

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! June 4, 2025

Dear Sandra,

Hello fellow Mission Peakers,

It's been an honor being your President of the Board of Trustees for the last two years... but I won't be in this role much longer. It's time for me to step aside and allow some new leadership to step up. Our church year, and my tenure, end on June 30. I want to thank you for allowing me to help lead and guide our congregation. There have been a few harrowing moments, but my time in this job has been gratifying, and occasionally quite exciting – as when we decided as a congregation to join the “Camping Ban” lawsuit against the City of Fremont. (Action on the suit is in a lull right now as we await a status meeting with the judge on June 20, and probably hearings or mediations in September.) It has also been a great pleasure to work with the others on our Board: Jay Steele, treasurer; Valerie Stewart and Stephen Longfield, co-secretaries; Kathi Bayne and Michelle Wallace, members at large; as well as, of course, our tireless minister, Rev. Greg Ward. These are all fantastic people, willing to give very generously of their energies and time for meetings, thoughtful discussion, learning and teaching one another, and making important decisions about how MPUUC can best live into our mission. (Our Board's composition was the same in 2023-24 and in 2024-25 — we took the unusual step of deciding to work together as a team a second time.) While I'm eager to take on other MPUUC activities soon, I'm still a bit sad to end my time in this role; I hold you all in my heart with gratitude for trusting me.



Yours truly,
Beth

But meanwhile... we're having a very busy next few weeks at Mission Peak. Put these events on your calendar:

– This Sunday, June 8, we'll hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting** where we will vote on our proposed budget, our slate for next year's Board, and more (as described in the

letter you received 10 days ago). Please try to be there. Both in-person and online members can vote, but we will need a quorum first, and only in-person attendees can be counted for that. Email your absentee ballot to valerieMPUUC@gmail.com by noon, Saturday, June 7, or send a paper ballot by mail so that it is received in the office by Friday, June 6 (MPUUC, P.O. Box 545, Fremont, CA 94537).

– AND, also this Sunday, we'll celebrate our annual **Flower Communion**. This is a fun, meaningful and distinctly UU service. If you can, please bring a flower to service.

– Next weekend, on Saturday, June 14, Mission Peak will hold a **Memorial Service for Greg Galati**, who recently passed, leaving his wife, Colleen Arnold and their sons, Aidan and Ben. The service will be led by Rev. Greg at Cole Hall at 1pm.

– Also on that Saturday, June 14, from 11am - 12:30pm there will be a **“No Kings” protest** at the corner of Walnut and Paseo Padre. Signs and purple Mission Peak t-shirts (available in the church office) are encouraged. Some members are planning to spend a short time at the rally, then go to the memorial service at 1pm.

– The next day, Sunday, June 15, is the annual **Mission Peak Picnic** at noon at Lake Elizabeth. We'll be in group area Lions 1, near the boat house. Please see Kathi Bayne to sign up for food to bring.

– Sunday, June 29, is the day of the **San Francisco Pride Parade**, one of the largest Pride celebrations in the country. The UU Church of Palo Alto is putting together a group of Bay Area UU's to walk in the parade together, 10:30am - 1pm. To connect with them use [THIS LINK](#); several Mission Peak folks have expressed interest in going.

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.



Flower Communion

200 Years ago, New England Unitarians - who were yet to marvel before the miracle of air conditioning, would close their churches and all migrate to the Cape where it was cooler. This was because most early Unitarian ministers were also university professors who didn't teach classes in the summer. This is the history behind why the 'church year' is modeled after the 'school year.' Nowadays, of course, church goes all year 'round. Yet there is something that pulls us out of our routines and reminds us the importance of play.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Ariel Smith-lyer. David Johnson will be Worship Host. Jay and Jessica 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%.

May Share the Plate - UU Mental Health Network

We will be collecting until June 15.

Write a check to MPUUC with "UUMHN" 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 "UUMHN" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "UUMHN") 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 "UUMHN" 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

For Hero Tent - Total will be in next week WOP.



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](#)

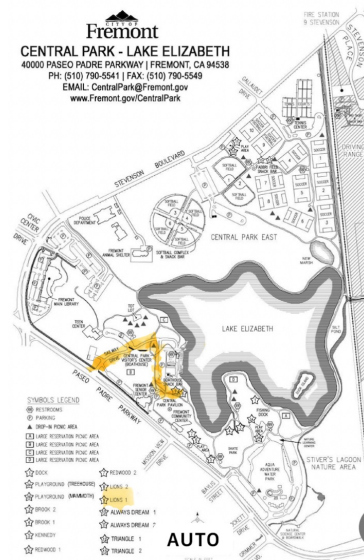
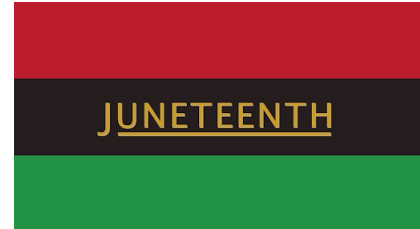
Tri-City Interfaith Meeting

Tomorrow (Thursday) at 12:00 pm there is a special opportunity to tune in to the Tri-City Interfaith Meeting where Rev. Greg will share his Faith Journey. It is the sermon length story of why he chose to become a minister and what he's done that's noteworthy. [HERE](#) is the link. Please join.

2025 Biennial Assessment

This is the **LAST CHANCE** to fill out the 2025 **MISSION PEAK UU BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT**. Your perspective is important to help us understand what has been helpful and appreciated that we want more of and which of our leadership issues could be refocused in another direction. An overview of results will be shared at the Congregational Meeting.

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!**

Update - Letting you know that the garden is open. There are 4 raised beds. Because it's a spring-fall thing, I've named them in honor of the Giants defense. If you're standing in the garden entryway looking from L to R, the beds are: **Chapman, Adames, Lee, and Yaz.**

Beds Chapman, Adames, and Yaz are each divided into three 4-ft sections. The Lee bed - the one in "center field," like its namesake J.H. Lee - is sectioned into three 8-ft spaces. A dozen sections in all.

Now it's time to sign up and get some plants going! I've made a [sign up sheet here](#), and have attached a sketch. Oh, and ignore the Tasks column in the sign up... I'll update that as needed. For now, I think we just need to see how much of the space folks want to

plant. (Also, signing up for multiple sections is fine by me.)

Thanks for helping get the word out. We're here to help, answer questions, etc.

Brian and Jen

Free MPUUC T-shirts!

New T-shirts:

These come in Medium, Large and X-Large sizes.

They are a cotton/polyester blend and a little cooler than our original vintage T-shirts

Vintage T-shirts:

These are still available to anyone who wants them.

They are mostly sizes Small, X-Small and XX-Large.

They are a little darker purple color than the new T-shirts, but we will still look like one family.

Please contact a member of the MPUUC Board to pick up a T-shirt in the office.

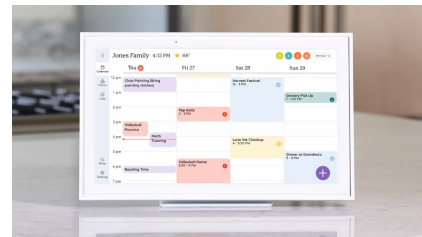
FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar.

6/28 - Family Night Out - 4:30-8:00 p.m.

7/12 - Family Night Out - 4:30-8:00 p.m.

8/23 - Family Night Out - 4:30-8:00 p.m.



Summer fun for families!

Join **FNO (Family Night Out)** one Saturday evening each month this summer, June 28th, July 12th and Aug 23rd from 4:30-8pm. This is for all MPUUC members and friends with school aged children and will include engaging programming for all-ages, then a chance to sit together and enjoy a potluck dinner. After cleanup the parents are invited to a separate space for a facilitated check-in for connection and support while Ariel and company supervise the kids for free play in the nursery. We'll all come back together for ice cream before calling it a night by 8pm. RSVP required by the Friday before each event. RSVP [HERE](#). Questions? Email Ariel dre@mpuuc.org

Click [here](#) for flyer

**SUMMER FUN FOR MPUUC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:**

FAMILY NIGHT OUT

- Organized, all-ages programming begins at 4:30
- pot-luck dinner followed by
- time for parents to circle up, check-in and connect while the
- kids have free-play with Ariel and Jordan
- ice cream dessert finished by 8pm

Saturday, June 28th
Buddhism and mindfulness

Saturday, July 12th
Whole Body Play

Saturday, August 23rd
Chalice Making and Learning

4:30-8pm

QUESTIONS? EMAIL ARIEL DRE@MPUUC.ORG

RSVP now for all three or by the Friday before each date
Scan the QR code



Our monthly men's fellowship time begins this Friday, JUNE 6, 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 if 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!

JUSTICE CORNER

Please wear your purple MPUUC t-shirts, If you are willing and able!

Indivisible and a coalition of pro-democracy organizations have planned demonstrations on Flag Day (June 14). The actions are set as an alternative to the military parade in Washington, D.C., on June 14. Instead of allowing this military parade to be the center of gravity, activists will make action everywhere else the story of America that day.



Time

Saturday, June 14

11am – 12:30pm PDT

Location

Next to the Courthouse

Walnut Avenue & Paseo Padre Parkway

Fremont, CA 94538

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Sunday, June 8 • 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Right of Return Pilgrimage (IN PERSON)

Join the SURJ Bay Area contingent for Leg 5 of the Right of Return Pilgrimage! The full pilgrimage consists of 7 legs spanning 22 miles from Alameda to Berkeley—a distance mirroring the path from Rafah to Gaza City. Join in prayerful solidarity with those displaced by violence and war, to affirm the Palestinian right to return to their homes and families.

The SURJ Bay Area contingent will meet at the corner of Racine and Telegraph at 2:30 pm for a ceremony in front of the Heart and Soul Center of Light. The walk is about 2.1 miles, but it's not necessary to commit to all of it. This leg ends at Sather Gate in Berkeley; some of us will continue on to the Shellmound where the final ceremony will be held. If you want to connect via a text thread before and during the event, you can [share your contact info here](#).

To join for any leg of the pilgrimage, please [sign up](#) by May 29 so you can attend the orientation that evening.

Location: Various, in East Bay: Alameda to Berkeley

SURJ meetup location: Corner of Racine and Telegraph at 2:30 pm



8th Principle Learning

So True

Harvey Mudd commencement speaker Reshma Saujani (founder Girl's Code and founder and CEO Moms First) tells Harvey Mudd 2025 Graduation class: "The greatest challenge facing today's graduates is not

what you think.

(The great lie that is intentionally dividing and distraction us all.)”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2EvAuieixM>



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

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



Click [here](#) for more information

Please Offer your feedback on the 2025 Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness to our MPUUC Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (UUAGA) to delegates, Beth Schaefer and Kathi Bayne

An Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) is a statement about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations and groups. This year, the **UUA Commission on Social Witness** received five proposed AIWs.

Delegates and congregations are invited to attend feedback sessions via Zoom to both learn about each proposed AIW and provide feedback to the proposers:

Actions of Immediate Witness Feedback Sessions

Join the UUA's Commission on Social Witness to learn more about each AIW, offer feedback, & connect with others interested in the issue!

- **June 2 at 4pm PT / 7pm ET:** We Declare and Reaffirm: All People Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights.
- **June 3 at 4pm PT / 7pm ET:** Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom.
- **June 4 at 4pm PT / 7pm ET:** Bringing a Feminist and Womanist Lens to Resistance and Activism.
- **June 5 at 4:30pm PT / 7:30pm ET:** Funding Global LGBTIQ Freedom Amid Crisis: A Call for Immediate Action and Solidarity
- **June 8 at 4pm PT / 7pm ET:** Voter Justice and Racial Equity for the Citizens of the Nation's Capital.



All Sessions will take place on Zoom
Register at uua.org/socialwitness

Commission on Social Witness (CSW) Pre-GA Action Items

(Click [here](#) to continue reading)

Board Briefs

Board briefs from March and April 2025 MPUUC Board meeting.

The Board met on March 25 and April 15 2025

March 25:

- The Board voted to become “fiscal sponsors” of the Tri-Cities Interfaith Council in order to collect their income and pay their bills from their account because they are not a 501(c)3 organization. This does not affect MPUUC finances in any way; Sandra will be paid by TCIC for her occasional work on this.
- A sliding scale of fees to be charged for using Worship Hosts who volunteer to do A/V work for outside requests such as memorials was established.
- MPUUC’s delegates to the UUA General Assembly are Kathi Bayne and Beth Schaefer.
- Plans are being made for Rev. Jim McKinley’s contract during Rev. Greg’s



sabbatical.

- Plans are underway for Action Sunday on April 13.

April 15:

- Treasurer Jay Steele is making preparations and adjustments to the 2025-26 annual budget as needed before it is voted upon by the Board next month.
- President Beth Schaefer is negotiating MPUUC's lease with FUMC for 2025-26.
- The Board is investigating who donated to the Building Fund created over 20 years ago. To release this unused, restricted fund for other uses, the preferences of donors who can be identified will be considered.
- More MPUUC t-shirts will be ordered since all we have left are very small and very large sizes.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, June 17, 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

For more details about meetings or questions email president@mpuuc.org

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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