

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 5, 2025

Dear Sandra,

I am Valerie Stewart, a member of the Board.

Like some other members of Mission Peak, I attended the Fremont City Council meeting Tuesday night- Feb. 4. There were several of our "Purple t-shirts" in the seats that the City Council looked out upon. Good showing! Thank you, Rev. Greg and Beth Schaefer, for speaking eloquently for Mission Peak to oppose the proposed "camping ban". 32 speakers were allowed to have their 60 second statement to the Council- only 2 did not oppose the Camping Ban ordinance. Many faith communities were represented by speakers. A BART Director spoke. The points in our MPUUC Board statement were repeated several times by those opposing the Ordinance:



- Respond to the concerns people have for their safety with compassion toward the people who are outdoors because they have no other options;
- Take the time to gather information necessary to come to a solution that will respect the dignity of all the people involved;
- Create a balanced citizens task force to recommend more humane ways to deal with neighborhood concerns regarding unhoused individuals or encampments of people;
- Find appropriate locations for the unhoused to safely locate, with their possessions, and their vehicles, if they have them, until adequate housing is available.
- Reject criminalizing all those who show compassion to help unhoused neighbors.

This week has seen national government be turned topsy turvi by wealthy men who are not government employees and have no security clearances. The effects on

“everyday” Americans are yet to be understood, but we at Mission Peak are learning that local government is something that we can personally speak to and we are getting practice with coalition-building and ‘showing up’ and speaking truth to our elected officials. One speaker reminded the Council that Fremont had approved 120% of “market-rate housing” (there is a Long-range housing Plan) but only 8% of its goal for ‘affordable housing’ and that the lack of affordable housing in Fremont could be attributed to that failure. We hope the Council can make good decisions and wisely put our public resources to creating solutions for our unhoused neighbors. Voting matters -who sits in public office makes a difference in our communities.

“Go in Peace, Return in Love”, as we say, and email, or call your local/national leaders and state YOUR values.

*Defined as being present and/or having personal property located on such locations.

Valerie Stewart

HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR VALUES TO THE FREMONT CITY COUNCIL

Email councilmeetings@fremont.gov by 4:00 p.m. the day of the City Council meeting. The subject line should include the meeting date -2/11/2025 and item number, Opposition to “Camping Ban”

Email: Write directly to your councilmember (or all councilmembers) and to Mayor Salwan. Mayor Salwan rsalwan@fremont.gov
Councilmember Keng tkeng@fremont.gov
Vice Mayor Campbell dcampbell@fremont.gov (Voted against approval on 12/17/2024)
Councilmember Kimberlin kkimberlin@fremont.gov (Voted against approval on 12/17/2024)
Councilmember Shao yshao@fremont.gov
Councilmember Yajing Zhang yazhang@fremont.gov
Councilmember Raymond Liu rliu@fremont.gov
Their contact info is also available on <https://www.fremont.gov/government/mayor-city-council>.

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.



Love Over the Long Haul (or, What Happens After You Realize You're Married to a Yak)

Love is a great idea. For most of us, it is what shapes our dreams and aspirations for how we want to live - and what we want most from the people we live with. But we are inundated with stories that describe love swooping in to sweep us off our feet when, in truth, Love does it's best work slowly, over the long haul. This is a story about how Love

changes us for good.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Don Ramie. 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%.

January Share the Plate - Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Inc.

We will be collecting through February 23.

The Muwekma are a landless tribe whose families enrolled with the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1928-1971 and attended Indian boarding schools in the 1930s-40s. Scattered throughout the Bay Area, they lacked communal spaces to preserve their traditions, language, and dances, which spread to other communities during the 1870s. The tribe is now revitalizing their culture through workshops on language, songs, traditions, dances, regalia, native plant restoration, and cultivation. Our donations will support these efforts.

Write a check to MPUUC with "Ohlone" 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 "Ohlone" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Ohlone") 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 "Ohlone" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

Dear Members of MPUUC,

The Board has prepared an [Information Sheet about the Proposed Ordinance](#). We urge you to read it and the materials referenced there. If you're able, join us to oppose the ordinance at the Fremont City Council on February 11th at 7:00 pm.

Here is a [Statement of Opposition](#) by your MPUUC Board. The Board is advocating to the City Council that we work together to build a strong coalition that creates solutions for unhoused individuals, not criminalizing them.

We invite you into discussion and action.



CIRCLE OF LIFE

YOU ARE ALL INVITED to celebrate and console those in the MP family who need it. Each week you can find those people right here at your fingertips if you click on the [link](#). Let's increase our caring connections with each other with calls when appropriate, cards, emails, offers of help, etc. When you have Joys and Concerns for this Circle of Life, contact the

Encouragement Committee at ecteam@mpuuc.org. Or ask one of us: Greg, Barbara, Sharon, Jo Ann S, Don, Lucienne, Julie

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. This week we will explore the topic of love and about how Love changes over a long period of time. In order to retain its power, Love needs to evolve. It must pay close attention to what is being asked of it and how it can cherish and serve the person we're loving. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

We will have a Lunch and Learn right after the service on Sunday. The Lunch part will help celebrate our new members. The Learn Part will help us prepare to communicate in strategic and compelling ways with the Fremont City Council regarding the Feb 11 vote on the 'Camping Ban' Ordinance.



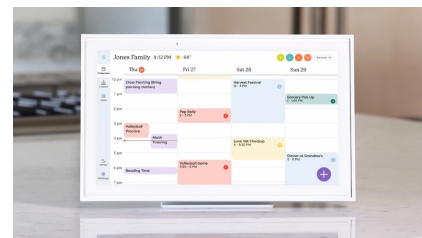
Please come and enjoy the food. Learn together.
[Sign Up for Set up / Clean Up Volunteers](#)

Previous 1:1 Communication Handouts
[12/15 1:1 Conversation](#)
[1/12 1:1 Conversation](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar:

Feb 8th **Parent Night Out**, reach out to Ariel to RSVP
Feb 22nd **Visioning Multi-gen Futures**



Men's Fellowship Coffee Time - February 7

Our monthly men's fellowship time begins this Friday, February 7, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont.

Parking is in the lot adjacent. As always there is a range of coffees, teas, and drinks made from them, + juices, also there are breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast sandwiches.



If possible, our tables will be set up in the area on the east side of the room toward Sundale Ave where there seems to be less noise from other groups which facilitates our conversations. (If that area is occupied look around, the group will be in some other area.) If you know someone who might enjoy the fellowship, please invite him to come and/or bring him along.

Please let John Holmes know if you plan to come so that enough tables can be arranged for our group. (holmesfam@comcast.net -- or 510-791-0175)

TriCity Friends Group: “Where Wisdom Meets Community”

Discover a vibrant new community in the TriCity area! The **TriCity Friends Group** warmly welcomes men and women aged 50 and above to join us on an enriching journey. Let’s create lasting bonds, share experiences, and gracefully venture into the next retirement phase.

We plan to have our first get-together on Sunday, February 23rd, from 12 PM to 2 PM with a potluck lunch. Please [REGISTER HERE](#)

JUSTICE CORNER

When it seems like bad news is everywhere, what do you do? How do you move through the overwhelm to start something, anything, that matters to you?






Being together with kindred spirits, sharing stories, and focusing on the good and useful things soothes my soul and fortifies my heart for the long work ahead. I firmly believe that together, we can reimagine thriving communities and realize a flourishing world...even if it’s hard to believe at times. I remind myself: there are so many of us doing this good work. When it’s tempting to withdraw, let’s stay connected. Togetherness is a balm and a buoy!

[Thousands of UUs are reimaging thriving futures through UU Climate Justice Revivals](#)

Green Sanctuary 2030 Community Meetings

3rd Wednesdays
4 PT - 5 MT - 6 CT - 7 ET



JAN. 29	Green Sanctuary Team Celebration
FEB. 19	Green Sanctuary New Materials Release
MAR. 19	Working with the New Green Sanctuary Materials
APR. 16	Green Sanctuary 35th Anniversary & Call for Renewal
MAY 21	Working with the New Green Sanctuary Materials

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

A week after Trump's inauguration, we're already seeing his agenda being rapidly rolled out with attacks on civil rights and environmental protections. The flurry of executive orders this past week is intended to overwhelm us into inaction, and the divisive rhetoric aims to turn us against each other. SURJ Bay Area invites you into hope—by taking action to protect our communities and resist injustice. Each week, this newsletter is full of ways you can get involved as we build in the Bay Area and block the forces of MAGA. Supporting each other through collective action is the way forward. Join us!



Friday, February 14 • 12:00 – 1:00 pm
SURJ Bay Area Action Hour (VIRTUAL)

Want to take tangible steps to end racial injustice and white supremacy? Join a SURJ Action Hour! This is one way to truly *Show Up for Racial Justice* through collective action. We meet over Zoom to take concrete steps together: calling elected officials, signing petitions, sending emails etc. Closed captioning will be available in the main room of Action Hour calls. If you can't make it but you'd like to access the agenda, which is updated weekly with actions you can take,

email actionhour@surjbayarea.org.



Saturday, February 15 • 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Free Watermelon! Free Palestine! (IN PERSON)

How did the watermelon become a symbol of Palestinian resistance? SURJ's Palestine Solidarity Campaign will be talking to the public about just that as we give out watermelon candy outside the Grand Lake Farmers' Market. We also hope to encourage folks to take action—by supporting SURJ's "Apartheid-Free Communities" divestment campaign, attending an upcoming protest, or signing a petition. The ceasefire is only temporary and we have to keep up the momentum to demand a permanent ceasefire and an end to U.S. arms shipments to Israel. No need to RSVP—we hope to see you there!



Location: Outside the Grand Lake Farmers' Market, 746 Grand Ave, Oakland

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

8th Principle Learning

We join in solidarity with our partners at Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in condemning the litany of anti-immigrant Executive Orders released in the last two days by the Trump Administration.

As Unitarian Universalists who value the right of every person to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion, we are called to show up for all families, regardless of immigration status, and to strive to create welcoming communities and congregations.



From the statement: "We Unitarian Universalists disagree with the incoming administration's approach to immigration. We name and center the threat to our faith, families, freedoms, and futures. We will not denigrate migrants, refugees, or asylees. We will not condone mass deportations. We will not ignore Dreamers and other DACA recipients. We reject the proposed constitutional rollbacks." - Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Read the full statement from [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) to learn more.

Board Briefs

Board briefs from December 17, 2024 MPUUC Board meeting.

The Board met on December 17, 2024

- The new Safety Policy has been approved.
- The new organizational chart has been approved.
- Rev. Greg has been approached by two groups to use the Cole Hall space for events focused on South Asian mental health and pre-retirement communities. He is going to work with them to understand their needs and how that meshes with MPUUC's mission.



The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, February 18, 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

Tri-City Interfaith Council News/Events

RCOZ

तेहोत बातें करेन™ "Let's just talk"



**The Love We Show,
The Love We Don't**

**AN INTERACTIVE
DISCUSSION**



**FEBRUARY 16
3:00PM-4:00PM**

**Centerville Comm. Center and Park
3355 Country Drive, Fremont**

rcoz.us | info@rcoz.us

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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