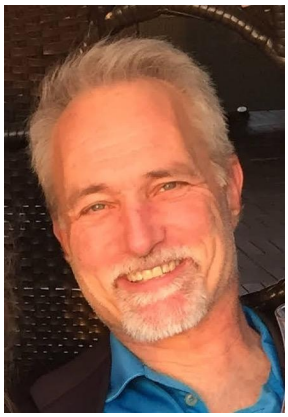
This Week on the Peak

Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
May 21, 2025

Dear Sandra,



The challenge our democratic society is facing in 2025 is formidable. But not new.

810 years ago, in 1215, the Magna Carta (the great charter) was forged to align the powers of the governing with the liberties of the governed. It was drawn up to establish equitable agreements between an autocratic king, wealthy barons and of the rights of the people.

250 years ago, the Magna Carta – along with the Enlightment tracts, *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis* by Thomas Paine – was the inspiration for government we now know as democracy. That 'more perfect union' is something each generation has bee adding to and working on for the 249 years we've been in existence.

One of the most salient insights for prompting the path to help the future be more perfect than the past came from a Unitarian publishing house by a UU theologian nearly 50 years ago. In 1976, James Luther Adams (JLA) published an essay which has since become known as the *Five Smooth Stones* of UUism. It came in the book, *On Being Human Religiously* and it spoke of five ideas that needed constant application in any democracy.

1. **Truth is ever unfolding – revelation is not sealed. We all hold a piece of the truth.**
2. **We are made whole through relationships of trust and accountability.**
3. **All are inherently worthy of love and belonging.**
4. **Life's beautiful diversity is held in a mysterious unity.**
5. **We are called to be and become the Beloved Community, which we create through the practice of and partnership with the transformative power of courageous love.**

Adams believed that people who remained optimistic about coming together and shared power, could build systems of fairness and well being among all beings. Such

communities could not only resist tyranny, but reveal the truth that a just society needed to flourish.

None of us starts out with the answers. It is only in our coming together, with the right questions, that the answers become known.

This week, if you're a member of MPUUC, you will receive an email inviting you to consider positive ways to use your power to build more love and justice in Fremont. Look for this email. Plan to attend the **Congregational Meeting on June 8 at 11:30 am.** And take a moment to **Fill Out the Assessment** that help all of us follow the path of the Five Smooth Stones toward a more perfect union.

Rev. Greg Ward

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.

Mental Health Network

We will discuss an effort to empower congregations to welcome and care for people living with mental health conditions for whom faith is part of their recovery. Companionship is a Pathways to Promise program that trains people in a practice of presence. As companions, people act on their concern for another person offering the encouragement of five basic spiritual practices: hospitality, neighboring, journeying side-by-side, listening, and accompaniment.

Rev. Barbara Meyers will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Don Ramie. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriner, Knuti VanHoven and David Johnson 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

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.** 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 will be about what kind of group we want to be and what we each will do to help us get there.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

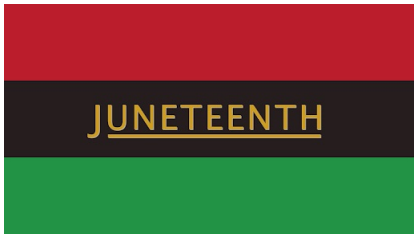
We are still 5 months away, but we're excited about plans that are coming together for the next (short) sabbatical from October 4 – December 7. This is not just a chance for Rev. Greg to restore and explore and retool to minister in a changing world, it is our chance to try new on new ideas and think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

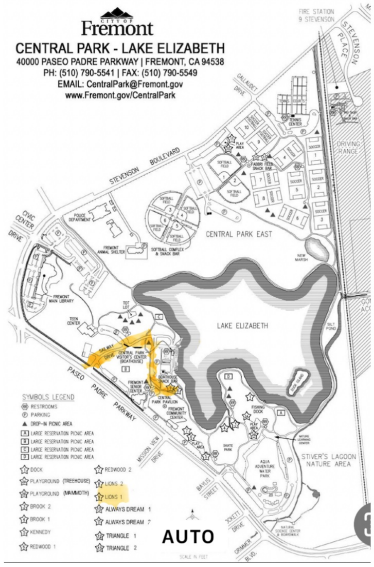
2025 Biennial Assessment

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**!

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

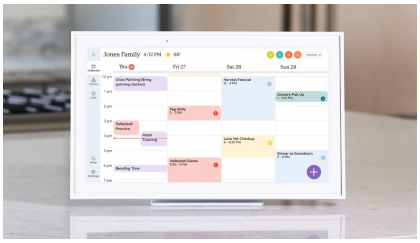
Vintage T-shirts:
These are still available to anyone who wants them.
They are mostly sizes Small, X-Small and XX-Large.
They are a little darker purple color than the new T-shirts, but we will still look like one family.

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.[1] 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.[2]

The company is publicly traded as PSQH on the New York Stock Exchange.[3]

Wikipedia 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."

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

Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 |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

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!