

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 28, 2025

Dear Sandra,

Hi folks,

I hope you are all well. As your MPUUC treasurer, I'm pleased to report that we now have a proposed budget for FY 2025-26 that the MPUUC congregation will vote on in the MPUUC annual meeting on June 8, 2025.

Based on current pledges of \$238,304 plus matching funds of \$15,000 from some generous donors (thanks!), and some income from investments, we expect a budget deficit for 2025-26 of \$25,211. Total expenditures come to \$308,015. This reflects a budget with 3% cost-of-living increases for our hard working staff members – Rev. Greg, Ariel, Von, Sandra, Jordan (our babysitter) and Mallory (our webmaster). We are quite fortunate to have such a good staff and to have the structure to continue making our congregation successful. The small 3% cost-of-living increase communicates to our staff that we acknowledge their efforts and want these efforts to continue. But also don't hesitate to thank them personally for a great congregational year!



I will be presenting more details about the 2025-26 budget in the MPUUC Annual Meeting on June 8, 2025. Before that, feel free to ask me any questions about how MPUUC operates and spends its budgeted funds throughout the year. Please remember that our fiscal year starts on July 1, 2025, so please fulfill your pledges for 2024-25 by that date if possible. Thanks for your contributions!

I feel quite blessed to be a part of our little community and thrilled to tilt against the windmills of cultural and technological trends that are causing us to become more individualistic and less socially oriented. We all have our individual activities – work, family, exercise, play, and entertainment, but it is great that we also find the time and energy for our social organization of MPUUC. I love seeing all of you on Sundays at Cole Hall or on Zoom. Listening to sermons, experiencing the worship ceremony, listening or playing music, conversing with you over coffee, and participating in social justice projects has become a nice part of my life over the last few years. But every community requires a

degree of organization and leaders. As Beth wrote in the Annual Meeting letter, we are still looking for someone to step up to be Board President for this year. And regardless of who steps up to take on this responsibility, the rest of us need to support that individual since it cannot be done alone.

In peace,

Jay Steele
MPUUC Treasurer

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.



"The Monster's Gift"

When everything is crumbling -- institutionally, culturally, socially, environmentally -- what is ours to do? Do we wreck it, admitting the gross, unjust inadequacies? Do we rescue it and point to its merits, its potential to transform? Join us for another possibility: one that brings us face to face with what posthumanist psychologist and philosopher Báýò Akómoláfé describes as "the monster's gift."

Rev. Samantha Wilson will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. 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%.

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](#)

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.

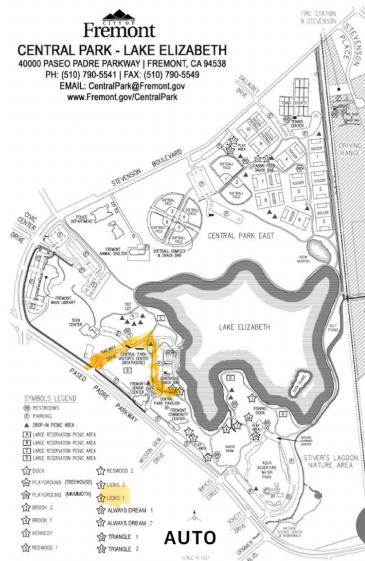
2025 Biennial Assessment

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!

A vertical flag with three horizontal stripes: red at the top, black in the middle, and green at the bottom. The word "JUNETEENTH" is written in yellow capital letters across the black stripe.

JUNETEENTH



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.

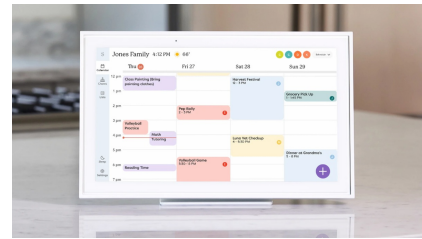
FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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.



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 Schriener 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

Music Salon

Do you like to sing?
Do you play an instrument?
Recite a good poem?

Please consider participating in a Music Salon on June 1, 2025 starting at 2:00 pm

Light refreshments follow

All levels of proficiency, young and old, are welcome to perform. Dust off your old trombone and get ready! It's coming soon.

Please keep your performance to 5 minutes or less. The salon will run for 90 minutes so reserve your spot now!

If you would like to participate, send an email to:

Roberta Marton (rmarton59@gmail.com) or
Paul Davis (paulkdavis@earthlink.net)
Jo Ann Schriener (hellojoann13@gmail.com)

Sponsored by Fremont First United Methodist Church and Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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

Saturday, May 31 • 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Training: Bay Resistance Accompaniment Network (IN PERSON)

Our immigrant neighbors in the Bay Area are facing new threats as they navigate an immigration system that is growing more dangerous every day. Bay Resistance is forming a group of volunteers to meet the requests of local immigration organizations who have asked for additional volunteers to be trained and ready to accompany adults and families to their scheduled appointments and hearings with ICE and immigration offices. Join this training to understand the need and principles of immigration accompaniment and become part of Bay Resistance's volunteer accompaniment network.
Location: 570 14th Street, Oakland



Sunday, June 1 • 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Let Cuba Live: Speaking Tour (IN PERSON)

The Bay Area Cuba Solidarity Network presents the *Let Cuba Live* Bay Area speaking tour with Yasser Ibarra and David Ramirez, the First and Second Secretary of the Cuban embassy in Washington D.C. This tour is coming at a critical moment in U.S.-Cuba relations: The Trump administration has ramped up attacks against Cuba, putting Cuba back on the fraudulent State Sponsors of Terrorism list. This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from Cuban embassy members about the ways in which Cuba is resisting the destructive impact of aggressive U.S. policies, as well as build solidarity with Cuba's resistance.

Location: The First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14th St, Oakland



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

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 LGBTQ 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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