This Week on the Peak

Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
April 30, 2025

Dear Sandra,

Greetings All,

MISSION PEAK IS GROWING!!

I am Valerie Stewart a member of the MPUUC Board.

It is Spring and the hills arounds us have gone from winter green to….not so green, as usual. Flowers and trees are blossoming, and the pollen count is up. Just like the natural world around us, Mission Peak is growing, have you noticed?

Thanks to Brian and Jen Culp for stepping up to reclaim and revive our Cole Hall Garden!

Stage 1- Cleanup on April 12th

The effort began on April 12 with a clean up session aided by the helping hands of many folks. That is “Stage 1. Stage 2 on Saturday May 3, another work party will complete the “resetting” of pathways and preparation of the various beds, to prepare for Stage 3- when

folks can come in and start growing food! If you want to help just show up on May 3, or talk with Brian or Jen. Folks are welcome to inquire about using a bed for a garden.

The Garden isn't the only "growing" going on at Mission Peak. Thanks to the efforts of many, we are reaching out into the greater community like never before. We show up at City Council meetings, at Earth Day events, at protests against the violations of the Rule of Law in our country that are happening daily. Beth Schaefer, our President, has been a courageous public-facing voice for Mission Peak at meetings and in the press. As Beth is coming to the end of her second term, I hope she feels the love and appreciation from all of MPUUC for her leadership and commitment to living our UU values in public.

We'll be electing new leaders at the June 8th Annual meeting. How will you help grow Mission Peak and share our UU values out into our community? There is a place for all of us to share in creating a garden of good. Stay well and strong.

See you on Sunday,

Valerie

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.

A 36 Hour Crash Course on Immigration Oppression

In the summer of 2010, when SB1070 – the controversial anti-immigration ('Show me your papers') law, UUs descended upon the city of Phoenix to challenge Sherriff Joe Arpaio's immigration sweeps. What we learned in two days helps make sense of decades of racism in policing, detention and immigration systems. At a time when these issues are alive again, we will talk about what's most important to know.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Jay and Jessica Steele 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 collected $1,344.80

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

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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**

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.

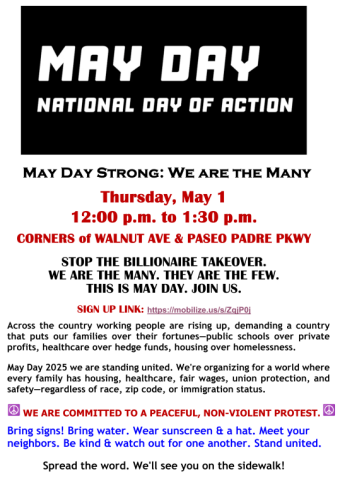
Join millions of people across the nation to peacefully protest the billionaire takeover. We are stronger together.

SIGN UP LINK: **https://mobilize.us/s/ZqjP0j**

FREMONT, CA - click **here** for flyer

Time
Thursday, May 1
12 – 1:30pm PDT

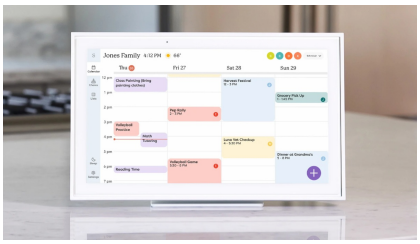
Location
Walnut Avenue & Paseo Padre Parkway
Fremont, CA 94538



FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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

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***



Our monthly men's fellowship time begins this Friday, MAY 2, at 10 a.m. at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at Blacow in Fremont.

Parking is in the lot adjacent. As always there is a range of coffees, teas, and juices, plus breakfast pastries and a variety of breakfast sandwich dishes are available. If possible, our tables will be set up in the area on the east side of the room toward Sundale Ave where there seems to be less noise from other groups which facilitates our conversations. (If that area is occupied look around, the group will be in some other area.) If you know someone who might enjoy the fellowship, feel free to invite him and bring him along.

Please let John Holmes know it you plan to come so enough tables can be arranged for our group. (holmesfam@comcast.net -- or 510-791-0175)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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.

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

Music Salon

Destiny awaits you! You can play or sing or recite at the Music Salon on June 1 at the Methodist sanctuary.

To participate, contact Paul K. Davis or Jo Ann Schriner to make sure there is still a space available. Keep it to less than 5 minutes.

To attend, just show up at 2:00. We'll need an

audience.

See you there!

Click **here** for flyer

JUSTICE CORNER

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

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):

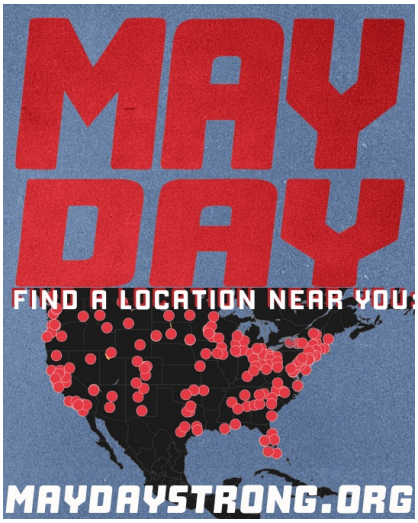
The UUSC launches the Resistance Network.
We are living in a time of escalating injustice, but also powerful resistance. Those in power seek to divide us, weaken our movements, and strip away fundamental rights—but we know that justice is only possible when we build solidarity together. Our faith in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

SURJ BAY AREA SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

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

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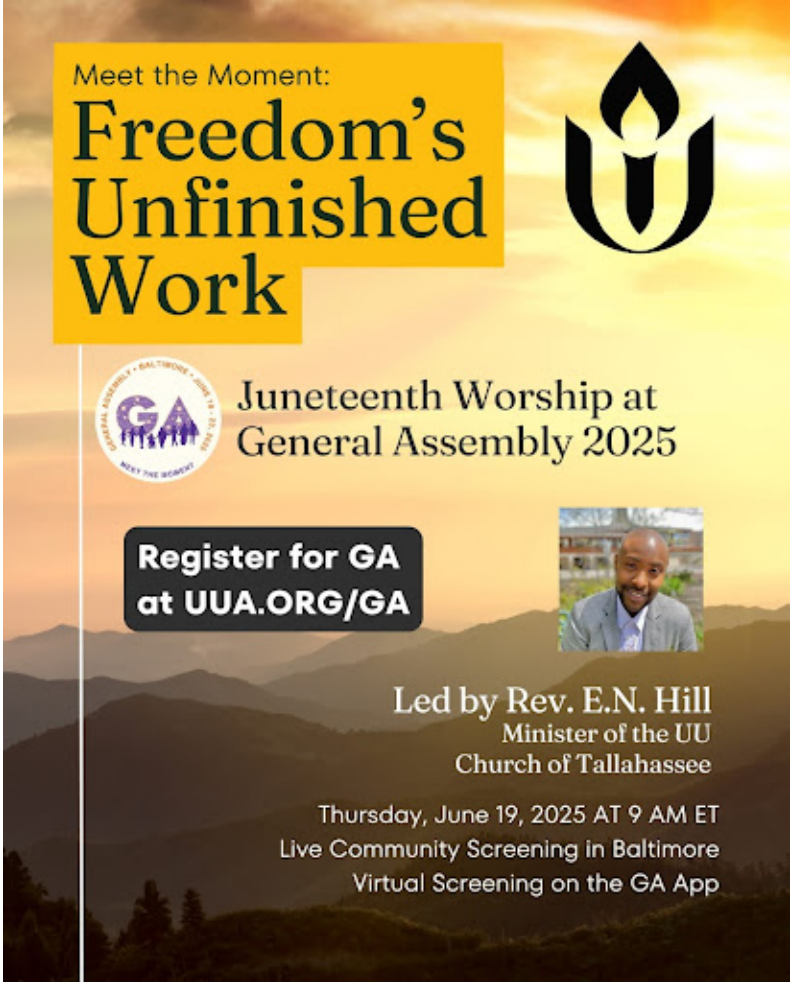
Grateful for this statement from the Unitarian Universalist Association
"Let us say it unequivocally and without hesitation: affirming the inherent worthiness and belovedness of transgender people is an expression of our Unitarian Universalist faith. The safety and well-being of trans and nonbinary beloveds 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!

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

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**
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

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