

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 27, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Hello, Mission Peakers! If you have been grappling with some very painful feelings and worries lately, you're definitely not alone. One of the things that has intensely frustrated me since the election is my feeling of helplessness around all the things I anticipate happening to my country soon. I'm thinking, *"I've got to do something to help! But what can I do that actually matters? How can I support the things I love? And what can I do that would grow and sustain me personally while I make a difference in the world?"*



In my internal strife, it seemed serendipitous that I was recently introduced to the concept of "community organizing." (Thank you for that great sermon, Rev. Greg!) I had never understood the term before – I just knew Barack Obama did community organizing in Chicago before he became a senator. But the term means more than just making a list and going to a march. It encompasses the way a group (say, MPUUC) can choose an issue to work on (say, racism, climate change, science denial, women's rights), learn about it, then join forces with other organizations that are doing work that aligns with the beliefs and dreams we hold for Mission Peak. By banding together, we're multiplying our power.

Community organizing works. For many years the status quo has been dramatically changed by community organizing – from suffragism to civil rights, from marriage equality to Black Lives Matter. This is powerful stuff.

There is help to be had too. For example, there are several national organizations that assist with community organizing for many causes. We would have support.

On Action Sunday some of us began to learn about this process of community organizing and how and why Mission Peak could get involved in some important cause. We'd be able to develop strategic partnerships – with other change-makers, other powerful groups, and with our legislature. Those relationships would make a bigger difference in our world and, at the same time, serve some of Mission Peak's own deeper missions – more justice work, more relationship-building within and outside the congregation, and more members, since we'd be interacting regularly

with like-minded people.

I'm excited about this new, effective approach to action – to making our voices heard and truly changing some of this very difficult political situation. We're holding a Community Organizing meeting after the service on December 15. Join us! Learn about what we do next – one thing this may include is interviewing each other to develop our congregation's "narrative" about who we are and where we want to go from here. Soon each of us, and Mission Peak as a whole, will begin to look at what issues are painful for us and which issues excite each of us as we work our way forward.

I fervently hope you will give serious thought to how you can help prepare Mission Peak for these exciting and powerful actions in the world – actions that support us in our personal growth and in nurturing MPUUC itself. I'm all in – are you?

– Beth

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.



Joy, Justice and Commitment Guest At Your Table at 50

Rev. Dr. Manish Mishra-Marzetti is the co-chair on the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. This year marks the 50th anniversary of UUSC's Guest at Your Table. Rev. Manish will reflect on his opportunities to travel and visit our Guest at Your Table partners and getting to know, up close and personally, the communities with whom we commit to partner for cultivating more love, justice and joy.

Rev. Dr. Manish Mishra-Marzetti will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associates Sharon Davis and Drew Wilson. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Peak Performers with Von Bringhurst 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%.

Check out this year's UUSC Guest at Your Table Partners

These short videos give us an introduction to the brave people organizing around the world for the values Unitarian Universalists believe in. (Click on the links to watch short video)

[Haitian Bridge Alliance](#)

Working to document abuses in the immigration system and helping liberate those in detention procuring national and international legal protections

[Jo-Jikum](#)

Helping communities heal from the destructive legacy of nuclear testing by the U.S. while envisioning a sustainable future for the Marshallese people.

[Pink Haven Coalition](#)

Creating networks of safety and welcome for trans and gender expansive people forced to flee unsafe states in the United States.

[Queer Svit](#)

An organization offering resources and companionship to the queer community in Ukraine who have been impacted by Russia's invasion.

We will be collecting through mid January.

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

DATE: December 15, 2024
TIME: 12:00 pm (immediately after the Bell Choir Concert)
JOIN US IN COMMUNITY to



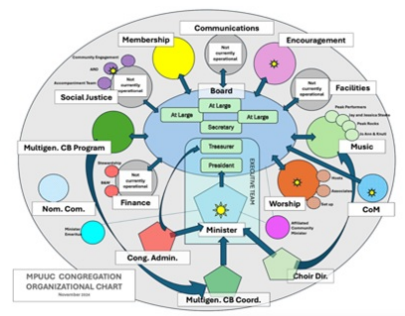
YOU are invited to share your ideas, hopes and concerns and plan a path forward for action in our community. We'll have "Stone soup"- the original community food and bread to share (you are invited to bring an ingredient to Cole Hall by Dec. 8). Then join us to share our goals for community action and carve a path forward together.

Cole Hall is located at the top of the hill of the campus of the First United Methodist Church at 2950 Washington Blvd., Fremont CA 94539

For more information see www.mpuuc.org

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

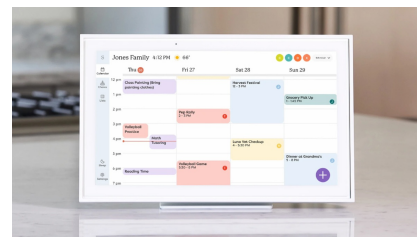
Dates to mark on your calendar:

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

How we understand the rule of law might be at stake in the lame-duck

In the last four years, great strides have been made to improve our judiciary by confirming judicial nominees dedicated to civil and human rights. We must continue building a federal judiciary that lives up to its promise of equal justice and neutral judging.



The Senate should ensure all eligible, qualified, pending judicial nominees are confirmed by the end of the year. With **16 lifetime nominees** pending on the floor right now, and more to be reported out of Committee this week and in coming weeks, from the **roster of 67**, the Senate needs to be intentional and diligent.

Kathi, tell your Senators that they must confirm every pending judicial nominee in the remaining weeks of the 118th Congress. This must be done expeditiously, and the Senate must stay in to get it done.

Our democracy depends on qualified, fair-minded judges committed to upholding the rights of all of us, as well as neutral judging traditions. Please act now.

Sincerely,
UUSJ Democracy Action Team

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

ONGOING EVENTS Daily

• 12:00 – 12:30 pm • **Jewish Voice For Peace:
Power Half-Hour for Gaza** (VIRTUAL)



Fridays • 9:00 – 10:00 am • **American Friends
Service Committee Action Hour for a Cease-Fire Now** (VIRTUAL)

Fridays • 12:00 – 1:00 pm • **Friday PSA: Palestine Solidarity Announcements**
(VIRTUAL)

8th Principle Learning



A Prayer for My Queer and Trans Siblings

Here you are.
Here, in this holy space,
on this ground that is holy
because you are here.

Here you are, in flesh and bone,
filling up this body that belongs to you alone.
Your pumping heart is a wonder
because it keeps you alive.
Your loving heart is a blessing
because it keeps all of us alive.

The Spirit of Love has a home in you.
May we all see that love in you
and let our hearts become mirrors
for the compassion at your core.

The Spirit of Justice has a home in you.
May we light our wicks
from one another until we are all aflame,
until we burn out every prejudice
we carry in these bones.

Here you are.
Holy as you are.

Blessed be.

—Jess Reynolds
Love Like Thunder



SKINNER
HOUSE
BOOKS

37TH 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.



3865 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, California
650.382.3487

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

@ ChristmasCreche

#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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 | missionpeakuu.org



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