

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 17, 2024

Dear Sandra,

On January 21 after the service, we will have our third Congregational Conversation facilitated by the Committee on Ministry related to the sabbatical and what we have learned about ourselves in the process. The response to the first two was really heartening, we want to say thanks to everyone who attended, we really felt everyone's level of care and concern, and gee, here we are again.

In our first two conversations we noticed that whatever fears any have had about the sabbatical have abated, the sabbatical has been going well for us and presumably for Rev. Greg too. Rev. Jim has been terrific, the B&W auction was a roaring success, Ariel has been coordinating events that have been well attended and a lot of fun, and under Von's direction our music program is very well received and enjoyed.

We see that there has been an evolution in confidence in the congregation and that's heartening. In this conversation we'd like to take it to the next stage. Let's all to a step back a little bit and try to imagine ourselves in a more expansive place and discuss what matters most to us

Here are some questions that you might think about before the meeting:
What can we do to enhance our relationships with our children in the congregation?

When and where do you have the most fun in the congregation, what activities have provoked spiritual growth?

What can I do myself in Mission Peak that I can do for greater benefit for myself and/or for the community?

How would I like my role in the congregation to change for me to get greater benefit from it?

Your own suggestions of questions of importance that we may want to focus on.

We look forward to the conversation on January 21.

Rev. Barbara Meyers



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.



Time Out - Time In

To paraphrase a wise adage from Heraclitus, 'A traveller can never step into the same river twice because it is not the same river and [she] is not the same traveller.' So, what do we make of this new post-sabbatical reality we find ourselves in? Rev. Greg will reflect on some of the experiences and stories which have changed the way he sees himself and the world. After the service, the Committee on Ministry will facilitate an exploration of 'new seeds' for how MPUUC might see itself differently as well as speculate on what kind of new communities are needed in this changing world.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Sharon Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host and Peak Rocks 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: 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 will continue to collect through the month of January.



We have 14 high schools signed up. THANK YOU for your generous support! Please put



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](#)

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.

New to UU Class

A New to UU class will be held after the service on January 28th. It is a chance for people who are new to Unitarian Universalism and to Mission Peak UU Congregation to learn more about the denomination and about our particular congregation. It will also be a chance for participants to share their stories and to ask any questions. The class runs about 2 hours and food will be provided. If you are interested, please email Membership@MPUUC.org or stop by the Welcome Table to get signed up.

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.

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

Sunday February 11th 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



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

Saturday April 20th



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](#)

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.



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.

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](#))



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](#).

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](#)

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](https://www.house.gov)
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553



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