

This Week on the Peak

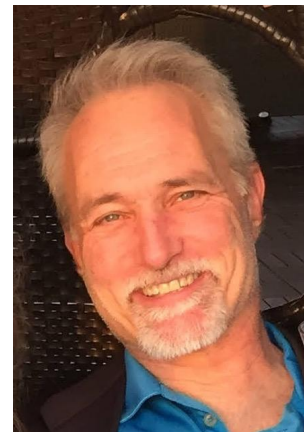


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 23, 2025

Dear Sandra,

There are so many things going on right now that feel incredibly important. All around us the world is changing. All around us people are needing help. And all around us many of us are learning how to show up in a way the people we love would appreciate.

I have been trying to pay close attention to those I care about... asking myself what is going well for them... what challenges they're facing... how they are coping with the chaos of the world and whether they're feeling their time and energy are going toward worthwhile things. I sometimes ask myself whether I'm doing what's really most helpful.



Maybe I'm projecting, but I sometimes imagine our own Mission Peak UU Congregation also asking those questions... wanting to be helpful. Wanting to be a source of care and kindness... A place people can turn to and find solace... a place they can show up and work cooperatively with others to do what none of us can do alone.

So, this is probably a good time to put our heads together and ask ourselves whether we're part of the solution, or part of the precipitate (old chemistry joke). Every two years the Board asks the Committee on Ministry to create an annual assessment and ask each other how we're doing. I find this feedback extremely helpful.

So, please help me – and each other – by taking 20 minutes to complete [MPUUC's Biennial Assessment](#). It has questions about Worship and Music and Community Building and the ways in which we all are trying to become more helpful in being helpful. The Committee on Ministry will review our responses and share the conclusions at the congregational meeting on June 8. Please be part of this important gathering of wisdom by contributing yours. Thanks for your help.

Rev. Greg Ward

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.



Anna Leonowens and King Mongkut

Education is Great

What do Alexander the Great, Sahak the Great, Charles the Great, Alfred the Great, Tamar the Great, Albert the Great, Akbar the Great, Catherine the Great, and Mongkut the Great have in common? Answer: they all founded or promoted educational institutions and fostered cross-cultural sharing of knowledge. Anyone who genuinely wishes to make America great again must include an enhancement of education, not a cancellation. In the mean time, it may be up to religious and other independent organizations to preserve knowledge of indigenous and disregarded cultures and provide education on prohibited subjects.

Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Knuti VanHoven, Dave Johnson and Jo Ann Schriener 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%

For TCIC - we collected \$532.16

For Abode - we will have final amount next week.



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

We are still 5 months away, but we're excited about plans that are coming together for the next (short) sabbatical from October 4 – December 7. This is not just a chance for Rev. Greg to restore and explore and retool to minister in a changing world, it is our chance to try new on new ideas and think about things in new ways. But one familiar thing we'll all enjoy is the chance to have Rev. Jim McKinley back with us. You'll hear a little more in the coming months, but here is a quick look at the [Sabbatical Brochure](#). Please let Rev. Greg or the Committee on Ministry know if you have any questions.

Join millions of people across the nation
to peacefully protest the billionaire takeover.
We are stronger together.

SIGN UP LINK: <https://mobilize.us/s/ZqjP0j>

FREMONT, CA - click [here](#) for flyer

Time

Thursday, May 1
12 – 1:30pm PDT

Location

Walnut Avenue & Paseo Padre Parkway
Fremont, CA 94538



MAY DAY STRONG: WE ARE THE MANY

Thursday, May 1
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
CORNERS of WALNUT AVE & PASEO PADRE PKWY

STOP THE BILLIONAIRE TAKEOVER.
WE ARE THE MANY. THEY ARE THE FEW.
THIS IS MAY DAY. JOIN US.

SIGN UP LINK: <https://mobilize.us/s/ZqjP0j>

Across the country working people are rising up, demanding a country that puts our families over their fortunes—public schools over private profits, healthcare over hedge funds, housing over homelessness.

May Day 2025 we are standing united. We're organizing for a world where every family has housing, healthcare, fair wages, union protection, and safety—regardless of race, zip code, or immigration status.

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

Bring signs! Bring water. Wear sunscreen & a hat. Meet your neighbors. Be kind & watch out for one another. Stand united.

Spread the word. We'll see you on the sidewalk!

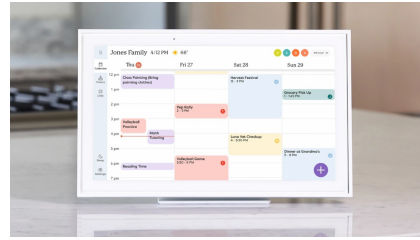
FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar:

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

May 10th Street Retreat with the Faithful Fools SF, see [flyer](#) for more details

Picnic with our neighbors at First Unitarian Church of San Jose, date and location **TBD**



ALAMEDA CREEK CLEANUP

Join us for a day of stewardship along Alameda Creek picking up trash! Learn about habitat restoration and barrier removal efforts to benefit fish and people along the creek.

SAT. MAY 10, 2025 | 9AM-12PM
Niles Canyon Staging Area, Alameda Creek | Fremont, CA

RSVP at caltrout.org

Highlights

- Cleanup supplies provided
- Water science activities
- Photobooth
- Refreshments
- Interactive games and talks
- Crafts

All ages welcome. RSVPs and waivers required for participation.

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



Faithfulfools.org

Questions? email Ariel_dre@mpuuc.org

Faithful Fool's Mission Statement

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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.

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 Schwartzbart



All are welcome to join us as we mark
Holocaust Remembrance Day with
Paul Schwartzbart, 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



General Assembly in Baltimore is approaching, and UU Ministry for Earth will have a booth in the exhibit hall. With only two part-time staff members, we need more hands to keep our booth running during the event. If you are interested, [please fill out this form to receive more information.](#)



We invite your UU congregation or organization to sign-on to this Open Letter to amplify DRUUMM's 2025 Public Worship across Unitarian Universalism. **DRUUMM's 5th Annual Public Worship** scheduled for Thursday, 8:00 PM Eastern, May 15 2025—a cornerstone event for our faith that uplifts the voices, stories, and spiritual leadership of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in Unitarian Universalism.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):

The UUSC launches the Resistance Network.
We are living in a time of escalating injustice, but also powerful resistance. Those in power seek to divide us, weaken our movements, and strip away fundamental rights—but we know that justice is only possible when we build solidarity together. Our faith in human dignity, our belief in collective liberation, and our commitment to justice call us to act.

Yesterday, the UUSC launched the Resistance Network—a mobilization hub designed to take immediate action when civil liberties, democracy, and human rights are at risk. The threats we face are vast, but history shows us that resistance works when we act together. The Resistance Network is an opportunity to live our values as Unitarian Universalists and take collective action.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



History from SURJ site:

It's not just another rally... it's May Day! In May 1886 at what is now known as the Haymarket Uprising in Chicago, immigrant labor organizers fought and died for the eight hour work day. We've celebrated May Day ever since— and the powerful legacy of workers who came together across lines of difference to win big things for all of us.

This year, as workers across the country are being targeted, it's time to renew that powerful legacy.

SURJ is organizing rallies across the country on May 1 in partnership with unions and other movement organizations to draw on that legacy and say: stop the billionaire agenda! Fight for working people!



Thursday, May 1 • 3:00 – 7:00 pm

[Oakland May Day, International Workers Day Rally and March](#) (IN PERSON)

Thursday, May 1 • 4:00 – 5:30 pm

[San Francisco May Day, International Workers Day Rally and March](#) (IN PERSON)

8th Principle Learning

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
April 15 at 11:21 AM

Grateful for this statement from the Unitarian Universalist Association
"Let us say it unequivocally and without hesitation: affirming the inherent worthiness and belovedness of transgender people is an expression of our Unitarian Universalist faith. The safety and well-being of trans and nonbinary beloveds is not someone else's work, it is ours: both those of us whose gender identity makes us most acutely vulnerable and those of us to whom allyship is central to our being. We are all part of one family. We are parents, children, siblings, chosen kindred, and we are one another's people."

In these days of mounting white Christian nationalism, people and policymakers have come to expect religion to be on the side of fear. Faith has been co-opted and twisted into a tool of control. We will not cede moral authority to those who would use it as a weapon. It is our responsibility as people of faith to use our voices and wield our values as a shield between the powerful and those being scapegoated and threatened. It is our responsibility as people of faith to speak the truth in fierce, unshakable love."

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

The GA 2025 Schedule is Here—Start Planning Your Experience!



Click [here](#) for more information

Honoring Juneteenth at GA: “Freedom’s Unfinished Work”

Click [here](#)

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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