

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 1, 2025

Greetings!

Have you ever wondered what a group of unicorns is called? A quick internet search will give you the answer but let me offer you a few clues, in case you feel like having a little fun with this.

The word that means a group of unicorns is the same word you might use to describe the words spoken before a meal or during a religious service. It's the same word you might use to tell someone that their presence in your life is a treasure. When something happens that's surprisingly good we might say this was a _____ in disguise. Have you thought of it yet? It's a blessing, a group of unicorns is called a blessing.



Why am I talking about groups of unicorns? Because MPUUC now has one! The MCB (Multigenerational Community Building) Team formed this summer and are hard at work helping the program grow. Lisa N, Terri K, Beth and John S and I have been toying with the image of this team as a group of unicorns, a true blessing. Our charge is manifold and our charter can be found [here](#) but this first year together we're rather laser focused on two things: supporting our newest offering of Sunday children's programming on the 3rd Sunday of the month (previously we only had programming on the 2nd Sunday but now we have it the 2nd AND the 3rd Sundays of each month). We're growing! The other aspect of our charge this year is to help plan and execute TWO all-ages Sunday worship services. We've got a plan for our first service. If you remember what Unitarian Universalists all over the globe put at the center of our lives or what holiday falls in February, well then you have a clue about the theme for that service. We'll be sharing more about it as it comes closer.

It's interesting that there are different names for what passes as a group, depending on a particular species. I guess it's a little bit like the different names for each congregation within Unitarian Universalism. Regardless of what our group is called, every group has one thing in common and that is their dependance on each individual member to play their part. The Othering and Belonging Institute says that belonging is both a feeling and a practice—something we experience personally and something we create collectively. Much like Sunday service when we all sing one hymn together, I have a vision of multigenerational community at Mission Peak being an activity we all lend our voices to. While unicorns are magical creatures that don't actually exist on the planet, there are folks with magic easily flowing in and around them, they're here at MPUUC, they're called **children**. If you could use a little more magic in your life I invite you to consider

reaching out to offer some of your time to be in the presence of these magical beings. They are a precious part of this MPUUC community and the absolute light of my work as your Director of MCB. There's no need to join the MCB Team or commit to anything regular or recurring, you could just reach out to me and say, "Sometime in the next few weeks I could use a blast of kid energy, is there anything I can show up for and help with?" As our program grows we will need more folks to join this blessing. And when you see the folks who have already joined the team please offer them your thanks. They are truly a blessing in my life and to this community and I treasure them.

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.



Return Again

I have re-turned because of, as Rabbi Carlebach says in song #1011 of the same title as today, because of who you are, what you are, and where you are in your journey. You change your world within you and the world around you through your presence and with your actions You make hope real. Then you called, you literally called me out. Let's explore and strengthen our call and real hope together.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. David Johnson will be Worship Host. Peak Performers with 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%.

A Very Special Message to ALL MPUUC Members

The MPUUC Board is forming a TEAM to participate in the search for a minister for the Congregation following the retirement of Rev. Greg Ward in June 2026. In order to meet the upcoming December 12 deadline to submit a Search Report to the UUA, the TEAM will be acting rapidly



in the next 8 weeks to complete the position application. If you would like to be part of this process, we welcome volunteers! For questions or to volunteer, please contact Valerie Stewart at Secretary@mpuuc.org by Sunday October 5.

Hello Fellow MPUUC Members!

I am Mark Rahman, a member of the Board. We have now embarked on the process that leads to the new minister that will become *our* minister when Rev. Greg Ward retires. I will introduce the process which has some accelerated portions. The Board has created a task group whose mission is to recommend what form of minister selection format we should choose in the circumstances we find ourselves in. The group consists of myself, Valerie Stewart, Michelle Wallace and Drew Wilson. There are options as to what kind of hiring. There will not be a difference in the ministry after the hiring. The task group will select a method for hiring the minister and send that as their choice to the Board. The Board will say yay or nay to the method. If yay, then a search committee will be called, hopefully we shall have sufficient volunteers. The search committee will take in information gleaned from three Congregational Conversational Meetings.

While that is happening, the search committee will also begin creating the story of MPUUC that will entice our very best possible candidate to fall in love with us. The story must also be honest about any warts you may feel need to be addressed. Finally, we announce the intention to hire to the UUA. There is a time line for all this and specifics as to what is included. Because time is limited, please be in touch with the task group, the Board and the search committee when constituted, with concerns, questions, advice and suggestions.

The first of the congregational meetings happens after service on October 12th. We will talk about our path forward as we select a minister in the post-Greg era. The task group will present their findings at the meeting. We, the Board and the Committee on Ministry, solicit your feedback at that time. We invite everyone's involvement in whatever manner you are able in our next steps. Being there and learning about the process will be helpful to all as the next Board meeting does not happen until the 14th. More information will follow between now and the 12th.

September Share the Plate - Black Wealth Builders Fund

We will be collecting until October 12.

Write a check to MPUUC with "BWBF" 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 "BWBF" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "BWBF") 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 "BWBF" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

We belong to every part of our lives and every part of our lives belongs to us. Even the failures. The cruelty. The betrayals. The addictions. The cowardice. Until we embrace those scared and tender parts with the kindness and forgiveness we so generously give to others, we will never be home.

Rev. Scott Tayler



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](#)

Ever Had trouble hearing the Sermon in Cole Hall?

I have exciting news to share! We have a new device in Cole Hall that streams audio directly to people's assistive listening devices (hearing aids, Cochlear implants) and/or earbuds. It has been a game changer for me being able to understand the sermon at services by removing the bad echoing in Cole Hall. It is an Auracast transmitter connected to our PA system.

Most people will connect to Cole Hall's Auracast stream using Auracast Assistant on their phone or hearing device. (I use the Auracast Assistant part of my Jabra hearing aid app).

I am happy to email with you about how your device may work with our system and have a partial list of compatible devices that work with Auracast. Please email me at wallcave@mpuuc.org. I will also be at Cole Hall before and after the service to answer your questions or help you connect on October 19.

Many modern assisted listening devices and earbuds are compatible with Auracast, although many may need a firmware update to take advantage of it. For definitive answers on whether your hearing aid or Cochlear implants are compatible with Auracast you may need talk to your hearing professional.

Questions? Contact Steve Wallcave

[MPUUC Directory](#)

The MPUUC directory of members and friends has been updated and is available on the members-only section of our website, www.mpuuc.org/members-only. You need one password for the members-only section, and another to open the directory. If you do not recall your passwords, please email our Congregational Administrator at office@mpuuc.org.

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.

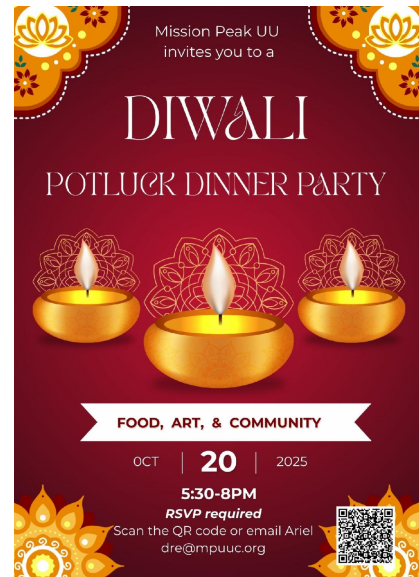
They are a little darker purple color than the new T-shirts, but we will still look like one family.

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

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Sat Oct 4th Parent Night Out [RSVP required by Oct 3](#)

Mon Oct 20th Diwali [RSVP required by Fri Oct 17th](#)



Sat Nov 15th Parent Night Out [RSVP required by Fri Nov 14](#)

Fri Nov 28th Green Friday no rsvp required- just come!
We'll have coffee and pastries for the early birds:)



We Denounce The High Court Ruling On Racial Profiling



*This takes our republic back to the precipice of Jim
Crow, in one step*

WASHINGTON D.C. — On Monday, September 8, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court released a ruling in [Vasquez Perdomo v. Noem](#). The decision allows immigration agents to conduct roving immigration raids and stops, even when race is a central factor in their decision to detain someone. In effect, this ruling authorizes and normalizes racial profiling.

Further arguments on this case are expected, which could shape the future of constitutional protections for decades. In the meantime, this ruling permits the federal government to continue arrests and raids that violate the Constitution's foundational protections.

Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, stated:
Click [here](#)



[Click here](#)



Help **Kay** double their impact!
Sign up and join them on **Sat,**
Oct 18 at 11:00am PDT.

NO KINGS Fremont, CA

Rally · Volunteer organized

Saturday, October 18
11am – 1pm PDT

Walnut Avenue & Paseo Padre

[sign up link](#)

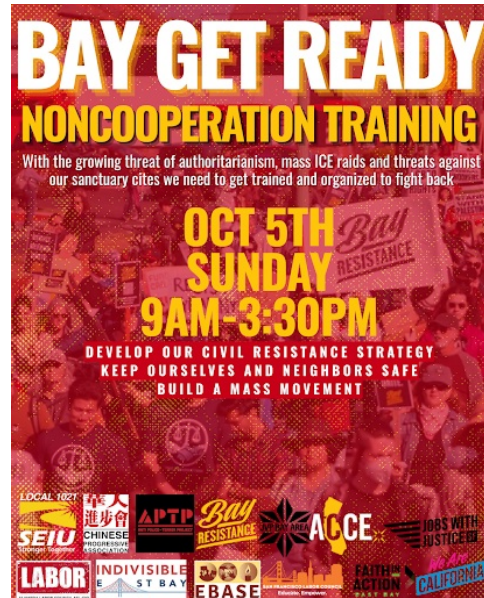
Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



Sunday, October 5 • 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Bay Get Ready: Noncooperation Training (IN PERSON)

With the growing threat of authoritarianism, mass ICE raids, attacks on communities of color across the country, and threats against our sanctuary cities, we need to get trained and organized to fight back. Join this training with Bay Resistance and other local organizations to develop noncooperation civil resistance strategies, build on-the-ground skills for neighborhood safety, and organize for a mass movement against authoritarianism. As we face a never-ending news cycle of atrocities committed against our communities, it is essential that we ground ourselves in community organizing and resist the regime that seeks to keep us fearful and powerless. Now is the time to come together, bring your neighbors and friends, and get ready so we can stay ready.
RSVP for location.



Join the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) for a conversation with Angela Davis, Ali Abunimah, and Lara Kiswani on the two years of ongoing genocide in Gaza, the legacy of Malcolm X, and Black-Palestinian solidarity. While the genocidal assault on Gaza intensifies, the international Palestinian solidarity movement is gaining strength. A united resistance is the only way forward and can take inspiration from the revolutionary internationalism of Malcolm X, 100 years after his birth. Malcolm X drew a direct parallel between the displacement of Palestinians and the oppression of Black people in America, emphasizing that both were part of a universal struggle for justice and self-determination against a system he saw as a new form of colonialism.



Location: First Congregational Church Oakland, 2501 Harrison St, Oakland

8th Principle Learning

A pastor and congressman speaks out against white nationalism

James Dell Talarico, American politician, pastor, and former educator, serves in the Texas house of representatives.

https://youtu.be/Blph_2RSBno



Ask Governor Gavin Newsom to sign pivotal reparations legislation in law!

All four of California's priority reparations bills — AB 57, AB 62, SB 437, and SB 518 — have passed both chambers of the Legislature. This is a powerful and unprecedented step forward. It means we are one signature away from turning generations of advocacy into state action.

Now, it's up to Governor Gavin Newsom to sign this pivotal package into law.

[ADD YOUR NAME URGING THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN THE BILLS](#)

Read full article by clicking [here](#)

I am excited to let you know about this upcoming Benefit Concert for the Black Wealth Builder's Fund, a reparations project which helps promote homeownership for African-Americans through down payment assistance. Epworth's UMC choir will be featured!

The concert is on Sunday October 5 at 4:00 PM at Arlington Community Church UCC in Kensington. Click [here](#) for more information..

To learn more about the Black Wealth Builder's fund:click [here](#).



Board Briefs

September 2025 BOARD BRIEFS

The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Tuesday, October 14, 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



- The Board approved the Letter of Employment for Sabbatical Minister Jim McKinley who will hold that position from October 4, 2025, through December 7, 2025. The letter was sent to Rev. McKinley for his signature.
- The Board established a Search Team for a contract minister to serve at the time of Rev. Ward's retirement in June 2026. Jay Steele is scheduling a meeting with UUA Congregational Transitions Director Christine Purcell.
- Rev. Ward is attending a Zoom meeting with Attorney Anthony Prince regarding the status of the lawsuit against the City of Fremont regarding the "camping ban". No Amended Complaint was ever filed, naming Mission Peak as a plaintiff.

- MPUUC is purchasing a new multi-task color printer and an electronic keyboard for the use of the Music Committee and Music Director.
- The Board approved a new Budget category for funds for ASL Interpreter services.

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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