

This Week on the Peak

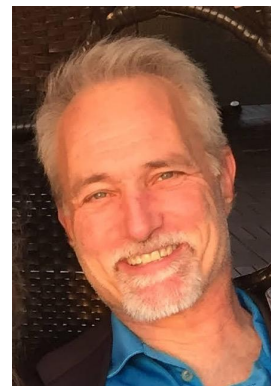


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 30, 2023

Dear Sandra,

The world is turning a corner. While I hope we never forget the hard-won wisdom that Covid brought, we are moving into a time where the deeply human need to personally connect is rising, not waning. Covid's necessary control over us was powerful. Instructive. Even defining. And it's ending.

I say that with some gladness because it has been the ENTIRE time I have been with you. Covid was officially declared the week after I did my pre-candidating service for the Search Team. When I first met most of you it was almost entirely quarantined to Zoom – except the brief drive-by wave in the parking lot.



The beginnings of ministry are powerful, prophetic and visionary times when, in our excitement, we get to imagine what we'll do together. Covid took that from us. I'm not saying we didn't do the best we could at building connection and trust. And I know we used the time to innovate and meet many challenges that social distancing required. But it wasn't the same as being together. Celebrating in the same room. I grieve not having that. I really want a do-over.

In only a little over 6 weeks, I will go on sabbatical. I know!!! Right?!? A sabbatical?!? Right now?!? Enduring a sabbatical can feel like a Covid extension. But I invite us into a new frame: this is the do-over that re-schedules the exciting beginning we never had.

We've done really good work the last three years – not what we thought we'd do, but good nonetheless. We kept people safe, we re-evaluated, re-designed, re-grouped and re-committed to our future. A sabbatical is intentional time to take what we've learned and make the best use of it for a new beginning.

In the weeks ahead, you will hear more about the incredible planning and preparation that has gone into making this sabbatical a renaissance – not a penance. It is a time where new learning meets new dreams and begins building a new, more powerful ministry. Stay tuned

Rev Greg Ward (he, him, his)
minister@mpuuc.org

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.

Connecting the Congregation

As described in the book, "The Song of the Cell," our own human cells evolved from single celled organisms that were capable of living independently. Over evolutionary history, our cells determined that the benefits of interdependence resulted in better survival. Although we as individuals can survive to some degree in isolation, we do better together. The Encouragement Committee has a role in helping each Individual feel connected to the others.

Sharon Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Beth Schaefer. Worship Host will be David Gibbons. Peak Performers 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

There is still time to contribute for our Fellowship and Community Building collection. We will announce how much we collected for our summer collections in the next two weeks.

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 exploring the instinct and impulse toward cooperation, care and even love. The recent book, *The Song of the Cell* by Siddhartha Mukherjee prompts us to wonder how intercellular micro-dynamics might influence human relational macro dynamics. 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.

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!

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.

Boutique News

MISSION PEAK

The **BOUTIQUE** is happening!
And we want you to participate and enjoy the event!

WHAT: LOCALLY SOURCED CRAFTS AND PERSON-MADE GOODS FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY
Including items for the coming holidays


WHEN: OCTOBER 14, 2023 SATURDAY 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: 2950 WASHINGTON BLVD., FREMONT -COLE HALL
(First United Methodist Church Campus)

PLEASE click [HERE](#) to join this festive event! We need the support and participation of ALL to make this a success! We are always **Better Together!**

Click [here](#) for flyer

Click [here](#) to see information on our website



The **BOUTIQUE** at
Mission Peak

LOCALLY SOURCED CRAFTS AND HANDMADE GOODS FOR SALE
Including items for the coming holidays

OCTOBER 14, 2023 SATURDAY 10:00AM - 3:00PM

2950 WASHINGTON BLVD., FREMONT - COLE HALL
(First United Methodist Church Campus - TOP of the hill)

<https://mpuuc.org/boutique/>

Greetings Mission Peak UU Members and Friends,
your support for the Boutique is critical.

Folks who want to sign -up as a VENDOR....please use this form: [Vendor form](#)

Folks who will help with the Boutique, in advance or day-of the Boutique, please fill out this [Boutique Participant form](#)

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

JUSTICE CORNER

[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.](#)

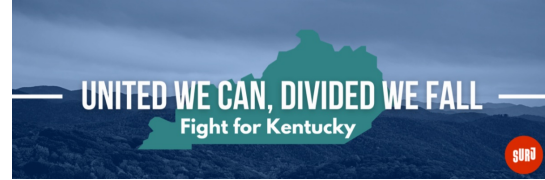
<http://www.signup4era.org>

[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](#)
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.

8th Principle Learning



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

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want

them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!



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!

Russell City Blues with the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

When: Friday, September 8, 2023 7:00 PM
Where: Morrison Theater 22311 N 3rd St,
Hayward, CA 94546
In Person: \$15



What: Celebrate the history and uncover the joy of Russell City, a lost Bay Area community, through on-stage interviews and storytelling with the people who lived there. A live band will be on hand to take us back in time, honoring the musical legacy of the town where the blues thrived until the bulldozers rolled in. Presented by KQED in partnership with the Hayward Area Recreation & Park District at the newly reopened Douglas Morrison Theater

Registration: <https://www.kqed.org/event/3394>

Ukraine History Zoom Seminar

Would you like to know more about Ukraine, to better understand the daily newsreports about the war? The Sacramento Archeological Society, which serves northern California, is offering a seminar via zoom on Saturday, Sept. 9th, at 2:00 PM. An hour presentation by SAS Vice President Paul K Davis, a member of MPUUC, will survey everything from archaeological discoveries through the latest military actions. This will be followed by half an hour of questions, answers and discussion. All are welcome, just click [here](#) for more information and the Zoom link.

History of Ukraine
Saturday, September 9
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

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.

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.

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

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



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