

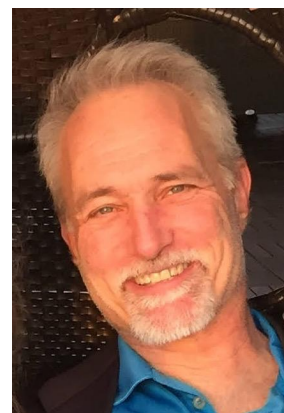
This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 17, 2025

Greetings!

What I want to talk about in today's column is the theme of the month at Mission Peak UU which is, 'Building Belonging.' You're going to hear a bit about that theme in the next couple weeks as both Mark Rahman and I will share sermons that touch on the subject. Mark will talk about 'Whitesplaining to White People' on the 21st where he will explore how to identify who really needs support in this racially and politically divisive moment and how to offer that support. On the 28th, I will talk about 'This Superman Moment' where I try to understand what kind of Superhero calls us to be more kind – or 'Woke' – and what 'wokism' is really asking of us.)



But before I do any of that, I need to say how much it meant to me to get so much love and good wishes on my birthday yesterday. There were cards and calls and texts – as well as glimmers of love and appreciation dropped into so many ordinary conversations.

Now, I've been in this ministry business for long enough to know that I didn't suddenly figure out how to do things perfectly or finish the formula that always leaves everyone happy. The love that was sent my way came from a wide variety of people amidst a challenging and potentially polarizing moment in our community, our city and the world. Many of the people who expressed sincere care had, at least once, experienced disappointment or confusion with choices I made or conclusions I came to. But they confirmed the importance of my place in the community and in their heart. And THAT is what 'Building Belonging' means to me.

I don't expect the love and appreciation that came my way yesterday to be the only – or last, or final – word in the ongoing conversation that connects me in this beautiful and wild constellation of connections that makes up our world. But I do believe in the research of Marriage and Family Guru John Gottman who concluded that for any relationship to be sustainable over the long haul, there needs to be 5 positive interactions during conflict for every negative one.

I believe that this current administration with its self-absorbed power plays based on contempt, condemnation and uniting people through cancel culture will ultimately fail. Human beings may find short term motivation through common enemies. But, ultimately, we are creatures that are built from – and for – love. It is Love that reveals to us our true power. It is when we speak, share, show up and celebrate love – in at least a 5:1 ratio that we build the belonging that will sustain community. Thank you for reminding me once

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.



Whitesplaining to White People

A significant number of white people tend to think that they are being good people by not being bad people. They don't recognize microaggressions for what they are. It is difficult to recognize that giving up privilege is not losing something. The message becomes "I'm okay with you being equal but I'm not giving up my right to be above equal." It is time for white people to take responsibility for themselves and other white people. That is where we can have the most impact and would be reaching out to give people who have lost connection an opportunity to feel good about belonging..

Mark Rahman will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Terri King. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Jay Steele 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%.

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

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%

Where you
belong
is where you
constantly
show up.

Karina
Antonopoulos



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!!

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.

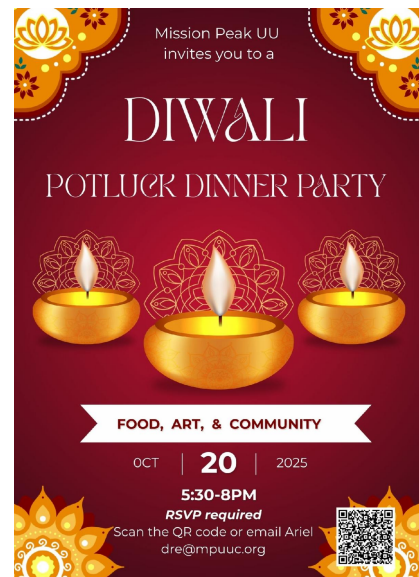
They are a little darker purple color than the new T-shirts, but we will still look like one family.

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:)



JUSTICE CORNER

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](#)

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



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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