

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 22, 2025

Dear Sandra,

### Outstanding Work, More Coming Soon

Greetings, Mission Peakers! I'm Beth Schaefer, your Board President, checking in about important work going on in the congregation and letting you know of a place where we hope to make a very big difference in the City of Fremont soon.

I'm very excited about the cluster of meaningful – and fun – events we've had recently! The two Lunch and Learn sessions that Rev. Greg has arranged have taught us about having meaningful, short, one-on-one conversations about what truly matters to other people – a key to Community Organizing – and we learned more about how to approach others and let them know about an important related event, the MLK Day of Service at Cole Hall. Fourteen purple-shirted MPUUCers went to the Irvington Farmers' Market last weekend for our Action Sunday and they handed out over 150 flyers about the Day of Service held the next day, Monday, MLK Day, to prepare gift bags for unhoused people. This is tremendous participation with tremendous results!



The Day of Service had 175 attendees in Cole Hall! Six local groups that work with unhoused people were represented, hosting tables of items for the bags and letting folks about what their organizations do. The talking and networking flowed freely as individuals and families circulated to different tables to fill out a questionnaire and fill their bags with a thoughtful array of toiletries, snacks, warm socks and hats, and a hand-written note of encouragement. Those who completed the questionnaire teaching about relevant information received a cookie at the bake sale, and everyone was encouraged to take a filled bag or two to give to an unhoused person they know or encounter. While many participated in a Sandwich Squad, making sandwiches for the unhoused in the kitchen, lots of people lingered to socialize and watch the kids play afterward.

Ariel Smith-Iyer, our Director of Multigenerational Programming, did an incredible job of creating the Day of Service, including making contact with organizations we may want to collaborate with in the future. So many of us learned a great deal, felt good about doing something tangible to help our community, and had fun. Thank you, Ariel!

Meanwhile, there's also always more we can do to help. The next meeting of the Fremont City Council will be held on Tuesday, February 4, at 7pm. The Council will be voting on whether to make it legal for police to arrest people who are "camping" or living in a tent, RV or car in Fremont. This would mean that sleeping outside is a crime in the City of Fremont. MPUUC is strongly opposed to this measure that unfairly targets and criminalizes unhoused people, and many of us are planning to attend the meeting and to speak about how cruel and wrong we feel this action is. Please join us! You don't need to speak, but your very presence in the Council chambers, preferably in your purple t-shirt, will let the Council and the city as a whole know where MPUUC stands and that there are many people in Fremont who care about how unhoused people are treated here. Please plan to attend. Letters are very important too; information will be forthcoming about how and when to write to the Council and what best to say.

We're on a roll at MPUUC! Attend an event and join in making meaningful change in a world that needs it right now.

Beth Schaefer

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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.**



### **A Land In Search of Its Ancestors**

In 2020, one of the initial intentions of the Mission Peak ARO Team (Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression) was to offer a land acknowledgement at the beginning of our worship services. The purpose of Land Acknowledgments is to humbly recognize the impact that our settler-colonialist history has had on the people and the land. When we began the practice, we ran into a problem: it turned out to be a much harder task to actually identify which indigenous communities were the original and/or rightful heirs of this land. This service is about ARO's search to learn the truth about the original occupants of the land.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Peak Performers under the direction of Von Bringhurst 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%.

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## 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%

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## LOVE AT THE CENTER BOOK DISCUSSION – This Sunday After Worship

In June of this past year (2024) the [UUA underwent a democratic process to update Article II](#): how we describe Unitarian Universalism's unique approach to religion. The [Seven Principles and Purposes](#), along with the [Six Sources of Wisdom](#) were largely incorporated into a new motif of six shared values which we covenant to uphold with Love at the Center. Given how attached many were to the 7 principles, many congregations required deep reflection to understand what it means to put Love at the Center. From August – December of this past year, MPUUC presented summaries of 17 of the 26 essays contained in the book, [Love at the Center](#) describing what UUs mean when we say we put Love at the Center. On January 26, after Sunday Worship, MPUUC will hold a discussion of the book. You can click in the title above to order your own copy.

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## 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. This week we will explore Land Acknowledgments – what they are intended to do and some of the unintended feelings they trigger for some people. What can we do – and what should we do – regarding acknowledging our settler-colonial past. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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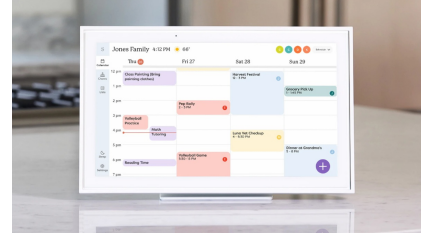
### *Dates to mark on your calendar:*

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**, reach out to Ariel to RSVP

Feb 22nd **Visioning Multi-gen Futures**



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### MLK Jr Day of Service event was a roaring success!!

Thank you to all the MPUUC folks who volunteered that day, who attended that day, who sent in donations, and to the board for earmarking funds to make this event happen- we couldn't have pulled it off without all of you!

If you weren't able to attend I invite you to picture Cole Hall with a horseshoe shape made of tables, each staffed by a local group already working to create solutions and offer care to those among us experiencing housing insecurity. Together we created 150 care packages, some of which attendees took with them to share with someone in the community that they meet, the rest were given to ABODE to share with the folks they offer services to.

We also hosted the MPUUC tradition of Sandwich Squad, making 100+ sandwiches which were shared with our partners, S.A.V.E. (Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments) and Second Chances Sobriety Homes.

The words most often offered to describe this event are "amazing" and "wonderful". It was a fabulous chance to be in multigenerational community with folks from across the Tri-City and a beautiful tribute to Dr. King on the holiday that bears his name. We hope you'll join us in the next opportunity for service to the broader community.

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### 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](#)

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## JUSTICE CORNER

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### Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

2025 will see Donald Trump take office in a highly polarized nation where White Christian Nationalism holds significant influence over our shared political, religious, and cultural life. This is a pivotal time for people of faith to lead the charge in resisting White Christian Nationalism, and SURJ Faith is partnering with the Kairos Center for Religion, Rights, and Social Justice to gather faith communities for this important work. Join SURJ Faith for this virtual 3-day conference that will explore questions like: how do people of faith make sense of this moment, how do we effectively confront religious nationalism, and how do we move beyond playing defense to actually embodying the just society God calls us to build?



Sundays, February 9th – March 2nd • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### **AWARE-LA Unmasking Whiteness Institute** (VIRTUAL)

AWARE-LA offers a workshop series on building white anti-racist practice and community in an intensive 4-day institute designed specifically for white people. Through personal reflection, group dialogue, activities, and embodiment practices, this institute invites white people to explore:

- meanings of whiteness
- white privilege and multiple identities
- addressing guilt and shame
- structural, institutional, and systemic racism
- anti-racist practice, identity, and community

Program is sliding scale \$200–\$300+ with no one turned away for lack of funds.



## **8th Principle Learning**

### **Immigration Policy: Need for Shift in Values**

The current state of our immigration system raises ethical concerns. One key issue that we seem blind to is the underlying materialistic production values that underpin the system. These values were primarily obscured from public view until they were brought to light by recent controversies surrounding the H-1B Visa program. We Americans are implementing a policy blocking and deporting millions of agricultural low-tech immigrants but, at the same time, increasing the number of high-tech-engineer immigrants. ([Continue reading](#))

### **Member Directory**

We will be sending an electronic copy of our member directory to members in the next few weeks. If you have address/email or phone number changes, please email [membership@mpuuc.org](mailto:membership@mpuuc.org) and [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) no later than January 31.

**Please note that we have added a password for the congregational directory. Details on how to access the congregational directory will be sent with an email to members only in the next few weeks.**



## 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](https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

## Tri-City Interfaith Council News/Events

RCOZ

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"Let's just talk"

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

AN INTERACTIVE  
DISCUSSION

SCAN ME

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

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

[rcoz.us](https://rcoz.us) | [info@rcoz.us](mailto: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.**

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## 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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