

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 20, 2025

Greetings!

As a young boy in the mid 60s learning to bond with other kids my age there was a lot of talk. There was the expected tall tales and bold posturing (mostly among the boys). But there were also moments when the conversation turned serious and solemn. The 60s were not that far from the 40s and Hitler was still a real person, not just an evil archetype. Kids talked and imagined what we would do if he were alive today and hurting the people of our country.

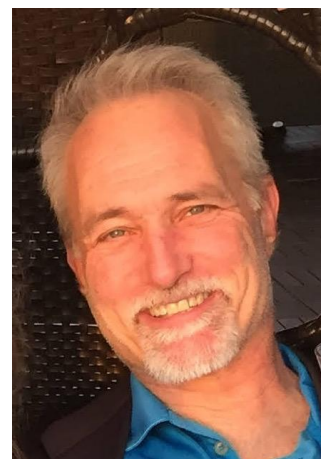
Later, the tragic violence of the civil rights movement punctuated the evening news which was a mainstay in many of our households. The violence in Birmingham and Selma and Greensboro were topics in our UU Youth groups. Again, we asked one another – and ourselves – what would we do (if we were older).

Then, when I entered the UU Ministry and served in Atlanta, I remember conversations where practically everyone seemed to recall having attended the March on Washington and heard about ‘the dream.’

Today, the good news is we are all grown up. The bad news is we no longer need to speculate about what we would do if unchecked greed and power turned violent on innocent people. It is happening all around us. So many of us are shocked, still trying to figure out how it came to be that armed and masked police can round people up and take them away. Or, how people living lawfully in the country are deported to detention centers... How anti-fascist spokespeople – indeed entire Universities and media outlets – are silenced.

Many of us are outraged and angry. Rightly so. But as Aristotle once said, *“Anybody can become angry – that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way – that is not within everybody’s power and is not easy.”* It is time for the rhetoric of resistance to find agency. To network. To coordinate.

In these unprecedented times, the purpose of good communities like Mission Peak is, in part, to channel our anger constructively. And to do that requires love. Not



everyone needs to be on the front lines. But if we can't, it's important to love, support and attend those experiencing risk or harm. Compassion and solidarity is what love does.

In the weeks and months ahead, I pray that we will not only learn how we each can make a difference, but how we can become a difference making factory, teaching one another how love responds with courage in times of great need.

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.



Love After Love

A wise prophecy from a UU mentor once predicted that churches - even the really good ones - would, eventually, break our hearts. Hearing it for the first time seemed almost sacrilegious. It suggested that the institution based on faith that we dedicated ourselves to could be the very thing to challenge our faith. But part of the obvious truth of this prophecy rests in the fact that communities of faith teach us to fall in love with people who are imperfect and, indeed, impermanent - flawed, mortal and fragile. In the wake of losing people who taught us to believe, how can we learn to trust a love that extends beyond our need for control?

Rev. Greg Ward, will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriener and Knuti VanHoven 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](#)

You are all invited to join us for Alan Davis Celebration of Life at Cole Hall on Sunday, September 21st at 1:30 pm.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, loving daughters Nina and Aparna, grand children Kora, Everett, and Ava, and siblings Kenneth, Paul, Marjorie, and Eileen. They, along with the countless lives he touched, will fondly remember his kindness and generosity. Alan's memory will serve as an inspiration to all who knew him.



May his memory live on in the hearts of all he touched.

In lieu of flowers, Alan requested donations to Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, KQED radio, or Planned Parenthood. Please see the link below for more information.

<https://www.forevermissed.com/alan-neil-davis/about>

Mission Peak celebrates Erika Kuestermann's 90th Birthday at Cole Hall

Erika's daughter Heidi brought a delicious cake and granddaughter to attend the Sunday Music Service and celebrate Erika's 90th birthday. Erika and her husband George have been members of Mission Peak since early days when we met at Kidango. Erika has served on the Membership Committee, the Sunday Services Team and been a regular Greeter for MPUUC for over 20 years.

Happy Birthday Erika!



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.

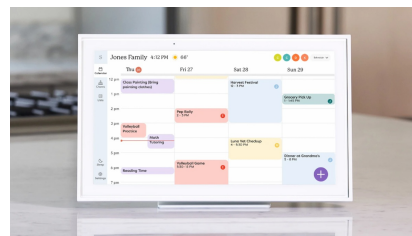
They are a little darker purple color than the new T-shirts, but we will still look like one family.

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:

8/23 - **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 Jordan 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

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

Click [here](#) for flyer

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).



JUSTICE CORNER

Congress Must Pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2025



"To my colleagues in the Senate —
this is what America looks like.
This is what Democracy looks like.
Every person gets a vote.

--Senator Richard Blumenthal



Our founding fathers allowed for the power of the people
to be greater than the people in power. We must do the
hard work, generation after generation, to continue down
the pathway of democracy.

--Senator Corey Booker



"John R. Lewis reminded
us that our vote is sacred,
but it is never guaranteed."

--Senator Alex Padilla



"The fight to protect voting rights
is too important to wait for
another election."

--Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock



"It is now our turn to re-dedicate
ourselves to John R. Lewis and
his legacy"

--Senator Dick Durbin

Write Your Lawmakers:



<https://bit.ly/JLVRAA-119th>

UUSJ

Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock

Senator Dick Durbin Durbin reintroduced the **#JLVRAA** which would hold states
accountable when they attempt to disenfranchise voters AND restore voters' ability to
challenge discriminatory changes.
Congress MUST pass it!

Write your Lawmakers: <https://bit.ly/JLVRAA-119th>

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.

SURJ **SHOWING UP FOR**
BAY AREA **RACIAL JUSTICE**

We are facing interlocking crises abroad and at home— blatant disregards for human life in the service of our government's racist billionaire agenda. In this critical moment, what we do matters. We're writing today with two ways you can take action.

In Palestine, the forced famine threatens the lives of millions in Gaza. In our rage and grief, we encourage you to continue to move into action: join local protests, stay in conversation with those who are only now waking up to the violence, and **join our Palestinian and Jewish partner organizations TOMORROW at 3 pm ET for a "Stop Starving Gaza Power Hour" to take action.**

And— in the midst of thousands of detentions and raids, immigrant communities are leading the resistance to authoritarianism here at home. We need to be ready to stand with immigrants and show up against ICE even before they get to our communities. **To do just that, join SURJ for a two week training, "Solidarity & Rapid Response," beginning August 5th with our partners at the Solidarity Organizing Initiative.**

[Join the 2-week training](#)

Tuesday, August 19 • 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Immigrant Voices Film Series: "And Then They Came for Us " (IN PERSON)

In March, Donald Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, the same law used 78 years ago to justify Executive Order 9066, which led to the unjust incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, violating their constitutional rights. "And Then They Came for Us" features George Takei and others who were incarcerated, as well as rediscovered photographs by Dorothea Lange. This powerful documentary serves as both a cautionary tale and an inspiring call to action in these challenging times. After the film, stay for a moderated discussion. Sliding scale tickets \$10–\$25 to benefit **Tsuru for Solidarity**.



Location: La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley

Join Racial Justice Allies of Sonoma County at this free community dialog event to explore what it means to practice intersectional allyship with trans and gender-expansive communities. Featured guest is Drew Rose (he/they), the Training and Education Manager at Positive Images, Sonoma County's LGBTQIA2S+ community center. Rose has led hundreds of workshops for schools, nonprofits, and businesses throughout the North Bay. In this session, they'll examine the unique barriers faced by trans and gender-expansive individuals, with a focus on how these experiences intersect with communities of color. Register to receive the zoom link..



Thursday, August 21 • 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Allyship for Trans Liberation (VIRTUAL)

8th Principle Learning

When you strip Away Humanity



<https://www.tiktok.com/@joshjohnsoncomedy/video/7531350400507694391>

Board Briefs

August 2025 BOARD BRIEFS

1. The Board confirmed/approved earlier email votes (1) to appoint Don Ramie to the open At-Large Board Member position. Thanks Don for taking on this new role!; (2) to accept a restricted donation in the amount of \$1,000 to provide ASL Interpreters at MPUUC.
2. The Board received a presentation and discussion with Marisa Keane, Service Coordinator at Beyond the Words (an ASL service provider). Ms. Keane discussed deaf culture and steps a congregation can take to make its Services more accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing.
3. Drew Wilson (Treasurer) is researching the uses/controls of restricted funds, including the Building Fund, at MPUUC. Drew shared the good news that because of additional gifts and reduced spending the 24-25 fiscal year did not end with a deficit, as projected. Drew and Jay (former Treasurer/now President) are still getting MPUUC accounts updated with signatures/role changes.
4. The Board was informed that Ariel Smith-Iyer will begin hosting an additional Children's Chapel on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Additionally, she will be providing content on the MPUUC web site promoting Multi-Generational Community Building activities.
5. The FUMC Board voted to deny the MPUUC request to remove the platform/chancel in Cole Hall. ARO will review other options to increase accessibility.
6. The update on the litigation with the California Homeless Union is that Judge Chesney ordered the parties to meet with a Magistrate Judge regarding Settlement. A report is due on 9/10/25.
7. Reports from the Minister, President, Treasurer, and Community Minister are located in the Board Meeting Folder and are accessible to Members.



The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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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