

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 20, 2024

Dear Sandra,

If you were to read my job description as your Director of Multigenerational Community Building you would probably not be surprised to see written out: "Plan, present and host forays into multigenerational community building events." Sometimes I feel like I'm a cook in the kitchen, preparing different plates for you to sample.

Behold, the plate bearing **Green Friday** : Nov 29th from 11-1 we'll meet at Coyote Hills (free entrance day!) for a byo picnic lunch. Hot coffee provided at 11. No rsvp, just come. With good walking shoes if you want to join a walk.

The next course: **Gratitude and Gift Wrap potluck**. Sun Dec 1st from 5:30-8pm. We'll take time around the dinner table to share what we're feeling grateful for. There will also be supplies on hand for gift wrapping a special gift, including recyclable paper and hand-made ribbon and bows. RSVP [here](#).

Ongoing, I invite you **INTO THE KITCHEN!** Come cook up some multi-gen goodness, a *service project for people of all ages*. I'm looking for helpers to put on a community service project, to be held on **MLK Jr Day**, Monday January 20th, almost exactly two months from when this newsletter is going out. We'll be inviting all of Fremont to come and participate. We're working on finding our community partners, likely Tri-City Interfaith Council (TCIC) and hopefully also Fremont for Everyone. We'll need lots of volunteers from MPUUC to make this event a success, from folks greeting at the door, staffing tables with the supplies we'll be working with, baking for the bake sale and being great representation of this MPUUC community. Dig out your purple shirt and let me know how you'd like help. MLK Jr Day is also inauguration day so joining this effort is a good alternative to feeling powerless and frustrated. Come and bring your powerful and positive selves to a day of service!



warmly,

Ariel

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## This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.



### The Noble Savage (myths about American Indians)

The “noble savage” is a stock character in Western literature of the Romantic Period, the early 1800s. Primitive people were seen as good and moral, representing a harmony with nature that grasping, acquisitive Europeans longed for. At first, the races in North America traded and got along, but soon the natives were provoked to war. By the mid 1800s, they were “the wretched Indians” who had to go. The true story shows what went wrong.

Don Ramie will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. David Johnson will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriener and Knuti VanHoven will provide our music.

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## 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](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org)

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## 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](#)

## The Party Was Amazing!

Congratulations to everyone on an amazing auction and thank you for your generosity. We raised a total of nearly \$12,500, including tickets and winning bids. But we are not quite done yet. We have a few additional items that did not sell during the auction. We will accept purchases for these items until 5:00 PM on Saturday November 23. Please send John Schaefer an email if you are interested in purchasing the item (first-come, first-served).



If you donated an item and would like to see who the winning bidders are, please check out this link

(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LNpRdYq2y2LvAekQLnlcPUHQtwIM8IGbqYOWdVSeJQ/edit?gid=1627261338#gid=1627261338>). It will be updated on 11/24 with any additional purchases that come through the after-auction catalog.

The available items are:

IKON Pass: \$100

Christmas Carol Reading: \$25

Concert by Jessica and Friends (unlimited number of spots available: \$15 each

Dinner and Conversation about Love (3 spots - \$40 each)

Fun at the Art Museum (1 spot) \$35

Giro Helmet - Medium \$10

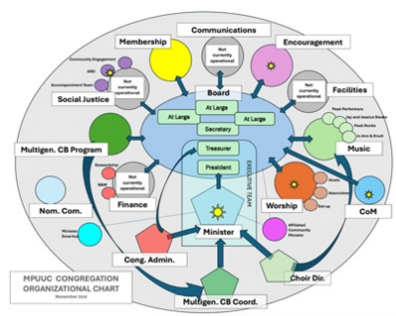
Recorder Lesson (1) \$25

UUs in Public - four seats available - \$25 each

**\*\*Although donations of services are not tax deductible, any direct costs related to providing those services are tax deductible**

## Check out our Organizational Chart.

The Board is working toward helping us all communicate and organize together. We are in the process of clarifying our structure so that everyone knows how MPUUC and where to go / who to talk to do what is needed quickly and effectively. Please [TAKE A LOOK BY CLICKING HERE](#) and see if you can understand how Mission Peak works.



## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### Dates to mark on your calendar:

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

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

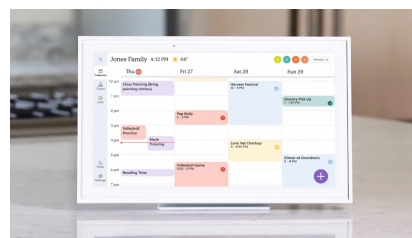
Sunday, Dec 1st **Gratitude and Gift Wrap Potluck**

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.



**JUSTICE CORNER**

**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.

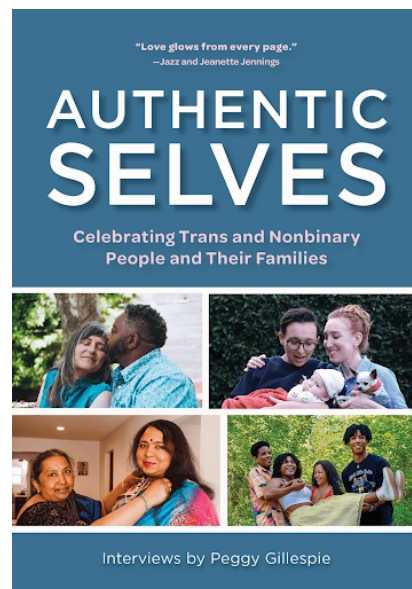
These family homes ensure more tightly knit communities, providing a sacred and shared space, inviting all to *Encuentro La Milpa*, or "enter the cornfield."

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."

## 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](#):

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## Tri-City Interfaith Council News/Events

[https://www.facebook.com/events/1499554497413243?\\_rdr](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**

Tri-City Interfaith Council

37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE EXHIBIT

# COME TO BETHLEHEM

DECEMBER 7-11, 2024

Saturday-Wednesday • 12:30-8:30PM

ADMISSION FREE

A GIFT TO THE  
COMMUNITY

Nativity art from around the world  
Hands-on activities for all ages  
Christmas concerts, stories,  
marionette shows, and more

Celebrate Jesus Christ's birth.  
Feel His light and His love.  
Share the joy of Christmas.



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650.382.3487

The Menlo Park, Los Altos,  
and Saratoga Stakes  
The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints

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#paloaltocreche

ChristmasCrechePaloAlto

#LightTheWorld

ChristmasCreche.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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