

This Week on the Peak

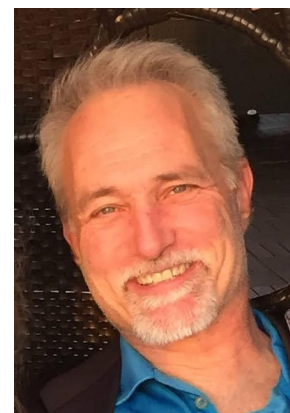


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 6, 2024

Dear Sandra,

I won't try to sugar-coat my feelings for you or pretend everything is fine. My heart is too broken and I am too scared to do that. So, excuse me if I don't mince words. As Lutheran prison pastor, Nadia Bolz-Weber said in a post this morning, "I just can't blow sunshine up anyone's butt today, Lord, so I ask that you send us what we really need, okay? Please!"

But what I will do is share that the very first thing my mind turned to last night when my heart was breaking about the election results was you. Mission Peak is a fiercely loving community. For the past year, I have watched you show up for letter writing, make phone calls and donate generously to candidates in key races. It is impossible to put so much love and hold so much hope and not be devastated by what feels like widespread support for hate, misogyny and xenophobia. So, before I go on, let me pause and just say, 'I love you' and 'I am proud of you,' and 'thank you' for being the kind of community built around high ideals. Seeing your commitment – especially through the hard times – means everything to me.



It's also important to say that as painful as last night's election results are for many of us, we need to be aware they land more catastrophically for some who identify as targets of increased persecution or reduced support. In the days ahead, it will be important to provide careful attention and support to those most susceptible to practices of violence and harm.

I know that so many things feel under siege or on fire right now. But I want you to know I continue to believe in democracy. I continue to believe in the power of love to transform injustice and the magic of compassionate community to rebuild broken hearts. I know these things are true from watching you.

But I also know that this may be the work of a lifetime. We can bend the arc toward justice but it may take awhile. And we won't do it on our own. Communities and coalitions dedicated to love for the long haul is what bends the arc.

Like you, I have been part of this great election push for the last couple years. That it has turned out the way it has breaks my heart. I cannot continue even one more step without a little solace and lamentation and the ability to look into your faces and feel the love at the heart of our shared faith. I cannot continue without you.

I hope you will consider coming to tomorrow night's vigil at Cole Hall (or, online virtually). And I hope you will reach out and bring someone you know who could use some encouragement. In the coming weeks and months, lean into this community as a circle of support. Don't try to do this alone. You – and the work we do together – is too important.

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.



Putting Our Values into Action

One of the most common tenets within the world's varied spiritual truths is to do your best and let go of the outcomes. No matter how the election works out, there is work that needs open hearts and loving hands. We will have our very first Action Sunday - a new process for doing worship by having a slightly shorter service followed by a dynamic, collaborative project bringing us together, across differences for the common good.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Jay and Jessica Steele 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%.

Black and White Auction

The Party is About to Begin!!!

The 2024 MPUUC Auction is almost here. This Saturday from 7-9 people will join together to share and

create wonderful memories.

The auction catalog is live at <https://www.32auctions.com/MPUUC2025>. Please feel free to cast your bids anytime before 9:00 Saturday night. You can bid even if you have not purchased a ticket, but we hope that you will buy a ticket to join the live event. John and Julie will be broadcasting from Verdi and have some fun activities planned for participants. You can buy your ticket at <https://square.link/u/E2Pmz87W>



A Zoom link to attend the party will be sent to people that have purchased a ticket by 5:00PM Friday November 8.

If you have donated and don't see the item on the auction website, or have any edits, please email (jw_schaefer@sbcglobal.net) or call (510.566.7901) John Schaefer.

Thank you!

POST ELECTION VIGIL

November 7 from 5pm – 6:30pm

I want to reach out and invite everyone to come to Cole Hall on November 7 – two days after the election – to gather as a community and find / offer solace to one another at the end of a very anxious and stressful election cycle. This will not be a rally or a call to action. No matter what the results of the election, there will be a need for that later. This will be a time to recognize what is going on around us and name what is in our hearts. We will have a little food if you're coming from work, candles to light, a few songs to sing, a couple readings and some contemplative reflection. But mostly, we will have people who can hold the feelings – and the people – in the room.



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

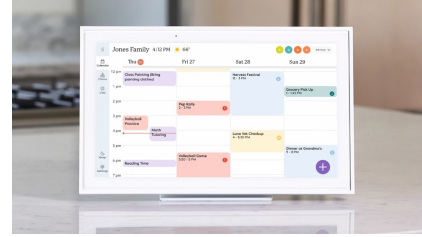
The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week we will be talking about the outcome of the election and the feelings we have been having. We will talk about the people most impacted by the outcome and how we would like things to turn out for them. The Midweek Discussion Group meets online and 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

Dates to mark on your calendar:

Saturday, Nov 9th **Black & White Annual Auction**

Friday, Nov 29th **Green Friday** BYO picnic lunch
Coyote Hills, no rsvp req'd- just come!
Saturday, Dec 14th 3rd annual **Cookies and
Carols Party** in Cole Hall 3:30-5pm
Monday, Jan 20th **MLK Jr Day of Service** time and
location TBD



JUSTICE CORNER

As we approach Election Day, it is critical that we come together to nourish our spirits and move in our collective power. This is about more than one election; it is about grounding ourselves in the values and communities that drive our fight for justice. No matter your issue; climate justice, democracy, gender justice, or criminalization, we are in this work together. That's why we are excited to invite you to join us for Forward Together: Anchoring in Community Post Election, a virtual series designed to offer space for reflection, spiritual grounding, and practical organizing in response to the evolving political landscape.



**SIDE WITH
LOVE**

FORWARD TOGETHER
Anchoring in Community Post Election

Wednesday, Nov. 6
5 PT - 6 MT - 7 CT - 8 ET
After Election Day

Date TBD
5 PT - 6 MT - 7 CT - 8 ET
Meaning Making &
Immediate Action

Tuesday, Nov. 19
5 PT - 6 MT - 7 CT - 8 ET
The Way Forward

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

SIDE WITH LOVE

Register at uua.org/community-resilience-hub

REGISTER NOW

November 14, 2024
8-9pm ET | 7-8pm CT | 6-7pm MT | 5-6pm PT

This will be our last regular Full Moon Gathering. We may hold some on a case-by-case basis, but our spiritual gatherings will focus on Winter Solstice, Earth Day and General Assembly. Stay tuned for other educational events coming in January.



We hope you join us November 14th to soak up the power of the supermoon.

[Register here](#)

[Winter Solstice Worship](#)

December 19, 2024

8-9pm ET | 7-8pm CT | 6-7pm MT | 5-6pm PT

The longest night of the year is a time we release the pain of life and embrace the light of strength and courage. UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) partners this year with the UU Service Committee (UUSC) and UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) to bring you stories from our global partners doing work on climate change and human rights. These stories will invite us into solidarity.

[Register here](#)



Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Everyone deserves a place to call home, grounded in a community of care.

With a gift to UUSC today, you can play a part in opening doors of opportunity so that more communities can live in peace and freedom, at one with the land.

For example, UUSC funding allowed our partner Fundación San Alonso Rodríguez (FSAR) to complete eleven self-constructed homes in two Tolupan villages in Honduras.

FSAR's work on environmental protection and land preservation goes hand-in-hand with the human right to housing. Each new house built advances the culture and dignity of Indigenous communities in Honduras.

These family homes ensure more tightly knit communities, providing a sacred and shared space, inviting all to *Encuentro La Milpa*, or "enter the cornfield."

In the words of our partner, the land and homes are like a cornfield space "where the dreams of the family, of the community organization, are woven; where lived reality is addressed: problems and concerns, challenges, and hopes." *La Milpa* is "the people's struggle against extractive projects, against agroindustry, against invasive products. *La Milpa* means a political fight to make us people in freedom."

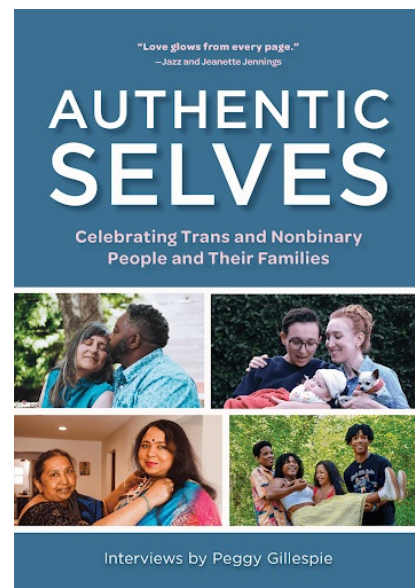
UUSC



The 2024-25 UU Common Read is ready for you!

With this year's kit of Common Read resource materials, we are pleased and excited to invite Unitarian Universalists into conversation with transgender and nonbinary people—and their partners, parents, children, siblings, and chosen family members—whose interviews and portraits fill the Skinner House book, *Authentic Selves: Celebrating the Lives of Transgender and Nonbinary People and Their Families*.

The subjects of *Authentic Selves* share their own stories, speaking from different stages of life, different regions of the country, different faith traditions, and different places on the rainbow spectrum of gender identity. Their book invites readers into their lives'



revelations, challenges, joys, and networks of support.

The team who created this resource kit included UU religious educators with personal life stories outside the gender binary. Working from the heart, we followed the lead of *Authentic Selves*, centering the voices and perspectives of trans and nonbinary people and their families in all the discussion materials. On the UU Common Read landing page, you'll find a Discussion Guide for a Mixed Group (all gender identities), a Cohort Discussion Guide (transgender and nonbinary participants only), a Youth Group Discussion Guide, and a Workshop for Parents and Caregivers who love and care for transgender and nonbinary children or youth.

Join in the UU Common Read

8th Principle Learning

On this episode of Jamal Bryant's "Let's Be Clear" podcast, we're getting real about the importance of voter engagement with none other than Stacey Abrams. Known for her unwavering dedication to civic participation, Abrams opens up about the critical need to engage Black men in the voting process and the undeniable role the Black church plays in tackling societal issues. Together, we unpack her advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), her work as a children's book author, and the lasting impact of the Supreme Court on our democracy.



This conversation goes beyond politics; it's about protecting our future and ensuring that every voice is heard.

If you're passionate about change and committed to making a difference, this episode is for you. It's deep, it's real, and it's clear—Stacey Abrams is not just advocating for democracy; she's fighting to preserve it. □□□

Watch the full episode [here](#):

Von Bringham would like to invite any MPUUC member to concerts with Clerestory, which he sings with.

"The singers of Clerestory present Bridges—a traverse of musical connections across places and times.

Bridges (as we Bay folk know well) connect us from there to here, both literally and figuratively. Choral composers spanning the centuries have set many of the same texts and themes, and Clerestory pairs and groups them in ways that illuminate this musical journey.

While Josquin, Byrd, and Purcell span toward Rachmaninoff, Pärt, and Stucky, we ask:

What threads connect Sigismondo d'India (a contemporary of Monteverdi) to Jung Jae-Il (composer of Squid Game and Parasite)? What path leads from the Roman friar Tiburtio Massaino to Wisconsin-born Abbie Betinis?

Join Clerestory on November 16-17 as we reach across centuries of choral connections.
Saturday, November 16, 2024 | 8:00pm | Noe Valley Ministry, San Francisco | [Tickets](#)
Sunday, November 17, 2024 | 7:30pm | St Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley | [Tickets](#)

https://www.facebook.com/events/1499554497413243?_rdr

Tri-City Interfaith Council

63rd Annual Thanksgiving Service

Kindness Has No Boundaries

The theme, "Kindness Has No Boundaries," was selected by the Tri-City Interfaith Council as a reminder of the vibrant diversity of our community and how important it is to face our challenges together. The service will include prayers from diverse local faith communities, an interfaith choir led by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and a Baha'i music video. Leaders of faith communities will pass on their sacred traditions to the next generation.

This is a Hybrid Event

Please register in advance for Zoom

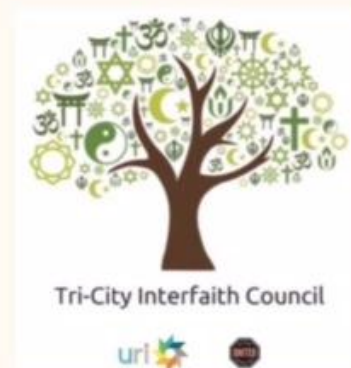
Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/TCIC-ITS-2024>

Monday, November 25, 2024

@ 7:30 pm

@ Niles Discovery Church

36600 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA



Board Briefs

Board briefs from September-October 2024 MPUUC Board meeting.

The Board met on October 15, 2024.

- *Announcing our new WebMaster- the Board approved creating a part time, paid position for a WebMaster to perform updates of the MPUUC Website. Mallory Michmerhuizen has accepted the position and will begin in November. The Board also approved taking steps to update the security for access to the Members Only section.*
- **Board Retreat on Nov. 16. All Members are encouraged to propose topics for Board study, please send ideas to President@mpuuc.org.**
- *Installation of a Baby Changing Table is coming to a Cole Hall Restroom.*
- *The Congregational Safety Policy is still under review.*

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, November 19, 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 12pm.**

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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