute to the resources for our children, like many others in the Congregation. Since then, I have helped out at Mission Peak in many ways. However, this is my first time on the Board. So, please be patient with me as I learn a new position and learn how to work in the Google world. My professional work was with the U.S. Dept. of Justice, and Gmail/Google was a prohibited operations system.

We all have strengths that we bring to Mission Peak along with our personal joys and concerns. I think we all hope for and are committed to building a welcoming Spiritual Community at Mission Peak. If there is anything you have a concern about, that as one of the Trustees I can help with- or just listen about, don't hesitate to contact me. I created an email address just for Mission Peak! Valeriempuuc@gmail.com.

In Community we find support. In Community we find strength, because We are Better Together!

Valerie Stewart

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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.



## How to Explain Unitarian Universalism without a Pamphlet

Think about those times when someone has seen the flaming chalice pin or necklace you're wearing and asked, 'oh... UU... what's that? What do you say? How do you explain this church? These people? This history? This way of being religious - WITHOUT - telling them everything we're NOT? Come to this service if you want to hear how we claim this faith tradition with excitement and pride! QUESTION: What is Unitarian Universalism?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Jay Steele 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%.

## Summer Special Collection for August: 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](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. This week's topic is exploring our response when asked about our religion. How do we explain Unitarian Universalism. What if they raise their eyebrows? Would we consider inviting them to a service? What would we be nervous about? 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.**

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## Asylum Committee Update

Sergio, the asylee we have been accompanying, has received great news. His petition to have his family join him in the US has been approved by USCIS. Now he just has to wait for the visas to be submitted for consular processing, which should be in the next 30 days. We may get a chance to meet Sergio's wife and little boys much sooner than expected!

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## To Support those caught in the Maui Fires

We continue to be concerned about the devastation on Maui as we learn of new efforts to search for many who remain missing – many of them children. You may wish to [read the statement](#) issued by UU Service Committee President and Lead Officer, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn. She offers more suggestions on how to help and where to donate.

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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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## 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](#).

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## 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.

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## Mission Peak is doing an outreach event!

Saturday, September 23rd from 1-3pm we will be hosting a Fall Fest in and around Cole Hall. This festival will be an earth day in disguise. There will be stations of activities (recycle relay, solar pizza oven, pledge to the earth, etc) and tables with info and inspiration, including Urban Forest Friends, Tri City Ecology Center and the Fremont Sustainability Manager, in addition to others.



If you: a.)want to help attract families with young children to MPUUC and, b.)care about our planet, please consider making some time to lend a hand. [This Signup Genius](#) can tell you where we still need help. Or you can email [Ariel](#) and plan for a phone chat to figure out where your energy could best be used. This is an all-hands on deck event, please consider helping as you are able. Plus, it should be a blast!

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## Mission Peak is hosting a Tri City Interfaith Council (TCIC) event.

Saturday, September 23rd from 3-4pm there will be a special service called a Ritual of Balance for Autumn Equinox. This service will feature a welcome from Rev Greg and then be co-led by Ariel and a group of leaders from TCIC. There will be poetry and music, along with readings and a special time of meditation, a space to grieve climate change and the precarious place our planet now finds itself. Those in attendance will be given a seed to plant and the opportunity to share seasonal fruits with our interfaith community. Please

consider attending! This service is now a quarterly event, held on or near the solstice and equinoxes. Watch for the next one, to be held on or close to the winter solstice, Dec 21st at a TCIC congregation.

## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### Fall Fellowship opportunities- mark your calendars!

Let's celebrate this fall with some great reasons for getting together:

**Saturday September 30th**, 5:30-7:30pm potluck, game night and final stepping stone making event.

**Saturday October 21st**, 5:30-7:30pm potluck, game night and TBD art-making event

**Saturday Nov 11th**, 5:3--7:30pm potluck, game night and Diwali celebration

[RSVP](#) requested (but not required) and coming closer to the date



### 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](mailto: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!

Valerie Stewart and Julie Ganzlin- Stewardship

## JUSTICE CORNER

### Gathering 11:00 AM - DC War Memorial

In case you missed our previous message, Whether you join us in person or by following our social media feeds, please join UUSJ to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic [March on Washington](#), organized by **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** and other civil rights leaders in 1963.



In-person:

**Date:** Saturday, August 26

**Time:** 11:00 AM / 8:00 AM PT (during the larger event)

**Location:** 900 Independence Ave. SW 20024 (DC War Memorial)

**Metro:** Nearest is the [Smithsonian Metro Station](#), exit on the Mall

**Gear:** Wear your UU stoles and shirts, and bring your UU placards

**Event:** **Pablo DeJesús**, Executive Director of UUs for Social Justice, will gather with progressive faith allies for pizza and fellowship at the DC War Memorial, and then enter the larger #MOW60 crowd when it feels right

Online:

**X (formerly Twitter):** <https://twitter.com/uusj>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/uusjdc>

### **[Write to President Biden](#)**

The initiative set up by Texas Governor Greg Abbott known as Operation Lone Star (OLS) has been impacting asylum seekers at the Texas-Mexico Border. OLS has imposed cruel, inhumane, and deadly treatment in the execution of its official mandate “to combat the smuggling of people and drugs into Texas.”

**Recent reporting has drawn attention back to OLS, with stories about:**

1. Migrant children being pushed into the Rio Grande and other migrants denied water,
2. The opening of a jail facility for migrant women, as arrests increase under OLS driven by a reliance on misdemeanor and trespassing charges
3. The apparent death of migrants due to one of the newly installed “barrier buoys”; and,
4. Reports about Texas troopers separating families.

### **The Biden administration must do more to prevent migrant arrests, mistreatment, and family separation occurring under OLS.**

Let us urge President Biden and his administration to do more in challenging Operation Lone Star.

UUSJ Immigration Action Team

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.

### **[Write to President Biden](#)**

## **WILL YOU SIGN A PETITION FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT??**

The ERA passed Congress with the needed 2/3rd vote of the United States House and Senate as well as the legislatures of the needed 38 states.

Congress must immediately recognize the Equal Rights Amendment and pass the following United States House and Senate resolutions:

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that notwithstanding any time limit contained in House Joint Resolution 208, 92nd Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment proposed to the States in that joint resolution is valid to all intents and purposes as part of the*

Constitution, having been ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

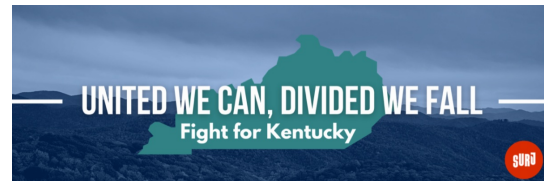
[Learn more about the history of the ratification process, why the ERA must be recognized by Congress as ratified; and why the ERA is still needed to guarantee equal rights to all.](#)

<http://www.signup4era.org>

[Sign the Petition!](#)

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

Earlier this spring at a rally for trans students in Louisville, KY, a young nonbinary student spoke out to the crowd of supporters: “At my school, we have a ‘no bullying rule.’ SB 150 means that students like me are being bullied by the state!”



Right now, we’re working at multiple levels to stand with trans kids and fight the bullies in Kentucky. At the local level, we’re [pressuring school boards in Louisville](#) and in [Ashland](#) to stop the enforcement of SB 150. At the state level, we’re mobilizing SURJ members across the country for the governor’s race to not only protect trans kids in Kentucky, but to ensure another state doesn’t fall to a far right GOP takeover, which would be terrible for Kentuckians, and dangerous for all of us.

Nearly everyone knows and loves someone who is trans. So many of us are queer folks who grew up in places that were inhospitable to our identities. **This year, we have the opportunity to stand with trans students in Kentucky and put people in office who are committed to supporting them, not threatening their existence.**

Join SURJ this week to keep Democrat Governor Andy Beshear in office as an act of solidarity with trans students. We know one elected official isn’t going to bring about a queer rights agenda, but keeping this office out of the hands of people of people like [Robby Mills, GOP candidate for lieutenant governor, who has authored anti-trans legislation and been publicly vitriolic towards trans kids](#), is one right next step for Kentucky and for all of us.

We run two kinds of phone banks: calling Kentucky voters directly and calling SURJ members to recruit them into our phone banks. Here’s how you can get involved this week:

- [Fight for Kentucky: Phone Bank to Contact Voters](#)
- Saturday, August 26, 1 – 4 ET
- [Fight for Kentucky: Phone Bank to Recruit Volunteers](#)
- Monday, August 28, 6 - 9 ET
- [Fight for Kentucky: Phone Bank to Contact Voters](#)
- Thursday, August 31, 6 - 9 ET

**Wednesday, September 13 • 7:00 – 8:00 pm PST**

**Sunday, September 17 • 9:00 – 10:00 am PST**

[Fall Study & Action Orientation](#)

Study & Action is back for the fall season with weekly sessions hosted on Zoom. You can register for Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00 pm PST or Sundays from 8:30-11:00 am PST. This powerful, virtual program will dig into the history of white supremacy while working closely with one of our accountability partners, Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB), on their campaign to close 7 more prisons in California in the next five years. Deepen your knowledge about abolition, develop new skills, and take action in a supportive community. Click above to learn more and register.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thprinciplelearningcommunity/permalink/1263349531216229/>.

### 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.

### 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](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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## 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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