

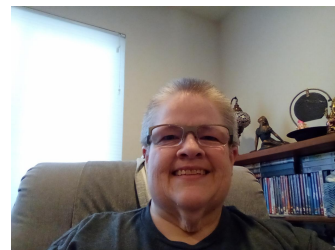
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 13, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Hello to my Mission Peak family! My name is Michelle Wallace, and I am a member of the Board. It has been a week since what is probably the most consequential election in our lifetimes. If you are anything like me, I was sure that Vice President Harris was going to win, so when I saw that her opponent had won, I was disappointed, worried, scared, and even angry. As a member of the LGBTQ+ Community, I am very concerned about the intentions of the Christian Nationalists and Project 2025; as an American, I am frightened of the prospect of losing our democracy and living under a dictatorship.



How did this happen? Knowing everything we do about the President Elect, how could we possibly have chosen him again? Speaking for myself, I did not choose him, and I suspect that most of the people reading this did not choose him either. So why were there so many people willing to give this person another chance to destroy our democracy? I think the answer is clear: the people have been lied to and far too many have believed those lies. Common sense would suggest that people should be able to tell the difference between truth and falsehoods, but that is obviously not the case.

We have become a society that no longer values education and critical thinking skills. Common sense is no longer common. Too many people think that if they see it on Facebook or Tik Tok or X or whatever platform they visit most often, then it must be true. As a teacher of English for over 35 years, I can say with great certainty that if a student of mine cited Tik Tok in a research paper, I would definitely have a problem with that and the student's grade would reflect that.

We need to stop downplaying the importance of education, critical thinking, and common sense. Schools should not be worried about indoctrination, censorship, sexualization of children, and wokeness (whatever people think that means); of course, we don't want those things to happen in our schools, and for the most part, they are not happening, but if enough people believe something is happening, then for them, it is really occurring in schools all over the United States. Most people are too lazy to check and see if these stories really are confirmed by strong, logical empirical data or are just rumors which spread like wildfire on the internet.

Please be very careful about what you pass along to your friends and family on social media. Stick to cute cat videos and goofy memes. I've spent my entire career trying to convince people that education is the greatest gift you can give yourself, and no one can ever take it away from you. Try to educate yourself and stay informed on what's really

going on in this world. It's the only chance we have to salvage our democracy.

Michelle Wallace

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.



Lamentation and Loneliness

So many people in this country see diversity as a strength and understand that a safety net for the most vulnerable is a sign of a caring nation. For such ideals, the election delivered difficult news. Many are in retreat, cursing the darkness, vowing to socially hibernate for the next four years. But this comes in the face of U.S. surgeon general, Vivek Murthy's 71-page advisory warning last year that America is in the midst of an 'epidemic of loneliness and isolation.' The study estimates that low levels of social connection affects more Americans than diabetes or obesity. This is not surprising for a nation where the average American will spend over four hours a day staring at their phone. What is the response from a religion that puts Love at the center?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Melissa Holmes 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%.

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](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar:

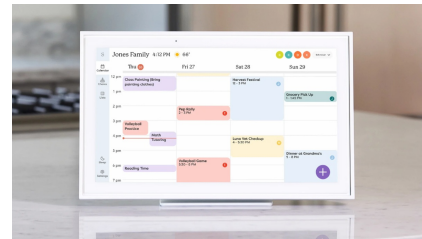
Friday, Nov 29th **Green Friday BYO picnic lunch**

Coyote Hills, no rsvp req'd- just come!

Sunday, Dec 1st **Gratitude and Gift Wrap Potluck Dinner** Cole Hall 5:30-8pm

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



MPUUC's Green Friday byo picnic lunch

Friday, November 29th, 11-1pm

Coyote Hills Hoot Hollow Picnic Area

Skip the consumerism of Black Friday and come enjoy a dose of nature. We'll have a box of hot coffee starting at 11. Come commune with nature, and each other:) Group walk option if enough folks are interested.

Click [here](#) for flyer



Gratitude and Gift Wrap Potluck Dinner

Sunday December 1st, 5:30-8pm

Bring your gratitude to share with those at your dinner table, bring a gift that needs some special wrapping. All the gift wrap supplies will be provided, including recyclable paper and yarn to make your own ribbon and bow decorations. RSVP requested, follow [this link](#) or email Ariel.





FORWARD TOGETHER

Anchoring in Community Post Election

 <p>Wednesday, Nov. 6 5 PT - 6 MT - 7 CT - 8 ET After Election Day</p>	 <p>Date TBD 5 PT - 6 MT - 7 CT - 8 ET Meaning Making & Immediate Action</p>	 <p>Tuesday, Nov. 19 5 PT - 6 MT - 7 CT - 8 ET The Way Forward</p>
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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



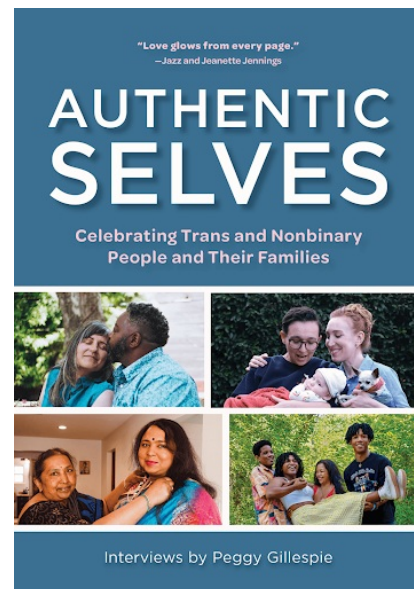
The 2024-25 UU Common Read is ready for you!

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

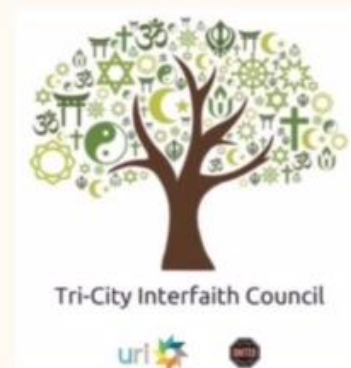
Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/TCIC-ITS-2024>

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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