

This Week on the Peak



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

Dear Sandra,

This Saturday marks the 25th anniversary of taking my vows of ordination. Though I have changed greatly, I remember the day clearly. Standing in front of family and friends at the UU congregation of Toronto where I served my internship. Receiving the charge to the minister where Rev. Dr. Donna Morrison Reed called me away from, 'your inkling to try and be perfect...

...Dare to be human instead. Make mistakes. Learn. Repair. Measure yourself by how well you connect with people rather than how much you impress them.'

The Ordination Committee gave me a stole and reminded me that 'each time I put it on I was exercising a privilege requiring sensitivity, reverence, love without judgment, and constantly checking your privilege and your assumptions.'

This came while other charges still rang in my ears. From the Ministerial Fellowship Committee who, five months earlier, called me into the room to inform me they were granting me Preliminary Fellowship – BUT – with the counsel / admonition: YOU ARE NOT DONE YET!!!

At the end of my ordination ceremony I spoke my vows: 'With honor and humility I take up this ministry to which you have ordained me.'

You, as members of this Mission Peak community also celebrate a significant milestone with promise at the heart of it. May 2nd will mark 30 years since you came together – promising each other to show up and care; to raise children with love; to respond to conflict with open-minds and open-hearts; to respond to the unfairness around you with the commitment to love and justice you carried within you.

Many of you probably wouldn't recognize the people who made the original promise 30 years ago (even those who are still here, might not be recognized in pictures). But everyone who joins Mission Peak takes up the collective and evolving promise of this community: To love beyond belief and to make ourselves and the world the better for it.

My ministry was not always what I imagined it would be. There were times I felt



proud of the way I exercised the power I had been given. But there were times I made mistakes. I was not always as courageous as I thought I would be. I learned many more lessons from hindsight than the foresight which would have been better. On occasion, I hurt people. Where I could, I have sought repair and reconciliation. Made amends. I worked hard— especially in my denominational service – to remember that ministers are part of the ‘learning tradition’ rather than the ‘learned tradition.’

We are all works in progress. But it’s worthwhile to remember, the promise to which we pledge ourselves – that promise that we made (and that was made with us) all those years ago – was called forth and carried out by people who loved us, believed in us, held a vision for us and gave us something worthwhile to try and live up to.

As I remember all that, I just wanted to say how much I love you and how grateful I am that you are part of a promise that still lives in my heart.

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.



Why is this Service Different from All Other Services?

Passover is an important story of the Jewish Community which recalls and illustrate the Jewish effort to escape the bondage they experienced in Egypt and find their way to freedom. Holding a Seder and honoring Passover is an very important testament of faith for a Jewish person. It is also an incredibly complicated moment in history to be doing so. In this service, we will explore the truths of the Haggadah and what they mean against the backdrop of global politics.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. David Johnson will be Worship Host Jo Ann Schriener and Knuti VanHoven 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%.

April's Share the Plate Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond (CHDC-NR)

We will continue to collect until May 5, 2024.

Write a check to MPUUC with "CHDC" 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 "CHDC" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "CHDC") 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 "CHDC" 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 our topic will be about one of the oldest rituals still widely practiced in religion: the Passover Seder. The Seder remembers Pesach, a holiday which commemorates the exodus of enslaved Jews out of Egypt and the suffering incurred before their release. This year, when Israel is at war with Hamas, and so many Palestinians are caught in the crossfire, it's a particularly complicated to talk about liberation from a colonially dominant oppressor. How might it be possible to be allegiant to our heritage and sensitive to the hurt incurred by so many? 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](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

All east bay UU potluck and game / art night Saturday, April 27th from 5:30 - 8pm at UU Oakland

Calling all UU congregations in the east bay: you are invited to a potluck and game / art / picture puzzle / DnD night (DnD = Dungeons and Dragons, a role playing game)

UU Oakland will be our host, we all will provide the

food, fun, and fellowship.

RSVP is required by the end of day on Friday, April 26th.

RSVP by clicking this [link](#).

Please look at your calendar and consider joining us!

Location: 685 14th Street, Oakland, CA 94612

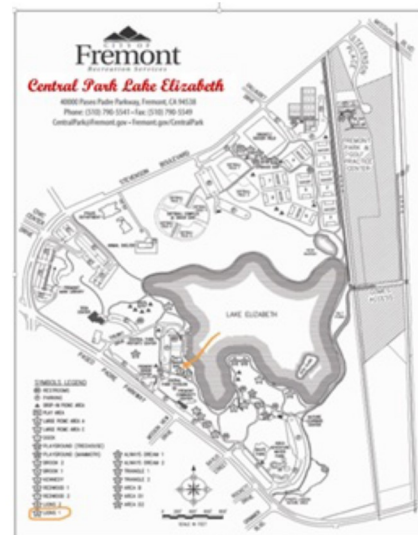
Directions. We are half a mile from the 12th BART and very accessible via bus. You might also consider carpooling.

Questions? Reach out to Ariel Smith-iyer from Mission Peak (UU Fremont) at dre@mpuuc.org or Jef Melcher from UU Oakland at familyministry@uuoakland.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
POTLUCK, ART & GAME NIGHT
WITH 7 EAST BAY UU CONGREGATIONS
BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND GET READY FOR ART, PUZZLES, DND, OTHER GAMES, AND MAKING PROTEST SIGNS.
SATURDAY, 5:30 - 8 PM
UU OAKLAND | 685 14TH ST, OAKLAND
CO-HOSTED BY UU OAKLAND & UU FREMONT
ALL ATTENDEES WILL PROVIDE FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP
RSVP BY 4/25
HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/UPOTLUCKAPR27

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

[Earth Bill - Force of Nature](#)

Ask Your House Member to [Earth Bill - Force of Nature](#)
Support and Cosponsor
H.R. 598, The Earth Bill

[Take Action](#) and use our [poster for tabling after services](#).

The Earth Act to Stop Climate Pollution by 2030 (H.R. 598), popularly known as the “Earth Bill,” focuses on electricity, cars, and food as industries in which Americans support change—most Americans agree that our electricity should be renewable, our cars electric, and our food should be produced using healthy practices.

Let’s make noteworthy progress toward sustainability by 2030. As the Center for Biological Diversity reports in ["Out Polluting Progress,"](#) under the current approach, it won’t happen.

[We Need the Environmental Justice for All Act](#)

Take Action: [Environmental Justice for All](#)

Congress should pass the A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act of 2023

([H.R.1705](#), [S.919](#)). They should act on "the moral principle that all people have the right to pure air, clean water, and an environment that enriches life." [Use our poster at church.](#)

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



Monday, May 6 • 7:00 – 8:30 pm
[How to Have Antiracist Conversations: Embracing our Full Humanity to Challenge White Supremacy](#)
(VIRTUAL)

Dr. Roxy Manning, a local Black clinical psychologist and Certified Trainer of Nonviolent Communication, is teaming up with SURJ Bay Area to offer a book reading and mini-workshop on her new book, *How to Have Antiracist Conversations: Embracing Our Full Humanity to Challenge White Supremacy*. Dr. Manning brings decades of experience and has provided trainings across the US and internationally. She'll provide practical tools and frameworks that foster connection and courage. It is not necessary to read the book to participate.



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

Authentic Selves: The Trans Community and the 8th Principle

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
7:00-9:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIc-uhRDirGtATOC36kZrixFXdztfRkWC0>

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

An Invitation to MPUUC (Team)

Over the past few years, we have built a movement around the 8th Principle that is helping UUs make cultural change. We can build a movement around **A Community of Communities** to encourage growth and diversity in our congregations. (continue reading by clicking [here](#).)

Attached is a brief description of what I am referring to as the Leading Edge Group. I hope that teams will see the value in spending a few hours together every three months to support each other for an annual cycle. This will allow me to more fully convey the vision for A Community of Communities built on the 8th Principle. We will learn together. We will begin to have stories to share with other 8th Principle congregations.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

I hope that a team from your church will join us.

Take care,
Paula Cole Jones

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



Outside Mission Peak

A Blood Drive and Preparedness Seminar will be held on Saturday April 27 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Scott Creel LDS Chapel at 48950 Green Valley Rd., Fremont.

Community experts will cover areas such as Emergency Services, Hazard Risks and Preparedness for Earthquake and other Disasters for Home and Family, Wellness Seminars and presentations by other community service organizations including Ham/Amateur Radio operators will be offered.

The program is free to all interested parties. Click [here](#) for more information.

FREMONT STAKE BLOOD DRIVE

SCOTT CREEK CHAPEL
48950 GREEN VALLEY RD.
FREMONT, CA

APRIL 27, 2024
8AM – 2 PM

REGISTER ON-LINE
@ REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG

SPONSOR CODE:
INTERFAITH LDSFREMONT



THE SERVO IS COMING!
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

PREP CON4 LIFE
FREE
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND
WELLNESS CONVENTION

LEARN ABOUT:

- Emergency Services
- Personal preparedness for home, family and neighborhood
- Hazard, risk and preparedness for earthquakes (Hayward Fault)
 - Blood Drive
- Wellness Seminar(s)
- About organizations that offer services and resources
- Amateur (Ham) Radio

LOCATION:
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
48950 Green Valley Road
Fremont, CA 94539
(Southern Fremont near Milpitas – 1880 and
Scott Creek Road)

REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG | 1-800-RED-CROSS

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



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



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