

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 29, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Greetings!

It's been almost a year since your current Board began our work leading the congregation in the very best ways we knew how. And it's been a good year thanks to the generous work of so many people in the Congregation. I am so grateful for your dedication! Thank you!

The Congregation thrived during Rev. Greg's sabbatical, thanks to his extensive preplanning, the Congregational Conversations led by the Committee on Ministry, and the kind and effective leadership of our interim minister, Rev. Jim McKinley. We held a special Congregational Meeting to vote on our public support of the California Reparations Task Force, and carried out several other social justice projects, among them, deciding to accompany asylum seeker Patrick Hebbart; managing and conducting a major youth voter registration drive; conducting robust letter-writing campaigns; and coordinating our reparative justice movement. We've been supporting Rev. Greg's efforts to develop a new, more fair organizational structure for Mission Peak's committees and leaders. The congregation held another fun and successful blank-and-white auction and our most successful canvass drive yet. We've had lots of great fellowship events for members and friends, young and older, as well as a monthly Children's Chapel. Our choir has been revitalized, and we've had more musicians performing in person. We've begun planning for a larger celebration of Mission Peak's 30th anniversary in September, and in just a few weeks, on June 16, we'll hold our first Juneteenth service and picnic at Lake Elizabeth.



I've been delighted to see us welcome some wonderful new members this year too. It's so good to have you! And we continue to develop outreach and outreach ideas, since we need to grow our number to remain healthy. One of the most important things you can do for your congregation right now is to invite friends to a service or an event – the Juneteenth celebration perhaps?

The next thing I'd like to ask your participation in is to attend and vote in our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 9, after the service. (Our new congregational year begins on July 1.) It's very important that we have a quorum, so please attend in person or on Zoom if at all possible so you can be counted. However, if you can't, contact me at president@mpuuc.org for an absentee ballot. We'll be approving the slated Board, Committee on Ministry and Leadership Development Committee. (Your entire six-member Board plans to return next year!) We'll also be voting to approve the budget for next year, and we'll be voting on two issues related to proposed changes in the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). These are important changes to Article II of the bylaws, which state our principles, which may be updated somewhat, as they are periodically. You've had opportunities to learn about Article II over the year, through services and articles. If you'd like to learn more about them please see the links in the email you received last week announcing the meeting, and be sure to attend the Congregational Conversation this Sunday, June 2, after service, when the Committee on Ministry will help us learn about and discuss the issues we'll be voting on before we send our two delegates to the UUA's General Assembly in late June.

Please join your fellow MPUUC members and take part in these important meetings and votes! Our decisions will put us in good shape to move forward into the new church year to help Mission Peak thrive, filled with fun and meaningful times for all of us.

Beth Schaefer

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.



Flower Communion Celebration

This year marks the 101st year since Norbert Capek introduced the Flower Celebration in Prague Czechoslovakia as a response to the build up of authoritarianism in percolating in the region. Capek took a very simple observation of his daughter noticing the diversity of flowers in the area and how beautiful they looked together in a bouquet. He then built it into one of the most powerful and lasting rituals Unitarianism recognizes. Please come to the service and bring a flower - or something from your garden - that represents or symbolizes your part in the bouquet that is MPUUC.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Von Bringham and Peak Performers Choir 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%.

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%

Conversation on the vote for Proposed Article II Change

This Sunday, June 2, after our Flower Celebration Service, the Committee on Ministry will hold a Conversation on Article II. Article II of the UUA bylaws states the denomination's 'Mission and Purpose'. Since 1985 it has been the 7 Principles and 6 Sources that we're familiar with. But it has changed many times since the UUA's inception in 1961. In fact, in order to remain current and relevant, the UUA's bylaws mandate a review of Article II every 15 years. [Read our current and proposed Article II](#). You can also read the [Article II Commission's Report](#) that explains the process. You can also read what [Advocates for the Change](#) say and what [People with Concerns about the Change](#) say.



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 discuss our Flower Celebration Service that will be held this Sunday, June 2. This year will be the 101st year since the Flower Celebration (what we, in the U.S., call Flower Communion). Where did it come from. What was it originally intended to do? How has it changed? 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

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

“Church is not supposed to be a place of theological ‘purity’ or rigid conformity to certain beliefs and conventions, but a mishmash of believers, doubters, dissenters and malcontents, each of whom is grappling in his or her own way towards a mystery that is God.”
M. Tomlinson

www.wheretrueloveis.com

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

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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