

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 16, 2025

Dear Sandra,

Hi folks,

I hope you are all as well as can be expected during these somewhat trying times. I'm pleased to report that our canvass leader Deanna Alm has collected nearly all expected pledges from members for the next fiscal year of 2025-26 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) for MPUUC. If anybody hasn't made their pledge yet, we really need it as soon as possible for fiscal planning. As your treasurer, I incorporate the total pledges into a proposed budget for MPUUC for the fiscal year of 2025-26. I will discuss the budget with the MPUUC board and I expect that we will agree on a proposed budget. Then the MPUUC congregation will vote on this proposed budget in the MPUUC annual meeting on June 8, 2025.



Based on current pledges, I expect a budget deficit for 2025-26 of \$25-30 K. We have unfortunately lost some members and their pledges this year due to relocation. While this deficit is somewhat disturbing, MPUUC does have savings to cover this deficit (thanks to generous donors in the past), and unplanned donations and new pledges during the year would preserve these savings. I also love seeing some new members who joined MPUUC this year!

MPUUC is a great place to see friends and support one another. I am also really excited about the social justice work that MPUUC is doing and the opportunity to learn and contribute to it. I think that MPUUC is becoming a community leader in Fremont and beyond to raise empathy for the unhoused, and I am happy to support Rev. Greg's and Ariel's leadership in this area. MPUUC is also doing great work to support local Native American groups and combat racism. I am a little sad to notice that this work is sorely needed these days.

Cheers,
Jay Steele

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 Essential, Ordinary Wisdom of Resurrection

Look everywhere around you at this moment and you will see - everywhere - things are in a precarious place of absolute destruction and change. Things we thought would be everlasting – like laws that protect the vulnerable and guarantees of human rights – are suddenly being questioned if not eliminated. We are in great need of ancient wisdom to remind us that not only has change been constant since the beginning of time, but that we are part of it. Indeed, right in this very moment, we – as individuals and communities – are part of the change. We are not helpless. We are part of an ancient, essential recipe for resurrection. This Easter we will look through the unexpected lens of a popular fairy tale.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. David Johnson will be Worship Host. Peak Rocks 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%.

Reverse Offering Stories

We have been receiving a number of inspiring stories about what people have chosen to do with their reverse offering funds. Please take a moment to share your story [HERE](#)

April Share the Plate - HERO Tent

We will be collecting until May 14.

Write a check to MPUUC with "HERO" 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 "HERO" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "HERO") 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 "HERO" 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. 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](#)

SABBATICAL

The Committee on Ministry and the Board have been working with Rev. Greg to plan the second sabbatical installment and hope that it is equally as successful as the first. To help this sabbatical have the same warmth and reflection of the first, we are working on finishing the arrangements to have Rev. Jim McKinley as our sabbatical minister. The sabbatical period we are looking at is only two months and it is from October 4 – December 7. In early May, a new sabbatical brochure will provide updates, identify resources and list ways we can all be part of a productive and healthy renewal.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

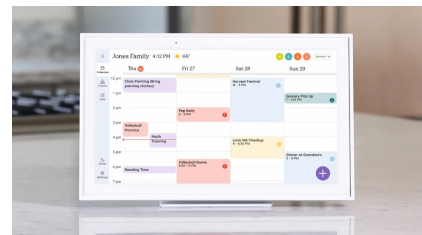
Dates to mark on your calendar:

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 Youth Retreat**, UU Oakland, more info [HERE](#)

May 10th **Street Retreat with the Faithful Fools SF**, see flyer below for more details
Picnic with our neighbors at First Unitarian Church of San Jose, date and location **TBD**



Community Ping-Pong Night (open play)

Do you like to play table tennis?
Please join us on Thursday nights
for fun, free, entertainment.
Every Thursday, 6 pm – 7: 30 pm

No registration required
Paddles and balls provided.

Fremont First United Methodist Church
2950 Washington Blvd. Fremont, CA 94539.



Questions, please email office@firstchurchfremont.org

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 \(LEAF\)](#).

MPUUC will be sharing a booth with TCIC at the Fremont City Earth Day Festival on April 19th, at the Fremont Event Center. LEAF is a long-time community partner with MPUUC. WE wanted you to know that they have a recycling project that YOU can contribute to when you visit the Earth Day Festival. They will have 20 tables with all sorts of gardening, soil, and art projects available for the entire family.

LEAF's Earth Day Recycling Campaign Starts on April 1st

Earth Day month begins on April 1st and we encourage everyone to start collecting school supplies, socks, and bras from friends, students, family, and community and bring what you gathered to LEAF Earth Day.

1) **STAPLES** Recycling Services Program:
School supplies:
crayons, pens, pencils
and colored pencils,
markers, highlighters,
rulers and drafting tools

2) **Smartwool** Second Cut Program:
Clean socks, all brands,
colors, sizes, and
materials welcome
(merino preferred). **Single socks only.** Do not roll or pair socks.

3) **The Bra Recyclers**:
Recycle your new or
gently used clean regular
bras, sports bras, and
nursing bras.

If you were at the service on Sunday January 12th you heard Carmen Barsody speak about the non-profit she helped found and continues to lead in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. MPUUC and friends are invited to join the Faithful Fools on an upcoming day-long street retreat. To understand what this day entails, it's helpful to read their Mission Statement:

We are called to a life of presence that acknowledges each human's incredible worth. Aware of our judgments, we seek to meet people where they are through the arts, education, advocacy, and accompaniment. We participate in shattering myths about those living in poverty, seeing the light, courage, intelligence, strength, and creativity of the people we encounter. We discover on the streets our common humanity through which celebration, community, and healing occur.



Street Retreat with the Faithful Fools San Francisco

Saturday May 10th
10AM-5PM

Schedule

10am Orientation at
UU San Francisco
(1187 Franklin St, San Francisco)
Spend the day immersed in the
community of the Tenderloin
with lunch in the soup kitchen
of your choosing.
Return to the Fool's Court
(office) for reflections and
refreshments from 2:45-4:30.

Pre-reg required at QR code below



Faithful Fool's Mission Statement

We are called to a life of presence
that acknowledges each human's
incredible worth.
Aware of our judgments, we seek to
meet people where they are through
the arts, education, advocacy, and
accompaniment.
We participate in shattering myths
about those living in poverty, seeing
the light, courage, intelligence,
strength, and creativity of the people
we encounter.
We discover on the streets our
common humanity through which
celebration, community, and healing
occur.

Faithfulfools.org

Questions? email Ariel dre@mpuuc.org

Please **RSVP** if you would like to join what promises to be a transformative experience. Questions? Email Ariel dre@mpuuc.org

Please click [here](#) for flyer

Interfaith Yom HaShoah Service – Sunday April 27 at 7pm

Temple Beth Torah
42000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA

On Sunday April 27 at 7:00 pm the Tri Cities Interfaith Council will share a moving service remembering those whose courage and experience helped a generation – and descendants – respond to the horrors of the holocaust. Speaker, Paul Schwartzbart will share his experience being a child hidden in a Belgium community.

Please mark your calendar and [REGISTER](#) in advance
You can also attend via [Zoom](#)

Please click [here](#) for flyer



Temple Beth Torah and the Tri-City Interfaith Council
invite you to

**Living History: An Interfaith
Yom HaShoah Memorial
Service and Program**
Sunday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Featuring Guest Speaker
Paul Schwarzbart



All are welcome to join us as we mark
Holocaust Remembrance Day with
Paul Schwarzbart, who will share his experiences as a
hidden child in Belgium during the Holocaust.

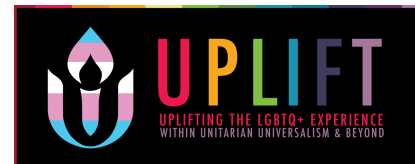
Please [register](#) in advance.
Can't make it in person? Join us via [Zoom](#).

Temple Beth Torah
42000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94539

JUSTICE CORNER



As conservatives target the transgender community for political gain, now more than ever is the time for Unitarian Universalists to be visible in our love and support for our trans/non-binary siblings. The following are resources designed to strengthen our love, care, and resolve to be a faith that moves beyond welcome to full inclusion and belonging to transgender UUs who are here, have always been here, and will always be among us.



- UUA Transgender Day of Visibility Service Recording & Transcript
-
- Defend Trans Lives: Webinars for People of Faith is on Tuesday, April 8th @ 8:30pm
-
- Building *Beloved* Community Beyond the Binary is on Saturday, April 26th @ 8:30am-5:00pm, in-person and virtual
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- Welcoming Congregation Resources:
 - *A Call to Action: Stories of Intersex and Faith Documentary*
- *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy*
-
- UPLIFT Trans/Non-Binary Monthly Gathering is on 4th Tuesdays @ 8pm ET and the UPLIFT Pastoral Care Group Space is on 2nd Fridays @ 8pm ET (trans/non-binary only)
-
- Five Practices of Welcoming Renewal Orientation is on Monday, April 21st and Monday, May 19th @ 2pm ET

For additional resources to support trans/non-binary people, visit:
www.uua.org/lgbtq/resources.

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

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) Bay Area is sponsoring this 7-session, in-person workshop. Palestine & Zionism 101 is an opportunity to deeply engage with the history of the colonization of Palestine as well as the history of Palestinian resistance to Zionism. Designed to provide a robust introduction, the course will feature both lecture style classes and weekly discussion groups to allow more opportunities for reflection and community building. Sliding scale \$25-\$100; no one turned away for lack of funds.

Location: Laney College, 900 Fallon St, Oakland



Join SURJ National's monthly Abolition Action Hour to take collective action in the fight for racial and economic justice! In this one-hour gathering you'll make calls, sign petitions, send emails, and take online action to close jails, defund police, invest in communities, protect Indigenous rights to land and water, and more! You'll receive training and support throughout the session as well as a community of fellow SURJ members to take action with! All are welcome whether you're a long-time SURJ member or are just hearing about SURJ for the first time!



Thursday, April 17 • 12:00 – 1:00 pm
[SURJ National Abolition Action Hour \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

8th Principle Learning

[Trump executive order on Smithsonian targets funding for programs with 'improper ideology'](#)

Trump targets the National Museum of African American History and Culture and other Smithsonian museums in a new series of executive orders.



The order he signed behind closed doors puts Vice President JD Vance, who serves on the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents, in charge of overseeing efforts to "remove improper ideology" from all areas of the institution, including its museums, education and research centers, and the National Zoo.

[Click here](#)

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

[The GA 2025 Schedule is Here—Start Planning Your Experience!](#)



Click [here](#) for more information

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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 missionpeakuu.org



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