

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 24, 2024

Dear Sandra,

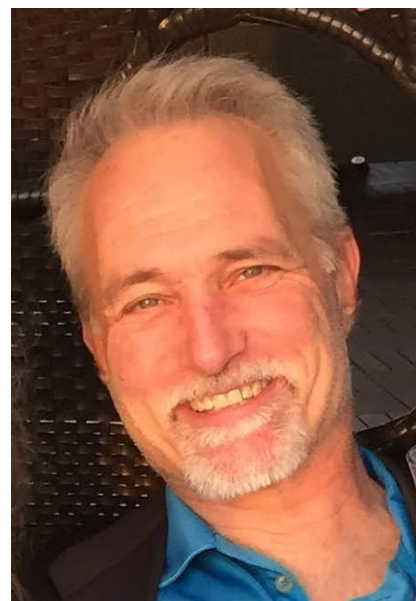
It is such a delight to be back with you. I found sabbatical to be exciting, informative, humbling and fun. I did come down with Covid toward the end and am still working my way toward full health. But seeing you again is an incredible uplift.

Some have commented that my beard is longer. I keep hoping it brings – at least infers – wisdom. But it probably just invites comparisons to Rip Van Winkle. In some ways, however, it seems appropriate. I do feel older, and I'm noticing a few more of the limits that time imposes. But the comparison seems apt partly for the way I've noticed you have changed.

In the Committee on Ministry's (CoM's) Congregational Conversation after the Jan. 21st Sunday's service it was pointed out that there is a new confidence at MPUUC. Some of this may stem from Rev. Jim's excellent ministry and many people's sense of accomplishment – or relief – at 'surviving' the sabbatical. But there are other things that make me believe it's more than that. There are candles, now, in Joys and Concerns. And several leadership proposals have been made and affirmed (supporting CA reparations, accompanying Patrick in his bid for asylum, the Youth Voter Movement as a recipient of Share the Plate).

In Sunday's conversation, I mentioned that when I first arrived at MPUUC, I sometimes felt like the congregation was hesitant to act or, when it did, it re-acted from individual imperatives. But these recent actions seem more considered and cohesive, creative, coordinated and collaborative. It felt like there may be many more good things on the horizon for MPUUC. Indeed, we ended the meeting by challenging Mission Peak to imagine the outcome(s) of this new show of confidence.

We asked you to imagine that a year from now you look down at a local or regional paper (the Patch, the East Bay Times, the San Jose Mercury News) and on the front page an article jumps out. It's an article on Mission Peak! And recent community events we were instrumental in bringing to life. It has a picture. And as you begin to read, you smile. And you feel some of the pride that you've noticed has been building up over months – and even years. Then, halfway through the article, you see your name mentioned and a quote



from you about the events, how they came to be and what they mean to the community and beyond.

What the CoM and I were asking you to imagine was, 'what ground-breaking, community-changing' event is ahead for Mission Peak'? What great gift do we have within us that is eye-opening? Hoped for? Worth doing?

I believe we are confident enough to imagine it. And bold enough to begin manifesting it. So what is it? CoM will reconvene in late March to hold our 4th and final Conversation. In that conversation, we hope to bring that idea to consciousness. And then begin to bring that consciousness to reality.

It's good to be back.

Rev. Greg Ward

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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.**

### **Now We Are Six**



The various cultures that raised us have provided us with millions of ways to recognize loss and renewal. It goes all the way back to the eating of the apple in the Garden of Eden, but continues through Christopher Robin's growing up (and going to war). But, in all such stories, a loss of innocence is coupled with a gain in power or knowledge. What allows us to claim and make use of the truth constantly emerging within us – a truth that needs partnership to be fully revealed?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Drew Wilson. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host and Knuti VanHoven and Jo Ann Schriener 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.

## 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 "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

This week we will be exploring our experiences of growing up. When did it happen? What particular milestone occurred that shaped us? What did we lose in growing up? What did we gain? 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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## 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 6:30 pm on Thursday January 25 and we will meet at 6:30 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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## 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](mailto:Membership@MPUUC.org) or stop by the Welcome Table to get signed up.

## Seeking Someone Handy!

Are you good at fixing things, or figuring out what needs to be done to maintain a building? Due to Graham's imminent departure, the Facilities Chairperson position is open. This is such an important way to help keep Cole Hall up and running smoothly for worship and so many other activities that we hold dear. You DON'T need to do all the work yourself -- a team can help with some tasks, and we or FUMC can call professionals as needed! If you want to learn more or already know you'd like to help out, please contact Beth Schaefer at [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org) Thank you for considering this important position!

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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.



### 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)



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

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





## 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

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

**General Assembly 2024** June 20-23. GA is a Virtual Program in 2024. For details about scholarships and early bird registration (March 15 deadline)

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

#### 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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#### 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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 [missionpeakuu.org](https://missionpeakuu.org)



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