

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 10, 2024

Dear Sandra,

"With the dawn of a new year, may we build upon a vision of grace and liberation, deepening our commitments to each other and to the wider community. Let us be vulnerable and courageous as collaborators in creating a more loving world. And may we remember to observe and celebrate the beauty and wonder that surrounds and sustains us. Blessed be."  
by Rev. Sarah Osborne

If you read the UUA's weekly Braver/Wiser newsletter then this prayer is probably familiar to you as it closed out last week's post. Maybe you are a person, like the author of that post, who likes to make resolutions or commitments about the way you want to live your life in the new year. I'm not one of those people but I do enjoy the opportunity to look with fresh eyes at the collection of months ahead. I've been feeling like the winter and spring would be a good time to make some time for community service, for "creating a more loving world", as Rev Sarah put it. Our opportunities for service projects are spelled out with more detailed information in the post below but the quick preview is: a native plant garden out front of Cole Hall, Valentine making party at Abode's Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter, tabling with our friends at TCIC (Tri-City Interfaith Council) at Fremont's Earth Day Festival and of course, Mission Peak's very own Sandwich Squad. There are also opportunities to help register high school students to vote through the Youth Voter Movement. I hope you'll find a way to join in as a "courageous collaborator" wherever your energy and ability fit, sharing your time and talents as you are able.  
yours in service to our community,

Ariel



## 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.

## Hello, Goodbye, Hello, Goodbye

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This is the last service MPUUC will share with Rev. Jim McKinley. It will also be the service where we welcome Rev. Greg Ward back from sabbatical. There is a poignancy in transition. It requires us to reflect and reconcile newly discovered experiences of love and truth with those which lessons built in to the bedrock of our hearts and minds. It is almost never a wholesale exchange: releasing the old for the new. Rather, it is a sacred parsing. Learning a new arrangement for what can never be replaced alongside all that cannot be denied.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Rev. Greg Ward. Graham Bell will be Worship Host and Jay Steele 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: Youth Voter Movement

THE **YOUTH VOTER MOVEMENT** (YVM) has registered 10,000 new voters since 2018 at TriCities high schools. Mission Peak has supported YVM and volunteered with the student-led events since 2018. YVM has also offered trainings to other UU communities thru UUtheVote. We are thrilled to SHARE THE PLATE on January 14 with YVM!



We have 14 high schools signed up. THANK YOU for your generous support! Please put "YVM" on the Memo line with your donation. THANKS!!!

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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](#)

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### Information About Proposed Amendments to Article 2 of the UUA Bylaws

The process to propose amendments to the proposed Article 2 of the UUA's Bylaws is ending on February 1. There are 5 proposed amendments and none of them yet have the required number (15) of proposing congregations to be accepted for a vote at the General Assembly this June.

The proposals are described in detail [here](#). Here is a summary:

1. Equity: Wording change adding "inherent worthy" to the Equity value.
2. Peace as a UU Value. This adds an additional value to the 6 already proposed
3. Equity "calls us to listen, understand, respect, and respond." Wording change.
4. Adds "Reason" to the description of "search for truth and meaning".
5. Current Principles as Preamble to new Article 2

If you feel strongly that MPUUC should take a supportive position on any of these, please let Rev. Barbara Meyers know before January 15 at [com\\_minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:com_minister@mpuuc.org).

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### A Year to Live - A 12 Month Course in Courageous Living

This year long course led by Rev. Greg and Terri King will meet once per month and is based on the book, 'A Year to Live,' by Stephen Levine. Using reading, reflection, spiritual practice and small group discussion, we will look to death as a spiritual teacher. Contrary to our largely death-denying culture, we will seek out the lessons death is constantly offering about living an inspired and courageously well-lived life.

This year-long course will meet via Zoom. Our first meeting will be 7:00 pm on Thursday January 25 and we will meet at 7:00 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month thereafter. There will be a \$25-50 fee to join (sliding scale – Make check payable to MPUUC with 'Y2L' in the memo line - no one turned away for lack of funds). [Sign up HERE](#). Please send questions to [minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:minister@mpuuc.org).

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### We're planting a native plant garden!

Have you noticed how great the garden bed on the west side of Cole Hall is looking? MPUUC families came together last month to sheet mulch what was a barren, weedy plot. It got covered with living compost

which will help attract earthworms and other invertebrates that will loosen the soil. It was then covered with a layer of cardboard to block the light to smother any weeds and finally a layer of bark mulch to keep the lower layers moist and looking beautiful. Next up we'll begin planting some natives, starting with a manzanita. Please be in touch with Ariel if you would like to help us, native plant donations warmly welcomed.



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### Valentine card making party at Abode's Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter

**Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm**

MPUUC members and friends are invited to join with residents to make valentine cards for those you love. Snacks, supplies and inspiration will be provided. Please let Ariel know if you can come, [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)



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### Fremont Earth Day with our partners at Tri-City Interfaith Council

**Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>**



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## JUSTICE CORNER

### 30 Days of Love 2024: Imagining an Interdependent Future

January 15 - February 14, 2024

[See full details](#)

Side With Love has announced 30 Days of Love 2024! The annual month of spiritual nourishment, political grounding, and shared practices of faith





and justice, 30 Days of Love will go from Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 15) through Valentine's Day (February 14).

UUSJ is cosponsoring or offering several events in the spirit of collaboration with [30 Days of Love 2024](#)

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### January 25: [Faithful Grounding](#)

Join our Side with Love Fun & Spiritual Nourishment Squad for an hour of spiritual sustenance and grounding with others organizing on the side of love. Come drink in the music, meditation, play, and prayer. We end with a Connection Cafe for those who wish to talk together. Show up as you are, whatever is in your heart, and with your camera on or off as you need.

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

Friday, January 19 • 7:30 – 8:30 am  
[Human Billboard: Reimagine Public Safety](#)



Join SURJ Bay Area in rallying community members to Reclaim King's Radical Legacy with a morning rally and human billboard at Rockridge BART. We'll be holding up banners and signs and passing out flyers to morning commuters with the theme of "Reimagining Public Safety, Reinvesting in Communities." Let's come together and share the sense of our strong, loving, dedicated community. We'll wear masks and practice social distancing. Masks, hand sanitizer, and chairs will be provided at the site.

**Location:** Rockridge BART, 5660 College Ave., Oakland

Thursday, January 25 • 10:00 am  
[US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action Kickoff: Building a Liberated Future](#)

Join USCPR for the official 2024 kickoff of their new advocacy and political arm. As we head into the 2024 election year, USCPR Action will advance Palestinian rights in U.S. politics, from stopping the Gaza genocide to ending U.S. military funding to Israel. At this webinar, hear from their speakers Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, Linda Sarsour, Huwaida Arraf, and Iman Abid.



DAILY • 12:00 – 12:30 pm  
[Jewish Voice For Peace: Power Half-Hour for Gaza](#)



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.

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## 8th Principle Learning

A co-production of WQED and the Center for Social Solutions (CSS) at the University of Michigan

How are reparations happening in the U.S. if not at the federal level? Through the lens of the 2023 DOC NYC film festival, we talk to the filmmakers and subjects of THE COST OF INHERITANCE to explore the film, the controversy surrounding reparations, the cases setting the groundwork, and why the issue can only be solved together. (Continue reading by pressing [here](#))

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## Denominational Affairs

GA 2024 Program Proposals Due January 12

Click [here](#) for more information



## 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](#).

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## Outside Mission Peak

**UJUMCA Cluster Conversation** - East Bay  
Please join us on January 10 at 7:00PM for a Cluster Conversation with UU Justice Ministry of California. You can expect to hear the latest news and happenings from UJUMCA, as well as how you can support our important work of creating a more just California, and world, both as individuals and congregations. As your

### 2024 CLUSTER CONVERSATIONS

January 10 - East Bay  
January 24 - Greater Los Angeles  
February 7 - NorCal & North Bay  
February 21 - Inland Empire  
March 6 - Sacramento Valley  
March 20 - OC & South Bay  
April 3 - San Francisco, Silicon Valley & So Bay  
April 17 - San Diego  
May 1 - San Joaquin Valley  
May 15 - Santa Barbara, Channel Islands & Ventura

All events will begin at 7PM on Zoom

JUSTICE  
UNITES

#JusticeUnites



California state action network, we will also be looking forward to hearing from you how we can support and strategize your efforts at your congregation and in your local community. #justiceunites  
<https://uujmca.org/event/cluster-conversation-east-bay/>

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**PLEASE JOIN US**

**2024 “Living the Dream: It Starts With Me – Spreading Hope, Courage, and Unity”**

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Celebration**

**of**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Legacy**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**3:00pm**

**First Presbyterian Church of Newark  
35450 – Newark Blvd. @ Cedar Blvd.  
Newark, CA 94560**

**Afro American Cultural & Historical Society Sponsors Dr. Martin  
Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

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## **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](#)

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## Board Briefs

Board briefs from December 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.



The board met on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

- The Board voted to accompany Patrick Hebbart from Nicaragua through his asylum process. The first step in this process will be to assist Patrick in obtaining a work permit.
- The Board voted to approve several proposals concerning the investment of MPUUC funds, including moving some funds to CDs in the SRI Credit Union for better interest returns.
- The Board discussed what we need to do to renew our official designation by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation. The Board affirmed that more important than simply being reinstated was to craft the opportunity to update and deepen the congregation's awareness and understanding of current concerns and issues facing the LGBTQ+ community.

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](https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

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## 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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