

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 20, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Hi everyone! I'm Stephen Longfield (he/him) and I am a member of your board of trustees.

This Saturday, September 23rd, is the first day of fall and the autumnal equinox. It is a time of balance when day and night are of equal length, but also a time of transition as we move from the warmth of summer to the cooler and more reflective days of fall.

Fall has always been my favorite season. It symbolizes change, a constant theme in my life since the birth of my son.

At MPUUC, we're preparing for a change as well, with Reverend Greg set to embark on his sabbatical in just a little over three weeks. The Board and Committee on Ministry (COM) has been hard at work making sure that we're ready for that change, and I'm excited to work with everyone of the Mission Peak members and friend community through that sabbatical and into new beginnings.



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.



Apologies from and for the Soul
Why Some Apologies Change Everything and Others Change

Nothing

Yom Kippur comes at the culmination of the Days of Awe - a period of time in which we re-align with what we know to be holy and true. It is, ultimately, part of our efforts to write our name in the book of life - enjoy a bright and limitless year ahead. But first, we must reflect, remember, restore and reclaim all the energy we lose to the brokenness that we're part of. In this service, we will examine the psychology and spirituality of apology to figure out how to begin again.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service assisted by Paul K. Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host and Knuti VahHoven, Jo Ann Schriener and Peak Performers with Drew Wilson 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%.

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%



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 areas of apology. What is it and why is it so hard? Were there apologies never made that you wished you had? Were there apologies you never received that you wished you had? 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.

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.

Mission Peak Leadership Assessment

Leadership is essential for Mission Peak to be successful. And feedback is essential for leadership to learn. The Committee on Ministry has a short survey that will help inform Rev. Greg and MPUUC leaders. Please take the [MPUUC Leadership Survey](#). In just 10-15 minutes, your insight can help leaders be even more successful. Although the survey requires we put our name, all feedback shared in Congregational Conversations will be without attribution.

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!

Looking for an easy pick-me-up?

Studies [show](#) that sharing your time as a volunteer offers significant health benefits. Studies also show that connecting with others can boost your mood. This Saturday you have the opportunity to do both! We could use a few more donations of baked goods for the Fall Fest. Drop off at Cole Hall between 10-1pm. All are welcome at this event, please consider sharing the present of your presence. Questions? dre@mpuuc.org.

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.

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

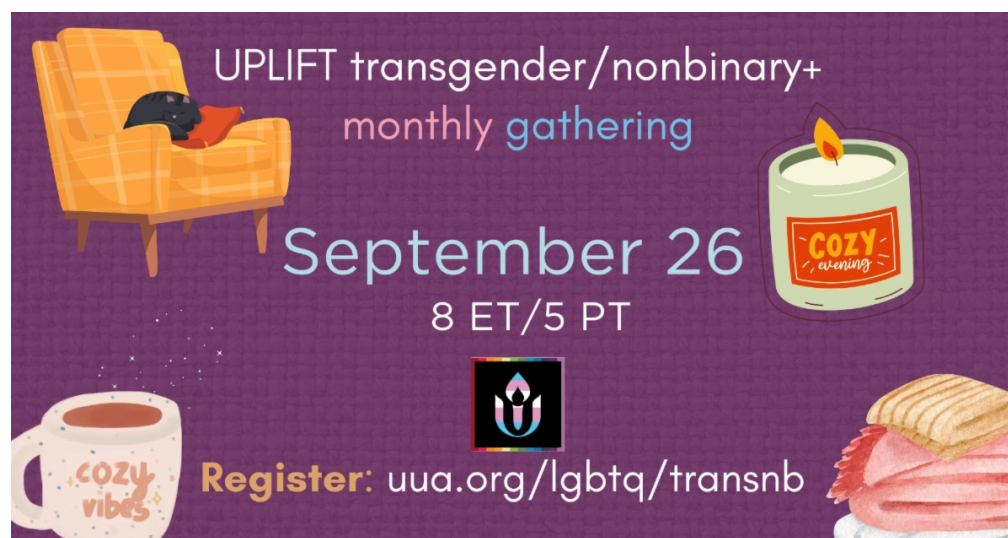


Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21st.

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.



Trans, nonbinary, and other not-entirely-or-at-all-cis UUs are invited to join our monthly gathering, which we hope will feel like a cozy cup of something soothing (in virtual meeting form!). This intentionally multi-generational gathering is open to and welcoming of trans/nonbinary elders as well as children, youth, and young adults. Register at <https://uplift.breezechms.com/form/85383d>

This gathering is intended to foster connection between trans/nonbinary+ UUs (and non-UUs who are ok with being in a UU-grounded space) to co-create support and community.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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

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.



JUSTICE CORNER

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.

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.

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.
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Board Briefs

Board briefs from September 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.

The board met on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

- Approved an updated Board Covenant.
- Discussed upcoming COM survey that is to compare with the last (2021) survey.
- Discussed October 1 Reparations Service. A notice will go in Week on the Peak September 13 for the Oct. 1 congregational meeting and vote regarding reparations.
- Discussed September 17 workshop by the Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) to education the congregation about the UUA's work on the UUA Bylaws Article 2.
- Discussed stewardship projects. The MPUUC Auction will be on November 18 at 7 pm via Zoom and will include elements of a Boutique, rather than having a separate Boutique in October.
- Discussed the 2024-25 Canvass, the need to recruit a coordinator, and timeline.
- Approved the Outreach Committee Charter update (formerly Publicity Committee).
- Discussed the UUA's DRUUMM survey, which will be sent out to MPUUC members on behalf of DRUUMM.
- Discussed clarification of the facility lease with the Methodists (landlords).

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, October 10 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

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.

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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 | missionpeakuu.org



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Notice

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