

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 11, 2024

Dear Sandra,

It's time to decorate cookies!

Saturday, December 14th is right around the corner and all are invited to join Mission Peak's Annual Cookie Decorating party.

We'll be in Cole Hall from 3:30-5pm and invite you to bring a plate of undecorated sugar cookies. We'll have the frosting and candy decorations (though you're welcome to bring more if you like).

We'll also have music and caroling.

Feel free to bring a friend!

No RSVP is required.

with sugary anticipation,
Ariel Smith-iyer and Lisa Newstrom & family



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.



The Religion of 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 Chris Cook. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Peak Rocks 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

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[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



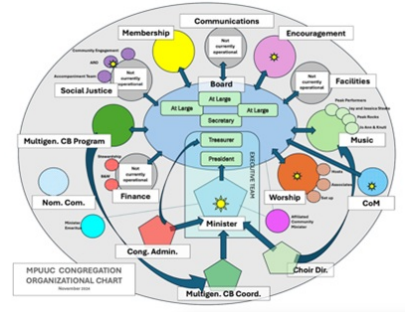
YOU are invited to share your ideas, hopes and concerns and plan a path forward for action in our community. We'll have "Stone soup"- the original community food and bread to share (you are invited to bring an ingredient to Cole Hall by Dec. 8). Then join us to share our goals for community action and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



Sunday, December 15th, 11:30 - The Palm Hill Bell Choir, with members from both MPUUC and FUMC, will perform a Christmas concert for both congregations, in the Methodist sanctuary.

Sunday, December 15th, 6:00 - The Peak Performers choir of MPUUC will be the musical entertainment for the first night of the Las Posadas festival at the chapel of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Meet at the Mission San Jose Museum porch to sing Christmas carols as you process to the chapel. Refreshments after the music.

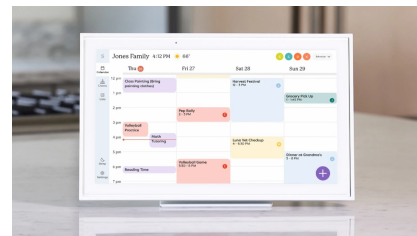
Tuesday, December 17th, 6:00 - The Palm Hill Bell Choir will be the musical entertainment for the third night of the Las Posadas festival at the Better Homes and Gardens realty office. Again, meet at the Mission.

Note: If you need to go directly to a Las Posadas performance location please email Paul Davis at paulkdavis@earthlink.net for instructions. Google will give you the business office of the Sisters, not their chapel.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar:

- Saturday, Dec 14th 3rd annual **Cookies and Carols Party** in Cole Hall 3:30-5pm
- Monday, Jan 20th **MLK Jr Day of Service** along with community partners, Cole Hall 11-1pm
- Jan 24-26th **Youth Retreat** at San Francisco UU, reach out to Ariel for more information
- Feb 2nd **Blessing of the Animals** during service
- Feb 8th **Parent Night Out**
- Feb 22nd **Visioning Multi-gen Futures**



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

Tri-City Interfaith Council News/Events

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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