

# This Week on the Peak

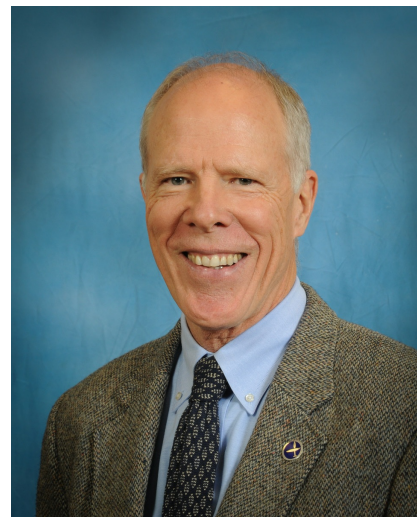


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 3, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Our current sabbaticals, Rev. Greg's, mine and yes, MPUUC's, end in less than two weeks. As you know, sabbatical comes from the word, sabbath, which was the day set aside at the end of the work week for rest and reflection. A sabbatical is meant to be like Sunday used to be, a break from business as usual, time pulled out of routine time to experience, notice, appreciate, and imagine life with fresh eyes and an encouraged heart. Sometimes our experiences and reflections may in perhaps small but significant ways shift and adjust how we approach living forward.

Sharing this sabbatical with you has been for me what a sabbatical was meant to be. I feel renewed in purpose and possibility, courage and hope; renewed beyond the pandemic, routine, distracted comfort, and my old narratives of age and increasing limitations. My vision of myself and for myself has shifted some and is shifting more. Right now it's a sense not yet filled in, but I'm confident I will discover the details and accomplish the tasks I need to do to live more fully into who I am and hope to be. I see with new eyes. Where I was stuck there's motion and new energy. My heart smiles. I feel en-couraged and alive.



The Committee on Ministry hopes that MPUUC is having a meaningful sabbatical too; not just in the day to day experience, but perhaps in taking moments to step back from the tasks and details of business as usual to reflect and notice, appreciate, and imagine in more enheartened, encouraged ways. They would like for us in preparation for the third Congregational Conversation after service on January 21 to reflect more on what we love and what matters most to each of us for MPUUC. They asked me to include some prompts to consider ahead of time. Here are some ideas: What do you see as the gifts of MPUUC? What makes it special for you? How might we best combine our volunteer energies, interests and availability with our professional staff's interests, gifts, skills and availability so that we might all enjoy this work and place in more powerful and meaningful ways? These are just first thoughts. The COM will distribute a few questions the week before the meeting, but they'd like you to start thinking about these or questions like them ahead of time if you would.

So in summary; I've experienced you and MPUUC as very important in and to the world because of who you are and who you are becoming. You are strong and blessed in many ways. You have what you need to meet your challenges as you imagine them anew. For

what it's worth, I am excited for you.

I will miss you and MPUUC, but I carry you with me. Because of you, because MPUUC is here, I am en-couraged being me. May you be en-couraged being you. Enjoy. You've got this.

With faith and hope, appreciation and gratitude,

Jim

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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.**



## **Three Suggestions for the New Year**

Wisdom to remember from a clay tablet a potter gifted Rev. Jim on which she'd inscribed three koans of life advice he'd been given and returned with from his month long journey to Panama. A tablet handed down with three guides for right relationship with life; sounds like a familiar ancient story that had ten, but they were in the form of commandments.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Paul K. Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host and Peak Performers 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**

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](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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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### Men's Fellowship Coffee Time this Friday

Happy New Year! The next **joint Mission Peak UU and First United Methodist** men's fellowship coffee time will be this Friday, January 5, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont. There is a range of coffees, teas, and juices, plus breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast egg sandwich dishes are available. If possible our tables will be set up in the area on the east side of the room toward Sundale Ave where there seems to be less noise from other groups which facilitates our conversations. (If that area is occupied look around, the group will be in some other area.) If you know someone who might enjoy the fellowship feel free to bring him along.



Please let John Holmes know if you plan to come so enough tables can be arranged for our group. ([holmesfam@comcast.net](mailto:holmesfam@comcast.net)) Hope to see you there Thanks, John

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## 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](#))



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**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](#))

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## 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](#))

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**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



# 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](https://bit.ly/DigitalSecurityForCongregations)



## [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>

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## **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**

## **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](http://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](http://missionpeakuu.org)



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