

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 13, 2023

Dear Sandra,

### **Announcement of Congregational Meeting and Vote Regarding Reparations**



At the October 1 worship service, we will have the honor of hearing from Donald Tamaki, a member of the State of California Reparations Task force which released its report on June 19, 2023. The Reparations Task Force, the first initiative of its kind by a state government, spent the past two years documenting how enslavement of African Americans and its enduring legacy of systemic racism cemented structural inequality and recommend many methods for repairing the resulting harm.

The MPUUC Board has spoken with Mr. Tamaki and voted to support this report. Following the service, the congregation will have an opportunity to vote on whether to support this work as a congregation. The statement to be voted on is: "We endorse the mission and overall efforts of the California Reparations Task Force." Mr. Tamaki will be available to answer questions before the vote. Voting can be done both online and in person.

The Task force is collecting endorsements from organizations to make a strong case to the California Legislature that their recommendations be implemented. [Hundreds of organizations](#) including the Tri City Interfaith Council have endorsed the report.

We encourage you to read the [reparations task force report](#) before the meeting and be present in person or online to vote. The report is very long (1100 pages) but there is an [executive summary](#) which contains the main conclusions.

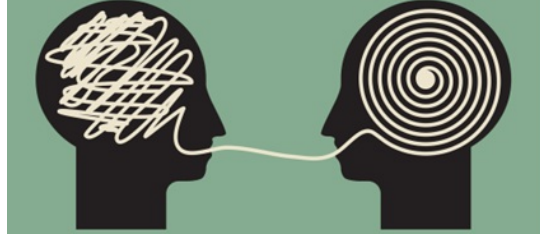
If you will not be able to attend the meeting, and wish to vote, please request an absentee ballot from the MPUUC Treasurer Michelle Wallace at [secretary@mpuuc.org](mailto:secretary@mpuuc.org). The absentee ballot must be completed and sent to the secretary before the congregational meeting. To understand what Mr. Tamaki will say, you can watch a [video](#) of him speaking to Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

- The MPUUC ARO Committee

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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.**



## **Lessons on Listening, Learning and Leadership**

Sometimes, we feel called to go prove a point. We are captured by a conviction that someone needs to be taught a lesson. So we summon our courage and strap on our suit of righteousness indignation and are surprised when people turn away and fail to appreciate our brilliance and wisdom!! The world, right now, is in a battle for the hearts and minds of society. If our goal is to influence people, it is love – not indignation – that will prove to be the better tool. This is a service about the war of disinformation we are currently in and what we need to win.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service assisted by Don Ramie. Graham Bell will be Worship Host and Peak Rocks 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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## **Share the Plate for September: Vote Forward**

Our MPUUC Civic Engagement Committee needs funding to write letters to for Vote Forward, a non profit that has been proven successful in increasing specified voter turn out in swing states. This season of 2023-2024 may be the most significant time in our nation's history in the struggle to preserve democracy.

Please help us buy paper, stamps, ink, and other writing supplies by helping us with this Special Collection.

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

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

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Please join us after service THIS Sunday at 11:30 for a workshop exploring the current proposal to change our UUA's Principles and Purposes. Our 2023 General Assembly delegates will answer many questions, including: What are the changes? Why are they changing it? What happened to the 8th Principle? What happens now? How can I influence change?

Please see [Article II Commission's Report](#) to understand where we are in the process (pg 14 describes how we got her; pg 19 displays the current proposal)

To review a short history of the evolution of current 7 Principles, [click here](#). We look forward to seeing you after service.

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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. This week's topic is exploring tactics and tools of creating the kind of influence we want. What is the best way to sway the undecided and change the perspective of those who are capable of changing their mind. 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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## REV. GREG'S SABBATICAL

In October, Rev. Greg will begin a 3 month sabbatical. Extensive planning has been done to make sure this time is collectively successful and rewarding. If you're just hearing about this, you'll want to read the [Sabbatical Brochure](#) that explains who will be MPUUC's Sabbatical Minister and what arrangements have been put in place and what you need to understand for this to be successful.

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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, so, please consider helping as you are able. Plus, it should be a blast!

## Calling for bakers and face painters!

The Fall Festival (outreach event) on Sat 9/23 is right around the corner and we could still use a few more hands. Could you drop off a baked good in the morning for sale at the table? Do you have experience painting children's faces and be willing to offer that special joy to the kids who come? This free event is likely to draw a diverse crowd, come help all feel welcome! 1-3 p.m.

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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.

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Last month a handful of MPUUC members and FUMC members came together with supplies to pack 25 backpacks for families as part of Abode's rapid rehousing program. MPUUC generously collected nearly \$400 for this effort- thank you! We followed the list supplied by Abode and helped the children of 15 different families be a little more prepared for the new school year.



"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention." Kahlil Gibran

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## WALK for PEACE. PRAY for PEACE. ACT for PEACE

**When:** Thursday, September 21, 2023

**Location:** Peace Pole at Lake Elizabeth Central Park, Fremont

**Parking:** Sailway Dr. off Paseo Padre Parkway

**Time:** 5 p.m. Walk around the lake

6 p.m. Prayers around the Peace Pole



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21st.

The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace.

Never has our world needed peace more.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

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## POTLUCK – POKER – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for FUN! Saturday September 16 is a potluck here in Cole Hall at 5:30 p.m., celebrating Rev. Greg's Birthday – AND – Rev. Greg's annual Poker (Tournament style Texas Hold'em) with the Pastor Fundraiser. You don't need to play poker to come to the party and you don't need to be good at poker to play. It's all for fun and to support Mission Peak.

**POTLUCK DETAILS:** Cake will be provided.

**BIRTHDAY DETAILS:** No presents except your help and your presence.

**POKER DETAILS:** Tournament starts at 7:15 pm

If you bought a spot in our Auction, your \$25 buy-in is covered  
Anyone who didn't buy a spot at the auction can buy-in for \$25  
Anyone who gets knocked out can re-buy for \$20.  
All proceeds go to the MPUUC General Fund  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place prizes for Poker winners.

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### 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

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### OKTOBERFEST is happening again!

**Saturday, October 7, 2:00–4:00 p.m.**

At Don Ramie's house:  
35982 Cabral Dr., Fremont, CA 94536

(510) 791-6842



Everyone from Mission Peak UU is invited, as well as friends and family!

German beer and German snacks will be provided. You can also bring some other drink and a munch of your own if you like. We had a great time last year, and it's a great way to get to know each other better. Lots of street parking.

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## JUSTICE CORNER

September 18, 2023

October 23, 2023

November 20, 2023

Each session will last two hours and start at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time/4:00 p.m. Mountain Time/5:00 p.m. Central Time/6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.



Caring for Trans Families: A national 3-part series that will empower congregational leaders to faithfully support our transgender/non-binary community members. In this series, we will examine what multi-faceted support looks like including pastoral support, structural support and resources to help congregations work toward radical inclusivity, and advocacy in the public sphere. [Register now.](#)

## CARING FOR TRANS\* FAMILIES

A national 3-part series that will empower congregational leaders to faithfully support our Trans/Non-Binary community members.



Monday, September 18th  
Monday, October 23rd  
Monday, November 20th

6-8 pm ET | 5-7 pm CT



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

### SUPPORT LEGISLATION

In collaboration with our incredible partners, SURJ Bay Area is supporting bills related to strengthening our democ, improving equitable labor and housing practices, resentencing and alternative sentencing, and improving the rights of incarcerated people. Want to add your support? [View our updated summary](#) of the bills we're supporting this year and join our [Legislative Action List](#). We'll contact you during the most important legislative weeks of the year with call scripts and targets to impact key legislators.



From rising temperatures to rising authoritarianism, it can feel like any action we take right now is too late. As white people organizing white communities, we have the opportunity to invite our people in with an alternative message: "You're right on time." [Check out SURJ National's latest video, "Right on Time,"](#) that details why we organize white people and how SURJ is working to block authoritarianism in 2024 and build a white working class base to win beyond the election.



## 8th Principle Learning

# The art of the denial

How racism deniers obscure the reality of racism, minimizing its significance

By **Phillipe Copeland**

Updated January 3, 2023, 11:41 a.m.



Examples of racism denial. ALEX LASALVIA

"Racism Denial" written by Phillipe Copeland, a Clinical Associate Professor at Boston University.

[The art of the denial: The excuses people make to ignore racism \(bostonglobe.com\)](https://www.bostonglobe.com)

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## Denominational Affairs

### Save the Dates: Pacific Western Regional Assembly

**April 19-20, 2024**

**Online and in-person**

Look for details about registration, location and presenters in upcoming editions of the PWR Newsletter.

**Online and in-person**

Look for details about registration, location and presenters in upcoming editions of the PWR Newsletter.

Click [here](#) for more information from Pacific Western Region Newsletter.

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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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## 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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# 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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