

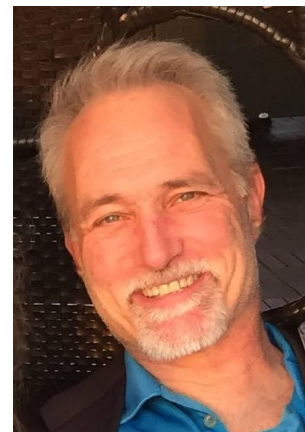
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! March 27, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Holy Week is all around us. Can you feel it? If you're not familiar with it, Holy Week is a Christian rollercoaster of great highs and lows. It starts with a triumphal march into the big city. Flipping tables to call out temple leaders for being party to those profiting off of other people's devotion. Later in the week, Jesus – a revered teacher – washes his student's feet. Then he's betrayed by one of them. Turned over to corrupt officials. He's ridiculed, tortured and killed. Christians commemorate his miraculous resurrection. Others take note of something even more rare: that Love and Justice die as a man but is reborn as a community. And for one of the first times ever, history begins getting told by the victims – not the victors.



But Christian Holy week is often a sacred time in the Jewish calendar as well. Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate Passover (Pesach) – a time when God promised to protect the oppressed and liberate the enslaved.

We are also in the middle of Ramadan – a time of fasting and dedication, preparing devotees toward making room for compassion, empathy and good works. Ramadan leads into Laylat al-Qadr – believed to be the night the Quran was delivered to Mohammed from God. Culminating in Eid al-Fitr – the holiest day in the Islamic calendar, gathering family and breaking the fast.

I am writing this on the Hindu celebration of Holi – held on the full moon, it commemorates the arrival of spring and new life. Similar to the approaching Wiccan / Pagan holiday of Beltane which celebrates Spring turning to Summer.

The holy part in each of these holidays is built from the waiting. The focus we give to what is most sacred to us, preparing for it to be manifested through us. We at Mission Peak do this when we name and invoke all that we treasure about community until what we treasure becomes community.

From whatever tradition you come, toward whatever looks most holy to you, we are grateful that who we are emerges from being together – seen and known and welcomed in differences and in our unity. We are a community of people who carry experience and high ideals and work with one another to build belonging.

I hope that in our canvass, your pledge and your promise to Mission Peak is something

that comes from joy and offers renewal. And that it provides even more opportunity for the best in yourself – and others – to emerge. Thank you for being part of us.

Rev. Greg Ward

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.

Holy Fool's Day

This year, Easter lands on the precipice of another high holy day: April Fool's Day. The proximity in date as well as in mission makes it appropriate to talk about the ways Jesus was a master of some long ignored and forgotten tricks of wisdom to get his message of transformative love across to the people. Come and celebrate with us the holy power of parable and paradox and how being a trickster - or, playing the fool - can actually be love in disguise, calling us all into a new relationship with life.

Rev. Greg Ward and Ariel Smith-Iyer will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host and Jessica Steele, Jo Ann Schriener 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%.



Creating A Better Community

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Community and [Canvass](#) Celebration on March 17. The positive energy was sensational and uplifting. As of March 27, 38 percent of the pledges have been returned. Thanks to your generosity we are on track for a very successful campaign that will support our goals for the coming year. If you have not yet pledged, please click [here](#) and make your pledge TODAY. Thank you. John and Julie - your canvass co-chairs.

March's Share the Plate Sunrise Village Homeless Shelter

We will continue to collect through March 31.

Write a check to MPUUC with "Sunrise Village" in the memo line and mail 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 an envelope with a check (with "Sunrise Village" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Sunrise Village") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "Sunrise Village" in the message. 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, Rev. Greg will be away, but our topic will explore the value of care. Expressing care sometimes requires time and energy and resources. Sometimes that time and energy comes with a price. Have you sacrificed something for yourself to provide care to others? Maybe you've provided care to others instead of fulfilling the expectations of professional peers? How do you measure the care, given and received, in your life? The Midweek Discussion Group welcomes all voices who wish to participate in discussion on interesting topics. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

Mistakes and Miracles Book Discussion

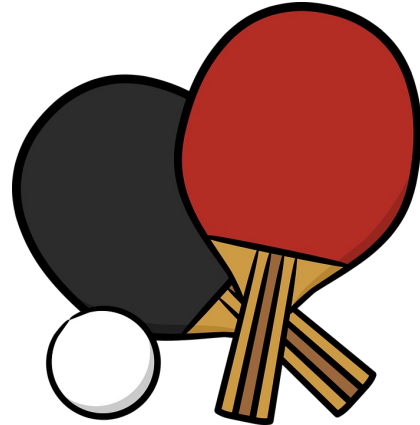
On four consecutive Wednesday evenings starting April 24th at 6:30 pm (April 24, May 1,

May 8, May 15) we will hold a book discussion group for Mistakes and Miracles, written by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and Karen Lin. This will be facilitated by our ARO team. The book has particular interest for Mission Peak because we were cited as one of the examples of microaggressions. We have learned a great deal since the time of this example. We will be exploring ways we can put our new understanding into practice. If you are interested in being part of this discussion group, please [SIGN UP HERE](#).

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

FUMC invites MPUUC folks to join their ping pong fellowship

Every **Tuesday at 11am** members of our neighboring congregation at FUMC get together to play some leisurely ping pong and we're invited. No experience necessary. Meet in rooms 4 & 5. Contact Ariel with questions.



Spring Parent Night Out dates available!

Saturday March 30th and Saturday May 11th, both from 5:30-8pm at MPUUC. Mission Peak members and friends are invited to bring their children to enjoy a fun night of care and connection while their parents enjoy a few hours of well-deserved time off. We'll order pizza and play games, there may be some storytelling and art projects happening. RSVP required by the Friday before each date. RSVP required [March 30th PNO rsvp](#) and May [11th PNO rsvp](#). Reach out to Ariel with any questions.

Storytelling Workshop lead by Rev Greg

Saturday, **March 30th from 6-7:30pm** in the MPUUC office.

Join Greg in this interactive workshop designed to teach the fine art of storytelling. This is also a Parent Night Out evening so when the workshop concludes participants will be invited to join the kids and practice the skills they learned.



RSVP required by filling out [this form](#).

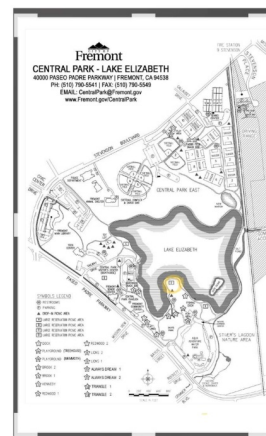
Fremont Earth Day with our partners at Tri-City Interfaith Council

Saturday April 20th



Save the Date! June 16 MPUUC Joyous Juneteenth Celebration in the park

ARO (Anti Racism and Anti Oppression group) is sponsoring a Juneteenth picnic at Lake Elizabeth Park June 16, 2024 at Lions 1 picnic area near the boat house. At least part of Sunday service will be in the park followed by the picnic. More details will come later.



JUSTICE CORNER

UUSC funds grassroots women's groups like these in 26 countries around the world because we know where women's rights are advanced, whole communities thrive.

In honor of International Women's Day, consider making a special gift to UUSC to help fund our women-led partners around the globe making big strides toward a more equitable world.



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

**POWER HALF HOUR
FOR GAZA**

**CHANNEL GRIEF AND FEAR INTO
ACTION TO STOP A GENOCIDE**

**DAILY
12PM PST / 3PM EST**

JVP.ORG/GAZAPH

ALL ARE WELCOME

war against Palestinians.

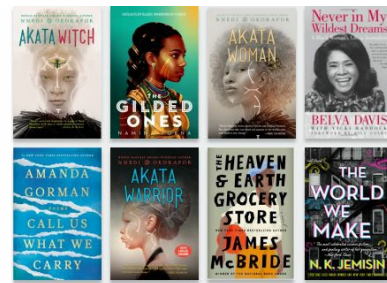
Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Put Up a Black Lives Matter Sign – SURJ has Black Lives Matter lawn and window signs and postcards available for easy pickup in Berkeley, Oakland, San Leandro, and Walnut Creek/eastern Contra Costa County. These are free but if you want to help cover costs, you can [donate here](#). Grab some for friends and family too! [Pickup locations are listed here](#).



8th Principle Learning

Books by Black Authors – Black History Month may be over, but not our desire to highlight powerful works by Black authors. Check out these fiction and non-fiction recommendations in this blog put together by three of our SURJ Bay Area chapter members, Erin Kane, Rachael Devlin and Micki Luckey.



Denominational Affairs

Engaging UUs in a Conversation on Article II

Click [here](#) for more information.

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](#).

Outside Mission Peak

We Had a (Small) Part: Native Land Restored



On Thursday, March 18, the [Monterey Herald](#) ran an Associated Press story titled: “Berkeley to return sacred native land to the Ohlone”. Berkeley’s City Council had voted the previous Tuesday to adopt an ordinance giving title to the only undeveloped portion of the Berkeley shellmound, dating back thousands of years, to Segorea Te’ Land Trust. This was not a freebie! The article explained that the City was sued in 2018 by a developer when their application to develop the land for a combination of housing, retail, and parking was denied. The developer agreed to settle for \$27 million and turn the property over to the City of Berkeley. The City paid only \$1.5 million, and Segorea Te paid the remaining \$25.5 million. Here’s a [link](#) to an NBC Bay Area story on the topic.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 | missionpeakuu.org



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