

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! July 30, 2025

Greetings!

June was an exciting month for me: I got to attend GA (UUA General Assembly) for the first time- what a treat!

The timing was amazing since I was already on the east coast to be with my family the week before GA. A friend let me crash at her place in Baltimore and I got a volunteer position so my registration fees were waived. With Mission Peak UU's support my meals and transportation for the week were covered. My south Indian father-in-law would say it was my destiny to attend!

Being among several thousand UU's in person was so thrilling! It offered the opportunity to live my UU values more deeply than ever before, every moment of that whole week. I got the chance to attend several workshops with other MPUUC folks and dream about how to bring the inspiring content back to you all. I was especially moved by presentations about growing membership, the theology of belonging and another on meditation. If you'd like to hear more about any of these please reach out, I'd love to share what I learned. One bit I'll say here is that the whole congregation can be the welcome team each Sunday. When we see folks we don't recognize we can ask: "Have we met? I'm _____." When we see newer folks that we do recognize we tell them: "So nice to see you!" We can remember that building a culture that says: "YOU BELONG!" works, that people join people, and that social movements are built of critical connections rather than simply critical mass.

In addition to deep learning, I got to meet several fellow DREs from other parts of the country. I even ran into the minister who was the intern at my home congregation 16 years ago and led the baby blessing for my son!

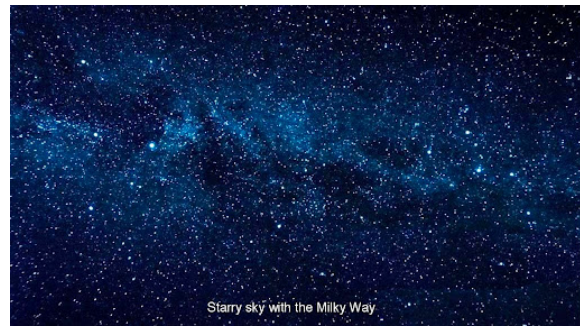
The good news is that the next in-person GA will be close to home, in San Jose! Every other year is virtual only so next year it's all online, then in 2027 it will be so close, most of us could attend! Mark your calendars and consider coming, June 23-27th, 2027. I plan to attend.

warmly,
Ariel



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.



A Gospel of Ignorance (Constitutional Calamity Edition)

Thomas Edison once said, "We don't know a millionth of one percent about anything." Many UUs would agree, bringing a skeptical attitude to the supposed certainties of religion, psychology, and politics. We love to learn, and sometimes it seems as if the more we know, the more we realize that we don't know. But could admitting ignorance be a kind of gospel? Could facing the limits of our knowledge be "good news?" How could that be, here in America, when democratic values are under relentless attack?

Dr. Chris Schriner, our Minister Emeritus, will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Chris Cook. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Knuti Van Hoven and Jo Ann Schriner 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%.



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

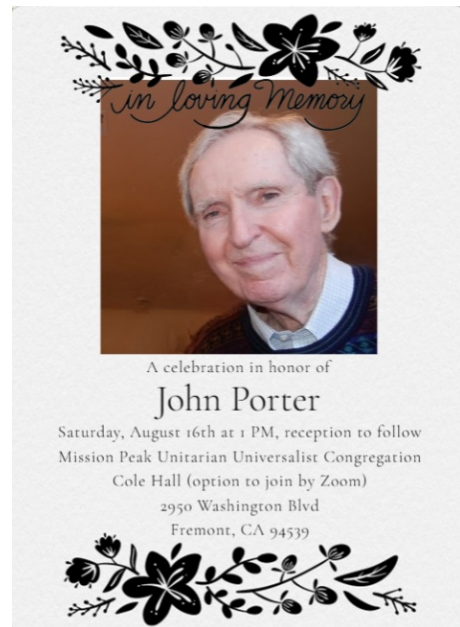
Midweek Discussion Group

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](#)

Hello Mission Peak Congregation. You are all invited to join us for my dad's memorial service at Cole Hall on Sat August 16th at 1pm. He and my mom both deeply loved this church and were connected to many of you. Please feel free to forward the invitation to any that this email did not reach. RSVPs are appreciated, but not necessary. You can RSVP through the evite link below, or by emailing me at kimberlyportermft@gmail.com. There will also be a live stream of the service on Zoom so please let us know if you need the Zoom link.

Blessings, Kimberly

Evite link: <https://evite.me/x9gurc1vMW>



HELP WHILE OUR MINISTER IS AWAY

Rev. Greg will be away on vacation (camping and caring for Lucy's mother) from June 23 – Aug 10. If you have any Administrative questions [contact Sandra Lange](#), our Congregational Administrator. If you have program questions, [contact Jay Steele](#), our board President. If you have Pastoral Questions, [contact Rev. Barbara Meyers](#), our minister on call. Keep good company, stay safe and love one another.

Mission Peak UU Welcomes Two New Members!

Elizabeth Bartmess and Michael Cohn joined MPUUC as official members on Sunday, July 13th! We are planning to have an official ingathering ceremony after Rev. Greg returns from vacation, but please don't wait for that to welcome them to our MPUUC family!

Elizabeth was raised UU in East Tennessee. In college, she set up future MPUUC members Eric Ryan and Allie King on a blind date. In 2020, Elizabeth and her husband Michael became housemates with Eric and Allie and eventually began attending MPUUC events. Elizabeth works as a freelance book indexer, develops software utilities for other indexers, and volunteers on MPUUC's Worship Host team.



Michael is from Houston, Texas and has a religious background combining Judaism, atheism, and neopaganism. He studied social psychology in grad school, where he met his partner Elizabeth. He currently works and volunteers in progressive politics and helped found the San Francisco and Fremont Indivisible groups, and in his free time he plays and runs Dungeons & Dragons and live-action role playing games for friends. He's excited to

join MPUUC's community of folks who want to develop a pluralistic and thoughtfully designed society.

Art and Generosity in our Beloved Community

Quietly, Don Ramie returned to the Cole Hall Garden and gave a fresh coat of paint to the Garden entrance and renewed the medallions on the arch.

Thank you Don!

You saw a need and took it upon yourself to repaint and repair the Garden Entrance to enhance the look of the Garden that was restored this year by Brian and Jennifer Culp.



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.

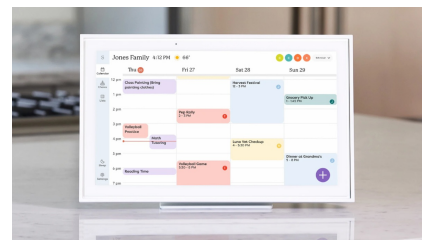
Please contact a member of the MPUUC Board to pick up a T-shirt in the office.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Dates to mark on your calendar.

8/13- **Potluck dinner, games and art** 5:30-8pm [RSVP](#) preferred


8/23 - **Family Night Out** - 4:30-8:00 p.m. *Make your own Chalice activity!*



Summer fun for families!

Join **FNO (Family Night Out)** on our last Saturday evening each month this summer, Aug 23rd from 4:30-8pm. This is for all MPUUC members and friends with school aged children and younger and includes 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 Thursday** 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

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

Scan the QR code



QUESTIONS? EMAIL ARIEL DRE@MPUUC.ORG

Have fun this summer and learn a new skill!

FUMC INVITES YOU TO COME PLAY PING PONG

-NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! THURSDAY EVENINGS
6 – 7:30 pm IN THE OCKERMAN BUILDING (just
down the hill from Cole Hall).



**Our monthly men's fellowship time
returns this Friday, August 1, at 10 a.m.
at Suju's Coffee on Stevenson Blvd at
Blacow in Fremont.**

Parking is in the lot adjacent. As always there will be 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



The Indivisible Project is a 501(c)(4) non profit social welfare organization, primarily focused on influencing public policy and engaging in political advocacy.



The political landscape is changing, and we have to continue to change with it. In the past, we've been able to lean directly on the power of the ballot box and the pressure we, as constituents, can bring to bear on our elected representatives. Whether it was saving the Affordable Care Act or kicking Trump out of office in 2020, we've proven that organizing on a local level to drive progress works -- and that is still true.

But the pressing threat of authoritarianism means that we have to include new strategies to protect the future of our democracy and our people.

And that is why we are launching One Million Rising: a campaign to train one million

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

SURJ Bay Area, based in Alameda County, is a nonprofit with both a 501(c)(4) and a 501(c)(3) arm. It is part of a [national network of groups](#) and individuals organizing white people for racial justice.



Gather for Gaza (IN PERSON)

Be part of this communal gathering that follows the Ride for Palestine and showcases the beauty, strength, and resilience of Palestinian culture. Tickets are \$40 and include a delicious lunch, live entertainment, and activities for children. Come and show your support for Palestine and for all the teams who raised funds for MECA's Palestine projects. This event will also raise funds for MECA programs that include food, water, medical supplies, and programs for children traumatized by the violence and killings in Gaza.

Location: 1101 Eighth Street #100, Berkeley



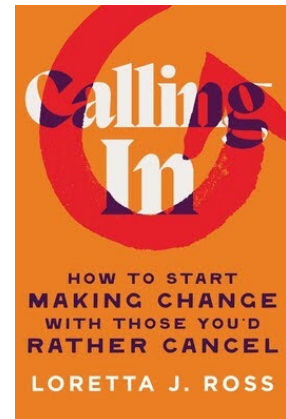
Tuesday, July 22 • 1:00 pm: Welcome

Tuesday, August 5 • 1:00 pm: Book Discussion

Tuesday, August 26 • 1:00 pm: Live Event with Loretta Ross

SpeakOut Book Club: "Calling In" by Loretta Ross (VIRTUAL)

"Calling in" is a tool and practice for turning difficult conversations into productive ones. This framework can help address harm while creating space for growth, forgiveness, and understanding. Join SpeakOut for a 6-week book club and virtual community centered on ***Calling In: How to Start Making Change With Those You'd Rather Cancel*** by pioneering Black feminist and MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Loretta J. Ross. Together, we'll explore how to approach conflict with courage and compassion, whether in our classrooms, communities, organizations, or personal lives. Featuring weekly virtual discussions, three live meetings, and more! Registration \$24.99.



8th Principle Learning

Palantir's software has been used by the Israel Defense Forces to strike targets in Gaza and by the Trump administration for immigration enforcement. This has fueled concerns about the potential for misuse of its technology.

CEO statement made on an investor call:

**"Palantir is here to
DISRUPT...and when
it's necessary to
scare enemies and
on occasion
kill them"**

**-Alex Karp,
Palantir CEO**



Board Briefs

July 2025 BOARD BRIEFS

- Community Minister Barbara Meyers was selected as the MPUUC Volunteer of the Year. 2025 marks her 20th Anniversary year of Ministry. She is a national leader in the field of mental health ministry and has served Mission Peak since her Ordination in March 2005.
- The Congregation approved the amendment proposed by the board revise the MPUUC Bylaws at the June Congregational Meeting by replacing the word "Principles" with "Values". Rev. Jim McKinley will be the Sabbatical Minister from October 4 to December 7, when Rev. Ward takes his Sabbatical.
- The Treasurer is working on the task of determining the future of long-held funds for a "Building Fund", communicating with donors for alternative uses for the approximately \$9,000. MPUUC renewed a one-year lease with FMUC for the use of Cole Hall, the Office, and reduced use of Ockerman rooms (FUMC has initiated new ministry activities in Ockerman rooms).
- MPUUC Lay Leaders will be providing summer Sunday Services while Rev. Ward is on summer vacation until August 10. Share the Plate collections during the summer will be for MPUUC activities - a discretionary fund for Ariel, the Sandwich Squad, Music and Service Aesthetics.



The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, August 12, 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](https://www.house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553



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