

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 3, 2025

Greetings!

Greetings fellow UUers,

I am Mark Rahman and a member of the board.

It is amazing how much of life is spent just walking through a haze. So many of the important things that we are dealing with feel very much like the hamster wheel has us. If we were ever to sit down and list what were the really important things we were doing and how much time we spent on them, I believe that would be a shock. I acknowledge that a lot of the wheel spinning is designed just to keep body and soul together. But I am sure that we would tell ourselves that we would like to spend a great deal more time on things that are truly important. But for some reason, we seem not to be able to. And I'm not surprised. So much is going on in this world. So much that is nearly impossible to understand. It hurts so much less to simply tune out the outside world.



The novels of our youth are coming alive before us. There is so much to do and so few who seem to know what to do. It is for that reason that we look to Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation to help us understand and to help us act. For all that we see cries out to us that we must act. There is no one else save ourselves. Paradoxically it is we who stand between ourselves and chaos. Not only are we called upon to act, but also to inspire others to join us in action. To act will, of course, require courage. For it takes courage to raise up beyond the average level and be noticed. It takes courage to put yourself forward and be seen. It takes courage to speak in public. It takes courage to put forth your ideas, knowing that there will be those who disagree with you. It takes courage to do things you have never done before and are not going to do well. It takes courage to adopt new roles that you have never done before. .

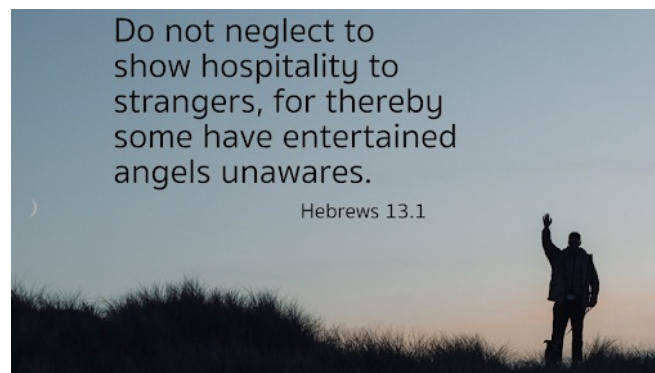
MPUUC is here to aid and abet your own special brand of courage. To be here in the beloved community is to be reminded constantly of the courage that life requires. It is one thing to be reminded. But we also have a community that will encourage and support. We in our turn, provide their encouragement and support. Here you will learn why courageous acts are required. Here you will find the how of courageous acts. It was here at Mission Peak that I developed the courage to

speak in public. And I have had nothing but encouragement and support. And as well here you will find partners who will have your back. And you theirs. Each will keep the other going in times of frustration or fatigue.

All of the great movements, sit-ins and marches that were dangerous were composed solely of ordinary folks such as we. They were not giants in olden times. There is no one else save ourselves. I don't think I can do it but I know that we can. Have courage, my brothers and sisters.

Mark Rahman

Have you noticed the new pictures / memes in Week on the Peak? They are also on the website, Facebook and other places. They are part of our Soul matters content which is helping us expand our conversations with one another and extend a warm invitation to people who need us. Each month, we will be focusing on a theme. For September, our theme is BELONGING



Here are some questions to ponder and ask one another:

- When was the first time you thought to yourself, "Now I belong"?
- Has belonging gotten easier or harder as you've grown older?
- Have you ever had to sacrifice belonging for integrity? Or your integrity for belonging?
- How might we deepen our sense of belonging to each other?

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.

God is Betting on Us - Part II -
For the Love of the People
Who Play



Continuing in the second part of this sermon trilogy, we turn our attention to the people who are part of the action - those who have 'skin in the game.' The world of the recently legalized sports betting industry is, of course, filled with winners and losers. But when we learn that the game is rigged and people are living at risk of what they can't afford to lose, should someone step in to protect them? And what happens when political interests make similar wagers on social welfare or democracy itself? This is a sermon on what we do about people caught on the losing end of bad bets.

Rev. Greg Ward, will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Elizabeth Bartmess will be Worship Host. Peak Performers under the direction of Von Bringham 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%.

My friend is one
who knows my song
and sings it to me
when I forget.

anonymous



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.

[Zoom Link](#)

Dial in number for phone +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 979 7428 0940

Password: 910606



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>

Request for **HELPERS** (thanks Mr. Rogers !)

If you can be a Helper on Sunday September 21st for the Alan Davis Celebration of Life at Cole Hall, for Set-up/Take-Down (2 Helpers) and Coffee Service (2 Helpers), please contact Valerie by September 7. Helpers will need to be at Cole Hall from 12:00 – 4:00. Email ValerieMPUUC@gmail.com and Thank you!!

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: TBD

JUSTICE CORNER



**Make Billionaires Pay, in NYC and
Across the U.S.**

Save the date, find an event -- host one if you can't find one!

World leaders will be in New York City for the UN General Assembly and Climate Week in September. So a strong coalition is planning simultaneous **Make Billionaires Pay** actions to happen in NYC, across the U.S., and around the world.



People are mobilizing for September 20th as part of the global mobilizations for climate justice entitled **Draw the Line**.

Will you join the many? Will you show solidarity with the global majority suffering for the profit of a global minority? We are! We're joining the call for non-violent protests across the U.S. and a mass march in NYC.

Join us wherever you are, however you can, on September 20th to stand up for climate justice, immigrant justice, peace, and to **Make Billionaires Pay**!

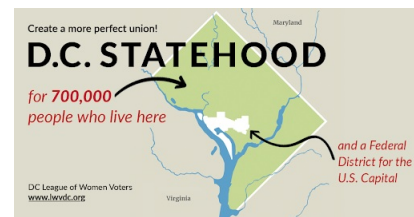
Yes, this is a c3 compliant mobilization!

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Some Background and Context on DC

See our statement on D.C. Home Rule, Federalizing the Police, "**We are with D.C. as it continues to build toward freedom.**"

- You can sound off in solidarity with D.C. residents by taking UUSJ's petition that we developed in partnership with the Reeb Voting Rights Project (of All Souls, DC) and D.C. League of Women's Voters.
- If you want a short background, look at our June 2025 AIW proposal, **Voter Justice and Racial Equity for the Citizens of the Nation's Capital**.



If you want a more in-depth documentary and educational briefing, please request a screening of The Last Battlefront. This documentary delves into the situation of Washington, D.C. You can ask for that Zoom-based event knowing UUSJ, Reeb, DC-LWV and the Producers of the film are partnering to bring these sessions to UU Congregations and State Action Networks.

8th Principle Learning

The Kentucky Derby's fist Champions jockey were Black

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Bkf9nULRuMg>



AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEWS

City of Fremont Sharing Open Waitlist Information for Affordable Housing Property in Fremont (Post Date: 08/25/2025 10:00 AM)

The City of Fremont's Housing Division is sharing the following information.

[Laguna Commons](#), an affordable housing property located at 41152 Fremont Blvd., has an open waitlist for 1-bedroom rental units. The property is managed by [MidPen Housing](#).

The deadline to apply is Monday, September 15, 2025.

For more information and to apply, view the resources below:

[Laguna Commons Flyer](#)

[Laguna Commons Webpage](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

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
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553



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