

This Week on the Peak



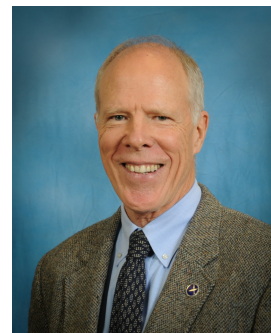
Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 18, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Hello MPUUC Members and Friends,

Thank you, thank you for the warm, appreciative, and encouraging welcome you are gifting me in my first week as your sabbatical minister. I thought and felt and heard that the transition service and meeting went very well. I hope you felt some of that connection too.

You sent Rev. Greg off on his sabbatical journeys with your love and well wishes and no small dose of heart felt concerns if his travels should take him anywhere near the danger zones in the Middle East. You invited me into the embrace of your special congregational family for these intervening months. And Alan and Paul did a very good job of summarizing the sabbatical preparation, presenting the information from the survey, and then leading a conversation with all of us about our concerns and likes and wishes. It felt like a good, strong way to begin this liminal time and opportunity together.



As your Sabbatical Minister my duties and responsibilities are limited. Most of my time will be devoted to the preparation and presentation of Sunday services. A big portion of that time will be working with and maintaining good communication with the Worship Associates. It seems important that I not make their volunteer jobs any harder than I have to. They have already stepped up so much to generously and graciously help me find my way.

I am scheduled to meet monthly with the Executive Team and Committee on Ministry and have regular check-ins with the staff and Rev. Barbara Meyers, who is serving as the overseer of the Pastoral Care Program. That's the general form and structure set out for my involvement so that I can be, and will be, available as, and if, needed.

If you'd like to be in touch by email or phone, please do. I'd like that. My contact information is in the directory. I'll let you know when I'll be available if I'm not right then.

One additional part in my Letter of Agreement helps give form to some ways that we can intentionally reflect in, and on, our sabbatical time together. The Committee on Ministry has asked me to have some form of formal and informal post service conversation "to explore what makes congregational engagement meaningful." COM has scheduled the "formal" after service meetings. I'll join a breakout room after this Sunday's service for an "informal" conversation and will work with the Worship hosts to figure out how to set up others for later Sundays. In the meantime, let's all reflect on "what makes congregational

engagement meaningful". Not so much in general, but for each of us. What makes for meaningful engagement in our busy lives? I find myself sensing that question often and feeling positive, hopeful answers just in my first week. I'm sure you will too.

Yesterday a MPUUC member concluded their email by saying: "I hope you will enjoy the great people of this big-hearted congregation." I am indeed.

It was a joy to be with you on Sunday.
It is a joy to be here.
Thank you. Thank you.

Rev. Jim

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.



My Religious Perspective to Life and Love: A Big Picture Orientation

I think of religion as a word of orientation. I don't think of it as a boxed set of beliefs. And Unitarian Universalism is the religious tradition and community that best orients and informs my life journey and spiritual practice. I'll introduce a simple organizing understanding I use to give it more form and help guide me on my way. My hopes are that it might also speak to you.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Paul K. Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host and Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven and 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%.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 29

The Board of Directors of Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation hereby calls a meeting of the Congregation, to be held after service on October 29. The congregation

will vote on whether to publicly support the statement: *We endorse the overall efforts of the California Reparations Task Force to study reparations for African Americans.* Voting will be done in person and on Zoom; absentee ballots are available by request at: president@mpuuc.org or secretary@mpuuc.org

Task Force member Donald Tamaki spoke and answered questions at our October 1 service. See the article by Rev. Barbara Meyers in this newsletter for more information on the topic.

Information for Reparations Vote

At the October 1 worship service, Donald Tamaki, spoke about the State of California Reparations Task Force Report. On October 29 our congregation will vote on a statement of support.

To prepare for the vote, we encourage you to read the [executive summary](#) of the reparations task force report before the meeting and be present in person or online to vote. [Hundreds of organizations](#) including the Tri City Interfaith Council have endorsed the report. You can watch a [video](#) of him giving the same presentation at Grace Cathedral I San Francisco that we heard him on October 1. Please see the [attached file](#) for an editorial from the San Jose Mercury urging support for the reparations work.

Share the Plate for October: TCIC

The TriCity Interfaith Council has been working for World Peace each fall since it's inception. This year, it is pursuing it's commitment to peace by attending two of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals: Providing nutritious food and Clean Water. We will continue to collect for TCIC through October.

Write a check to MPUUC with "TCIC" 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 "TCIC" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "TCIC") 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 "TCIC" 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. 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.

MPUUC Survey of our diversity

DRUUMM (Diverse & Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries, the oldest and largest UU People of Color Ministry) and UU leadership are requesting that our Mission Peak UU members join many other congregations in completing a survey of ethnicity, gender identity, and ability diversity within our UU congregations.

The survey is brief and anonymous. More details have been sent to you by email.

MPUUC diversity survey link: <https://forms.gle/8ufv5C7aoLJe5A4JA>

Please help us highlight and document our diversity!

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.

What I Wish My Parents Knew film screening and discussion.

Come join us at 7PM on October 28th in Cole Hall. We will watch a 45-minute documentary film that explores the inner struggles of several children battling depression and anxiety and express in great detail what they wish their parents and families would have known and how they could have helped.

[Click here for more information.](#)

For more information contact Rev. Barbara Meyers at com_minister@mpuuc.org. For free childcare at event please email dre@mpuuc.org in advance.



Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

WHAT I WISH MY PARENTS KNEW

Youth Mental Health
FREE Film Screening + Discussion

TELL MY STORY
MWM
MENTAL WELLNESS
M.U.U.C.

Saturday, October 28th
7:00 - 8:30pm

Methodist Church Campus
• Cole Hall
2950 Washington Blvd.
Fremont, CA

Childcare will be provided.
RSVP for Childcare at dre@mpuuc.org

Black & White Auction

The Black and White Auction is COMING!

November 18, 7 pm on ZOOM

YOU can donate YOUR Service item(s) now for our premier Fellowship event of the year.

Link: [2023 FALL Donation Form](#)

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!!

Tickets are \$25 per attendee

Purchase tickets with this Square link: <https://square.link/u/tml1FSln>

Or you can mail a check to -

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

P.O. Box 545, Fremont, CA 94537-0545

with the Memo line :B&W - Tickets

ONE more person can sign up to be a Fudge Judge
FUDGEMAKES can sign up to make your FUDGE NOW

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

October fellowship opportunity:

Mental health professionals might say that depression comes from living in the past while anxiety comes from living in the future. **PLAY** has the power to bring us into the present moment. Come play with fellow Mission Peak people this Saturday, October 21st from 5:30-7:30 in Cole Hall. Sing some karaoke or clap for those who will, share food, play a game. [RSVP is requested](#) but not required. There will be cheese pizza and caramel apples, too!



All Mission Peak members and friends invited!

Friday, October 27, at sundown (6:14) until 8:30 p.m.

Don Ramie's house
35982 Cabral Dr., Fremont, CA 94536 (510) 791-6842

Pizza provided for both carnivores and plant people. Bring special drinks you want.

Costumes optional, or choose one that Don has on hand.

Photographs will be taken.



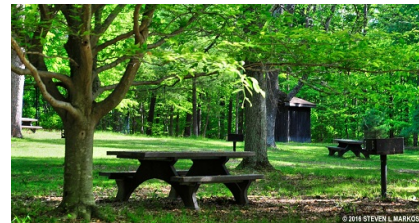
Mark your calendars for November fellowship, Saturday Nov 11th from 5:30-7:30pm Diwali themed dinner / pot-luck.

Diwali is the South Asian Festival of Lights. MPUUC will order some Indian food for all, you bring a side dish to share. Feel free to wear any South Asian clothes you may own or borrow. Small art project planned. [RSVP required](#) since we're ordering food to include in the potluck.



Black Friday GREEN Friday! Lunch on Nov 24th

Most people know of Black Friday, the Friday that follows Thanksgiving, as a day to shop. This year you are invited to skip the shopping and spend some time in nature. Bring a picnic lunch, wear your walking shoes if a stroll sounds good or just plan to chill under the trees and get a dose of nature. Location is still TBD so if this sounds like what you need in your life and you have a location suggestion (somewhere somewhat wild but with bathrooms and close proximity to parking) please be in touch with Ariel. dre@mpuuc.org



December fellowship opportunity, **Saturday December 9th**, cookie decorating and holiday singalong with our choir director, Von! More details to follow.

We're grateful for the courageous advocacy of Rev. Christina Branum-Martin, Rev. Misha Sanders, and all the Unitarian Universalists who are faithfully showing up to put Cop City on the ballot and to demand that the people of Atlanta decide. This morning UUs helped to deliver the over 116,000 petition signatures collected by the Cop City Vote Coalition in support of letting Atlantans decide if they want Cop City.



The City Clerk claims that they are not “legally obligated to verify signatures” because of the 11th circuit court stay ruling. We join with the Cop City Vote Coalition in calling on the City of Atlanta to honor the signatures and add the Cop City Referendum to the ballot TODAY.

Visit <https://bit.ly/StopCopCityBallotNow> to call the Atlanta City Council and view our sample script to tell City Council to add the referendum to the ballot today. See image descriptions in the comments.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

In 2009, I moved back to my hometown of 2,500 people in rural South Dakota to be a teacher. That same year, my little sister, who is Native, started kindergarten and was called racist names on the playground by her classmates.

While my sister faced unchecked racist bullies, I was buying classroom supplies and being chastised for talking about race in my middle school classroom. Both of us were unsupported by our school system. Our 100% white school board had been organized into the divide-and-conquer worldview of the far right, believing that honest conversations about race were the problems in our schools, and not the lack of funding we received.

This year, SURJ is launching our first ever school board campaign, “All In for All Students.” We’ve recruited a cohort of 17 teams across the country that are working at the school board level in their local communities, some supporting candidates running for election and others working on issues like fighting for trans kids’ rights.



[Our first phone bank is this Wednesday at 6 pm ET where we'll be calling other SURJ members to turn them out for this work.](#)

[Can't make that phone bank? Give a donation to support our work to grow our school board work this year.](#)



Georgetown University and Jesuits donate \$27 million to foundation for descendants of enslaved people

By [Nicole Chavez](#), CNN

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/14/us/georgetown-university-jesuits-enslaved-people-gift-reaj/index.html?fbclid=IwAR1u4RyH5N-nl4Mbd4RNBMI6DPtnASLUykkBmTZ00SRSp5YgwAQSEr-Zc>

Denominational Affairs

Unitarian Universalist Pacific Western Region

Your Pacific Western Region Transitions Team is extending a special invitation to you to join us for our Regional Town Halls on Zoom, **Tuesday, October 17, 6-8pm Pacific/7-9pm Mountain/5-7pm Alaska/3-5pm Hawaii**, and **Saturday, October 21, 10am-12pm Pacific/11-1 Mountain/9-11am Alaska/7-9am Hawaii**.

Our goal is to gather feedback on our ideas for the future of the region and to see what ideas, hopes, and dreams you might have for a new Pacific Western Region that more fully supports and connects its communities. There will be opportunities for you to participate in online polls, and in conversations with members of other communities in our Region. Our goal is to engage with UUs throughout the Region in ways that will give you a voice in the future of our Region, from programs offered by our Regional staff to our upcoming Pacific Western Regional Assembly, April 19-20, 2024, at First Universalist Church of Denver.

Here are ways that you can help:

- share [this video](#) with your congregation this Sunday, and/or share it to your social media and congregation's website
- Include [this announcement](#) in your congregation's bulletin this Sunday
- Share this newsletter with those in your congregation who can also be partners in helping get the word out about the Town Halls
- [Register for the Town Hall at this link](#) and encourage others in your congregation to do the same.
-

If you have any questions, please email us at transitionsteam@pwruiu.org.

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 and note that our broker information changed this year.

An invitation from FUMC folks:

The new ping pong table that lives in Ockerman 3/4 is starting to get some regular use on Tuesday mornings and Mission Peak congregants are invited to join in. It's all very casual, no score keeping, just simple fun which starts at 11 every Tuesday- come if you're free!



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](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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