

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 8, 2023

Dear Sandra,

I'm writing here to tell you why you should come to the Diwali dinner / potluck this Saturday night at Mission Peak. In order to do that, let me tell you a little bit about me. My journey into celebrating this holiday begins with a holiday you are perhaps familiar with: Christmas.

When my partner Ajit and I first got together I was surprised to see how disinterested he was in celebrating Christmas. This was challenging for me: I was raised in a family that did not celebrate any of the holidays, so when I left that religion as a teenager I made it my mission to pull every drop of goodness from birthdays and holidays, making up for lost time. My partner and I settled on a few agreements that would help us enjoy these holidays: we would cook a dinner with our extended family on Christmas and we would mark Diwali with a party with friends. The details have changed over the years but these two holidays remain important in the life of our family.



Diwali (pronounced dee-VAL-i), the Festival of Lights, is a holiday celebrated by many people all over the globe, most of whom live in India. In Sanskrit the name means "row of lights", referring to the tradition of lighting rows of small candles called diyas (pronounced DEE-as, like the Spanish word dia but with an "s" at the end). Diwali has various origin stories but they all generally follow a theme of good winning over evil. It comes in October or November on the new moon, hence the need for lots of light.

Like any good holiday it includes a meal with loved ones. This is where YOU come in. This Saturday night Mission Peak will host a dinner / potluck to mark Diwali. You are invited to dress up (or come in comfy clothes), to bring a dish to share (or give the gift of coming early to setup or staying late to cleanup), to paint a diya you can take home (or enjoy watching others paint), to help color in the giant rangoli we'll draw on the sidewalk out front of Cole Hall (which signifies this place as a spot for the gods to bring good luck and abundance in the new year ahead). Sometime between dinner and dessert / art project, we'll offer a short pooja, a kind of prayer sung to the gods. Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, is the most common god to pray to on Diwali but we have chosen a Ganesha pooja, the god known for removing obstacles. We'll have the words printed out for any who want to sing along and invite you to join in this short ritual in whatever way feels right for you.

If this sounds like an event you would enjoy I hope you'll come! [RSVP is required](#) by Friday at 5pm, so we can be sure to order the right amount of food and have enough diyas for anyone who wants one. If you own or can borrow South Asian clothes you are

most welcome to wear them. I may have some to offer on loan- come early to shop:)

As always, reach out to me if you have any thoughts, ideas or questions. I hope to see you Saturday. Happy Diwali!

Yours at Mission Peak,
Ariel Smith-iyer (she / her)
Religious Education Coordinator

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.



Hope That Works

The accent is on "works". The title is not a wish, but a statement. We'll share an understanding of hope for right now, hope-in; hope that makes a real difference and brings true joy into every day whether in the face of climate change, illness, politics or the simple overwhelm of too much. Hope-in that resides within our larger hopes and fears is a practice "at the core of who we are already."

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Drew Wilson. David Gibbons will be Worship Host and Jay Steele 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%.

Black & White Auction

The Black and White GALA is COMING!

November 18, 7 pm on ZOOM

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!!

Tickets are \$25 per attendee.

Purchase tickets with this Square link: <https://square.link/u/tml1FSIn>

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

wait for it.....wait for it.....wait for it!!!!!!

The CATALOG will be available for early review

Sat. 11/11. Check your 32Auctions.com account

or the link on the Gala page at www.mpuuc.org

SEE YOU AT THE GALA!!!!

Mission Peak Votes to Support Reparations

There was a congregational meeting after the service on October 29 to vote on making a public endorsement of reparations for African Americans. At the meeting, the wording of the proposed statement was changed slightly to: "We endorse the overall efforts of the California Reparations Task Force to support reparations for African Americans." The final vote of those present in person and on zoom was: 24 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain. Because the wording of the statement was changed during the meeting, absentee ballots could not be included in the final vote. The news of this public endorsement by MPUUC has been sent to the California Reparations Task Force, which gratefully received it.

Board Briefs

Board Briefs from October 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.

The board met on Tuesday, October 11, 2023.

- ❖ Paul Clifford represented the Committee on Ministry to report on the results of the leadership survey.
- ❖ Breeze Charter discussion with DeAnna Alm; the board voted unanimously to accept it as edited. A statement of policy will be created and added.
- ❖ There will be a congregational meeting after the service on 10/29/2023 to vote on making the public statement: "We endorse the overall efforts of the California Reparations Task Force to study reparations for African Americans."
- ❖ Rev. Greg presented a new announcement policy for WotP. The board voted unanimously to accept it.
- ❖ The annual congregational meeting will be held on June 9, 2024.



Change of date for Board Meeting in November

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, November 9 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

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.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Mark your calendars for a very special November fellowship opportunity, Saturday Nov 11th from 5:30-7:30pm

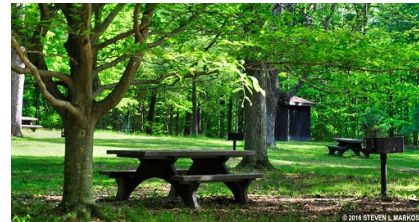


Diwali themed dinner / pot-luck / pooja. Diwali is the South Asian Festival of Lights. MPUUC will order some Indian food for all, you bring a side dish to share. Feel free to wear any South Asian clothes you may own or borrow. There will be a short pooja (prayer/chant) and a small art project planned. [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! Please click [here](#) for flyer.



JUSTICE CORNER

Earlier this year, Side With Love and UU the Vote program and field staff offered this hybrid workshop at General Assembly 2023, "UU the Vote: Mapping Our Impact, Charting Our Future."

We were joined by UU State Advocacy Network staff and UU volunteers to talk about the impact of UU the Vote on the 2020 and 2022 elections as well as plan for what we will be doing in 2024.

This interactive workshop invites us to dive deep into the practices, relationships, and strategies of our electoral organizing that helped us to reach over 5 million voters since 2020. [View it now.](#)



Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Sunday, November 12 • 2:00 – 6:00 pm

[Putting it Into Practice: Skills for Racial and Gender Justice](#)

Are you someone who benefits from white male privilege and is willing to contribute to racial and gender justice? Join STAND: White Men for Racial, Gender, and Economic Justice for an afternoon of connection and growth. The workshop will explore how to show up in movements for justice with integrity, imagination, and your whole selves. You'll look at the ways gender and racial hierarchies show up in people's lives as well as practice difficult conversations. Whether you're unfamiliar with these issues or deeply connected, you'll be welcome - especially if you're new. While this is a free event, STAND will be collecting donations for Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

Location: Greenpeace Warehouse, 955 7th St., Oakland

Tuesday, November 28 • 7:00 – 8:15 pm

[SURJ Partner Voices: TGI Justice Project](#)

What is going on with the incarceration of Black trans, gender-nonconforming, and intersex people following the passage of The Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity

Act (SB-132)? You'll hear about that and more at this SURJ webinar with partner TGI Justice Project, a group of transgender, gender-variant and intersex people—inside and outside of prisons, jails and detention centers—creating a united family in the struggle for survival and freedom. Learn how they forge a culture of resistance and resilience to fight against human rights abuses, imprisonment, police violence, racism, poverty, and societal pressures.

8th Principle Learning



The case for reparations
The Atlantic

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Denominational Affairs

Virtual GA 2024 Theme Announcement

The theme for 2024 Virtual General Assembly is **Love Unites, Stories Ignite**. Virtual GA participants will receive:

- Memorable, high-impact content for faith formation, with an easy and accessible experience
- Sense of belonging in the online community, with flexible approaches for a variety of needs
- Renewed connection to the wider faith of Unitarian Universalism.
- Inspiration and support to carry forward to your local congregations and beyond.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Click [here](#) to read more

Outside Mission Peak

URGENT HELP NEEDED! 250 Frozen Turkeys Needed!

Dear Wonderful Community Members,

As the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves in a special place of gratitude, but also in need of your generous assistance. It's that time of the year again when LOV – The League of Volunteers and its partners, seeks your support to make our 35th Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner a heartwarming success.

Click [here](#) for more information

Conflict Intervention Service

Conflict Intervention Service on behalf of The Bar Association of San Francisco would like to invite you to attend our “**Interfaith Symposium on Peacemaking: An Exploration of Love, Compassion, Mercy, Freedom, and Justice as Pathways to Peace**” this **Thursday, November 9th from 9am-5pm**. This will be a virtual event.

There will be speakers from a variety of religious backgrounds discussing peacemaking efforts and building community across differences; it should be full of impactful conversations! Please see the attached flyer for more details.

You are welcome to share the code with your friends and colleagues as well. Although the symposium is an all-day event, it is fine if someone needs to come and go throughout the day, as the waiting room will be monitored in case someone has to leave for a couple of hours and come back.

To join this event at no cost please use this code at checkout: **ADR100**

The direct link to the registration can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/3bpaxtum>

A Many Splendored Thing

Please join us on **Saturday, November 11 at 7:30** amid the shifting artwork of the Berkeley’s David Brower Center, or **Sunday, November 12 at 4:00** among the dancing saints murals at St Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco. Tickets are available now!

November 11, 2023 | 7:30pm | David Brower Center, Berkeley | [Tickets](#)
November 12, 2023 | 4:00pm | St Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco | [Tickets](#)

In addition, CSMA will present this concert as part of their Community Concert Series.

November 18, 2023 | 7:30pm | Community School of Music and Arts, Mountain View

www.clerestory.org
<https://arts4all.org/concerts/clerestory-a-many-splendored-thing/>

Tri City Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

SAVE THE DATE!!! You are invited to the 62nd annual Tri-City Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, at 7:30 pm. The service will be held in person at Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont, 94536, and streamed to a Zoom meeting. To attend via Zoom, register in advance at: <https://bit.ly/TCIC-ITS2023>.

Click [here](#) for flyer.

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.

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



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



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