

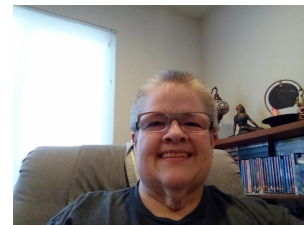
# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! March 19, 2025

Dear Sandra,

I don't really watch television anymore; I prefer YouTube and podcasts of various kinds. I'm a big fan of documentaries, especially ones that have something to do with forensic science. I also watch a lot of political commentators because I feel like it is important to stay current on what's going on locally as well as federally. Many of the headlines talk about someone going "off the rails." I'm assuming that this is an analogy about trains derailing (What do you think, Drew? You're the resident train expert.) If so, then we have a lot of figurative trains derailing right now.



If you're anything like me, you can get overwhelmed by all this stuff. All those "what ifs" get in the way of being present in the moment, and for some of us, it can lead to depression. I not only worry about the fall of our democracy, but I worry about the Heritage Foundation and their goal to either force everyone to be, believe, and do what they want or to live in camps separated from the rest of the population. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community and a disabled person, this is a very real concern for me.

I really don't understand why they want us all to be alike anyway. What a boring place this would be if we were all alike in every aspect of life, like race and religion. Part of the great gift of diversity is that we don't have to know everything about everything to live in this world. We each have different strengths, skills, interests, and talents, so it makes sense that working together with people whose knowledge complements yours is the best way to keep things from going off the rails. Of course, not everyone has enough sense or, for that matter, critical thinking skills, so it's no surprise that we have to deal with a lot of derailments in everyday life.

I certainly don't have all the answers to life's problems, nor do I have the right to tell you how to live your life. Part of what we are fighting now is not just political; it's

about our very ways of life, our uniqueness, and our gifts and talents. We all have to figure out for ourselves how to deal with the challenges of life, and I'm very sure we would fail if we were all alike. We must stand up to the bullies and billionaires who think they have the right to direct the rest of us to do their bidding. Money doesn't make them better or smarter than we are, and it's up to us to make this very clear to those who believe that they are superior to "regular" people. I don't know how to stop this runaway train, but I can continue to do what I need to do to keep things on track.

Michelle Wallace

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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.**



### **We Were Made for Times Like These**

Historian, writer and theologian, Clarissa Pinkola Estes, points out that the pain of the world has become hard to bear. "One has to have strong cojones and ovarios to withstand much of what passes for 'good' today." Abject disregard and corruption of principled ideals has become the new normal. But, 'take heart,' she says. "We were made for times like these."

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Jo Schriener and Knuti VanHoven 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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## **March Share the Plate - Abode**

We will be collecting until April 6.

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



## 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](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org). Or ask one of us: Greg, Barbara, Sharon, Jo Ann S, Don, Lucienne, Julie

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

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Greetings Members and Friends of MPUUC!

I hope that you were able to attend the service on March 9th which introduced us to the concept of a reverse offering AND was the official kick-off of the canvass season! As of the time I am writing this article, about a third of our members and friends have already made their pledge for the coming year -- thank you so much for your prompt generosity! We are hoping to receive all our pledges by Monday, March 24th -- this will give our Board plenty of time to work on the budget for next year.



**Reaching for  
the Rainbow**

In order to make your pledge for the 2025-2026 congregational year, you may [CLICK THIS LINK](#) or scan the QR code below -- both will take you to the Google form for this year.



Thank you to everyone who helps us REACH FOR THE RAINBOW!

DeAnna Alm  
Canvass Chair

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## Mission Peak Members Take Part in Law Suit Press Conference

On Tuesday it was exciting to see numerous Mission Peakers at the press conference at the Fremont City Council chambers held by the lead counsel of the law suit MPUUC is a part of. Our presence and our purple t-shirts, as well as our statements about the ordinance were recorded by four television stations and several other news organizations. Our lead council, Anthony Prince, spoke eloquently about the law suit, why it is so important to repeal the offending "camping ban" ordinance, and how he expects us to prevail in the case. Please stay on top of this story in the news and at MPUUC, and join in next time there is an opportunity to do so -- your very presence is so important! Thank you!

-- Beth Schaefer

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### **"HANDS OFF! FREMONT FIGHTS BACK"**

FREMONT IS JOINING A  
NATIONAL MOBILIZATION EVENT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

**12:30 to 2:00 p.m.**



**CORNERS OF WALNUT AVENUE & PASEO PADRE PARKWAY**

**SIGN UP LINK:** <https://mobilize.us/s/6ESA7>

This is a crisis, and the time to act is now. We're joining a broad coalition, including Indivisible, MoveOn, Public Citizen, labor unions, and many more on Saturday, April 5 to tell Trump and Musk: Hands off!

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL, NON-VIOLENT PROTEST.**

Bring signs focused on the inhumane and dangerous cuts to our government. Let's stand together in solidarity, sending a message that we won't tolerate this chaos. We're fighting for democracy. Let's make them listen. Spread the word. We'll see you on the sidewalk!



✓ Bring signs or props → Make your message large & visible! (Ideas: "HANDS OFF MEDICAID!", "HANDS OFF OUR DATA!", "HANDS OFF DEMOCRACY!", "HANDS OFF SCHOOLS!", "HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY", "HANDS OFF THE EPA", "HANDS OFF VETS", ETC.) ✓

Click [here](#) for pdf of flyer

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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On Saturday March 22nd we'll open up Cole Hall for a potluck dinner and game night, 5:30-8 pm

[RSVP preferred](#) but not required, come if you can!

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

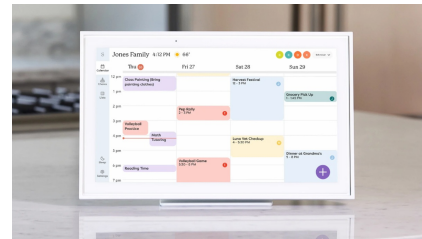
March 22nd **Potluck and Game Night** 5:30-8pm Cole Hall *rsvp preferred* [HERE](#)

April 13th **Action Sunday**, MPUUC

April 19th **Fremont Earth Day Festival**, downtown, 10am-2pm; MPUUC is joining TCIC at a table, come say hello and enjoy our activities! More info below.

April 20th **Easter Sunday**, MPUUC

April 26th **Bay Area UU HS Youth Retreat**, UU Oakland, more info [HERE](#)



Good for the planet, fun for the whole family! 2025 marks the 55th anniversary of Earth Day! Our free [Earth Day Fair](#) is your chance to celebrate. Explore indoor and outdoor exhibits. Chat with eco-friendly experts. Discover practical tips for a more sustainable lifestyle, including waste reduction, clean water, healthy eating, reducing energy use, and more.



#### **Event Details:**

Saturday, April 19

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Event Center and Plaza at 3500 Capitol Ave., Fremont

#### **Activities:**

- Music, games, and art activities
- Residential document shredding
- Medication drop-off
- Prescription eyeglasses drop-off
- Needle/syringe drop-off (sharps must be in approved containers)
- Mercury thermometer exchange

Hosted in partnership with [Washington Health](#) and [Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont \(LEAF\)](#).

## **JUSTICE CORNER**



**8:00pm ET • 7:00pm CT • 6:00pm MT • 5:00pm PT**

As Unitarian Universalists, we are positioned to be faith leaders at this critical time in our country's history. And it can feel overwhelming. Where do we start? We run the risk of becoming quick to act without listening to each other and the communities most impacted by climate disruption.

This Earth Day, UU Ministry for Earth will help us deepen practices that put Love at the center of our climate justice work. Not to avoid acting, but to prepare us for action.

We will hold the service online, and we can also provide written worship materials for your congregation's or group's use. We ask for a donation for those materials. [Register for the online service and/or the written materials here.](#)

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

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### **As We Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday and Turn Back Tuesday**

Let's remember, in America, we believe in the freedom to decide our future — whether it's choosing leaders who will fight for affordable housing, better jobs, and quality healthcare, or holding those in power accountable. But this fundamental freedom is under threat. Some politicians are trying to roll back voting rights because they fear the power of our voices. Take

action and lift up the need for voting rights, this **60th Anniversary**.

Tell your House Member to support the **JLVRAA**



## 8th Principle Learning

### 8th Principle UU Learning Community

“According to Forbes, Walmart and Target lost a combined \$120 million on Economic Blackout Day.”

More boycotts are planned below.

8th Principle UU Learning Community  
Paula Cole Jones · Yesterday at 9:22 AM

**ThePeoplesUnionUSA.com**  
@theonecalledjai  
CREATED BY EJ

**ECONOMIC BLACKOUT TOUR:**

<b>February 28th</b> <b>Economic Blackout</b>	<b>April 21 - 28</b> <b>General Mills Boycott</b>
<b>March 7 - 14</b> <b>Amazon Boycott</b>	<b>May 6 - 12</b> <b>Amazon Boycott 2</b>
<b>March 21 - 28</b> <b>Nestle Boycott</b>	<b>May 20 - 26</b> <b>Walmart Boycott 2</b>
<b>April 7 - 14</b> <b>Walmart Boycott</b>	<b>June 3 - 9</b> <b>Target Boycott</b>
<b>April 18th</b> <b>Economic Blackout 2</b>	<b>June 24th - 30</b> <b>McDonalds Boycott</b>
<b>July 4th</b> <b>Independence Day Boycott</b>	

**Pantsuit Nation**  
March 3 at 6:12 PM

So, according to Forbes, Walmart and Target lost a combined \$120 million on Economic Blackout Day. Forbes also discussed that this was because of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion rollbacks.  
(\*Always spell out DEI\*)  
Costco, who said, "Our commitment to an enterprise rooted in respect and inclusion is appropriate and necessary," went slightly up the same day.  
Well done, y'all!  
Remember, the next one is a week off Amazon. (If you still use Amazon.)  
March 7-14.  
\$\$ is ultimately the only language corporations speak.  
Link to Forbes article [https://www.forbes.com/.../target-loses-and-costco-wins-...](https://www.forbes.com/.../target-loses-and-costco-wins-.../)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/pamdanziger/2025/03/03/target-loses-and-costco-wins-in-web-traffic-on-feb-28-economic-blackout-day/>

# DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

## General Assembly 2025

From June 18–22, 2025, the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event, with the main stage hosted at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland and hundreds more joining on the Whova app. [Google map](#)

General Assembly [Registration](#) is open, as is [Choir Registration](#).

The [Volunteer Application](#) and [Financial Support Request](#) forms are open.

[Housing reservations](#) are available now.

Coming Soon: [Children's Programs Registration](#)

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

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## 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](#)

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](http://missionpeakuu.org)



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