

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! February 26, 2025

Dear Sandra,

Greetings, Mission Peak UU Congregation Members and Friends! As you heard at the February 23rd service, I am leading the annual Canvass event this year -- and it's time to get started!



Artwork generously created and donated by Don Ramie

What does it mean to reach for the rainbow? It means we are extending ourselves--bodies, hearts and spirits--toward something beautiful. A significant part of what we do here at MPUUC is to work together to make a better world, in ways both small and large. Internally, MPUUC is striving to improve its infrastructure so that we can work together more effectively without burning out the energies of all our marvelous volunteers. As part of that, we have hired a part-time webmaster. We are supporting the efforts of our Director of Multigenerational Programming Ariel Smith-Iyer and the Children's Chapel program for the benefit of our community's youngest members, and as she works to help us engage with people outside our walls. We are writing letters, attending and speaking at city council meetings, and striving to be a beacon of light as the political and social clouds are casting grim shadows.

You will be hearing more from me and from other MPUUC members and friends in the coming days. As you do so, please think about what MPUUC gives to you and what you might be able to give back. Please save the date of Sunday, March 9th for a congregational lunch or 3/10/2025 for an online gathering-- you can use [this link](#) to RSVP, or click the one you received via email. At both of these we will talk about how we will continue to reach for the rainbow together. -- DeAnna Alm, Canvass Chair

R-Reorganizing internally
O-Outreach to the community
Y-Youngest members
G-Generosity
B-Beloved community
I-Individual improvement
V-Values in action

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 Real Secret of Blue Zones

Blue zones are areas of the world where people are living significantly longer and healthier lives. How? Researchers who've studied the people living there aren't pointing to the fountain of youth or the secrets of Shangri-la. It's really about ways the heart of the community comes together in agreement of a number of basic good health practices. In this service, we will explore what these are and why we might benefit from knowing more about them.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Kathi Bayne. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Peak Performers 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%.

[Mission Peak Joins Lawsuit Against Homeless Ordinance](#)

The Board of MPUUC held a special congregational meeting Tuesday evening, February 25, to discuss and vote on whether to join a class action lawsuit against the City of Fremont regarding its recently-passed ordinance 8.90, commonly known as the "Camping Ban" ordinance. This ordinance criminalizes sleeping in public places, and also criminalizes "aiding or abetting" a homeless person. If the ordinance goes into effect,

Mission Peak and other faith organizations would not be able to legally provide food, clothing or other help to unhoused people in the city. The congregation voted overwhelmingly to join the suit, with 34 yes votes, 1 no vote, 1 abstention. The Board notified lead counsel for the Fremont Homeless Union, Anthony Prince, of this decision on Tuesday night.



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

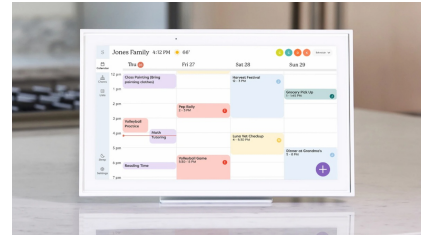
Midweek Discussion Group

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. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar:

Mar 15th **Parent Night Out**, rsvp [HERE](#)
March 22nd **Potluck and Game Night** 5:30-8pm Cole Hall
April 13th **Action Sunday**, MPUUC
April 19th **Fremont Earth Day Festival**, downtown
April 20th **Easter Sunday**, MPUUC
April 26-27 **Bay Area UU HS Youth Retreat**, UU Oakland



JUSTICE CORNER

Fremont City Council passed a Camping Ordinance February 11, 2025

<https://www.fremontforeveryone.com/opposing-criminalization>



UUSJ Applauds UU Decision to Sue the Administration

We must defend the broad protections for performing religiously motivated actions

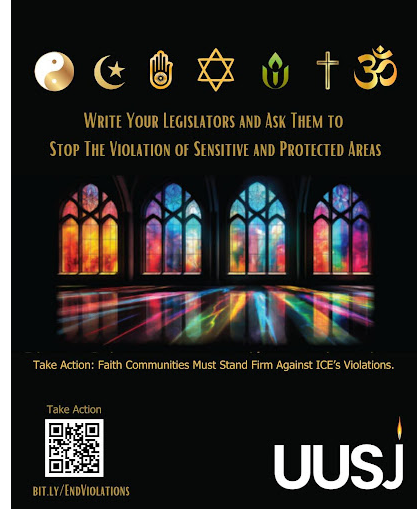
Washington, D.C. — The Unitarian Universalist

Association (UUA) joined more than two dozen Christian and Jewish religious denominations and associations on February 11 in filing a lawsuit against the Trump Administration's new policy that allows immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship.

The new policy empowered enforcement actions that could interrupt religious services in furtherance of the Administration's mass deportation plans. The Trump Administration's rescission ([memo](#)) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "sensitive locations" policy that had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship is a violation of the broad protections for individuals performing religiously motivated actions.

Tell Your Legislators - The new administration has selected immigration for its assault on the Constitution, our norms, and our liberties.

ICE should not be allowed in our schools, hospitals, public demonstrations—and never at our houses of worship!



Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Nationwide Economic Blackout on February 28

Why It Matters

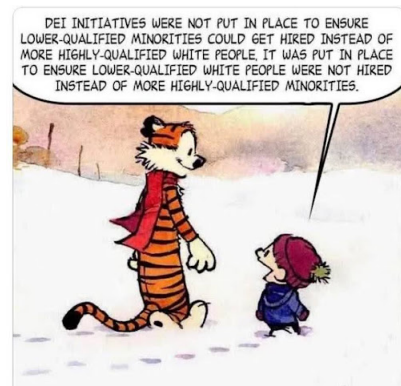
Early into his presidency, Trump ended several DEI initiatives in the federal government. He issued an executive order that funds could be frozen for companies that do not comply, and Trump also outlawed any messaging that promotes inclusion-based language. The orders have caused [PBS](#) to close its DEI office, while major companies like [Amazon](#), [Target](#) and [Google](#) are taking steps to dissolve DEI initiatives.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/race-politics/5095793-al-sharpton-boycott-dei/>

8th Principle Learning

[Companies reinforcing their commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#)

Apple
Costco
Bank of America
Delta
JP Morgan
Marriott
Microsoft
Procter & Gamble
Goldman Sachs
American Airlines
Southwest Airlines
United Airlines
Catholic Health



Companies Scaling Back or Denouncing DEI

Tesla
Target
Amazon
Boeing
Brown-Forman
Caterpillar
Ford
Harley-Davidson
John Deere
Lowe's
Molson Coors
META
McDonald's
Nissan
Stanley Black & Decker
Tractor Supply
Toyota
Walmart
Home Depot

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

We encourage congregations to identify and register their delegates by March 31 to lock in the lowest GA registration rate. Registrations are non-transferable, so be sure to register specific individuals early! This gives them access to financial aid, volunteer opportunities, and plenty of time to arrange travel and housing.



Congregations will be able to begin distributing member delegate credentials via the credentialing system in April.

The UUA Board of Trustees is working to engage delegates earlier than ever. Delegates can dive into the agenda, discuss amendments, and build consensus on the UUA discussion forum. Being prepared helps ensure a positive experience!

To support delegates, the Board will host online candidate forums and “What to Expect” webinars before GA. Business Mini-assemblies may take place in May or June. Election balloting will open on June 1.

Early registration is the key to staying informed and confident in this important role. Rates go up April 1—don't wait!

Click [here](#) to register

Board Briefs

Board briefs from January 21 and 26, 2025 MPUUC Board meeting.

The Board met on January 21 and 26, 2025

Board Meeting 2025-01-21

- The Board approved a request to support/host 2 community groups with sharing of Ockerman space once a month (both are South Asian; 1) One group's focus is Mental Health, 2) Second group's focus is post-retirement socialization. MPUUC provides a “host” for building opening/closing.
- Rev. Ward used some of the Minister's Discretionary Fund to provide Holiday gifts for Staff, which they appreciated.



- Board Recognized the outstanding efforts of Ariel Smith-Iyer for 1) for the successful MLK Service event, which created community building as well as making resources for the unhoused; and 2) 1On Jan. 25, she organized a meeting at Cole Hall with some unhoused people, preparing them to be speakers at a future Service, hosting them for dinner.
- The TriCity Interfaith Council has accepted the MPUUC 2025 Love Hero Award which will be presented at the Service on February16.
- DeAnna Alm has accepted the invitation to Chair the 2025-206 Canvass, which will begin on March 2.
- A new Organizational Chart is being developed to streamline the operations at MPUUC. A diagram illustrating the new organization will be included in WOP and the subject of a Congregational Conversation after the Service Mar.2 .
- The Leadership Committee will begin outreach for next year's Board positions.
- The Worship Hosts are reviewing how to cover all the tasks associated with in-person and virtual Services and meetings and events.

Special Board Meeting. 2025-01-26

- The Board reviewed a request from Fremont for Everyone , a local civic organization, to take a public position/make a statement regarding the proposed City of Fremont “Camping Ban” Ordinance that will make it illegal in Fremont to have camping “paraphernalia” and be outside on public or private property in possession of such property. The ordinance also contains an “aiding and abetting clause” which will make it a crime to give anyone such “paraphernalia” or assist them in any way to “camp” outdoors in Fremont.
- The Ordinance will be voted on a the City Council meeting on February 4 or February 11. The proposed ‘statement’ will be shared with other community organizations objecting to the proposed ordinance and with the media, as well as be sent to the Fremont City Council. The Board agreed to support the efforts to urge the City Council to “Vote No” on the proposed ordinance, because it is contrary to UU Principles Respecting the Inherent Worth and Dignity of every Person and criminalizes the status of being unhoused, or helping those residents in our community without shelter. The Board voted to craft a Statement, sign it as the Board, by President E. Schaefer; provide a copy to the entire Congregation, and seek the Congregation’s support to oppose the proposed Ordinance and communicate directly with the City Council via letter/email/or attending the upcoming City Council meetings.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 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

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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