

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 30, 2024

Dear Sandra,

It's the spookiest season of the year! That's right, it's election season, and the scary ghosts of the past, present, and future are all out in full force.

Our shared UU values can be the candle in the pumpkin that lights our way towards the sweet possibilities ahead of us, but we do have to ring that proverbial doorbell. The trick is to act on our shared Article 2 principles of Justice, Transformation and Equity so that we may all be able to treat ourselves and others. Let's break free from the cobwebs of division and fear, and costume ourselves in the hope for a better tomorrow.



Early voting has started in much of California, and you can find out where your voting location is, or where you can drop your ballot at caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov. Make sure your voice is heard!

Also, don't forget that Halloween is Thursday!

Stephen Longfield
Member of the Board

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.



How Facism Gains a Following - Even Where It Isn't Wanted

If you grow up in a democracy, in a place where 'the common good' and 'love thy neighbor' are even slightly familiar – and then you learn about Naziism and the holocaust, it is almost impossible not to ask, 'how could such a thing happen?' This is a service that explores that question. We will draw from some of the growing number of examples of how it has happened and continues to happen. We will take a look at the notion of a 'strongman' in a forced narrative of 'may the strongest survive.'

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Von Bringhurst and Peak Performers will provide our music.

Crystal Santana will be playing violin in the service. Tune in at **9:50 a.m. to hear her Prelude music! She just got back from touring in Ireland with the Irish band Fenians. Her grandparents Jo Ann and Chris Schriener are very proud of her.

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

Keep the Party Going - the 2024 Auction Needs Your Help

Do you remember how much fun it was to get together for that special dinner hosted by your friends at MPUUC? Did you find the perfect event or item at the auction? Did you have a blast bidding and connecting with your fellow Mission Peakers? Let's Keep the Party Going throughout the next year.



The 2024 auction will be held online on November 9 from 7-9. It will be awesome, but we need your help to make it happen. Buy tickets, donate items and be prepared to bid on November 9. You can buy tickets for \$30 per person [here](#) (Auction Zoom link will be sent to ticket holders). You can donate your item(s) online using [this form](#). For more details [visit the web page](#).

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.

October Share the Plate - Planting Justice

We will be collecting through November 3.

Write a check to MPUUC with "Planting Justice" 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 "Planting Justice" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Planting Justice") 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 "Planting Justice" 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. 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](#)

EARLY VOTING is OPEN NOW!!!!!!

In Fremont the location that is open as of 10/26 is the Main Library on Stevenson Blvd.
Newark - the Main Library on Newark Ave.
Milpitas- Main Library on No. Main St.



For other cities in Alameda County- look up the locations at caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov

Sustainable Style

The Sustainable Style clothing recycling project the last three weeks was a great success. She will return in 3-4 months when a new season of clothes will be ready for recycling.

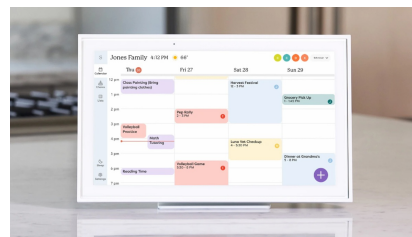


Leming Kong, the student who is running the program, has a [reflection form](#) for us to give feedback and suggestions for how to improve her initiative.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar:

Saturday, Nov 2nd **Diwali** dinner/celebration Cole Hall
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



Men's Fellowship Coffee Time this Friday

November is just around the corner and we'll have our monthly coffee time this Friday, November 1st, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont.



Parking is in the parking lot adjacent. As always 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 invite him and 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 -- or 510-791-0175) Hope to see you there.

MPUUC Diwali potluck / dinner / art night!

Saturday Nov 2nd 5:30-8pm.
RSVP requested at [this link](#) by Oct 31st.

Click [here](#) for flyer



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.



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



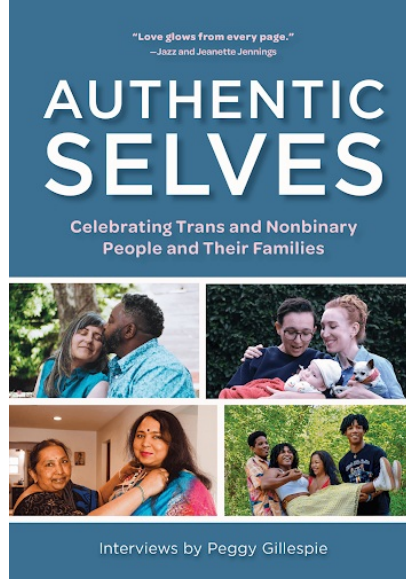
[The 2024-25 UU Common Read is ready for you!](#)

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](#):



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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