

# This Week on the Peak



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

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Dear Sandra,

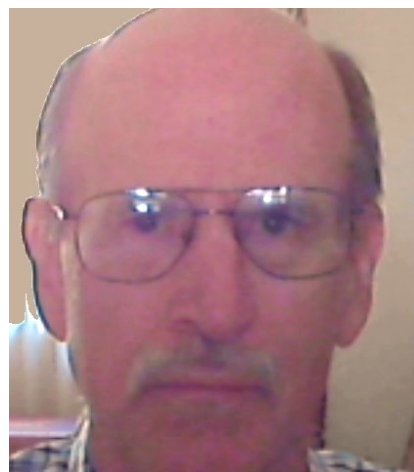
This is Alan Davis, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry. During Rev Greg's sabbatical, we are acting as the Sabbatical Committee, supporting Rev Jim during his three month tenure. I would like to thank everyone who participated in, or just listened to, the meeting we held after the service on November 19. We were trying to assess how the Sabbatical had been going during the first month, to determine if something might need to be fixed. We are happy to report that everyone expressed approval of Rev Jim, and that the Sabbatical was proceeding as well as they had hoped.

There were some minor issues brought up which we hope to address during the remaining month. We noticed that coordination had become more difficult, because there was no one (i.e. Rev Greg) who met regularly with all parties. Some people suggested that the contact information for Rev Jim should be posted when the Joys and Concerns segment finishes, when he invites people who might have private issues. We also heard people say that services had been running long, although I think this might be a problem that has predated the Sabbatical.

The Committee on Ministry will continue to work with Rev Jim to monitor the ministry of the congregation, although one of our members, Paul Clifford, will be away until February.

Alan Davis

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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.

### Letting Go of Our Dearest Illusion

Chris writes: "We may think we know who we are, and where we are. But our self-image and our understanding of our world may have evolved when we were very young, without much grown-up reflection or revision. I am 80. If I'm ever going to see through this illusory, imaginary self, in an illusory, imaginary world, the time is now. Today I'll say a little about my efforts to look beyond this limiting story. I'll also invite you to look at your story, and what may await you as you see beyond it."



Rev. Chris Schriener will lead the service and assisting will be Drew Wilson. Steve Wallcave 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: Guest at Your Table

Through January 7, we are asking you to set an extra plate at your table. The cost of one meal, each night for 28 nights buys us the chance to see the connection between the difference that's needed and the difference we can make. Guest at Your Table Boxes are available in Cole Hall or [online](#). You can access the stories of [this year's hosts](#) as well as seeing the [difference you can make](#). Together, let's learn about people directly connected to human rights work, reflect on our own lives, and raise funds to advance justice in communities near and far. Thank you for the love that turns into justice.

Please make your check payable to MPUUC with GAYT in the memo line.

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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. 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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## JUSTICE CORNER

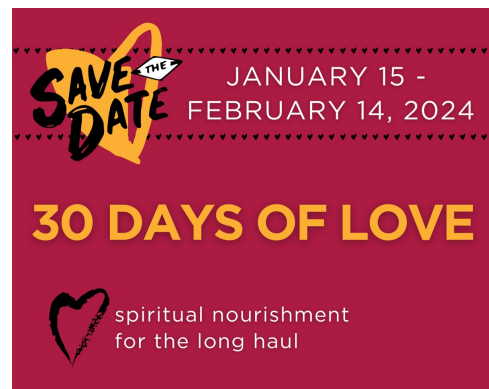
This annual event offers a month of spiritual nourishment, political grounding, and shared practices of faith and justice.

Each week, you can expect to receive several different kinds of offerings, each from a different voice within Unitarian Universalism.

Within each weekly theme, which will connect with one of our intersectional justice priorities, we plan to offer prayers, blessings, grounding, and meditative practices, a story or time for all ages, as well as a reflection from one of Side With Love's program and field staff.

To get an idea of what to expect or to enjoy some meditative breaks during your lunch this month, see last year's offerings at [sidewithlove.org/30daysoflove2023](https://sidewithlove.org/30daysoflove2023).

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

### SURJ (Show Up for Racial Justice)

#### Show Up for our Partners' Long Term Vision

Our partners are leading with vision and breaking ground, investing in the space, people, and strategy required to build a humane society that will support their communities to thrive after centuries of racism.

- **TGI Justice Project (TGIJP)** secured a permanent home in San Francisco this year — one that will hold their long-term vision of a Black Trans Cultural Center and political home for TGIJP members within the city they helped build.
- **Sogorea Te' Land Trust** is growing their rematriation work in Lisjan territory, returning to the cultural knowledge and practices that were lost in colonization. In partnership with Movement Generation, 43 acres of land in the unceded Bay Miwok territory of the San Francisco East Bay Area were returned to Indigenous care earlier this year.
- **Initiate Justice, Ella Baker Center, and Californians United for a Responsible Budget** are working strategically on securing long-term change through legislative

action. In 2024, our partners will be supporting bills that will help establish polling centers in county jails, allow incarcerated people in California prisons to vote, and engage youth facing restitution in restorative justice, community service, and employment. All this, while steadily working on closing California prisons.

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## 8th Principle Learning

### Rev. Sofia Betancourt, PhD

Our Unitarian Universalist commitment to empowering a free and responsible search for truth and meaning alongside an encouragement to spiritual growth continues to inspire me toward a fuller and deeper examination of the critical moments and complex ideas of life.

It is in this spirit that I send my love and care to you all, Beloveds, on this [#Thanksgiving](#) holiday that is also a [#NationalDayOfMourning](#). On this journey of spiritual exploration and risking new understandings, it is good to be in community.

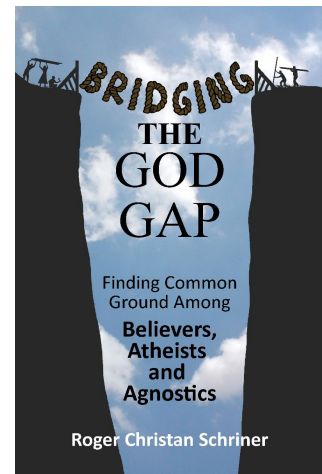
Watch the National Day of Mourning event via livestream with the link in the comments. [nationaldayofmourning](#)

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**Holiday Season Book Signing:** On December 17 our Minister Emeritus, Dr. Chris Schriner, will sign copies of his books after the service. Do you have family members or friends who are interested in spiritual exploration, theology, philosophy, or ways of reducing stress? They might appreciate a gift of one of these books by Chris.

**Bridging the God Gap: Finding Common Ground Among Believers, Atheists and Agnostics** shows how to have honest and respectful conversations with those who disagree with us about religion.

Chris Schriner's *Bridging the God Gap* is well-written, insightful, and chock-full of inspiring, practical wisdom. Getting long-time theological rivals to respect each other as kindred spirits just got a whole lot easier. This book deserves a wide readership. Bravo, Chris!@ B Michael Dowd, author of *Thank God for Evolution*



**Your Living Mind: The Mystery of Consciousness and Why It Matters to You.** Many scholars believe that we can never understand how conscious experiences could occur within the brain. This book wrestles with the remarkable issues associated with this conundrum.

**Feel Better Now: 30 Ways to Handle Frustration in 3 Minutes or Less,** is a manual for coping with stress and emotional tension, with an approach inspired by Buddhist psychology.

**Do Think Twice: Provocative Reflections on Age-Old Questions** is for people who enjoy reflecting on the big issues that philosophers, visionaries, and college sophomores find fascinating, such as moral relativism, the mystery of consciousness, free will, accepting mortality, and the mismatch between human nature and the modern world.

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## Concert this Sunday

The Palm Hill Bell Choir, consisting of bell ringers from both the First United Methodists and the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalists, will present a concert of seasonal music Sunday, December 17th, at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church. All are invited.

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## Winter Solstice Worship Service 2023

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 4 pm PT/ 5  
pm MT/ 6 pm CT/ 7 pm ET



Please click here for more information:

<https://www.uumfe.org/support-for-activists/light-for-all/>

## Winter Solstice Refugia Worship

seeking shelter, wonder, and healing of the earth

*Refugia (reh-FU-jee-ah) is a biological term describing places of shelter where life endures in times of crisis, such as a volcanic eruption, fire, or stressed climate. Ideally, these refugia endure, expand, and connect so that new life emerges.*

**December 22  
6:00 pm  
at St. Anne's Episcopal**

At this time of the Winter Solstice, we give thanks to the Earth for this period of rest and darkness which has led us to explore the deep wisdom within ourselves. This interfaith service will be held on the labyrinth and will offer the opportunity to pray, sing, move to allow participants to release all that has not served them and draw in hope for the new year.

St. Anne's | 2791 Driscoll Road Fremont, CA 94539



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<https://fb.me/e/326SeWE1b>

## 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 and note that our broker information changed this year.

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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



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