

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 22, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Recently, I was looking back at my calendar, and noticed that it has been seven years since Tiffany and I first came to MPUUC as visitors, interested in seeing what UUism was all about. After moving to the west coast, we had been looking to join a community of people who shared similar values to us, but also would give us an opportunity to connect with people outside of our bubble, and found that place in Mission Peak.

Reflecting on our time here, it's been an incredible journey from new members to where we are today. We've met so many wonderful people we wouldn't have otherwise encountered. Through inspiring sermons by our excellent ministers and members, we've been exposed to thought-provoking ideas and philosophies that have helped us think about the world in new ways.

We've also been able to have the opportunity to serve the community, through music, serving on committees, and being on the board. Through this, we've helped build it into a place where we're excited to have our son grow up.

It's inspiring to see new faces joining us all the time. I'm looking forward to many more great years with all of you, and to welcoming and inviting all of those who join us along the way!

Stephen Longfield



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.



Blame

In the course of life it is important to understand why specific bad things have happened. This leads to the assignment of "blame". While blame is a useful concept, it is easily and frequently misused. One common error is to assume that if blame can be placed on one person, or one small group, that means others are innocent. This is especially used to conclude oneself is innocent. But this does not follow from logic, and frequently both, or all, parties can properly receive blame. Another common misuse of blame goes the opposite direction, spreading it more widely than is fair, often blaming an entire ethnic group or nation for the misdeeds of some. Finally, is often erroneously assigned even when everyone has been doing their best. We will explore examples of these errors, and contemplate how to resist the frequent temptation to fix blame inappropriately.

Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Erik Alm 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%.

Flower Communion Celebration

Next week, MPUUC will celebrate our Multigenerational Flower Celebration. This ritual is a beautiful and powerful one that began 101 years ago when Norbert Capek introduced it to the congregation in Prague Czechoslovakia. We are asking each person to bring a flower that represents their uniqueness in the world. But, if there is something else from nature that represents you better, bring that. We want to have a way to symbolize and celebrate the unique beauty each person brings to community.

May's Share the Plate for Milpitas Juneteenth

Our May Share the Plate supports the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association (SNA) "Milpitas Juneteenth – Unity In Community Celebration". This is the second annual celebration of this holiday and the rich African-American culture and history of Milpitas, at historic Sunnyhills Park. SNA appreciated your generous donations last year that helped cover expenses. Their goal is to continue to cultivate our diverse community and to connect local residents with valuable resources.



Allysson McDonald, who is helping coordinate, hopes you will also join her on the afternoon of Saturday, June 15, 2024 for live music, vendors, and more.

We will be collecting through June 2.

Write a check to MPUUC with "SNA" 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 "SNA" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "SNA") 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 "SNA" 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's topic will be about blame. There are many ways blame is being used these days. How has blame been used in your life? Was it ever used in your family of origin or in your younger life in such ways that it had long term effects? What are the long term effects of what we're seeing in public today likely to have? 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](#)

Notes and Letters

Music of Brahms and the Schumanns

Von Bringhurst sings with the ensemble Clerestory, based out of San Francisco. Often one per part, this concert series will feature the work of Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms. Concerts are the 25th and 26th of May, and information and tickets can be found at the link below.

https://www.clerestory.org/?mc_cid=cff78a2766&mc_eid=5935db93e7

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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

We celebrated reintroduction of the Fair Representation Act (FRA) ([H.R. 7740](#)) this Spring by Representatives Don Beyer (VA-8) and Jamie Raskin (MD-8). FRA would require ranked-choice voting for the House of Representatives, with multi-member House districts in more populous states, and end gerrymandering. End gerrymandering!



[Tell your House Member to cosponsor FRA!](#)

Passage would:

- Transform our political system, creating a more inclusive and deliberative government that respects and empowers all voices.
- Facilitate fair partisan and racial representation in Congress – regardless of how lines are drawn in districts.
- Stop gerrymandering, making more congressional districts competitive, and encouraging candidates to reach beyond their base ([Pew](#)).
- Achieve accountability and competition in general elections instead of just primaries. 85% of U.S. House districts are safe for one party ([USA Today](#)).

Learn more about **FRA from Fair Vote**:

- See an [overview](#) of FRA
- Watch a short [video](#) about why we need FRA
- Review a sample of [FRA maps](#) for every state
- Learn more about proportional ranked-choice voting with this [video](#)
- Understand the issues of "[Monopoly Politics](#)" for 2024
- Discover how this approach [benefits BIPOC](#) communities.

This bill addresses various issues we want to support in favor of a fair and inclusive democracy. Our democracy action team asks you to [Tell your House Member to cosponsor FRA!](#)

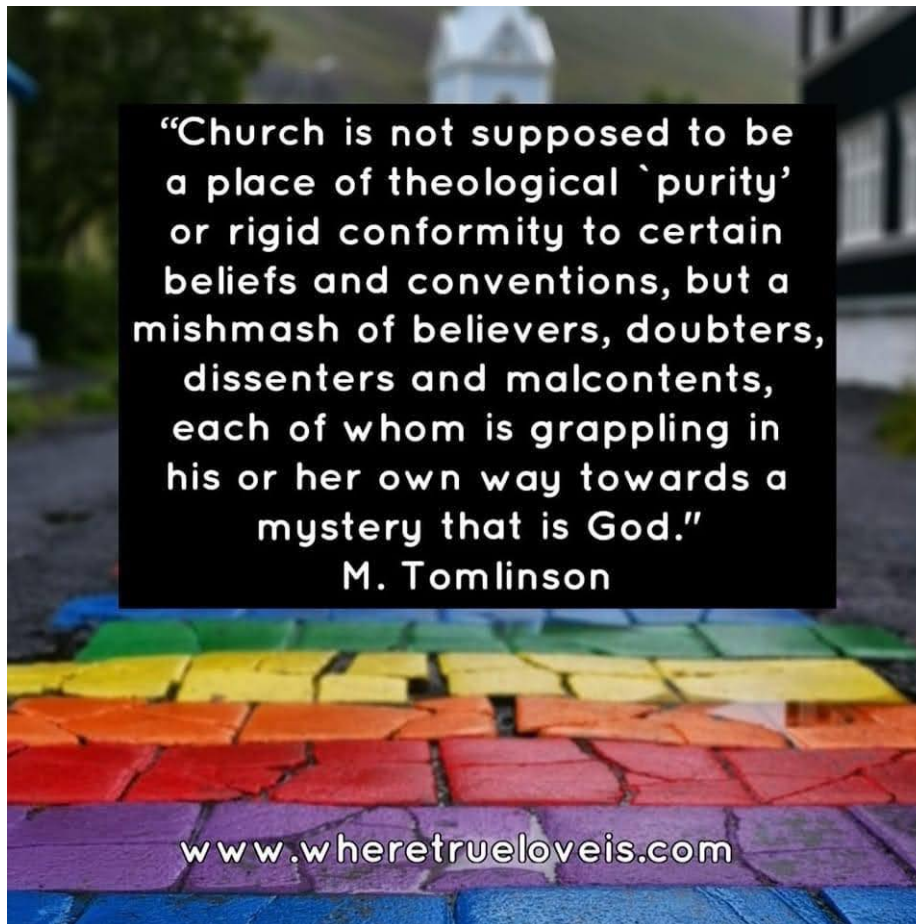
-- Pablo DeJesus, Executive Director, UUSJ

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

[Read the new SURJ blog post "The Students Give Us Hope"](#) – As student encampments and protests spread to colleges and universities across the country and the globe, SURJ Bay Area's latest blog, written by member Felicia Gustin, is a powerful reflection on what's happening today within the context of other student movements in recent history, including the fight against the war in Viet Nam and to end apartheid in South Africa.

[Donate to SURJ partner TGI Justice Project \(TGIJP\)](#) – Support fundraising efforts throughout May for the Miss Major Alexander L. Lee TGIJP Black Trans Cultural Center. The Center provides invaluable services to the Black transgender, gender variant, and intersex (TGI) community of San Francisco and is one of the first and only legal advocacy and support organizations driven by formerly incarcerated Black TGI individuals. As part of the Give OUT Day campaign, TGIJP aims to raise \$5,000 for its legal, reentry, and leadership development programs. [Check out their tool kit](#) if you want to help fundraise and spread the word.

8th Principle Learning



Denominational Affairs

General Assembly Weekly Announcements and Preview

Click [here](#) for more information.

Delegates for General Assembly

MPUUC is allowed to choose two delegates to vote for it on business issues at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in June. Are you interested in applying for one of these positions? Please let Beth Schaefer know as soon as possible: president@mpuuc.org

Article II Updates

<https://discuss.uua.org/c/ga24/20>

[UUA Newsletter](#)

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



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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