

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 1, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Topic: Time in a Bottle

Have you ever walked into a room and stopped because you can't recall why you wanted to go there? When I volunteered to write this introduction, I titled it "Time in a Bottle". We had recently had the Canvass Celebration, which included photos from events over the course of Mission Peak's 30 years. Perhaps I intended a commentary on our upcoming anniversary? Was I going to muse on our challenges and accomplishments as a Beloved Community?



Then I took a trip with my family to Italy. 30 years is a flash in time, in Italy. Pompeii was a town since at least 424 BC, when it was buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, and visitors walk through its excavations in 2024. Venice, a city-state, founded in the 5th century AD, by the 7th century had a participatory democracy that eventually included a Grand Council of 2000 elected representatives, but in 1797 was 'conquered' by Napoleon, then ceded to Austria and not until the Italian Republic was formed in 1866 did it escape Austrian control. The incredibly beautiful mosaic marble floors of the Vatican palaces, St. Peter's and the Sistine Chapel, created by Renaissance masters are made of marble 'repurposed' from the Roman palaces on Palatine Hill, or state buildings in the Forum built there since 200 BC. As everyone does, we gaped with open-mouth in the Sistine Chapel above which sails the incredible ceiling, frescoed by Michelangelo for 4 years, 1508 -1511. There are layers, upon layers, upon layers of human history everywhere you look.

In the "bottle" of our Mission Peak, we have worked to create order and functions that support the operation of the community; we have created and learned rituals that bind us together to comfort one another in times of sorrow and to celebrate happy events and build fellowship; we share our searches for meaning and spiritual grace; we care for one another's children and families; we sometimes fail and then try new ways of being together, in community. Sometimes we hurt one another. More often, we strive for ways to be together with kindness, with consideration, with music, with food, with care. We work in many ways to improve the world and make it a better place for those who have less than we do and to be good stewards of the

precious resources of nature. We have only been working on this project for 30 years, it is still under construction. Cheers to another 30 years of making Beloved Community together here at Mission Peak.

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.



A Promise, Time and Circumstance Walk into a Bar...

Thirty years ago, on May 1, 1994, over a hundred people gathered to create a Charter whereby they became a community known as Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Five years later, on April 27, 1999, Rev. Greg Ward was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Both anniversaries are significant. At the heart of each is a promise - earnestly undertaken and carried out with all the love and dedication possible. The question for this service is about how a core promise made when we were different people, stand up against the test of time.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Von Bringham and Peak Performers 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 promises made that are held over a span of great time. These promises will be the kind we make to a vocation – especially if we take vows. Or the kind we make in a relationship like a marriage. Or a business partnership. Or to our children. But what happens when the other people who are part of our promise change (as they always do)? Does our promise change? And if our promise doesn't change, how can the people we have made them with have room to grow? 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

Men's Fellowship Coffee Time this Friday



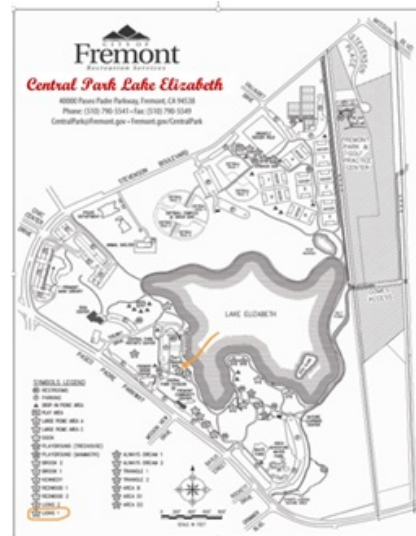
The time has come again for our next men's fellowship coffee time. It will be this Friday, May 3rd, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont.

Parking is in the parking lot adjacent. There is a range of coffees, teas, and juices, plus breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast 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

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-uhrDlrGtATOC36kZrixFXdztfRkWC0>

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

General Assembly Weekly Announcements and Preview

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



Board Briefs

Board Briefs: March 19, 2024

- A credit card policy has been written; the DRE will be issued a credit card.
- The Board is looking into ways in which our committee reporting structures can be reorganized for efficiency and a more equitable work load.
- Discussions are taking place with our landlord, FUMC, about taking part in a City of Fremont program for overnight parking for people living in their cars on our side of the FUMC campus.



Board Briefs: April 16, 2024

- The canvass has been very successful. With only a few pledges outstanding, canvass chairs expect us to exceed our goal.
- Mission Peak's dues to the UUA were paid.
- The budget is being prepared for presentation to the congregation before the Annual Meeting on June 9.
- Mission Peak's 30th anniversary will be celebrated with a dinner party on September 7.
- Committee chairs will convene in the next few weeks to discuss the reorganization plan.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7 pm.

For complete board minutes or other board info go to the Members Only section of our web site at mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only

For more details about meetings or questions email president@mpuuc.org

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
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553



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