

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 31, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Do you remember the first time you voted in an election — for ANY position?

I was in a Brownie Troop, maybe I was 6. I was nominated for some position in the Troop and we had an election. What I remember most is, the fact of the election, of the ACT of voting, for someone to be a representative for others and that it was expected that they would make decisions in the best interests of the Troop. One of the values of Unitarian Universalism that attracted me to this Faith is the clear statement that “We BELIEVE in the necessity of the democratic process.” That is a powerful statement. And, it is not always easy. UUs are participating in a process now to consider revising the statements of our beliefs. While I have read some materials, I confess, I am not actively engaged in that process. If I find myself looking at a decision made through the democratic process, that is not what I would have wanted, I cannot complain. If you don’t “play”, you cannot affect the outcome of the game.



Another decision that is currently in the making in our nation is what kind of political leadership we will have going forward. The decision-making process for those choices involves the voting citizenry. Since the 1960s, when I was a disenfranchised female, with no right to vote, I have participated in efforts to expand voting rights. 50 years later I find myself still working to ensure that those who have the right to vote are, in fact, able to engage in the process, to access reliable information about candidates and issues and to cast their ballot. UU the Vote is the UUA’s nonpartisan civic engagement initiative. Created after the 2016 presidential election, UUs work with partners who share our values to urge elected officials and candidates to work for environmentally sustainable programs and laws, to decriminalize poverty, defend the rights of LGBTQ people, fight for reproductive health justice, and end migrant detention and deportation and mass incarceration. UUs canvass, gather signatures, phone bank, register voters and in 2020 and 2022, got out the vote for justice oriented ballot initiatives, sharing our values with our neighbors and asking them to participate in democracy.

Here at MPUUC, we joined a local non-profit project, the Youth Voter Movement (YVM is a project of the League of Women Voters) to register and inform YOUTH (18-29) about the power and responsibility they have as VOTERS. UU the Vote has conducted training with other UU congregations with our MPUUC YVM volunteers to spread this model throughout the country. Since 2018 YVM has registered just over 10,000 new voters. The current registration events began Jan. 24 and run through Feb. 14 in Fremont, Newark and Union City high schools. Thanks to the many MPUUC folks who have volunteered over the

years! And please, always, always - exercise your right to vote.

Valerie Stewart

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.

The Lovers, the Dreamers and Me

So much about the world as it will someday be, requires us to imagine it and dream it into existence. The world of today is filled with conveniences, inventions and technologies that are simply the dreams of our forebearers that they pursued beyond the limits of imagination. And yet, also part of today is the reality of war, the poisoning of the planet, the political and ideological polarization that has spread into hardship and despair all over the world. How does love become real and dreams a reality in a world so disillusioned?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Paul K. Davis. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host and Jay Steele, Jessica Steele and David Johnson 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:

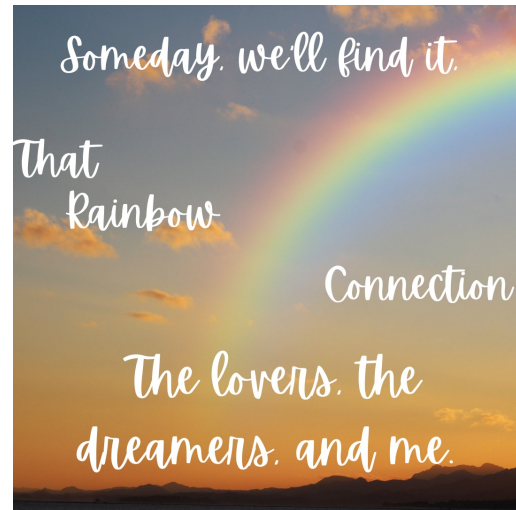
Mail check to

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%.



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. This week we will be exploring our personal perspectives on idealism: specifically the place of love and our dreams in the world of reality. How has – how can – how will – our ideals shape reality; or, is reality simply an immovable juggernaut whose purpose is to crush our ideals? 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](#)

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 Thank you for considering this important position!

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Men's Fellowship Coffee Time this Friday



The next **joint Mission Peak UU and First United Methodist** men's fellowship coffee time will be this Friday, February 2, 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) Hope to see you there Thanks, John

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](#)

[RSVP for Mr. Phillips](#)

Tuesday, February 6

How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good

UUSJ is thrilled to announce a Zoom talk by New York Times bestselling author, columnist, and political commentator Steve Phillips. He is a regular columnist for The Nation and The Guardian and has appeared for the NYT, NBC, CNN, MSNBC, and C-SPAN.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

[Partner Voices with Transgender Gender-Variant & Intersex Justice Project](#)

Join SURJ Bay Area's next online Partner Voices event to learn what's going on with the incarceration of Black trans/TGI people after SB 132. TGI Justice Project is a group of Transgender, Gender-Variant and Intersex people – inside and outside of prisons, jails and detention centers – creating a united family in the struggle for survival and freedom. Learn how they forge a culture of resistance and resilience to fight against human rights abuses.

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

Hold the date!

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

7:00 - 9:30 PM

Soul Work Revisited!

Soul Work: anti-racist theologies in dialogue is one of the most important books in my library! The book, edited by Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley and Nancy Palmer Jones, was published in 2002 by Skinner House Books. It has been more than 20 years and Soul Work is as relevant today as it was at the time of a critical moment in advancing antiracism in Unitarian Universalism. This is UU history that all who care about the 8th Principle need to know.

I am excited that some of the contributing authors to **Soul Work** have accepted the invitation to be with us. More details will be provided soon. Meanwhile, save the date and register at the link below.

Please note that we usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month. In February, the second Wednesday is the 14th, Valentine's Day. We dare not compete with that! Instead, we will meet on the third Wednesday, February 21st. We hope that you can adjust your schedules and that we will see many of you there. -- Paula

Zoom meeting information

When: February 21, 2024
7:00 PM Eastern Time Zone (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZcsd-GhrzstHtDGFK9pj8cgdXgMvagi2W8G>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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](#).

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.
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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.

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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