

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 9, 2025

Dear Sandra,

Hi Mission Peakers,

I'm still feeling excited after Saturday's "Hands Off" rally in downtown Fremont. Our rally was estimated to be 1,000-people strong, stretching almost from Mowry to Walnut and beyond along Paseo Padre. Over a dozen members of MPUUC were there, many in purple t-shirts. It was a delight to share our values with each other and with others. All the folks I spoke with were friendly and glad to talk about their values and their concerns, including their anger about the way our country has been going in the past few months and their fears about what is ahead. In Fremont, and in so many places (one report estimated there were 1,100 protests around the world – yes, not just in the U.S.!), people carried lots and lots of unique, handmade signs. We were encouraged on social media to complete the phrase "Hands Off" with whatever we chose. I saw Hands Off Social Security, Hands Off My Body, Hands Off Trans Kids and many more; I carried "Hands Off Democracy."



The Hands Off rally made me think of the "Women's March" (which included lots of non-women folks too) the day after Trump's first inauguration in 2016. I marched in Oakland that day, along with many thousands. I felt so touched and pleased and grateful that there were crowds of others who wanted to show that they were not at all in agreement with what was happening in our country. I felt surrounded by kindred souls, all engaging with each other, all sharing both happiness and anger. I texted on and off all day with friends in New York City, San Francisco and Madison, WI who were marching in solidarity in their cities too. This was big. And connecting with them and comparing the best signs we had seen made me feel connected with an even larger group of Americans. We were all in this together. The awful administration would not make us lie down and give up.

Protests are about communicating dissatisfaction and convincing others to consider why all these average people want to spend a pretty Saturday yelling together and waving at cars going by. But maybe the most important reason for protests is connection with other participants. I certainly felt buoyed last weekend by seeing the crowds and their expressions of what the country needs to get rid of and what we need instead. I think that good feeling of connecting with people there will give me an extra nudge of confidence the next time I'm considering rallying again, or volunteering for a cause, or going to a meeting that might help make a difference in the world, or speaking up, not avoiding, civil talks with family and friends who don't agree with me. We all need to keep giving each other those little nudges.

Yours truly,  
Beth Schaefer, your Board president

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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.**



### **Action Sunday**

Bryon Stevenson and other activists working to end oppression say that the most effective way to address any particular type of oppression - whether it is racial prejudice or bias against LGBTQIA persons, or immigrants - is through proximity. In other words, when we actually spend time with them. When we know their story, it becomes much harder to look the other way, or dismiss them, or put them in a box. This Action Sunday, we will be working with people who have experienced being homeless who will tell their story. They will come to us and we will go to them. And with this, we will not have to ask, 'Who is our neighbor?'

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Ariel Smith-lyer. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Jay Steele 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.

## ACTION SUNDAY

This Sunday, April 13, will be an Action Sunday. This means that our worship service will be shorter reflection to help us engage intentionally and reverently with the 'action' that follows. Our action this Sunday will be meeting and hearing the stories of some folks who currently navigate homelessness in some form. We will hear about their day-to-day realities and what they most hope others understand about their experience.

## Soup and Sandwich Squad Volunteers

For this Sunday's Action, we are asking for people to consider one of the following

1. Bring a vegetarian soup (to feed 12-15 people). [SIGN UP FOR SOUP](#)
2. Help make sandwiches in Cole Hall while we are hearing from our Fremont based unhoused neighbors' experiences. [SIGN UP FOR SANDWICH SQUAD](#)
3. After service we will sit down and have soup and sandwiches.
4. After lunch, help deliver sandwiches and soup to those living at the Osgood and Washington Encampment. Or
5. Join with those who will be helping to prepare the garden to grow food (some of which may benefit our unhoused neighbors).

This is a busy Sunday. Come prepared to put your good will to work.

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## Hello everyone!

So, the Cole Hall - MPUUC Community **Garden** thing!

It's that old story you've heard dozens of times: a couple walks out of a Service, sees a little garden, and then asks about giving themselves the weekend job of gentleman farmer?

We're so excited about this!

Jen and I are kicking off the **MPUCC Community Garden Project** on **April 13th**, starting after the Lunch & Learn, about 12-12:30. Phase 1 is simply to clear the space - move stuff out, cut back the weeds and grass as best we can. We'll have weed barrier cloth to put down where we clear and chips to cover it.

Interested in pitching in? We'd love to have your help! Please dress for the task and weather - hat, work gloves, and appropriate shoes. (Jen and I will bring a cooler of drinks - gatorade and such.) Also, please email me ([hmsbrian@gmail.com](mailto:hmsbrian@gmail.com)) if you have tools to bring to make this easier -shovels, rakes, grass shears? Weed cutters? As mentioned, we're amateurs at this.

To be clear: we won't plant anything on 4/13 - we'll schedule that for another day, likely 4/27 or 5/4. (And of course, we don't have to plant everything at once.) There are some beautiful poppies growing there, should you want to bring a pot or something and take some home.

Thanks so much for any help or advice you can share, and we'll see you on Apr 13th!

**Brian and Jen Culp**

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## 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](#)

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## April Share the Plate - HERO Tent

Our April Share the Plate will go to HERO Tent - a grassroots non-profit 501c3 dedicated

to help feed, clothe, shelter and offer general care for the unhoused. HERO Tent reimagines community safety and promotes radical systemic change on the local level. Their mission is to empower the community to help provide essential resources, support, and a platform for collective action. They aim to empower the stories and lives of those most affected by systemic injustice. 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](mailto: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. This week's topic will be what feelings, concerns, assumptions we have when we think about having a conversation with someone who is homeless. 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.

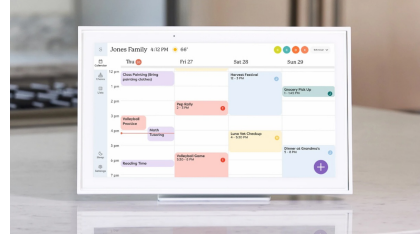
## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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

April 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 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](mailto:office@firstchurchfremont.org)

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## An invitation to join UUs from Sunnyvale and Palo Alto in a community service event: Plant a Tree for Neighbors

Saturday, April 12, 2025  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Ramos Park, 800 E Meadow Dr, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Help **Canopy** plant 15 trees in south Palo Alto's Ramos park neighborhood. All ages welcome! Join folks from the UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale and the UU Church of Palo Alto. Our collaborative Climate Justice Revival lives on in this intergenerational action promoting tree equity and carbon removal. Bring a picnic and enjoy a treat after the planting while we play, connect, and reflect together.

Children under 16 should be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other designated adult. Wear closed-toe shoes and sun protection.

**Register here** by April 4 (please indicate UU affiliation in the box)

Questions? Contact [redirector@uufs.org](mailto:redirector@uufs.org) or [revcat@uucpa.org](mailto:revcat@uucpa.org)

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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 \(LEAF\)](#).

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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.

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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](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)

Please click [here](#) for flyer



## 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](http://Faithfulfools.org)

Questions? email Ariel [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)

## 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](#).

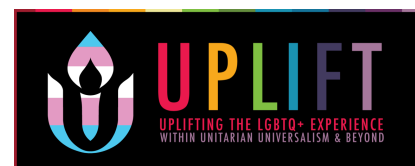
Temple Beth Torah  
42000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94539

## JUSTICE CORNER



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
- 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](http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/resources).

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

Wednesdays, April 16 – May 28 • 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
[Palestine & Zionism 101](#) (IN PERSON)



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](#)

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## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

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



Click [here](#) for more information

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### Board Briefs

Board briefs from February 18, 2025 MPUUC Board meeting.

The Board met on February 18, 2025

- MPUUC has taken action to support unhoused residents in Fremont in various ways including, written and spoken opposition to the City of Fremont's proposed "Camping Ban" Ordinance (FMC Section 8.90), joined a community coalition "Coalition of the Caring" with Fremont For Everyone and other community faith groups and non-profit organizations, called a Congregational Meeting to vote on whether to become a plaintiff in a civil rights lawsuit against the City of Fremont for its proposed Ordinance.
- DeAnna Alm is the Canvass Chair. Canvass (our pledge process) begins March 9 with a lunch at Cole Hall and a virtual Potluck on Monday, March 10 for Zooming members. The Treasurer uses Pledge information to create the Annual Budget that is voted on at the June 8th Annual Meeting.
- The Board is investigating one of its Restricted Funds, the Building Fund, to determine donors and a possible amendment to its purpose. If MPUUC members are interested contact Valerie Stewart at [Valeriempuuc@gmail.com](mailto:Valeriempuuc@gmail.com).
- The Board has entered into negotiations with Rev. Jim McKinley to serve as its Sabbatical Minister later this year from October to December, when Rev. Ward is on Sabbatical.
- The Board is looking for Members who would like to attend General Assembly - June 18-22- as a Delegate (it is possible to attend virtually). Contact President Beth Schaefer if you are interested.



The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, April 15, 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](https://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

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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](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](https://missionpeakuu.org)



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