This Week on the Peak

Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
May 7, 2025

Dear Sandra,

I'm Kathi Bayne. I am a member of MPUUC's Board and a member of our Anti-racism Anti-oppression Committee (ARO).

I'm excited to introduce our newest recipient of MPUUC reparations, the Black Wealth Builders Fund, approved by our Board and ARO.

ARO was formed by our Congregation in 2020 to help us learn about racism and oppression, live our ideals, and become a more welcoming community. With the help of Rev. Greg, we learned about indigenous genocide, the tremendous lasting national wealth generated by African American slaves, red lining, segregation, poor access to quality education, low pay, predatory lending, violence, and destruction of property, which has led to a large wealth gap between African Americans and to those who faced less multigenerational challenges.

We reviewed "Widening the Circle of Concern," the landmark document produced by the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) Commission on Institutional Change (CIC), which suggested the consideration of paying reparations to African American and Indigenous people.

In 2021, MPUUC voted to add reparations to our budget to support putting our ideals into practice. We decided to pay reparations to an indigenous group that was trying to repatriate their land and to an African American group supporting homeownership.

In the last 3 years, we have paid reparations to the Indigenous groups Sogorea Te', Amah Mutsun, and to the African American group Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond.

This year, Don Tamaki, from the California Reparations Task Force, helped us find a new deserving organization.

Black Wealth Builders Fund (BWBF) was started by Rev. Barry Cammer from the Arlington Community Church UCC in Kensington, CA. Over the last 4 years since its inception, The BWBF has collected over 1 million dollars. Overhead is low so 92 % of the money is on track to be distributed to new African American home owners in the Bay Area in the form of $10-$15,000 down payment grants.

Black Wealth Builders Fund partners with its parent company, Richmond Community Foundation (RCF), which offers money management training to potential homeowners. All future homeowners must receive RCF's certificate of training before they qualify for BWBF grants.

In addition to his work with BWBF, Rev. Barry Cammer has devised the Monopoly style Racial Wealth Gap Simulation board game. He has volunteered to help direct us in playing this fun teaching tool on Sunday, September 14, 2025, after service. Please mark your calendars for lunch, fun, and learning.

Kathi Bayne

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.

Where Community Grows

As our world becomes increasingly fragmented, "third places"—a place other than home and work, where community life thrives—have never been more vital. Join us as we explore the significance of third places, like church, in fostering connection, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging.

Rev. Matthew McHale will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. David Johnson will be Worship Host. Peak Performers 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

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

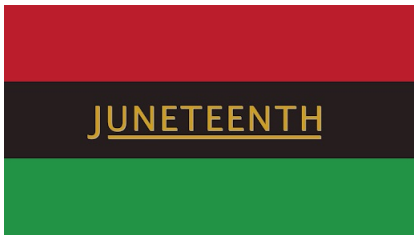
We are still 5 months away, but we're excited about plans that are coming together for the next (short) sabbatical from October 4 – December 7. This is not just a chance for Rev. Greg to restore and explore and retool to minister in a changing world, it is our chance to try new on new ideas and think 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.

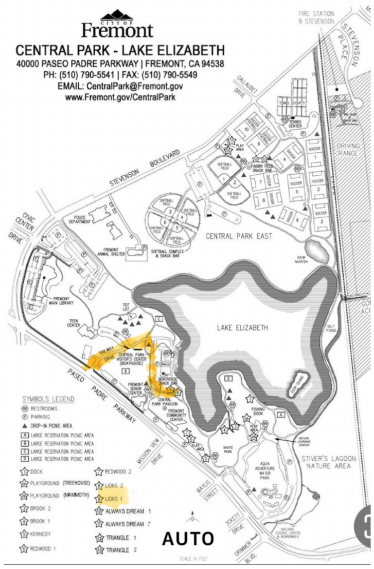
2025 Biennial Assessment

The 2025 **MISSION PEAK UU BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT** is out and needs your feedback. One of the paramount reasons we come to church is to place us alongside people who help us grow into our best selves. And one of the most important ways we are helped into our becoming is receiving clear honest feedback. This is not only true of members. It is true for our staff. And our Committee members and chairs. The Committee on Ministry and the Board are committed to providing regular opportunities for insight and feedback to help everyone of us develop our capacity to learn and grow. Please take a few minutes to help our leaders – and the community as a whole – to learn

about what is working and where we can focus our energy on productive growth. You perspective is appreciated!

Please join MPUUC and ARO for our Juneteenth picnic celebration at Lions 1 near the boat house on Sunday, June 15 at 12 noon after the service, AND say “hands off” to those who are trying to erase our history and diversity!





MPUUC Community Garden

The MPUUC Community Garden beds are now ready for planting, and we probably should get some veggies in the ground right away. We have two beds on the north side, one on the south, and a long bed on the east.

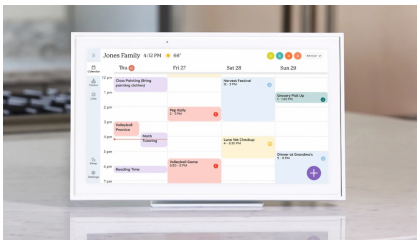
This is not only a tremendous opportunity to infuse beauty and purpose to our campus, but to potentially provide food for lunch and learns as well as local residents of shelters and encampments who don’t often get healthy fresh produce.

We need people who would like to tend a section of the garden and who can be part of a team to weed, water and maintain the garden. If you’re interested in planting or tending part of the garden **PLEASE SIGN UP HERE**!

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***



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

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.

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**

PWR Board Updates
Candidate Curiosity Café & Annual Business Meeting

Greetings Pacific Western Region,

Here are two important updates from the Pacific Western Region Board.

Come to our Candidate Curiosity Café
In anticipation of our upcoming Pacific Western Regional Annual Business Meeting, we have scheduled two Zoom meetings where you can meet the candidates for our 2025-26 PWR board. Join us on Wednesday, May 14th at 7pm PST, and/or Saturday, May 17th at 11am PST to hear briefly about the region and to meet the candidates. While you will hear about every candidate, not all may attend both meeting times. Please feel encouraged to bring a favorite drink while we chat at our Candidate Curiosity Café.

Click here to **register**, registration will *close on Thursday, May 8th at 6pm PST*.

Annual Business Meeting Materials
We are fast approaching for our first Annual Business Meeting as a Region, which is on Thursday, May 29th from 7-8 pm PDT, (8pm MDT/ 10pm EDT/ 9pm CDT/ 5pm HDT). We are asking for grace in our first year, we are sending out Annual Business Meeting materials later than we would like to. We are working through some technical aspects of the meeting and will send out meeting materials once complete. Expect to receive delegate registration instructions, meeting agenda, the proposed budget, and reports from the PWR president and lead.

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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