

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 14, 2025

Dear Sandra,

On Saturday May 10th, eight of us from MPUUC met with Carmen Barsody and the Faithful Fools for a 'street retreat' in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco. After nearly 4 hours walking the streets, our stories revealed epiphanies and awakenings. None of us were able to supernaturally end the suffering we encountered. Nonetheless, many of us were transformed, simply by choosing to be present to the people and their challenges rather than our own fear. Here are a few snippets from those in attendance. The fuller version of their sharing can be found [HERE](#).



Rev Barbara: For me, I found meaning in the connections made and strengthened.

Kathi: I saw that people are people. They care about the people in their community, and they are usually doing their best. Most people just need understanding and the help that communities have always given each other.

Terri: It was a sparkingly gorgeous day in San Francisco. And the juxtaposition of that great beauty with the conditions and struggles of the people who live on the street - well, it was heartbreaking.

Beth: The street retreat underlined for me how important it is for everyone — no matter where or how they live — to have relationships with friends and family and neighbors.

Kate Amon: It was an honor to be a Fool that day. My desire to be one of the helpers, as Mr Rogers describes, was reconfirmed.

Jay: I was inspired by volunteers and organizations working to give a hand up to folks run down by circumstance. The organizations such as Glide Memorial Church and St. Anthony's were inspiring with their commitment to help others, and seeing their enthusiastic volunteers helping others brought a great joy.

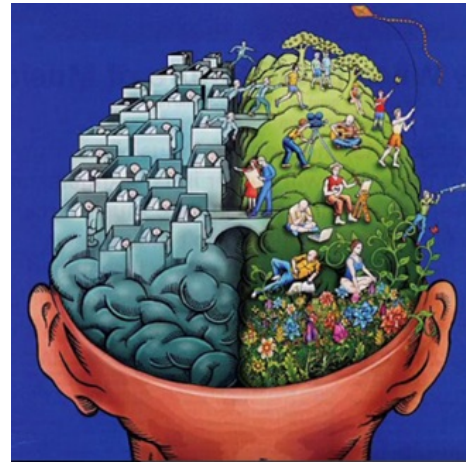
Greg: It was enough to significantly change the way I see people living on the street - and the many human things that connect me to them.

Ariel: This experience really changed the way I look at the people in my own neighborhood- I now have a much larger sense of the people I could and should call neighbors.

Ariel Smith-Iyer

## 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.**



### A Stroke of Insight

Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor is a Harvard-trained neuro anatomist. In 1996 she experienced a severe hemorrhage (AVM) in the left hemisphere of her brain causing her to lose the ability to walk, talk, read, write, or recall any of her life. She put what she learned from that experience in her book, *My Stroke of Insight*. It spent 63 weeks on the New York Times nonfiction bestseller list. In this service, we will explore how what she learned can help UUs find their place in this changing world.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Chris Cook. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Peak Rocks 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](#)

### May Share the Plate - UU Mental Health Network

The UU Mental Health Network is driven by a single goal; to empower the Beloved Community in honoring each individual's unique mental health journey towards wellness.

It envisions a world where the Beloved Community: is a place where all members feel welcomed, understood, and held in love; it engages in respectful curiosity to understand emotional distress; welcomes open, authentic, and fearless sharing about mental health; and passionately commits to mental health justice.



We will be collecting starting this Sunday 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](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. This week's topic is around some of the stuff around right brain and left brain tendencies and how they might mirror some of the polarization going on in the world right now. 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

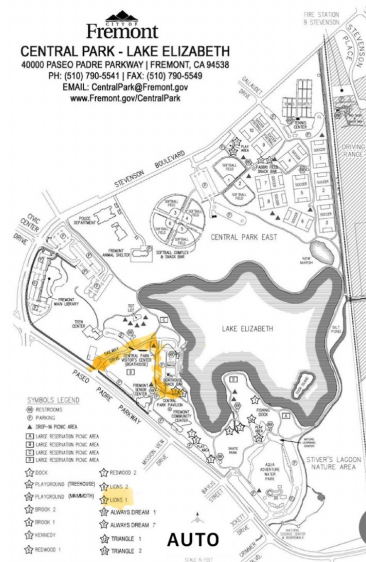
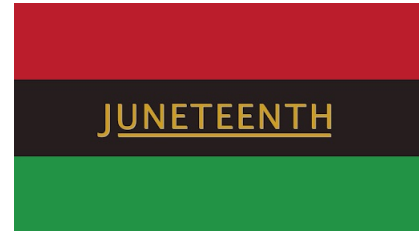
We are still 5 months away, but we're excited about plans that are coming together for the next (short) sabbatical from October 4 – December 7. This is not just a chance for Rev. Greg to restore and explore and retool to minister in a changing world, it is our chance to try new on new ideas and think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

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.

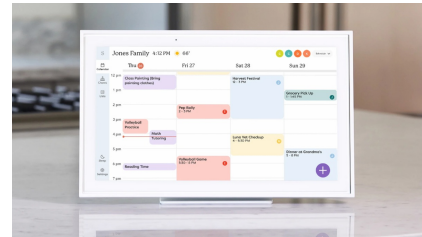
They are a little darker purple color than the new T-shirts, but we will still look like one family.

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:*

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



### 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

### Public Square (<https://www.publicsquare.com/>)

PublicSq. (Public Square) is an American [online marketplace](#) which bills itself as "anti-[woke](#)" and supportive of the [anti-abortion](#) movement and [conservatism](#).<sup>[1]</sup> It was founded by Michael Seifert and is headquartered in [West Palm Beach, Florida](#). As of July 2023, the platform hosts over 55,000 small businesses.<sup>[2]</sup>

The company is publicly traded as PSQH on the [New York Stock Exchange](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_Square\\_\(company\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Square_(company))

Business in the Fremont area that choose to list themselves on this site:

- • Spin-A- Yarn Steakhouse Fremont, CA
- • GTcomman (contractor) Fremont, CA
- • ChrisChenMedia Union City, CA

- • Recycle1234 Union City, CA
- • New Crations Designs Fremont CA
- • Lighthouse Bible Fellows Fremont CA
- • Shirley H Bien, DMD, Inc Fremont, CA
- • Commercial Gutter Fremont CA
- • K2cryotherapy Fremont, CA
- • CleanSmart Solutions Milpitas, CA
- • Financial Tax Strategies Milpitas CA
- • Cook Piano Studio Milpitas CA



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

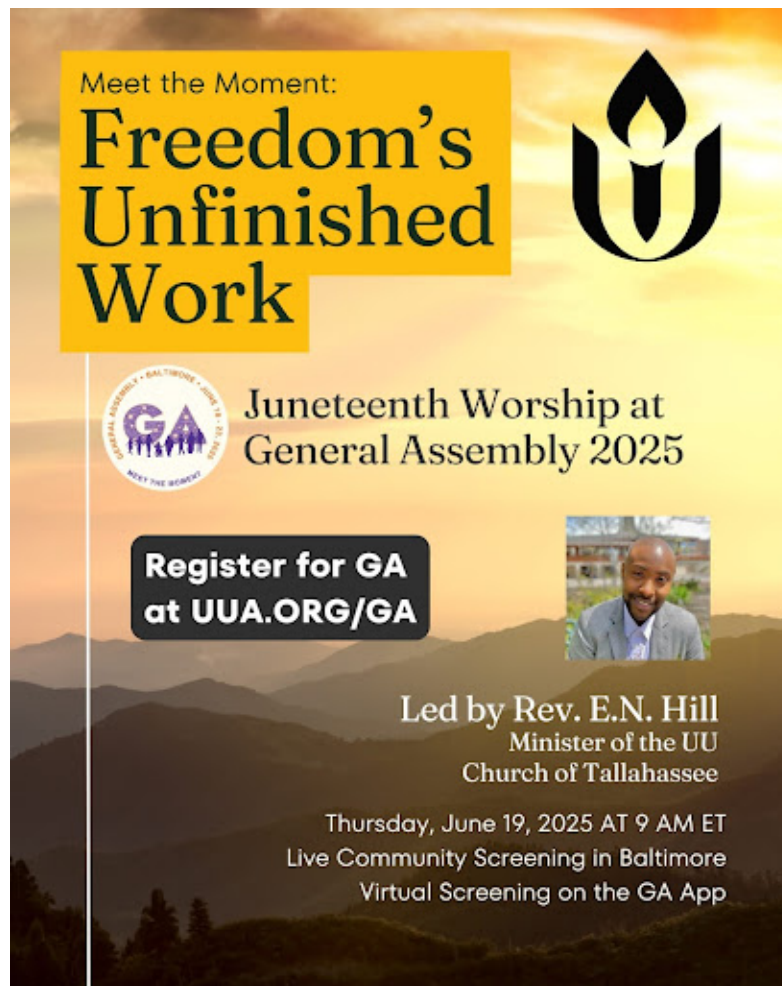
Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray  
April 15 at 11:21 AM

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."




Meet the Moment:  
**Freedom's  
Unfinished  
Work**



 **Juneteenth Worship at  
General Assembly 2025**

**Register for GA  
at [UUA.ORG/GA](https://uua.org/ga)**



**Led by Rev. E.N. Hill**  
Minister of the UU  
Church of Tallahassee

Thursday, June 19, 2025 AT 9 AM ET  
Live Community Screening in Baltimore  
Virtual Screening on the GA App

## 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](#)

### **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](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)



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Boulevard | Fremont, CA 94537 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!