

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 18, 2024

Dear Sandra,

Have you ever wondered:

- Why homelessness persists in our community?
- What would make for a great all-ages, community service event?
- How to make a positive impact in the life of any one unhoued person?
- What kind of outreach event could appeal to families and adults?

These are the aims of MPUUC's upcoming **community service day event** on Monday, January 20th. From 10am-12 noon Cole Hall will be set up with tables for any person in the tri-city area (and beyond) to come learn about these issues and put together one care package, to be shared with a person who is unhoued. When attendees arrive they'll receive a bag and a check-list. As they visit each table, picking up items to complete the package, they'll also learn one fact about homelessness, including the surprising truth about why housing insecurity persists in our region (hint: it isn't actually primarily caused by addiction or mental health challenges, as many incorrectly assume).



The board has earmarked funds to make this project a wonderful success and you are invited to contribute as well. There are several ways you could help:

- Show up that day to put together a care package!
- Volunteer that day (we need baked goods, help staffing the tables, greeters, etc) sign up [HERE](#)
- Sign up to contribute supplies to offset the cost of this event (same link as bullet above)
- Take a handful of fliers from the Welcome Table this Sunday (or print your own) and post in prominent places
- Invite friends and neighbors to come!

Not only is **Monday, January 20th Martin Luther King Jr Day**, which makes it an ideal day to be of service to others, it's also inauguration day. Consider this event a remedy for feeling powerless and frustrated. Bring your powerful and positive self to a morning of service. There will be coffee and pastries:)

yours at MPUUC,
Ariel

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.



At the End of the Year We Were Given

Last January a number of amazing souls from Mission Peak came together on a year long journey to gaze beyond the curtain of our own mortality. Over 12 months, we looked at everything that made the conversation with death so intimidating. A few of those who completed the course will talk about what they learned and the process of replacing fear of death with acceptance, reverence and respect. They will also explore ways this conversation with death has instilled a deeper appreciation for life.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Terri King. David Johnson will be Worship Host. Jay and Jessica Steele will provide our music.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Totally Scrooged Lessons and Carols) 5:00 PM

With carols, candles and stories we will explore Dicken's magical story of how Christmas Spirits help Love come-to-life within soul of Ebenezer Scrooge. In his journey from crumudgeon to Christmas saint, he helps us all understand the true meaning of Christmas.



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Peak Performers, Directed by Shauna Pickett-Gordon will provide our music.

[Share the Plate will go towards Ministerial Discretionary Fund](#)

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

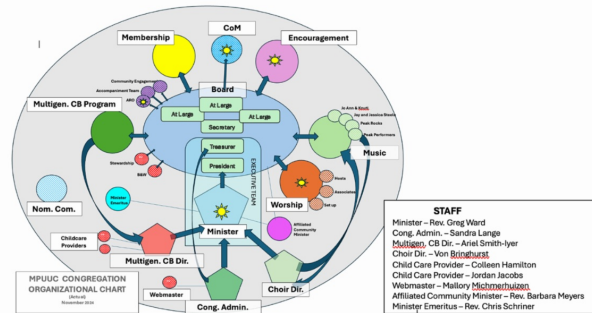
The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week we will talk about death and explore what we've done to overcome regrets, fulfill our deepest longings, express than, learn from and let go of grief, and offer a good legacy for those coming of age after us. The Midweek 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](#)

LUNCH AND LEARN UPDATES

Our inaugural Lunch and Learn gathering was a big success thanks to Valerie who made two soups, two people who brought bread and cookies and Rev. Greg who led our learning session on Community Organizing 1:1 Conversations (here is an [Electronic Version of the Handout](#) describing what we learned). We are going to continue Lunch and Learns at least once a month (on the 2nd Sunday of the Month). January 12 will be our next session where we will get more practice and insights for successful 1:1 Conversations. We are encouraging people to [SIGN UP TO SET UP / CLEAN UP](#) and [SIGN UP TO MAKE SOUP](#). If you have any questions, ask Rev. Greg or Kathi Bayne.

New MPUUC Organizational Chart

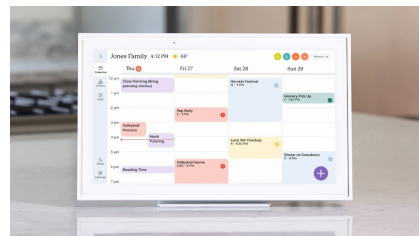
It is with great joy (and significant work) that the MPUUC Board has approved and presents to you our new Org Chart. It is hoped that this will provide an intuitive visual understanding of how we operate so that both newcomers and long time members alike will have a sense for how to be involved at Mission Peak.



FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar:

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

This [#InternationalHumanRightsDay](#), [Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice](#) are in solidarity with the 21 young people leading America's Climate Case - Juliana v. US!

For nearly ten years, the Juliana 21 have fought for their day in court to secure fundamental climate rights for future generations. And for nearly ten years, the U.S. Government has wielded its power and misused the law to silence them - all while becoming the top producer of fossil fuels in the world.

In our constitutional democracy, the courts exist to protect peoples' fundamental rights from government overreach - especially when children's rights to life and physical safety are violated by their own government.

Yesterday, the Juliana 21 filed a Petition for Certiorari at the U.S. Supreme Court. They have the right to access justice. SCOTUS, let the youth be heard!

Our voices are stronger together! Join [Our Children's Trust](#) and the Juliana 21 digital rally and call for justice with us today! [#YouthvGov](#) [#JulianavUS](#) [#SaveJuliana](#) [#AmericasClimateCase](#) [#ClimateRightsNow](#) [#ClimateRighttoLife](#)



The inferiority of women is an invention of patriarchy.

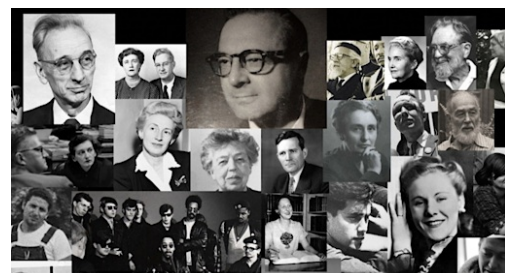
Just like virginity defining our worth, just like motherhood being every woman's desire, just like marriage being THE happily ever after. All of those are inventions of patriarchy, and they rely on us believing them in order to have power. Once we stop believing, once we start questioning why those inventions were made up and who benefits from them, once we use our power to end our subscription to patriarchy instead of believing its inventions- the entire system begins crumbling down. **Because patriarchy has no headquarters, it resides in our collective belief.** Patriarchy is an idea, and it has power if we believe it. -Farida D.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



White Antiracist Spirituality in U.S. History: 4-Week Workshop Series (VIRTUAL)

Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 • 4:00 – 5:30 pm OR
Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 • 6:00 – 7:30 pm



We're living in a time that calls for extra insight, inspiration, and community. Join Lynn Burnett and [Cross Cultural Solidarity](#) to receive nourishment and wisdom from the legacy of white antiracist spirituality in U.S. history, as we seek to deepen our own white antiracist path and practice to meet the needs of our time. Participants will learn powerful stories and plug into supportive resources each week. There will be roughly one hour of pre-reading per session, followed by facilitated discussions designed to create a space of collective reflection. You don't need to identify as spiritual to learn from and be inspired by this history: This series is for anyone seeking to embody a deeper, richer level of white antiracist practice that will sustain your spirit and provide guidance for the long haul. *Please note there are two session times/days to choose from.*

8th Principle Learning

Amanda Gorman Do Us Good

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPOVo3_pyos



Denominational Affairs

Get Ready for General Assembly 2025: Registration and Housing Open December 9!

Exciting news! Registration and housing for the 2025 UUA General Assembly in Baltimore open on December 9. This is your chance to secure your spot at the largest annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists.



Why Use the GA Housing Reservation System?

Booking through the official GA Housing System helps the UUA secure critical meeting space at the convention center and hotels while negotiating for accessibility and sustainability requirements on behalf of attendees. Staying in our hotel block ensures the success of GA while keeping you close to the action! Learn more and explore hotel options here: [GA Hotels](#)

Apply here: [Financial Aid](#)

[Sign up to be notified](#)

Learn more here: [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Mark your calendar and visit uua.org/ga on December 9 to [register](#), [reserve housing](#), and make the most of all GA has to offer!

UUA Elections Announcement Unitarian Universalist Association December 2024

On October 21, the UUA Moderator Search Committee presented a list of potential Moderator candidates to the UUA Board of Trustees. Board members subsequently engaged with the candidates in a series of conversations before convening at the November 11 Board meeting to make a final decision. After thoughtful consideration, the

Board unanimously voted to nominate the following candidates to run for election as the new UUA Moderator or Co-Moderators:

[Open this email in a Web browser](#)

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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