

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 27, 2023

Dear Sandra,

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you,

As the days grow short we reflect on a year of growth and change at MPUUC. Our community warmly welcomed and embraced new members and staff, including choir director Von Bringham, who has filled our sanctuary with music, and Ariel Smith-Iyer, whose boundless energy has reignited our children's programs.

We've revisited cherished traditions, including a child dedication ceremony—the first in a while—welcoming Max, Maya, and Izzy to our MPUUC family. Meanwhile, we've continued to embrace beloved traditions, such as the enjoyable summer picnic and the successful Black and White auction.

Rev. Greg's sabbatical has led to thoughtful discussions about our future, guided by Rev. Jim's wisdom. As we step into 2024, let's carry the light of this season forward, ready to build even stronger bonds in our MPUUC community.

With hope and warm wishes for the new year,

Stephen Longfield
Board Member-at-Large



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.

Breathing Love

Many of us have learned stress-reduction breathing techniques for self-love, and we have hymns that borrow from loving kindness meditations. Eric Dittmar is planning a participative message to explore these as well as the Tibetan practice of Tonglen, "Sending and Receiving," and what they have to teach us about compassion and love.



Eric Dittmar will lead the service and assisting will be Mark Rahman. Graham Bell 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%.

Share the Plate: Guest at Your Table

We are still collecting through January 7.

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



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.

JUSTICE CORNER

On International Migrants Day, [make a generous donation to support UUSC and communities of faith in our collective efforts to lessen discrimination, mistreatment, and exclusion for people in migration.](#)

Governments are increasing restrictions on people's movements, pushing many families in migration to make dangerous journeys that put their lives at risk — instead of providing safe and regular pathways to escape war, conflict, climate disasters, and economic insecurity. (Read more by clicking [here](#))



Image Description: International Day of People With Disabilities surrounds a circular logo that includes drawn images of bodies in blue, green, red, and orange, with a star on the top and braided insignia on the sides. <https://idpwd.org/>



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

According to the United Nations, the world population is over 8 billion people and more than one billion people, or approximately 15% of the world's population, live with some form of disability; 80% live in developing countries. (Read more by clicking [here](#))

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

SURJ Statement on the Destruction of the Menorah at Lake Merritt



SURJ Bay Area unequivocally condemns the hateful, antisemitic destruction of the menorah at Lake Merritt. The menorah is a sacred symbol to the Jewish people. The vandalism against the menorah is part of a rise in antisemitism. It is a hate crime designed to divide us, create fear, and marginalize our local Jewish community. It failed to do that. (Read more by clicking [here](#))

DAILY • 12:00 – 12:30 pm

[Jewish Voice For Peace: Power Half-Hour for Gaza](#)

POWER HALF HOUR FOR GAZA

CHANNEL GRIEF AND FEAR INTO
ACTION TO STOP A GENOCIDE

DAILY
12PM PST / 3PM EST

[JVP.ORG/GAZAPH](https://jvp.org/gazaph)



ALL ARE WELCOME



Many of us are grieving, angry, scared, and confused. Wherever you are, you are needed urgently now to act to interrupt the genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Join Jewish Voice for Peace in channeling our grief and fear into action. "Power Half-Hour for Gaza" is being held on Zoom daily. Call on Congress to demand they stop fueling violence, get messaging resources for having hard conversations with people in your life, and help counter the media narratives beating the drums of war against Palestinians.

8th Principle Learning



DIGITAL SECURITY 101 FOR CONGREGATIONS

Monday, January 22 & Monday, February 5

4:30pm PT - 6:30pm PT /
7:30pm ET - 9:30pm ET

bit.ly/DigitalSecurityForCongregations



SIDE WITH
LOVE



[Rev. Sofia Betancourt, PhD](#)

Shared with Public

What an excellent new resource and opportunity for UU congregations and communities to gather and discuss shared experiences dealing with online harassment, fraud, and other forms of cyber attacks - issues that unfortunately, are all too familiar to many of us. I am grateful to our Side with Love team for developing this offering.

There is a \$100 cost for a team of up to 5 attendees for both sessions. Gather your team and register today - details are in the link in the comments.

<https://secure.everyaction.com/hTjyoDCOHkqZWkANBs4sVQ2>

Pacific Western Regional Assembly: Registration Opens January 4! Mark your calendars for April 19-20, 2024!

Elevate your Unitarian Universalist experience by immersing yourself in the 2024 Pacific Western Regional Assembly. This is more about more than geography; it's a community of individuals like you, representing local UU congregations and communities. Your active involvement is not just valued – it's indispensable. Whether you choose to participate virtually or in-person at the inspiring First Universalist Church in Denver, this gathering promises an enriching and enjoyable experience, fostering connections among individuals and congregations. Friday evening kicks off with a compelling keynote conversation between our UUA president, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, and the new President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson – both remarkable women of color dedicated to justice work. More details can be found [here](#).

Outside Mission Peak

Volunteer opportunities with Youth Voter Movement

Mission Peak has a long tradition of voting activism, from our early days with our “Children's Advocacy Forum” work with the UU Service Committee’s project “Promise the Children”, through letter writing with Vote Forward to encourage voting in the last several elections and our work as volunteers with UU the Vote and the local YOUTH VOTER MOVEMENT (YVM), voter registration project. 2024 offers more opportunities! YVM has a busy schedule of student-led voter registration events at our local high schools beginning on January 24 through February 15. For more information and dates please fill out this [form](#)

Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7 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



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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