

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 5, 2025

Greetings!

Greetings Fellow Mission Peak Members and Friends,

I am Valerie Stewart, a member of the Board.

I want to thank EVERYONE who gave their attention to the Congregational meeting last Sunday, whether online, in-person, in absentia, or otherwise. What has always made Mission Peak special to me is how we are always “**Better Together**”. We have so much happening now – here at Mission Peak, in our families, in our local communities and in our nation. The fact that you take time to be part of this community is an act of generosity that you may, or may not, appreciate the importance of to others. The Board appreciates everyone and every contribution of time and energy. I appreciate each of you and the contribution you make to our community at Mission Peak.



Thank you for your patience. We are facing some new processes, as we work with the UUA Offices for ministers and congregations to be able to put our “Search” together in time for their hiring schedule. The Search Team is amazing and really has worked to absorb everyone’s input into the “profile” that presents Mission Peak to ministers searching for a congregation. The Search Team and the Board intend to keep the process as transparent as possible and keep everyone informed.

In the meantime, life at Mission Peak goes on- we have one more month with Rev. Jim McKinley, our Sabbatical Minister. We hope you’ll be able to hear all his insights and messages of hope. Ariel has another Green Friday planned for the day after Thanksgiving at Coyote Hills, read more below.

I want to update you about a new event to address homelessness.

MPUU has taken a stand to be part of the solution to people being unhoused in our community. We’ve attended City Council and other community meetings,

offered assistance to those living unhoused, and supported litigation against the “camping ban”. This week the Board joined other community partners as a sponsor for the upcoming community event- a film screening and panel discussion about solutions to homelessness.

YOU ARE INVITED – its NOVEMBER 20th at 6:00 pm at Washington Hospital-West. No charge for the event.

BEYOND THE BRIDGE is an ambitious documentary film about solutions to homelessness. A Bigger Vision Films team traveled over 40,000 miles around the US to answer this question: How can this country solve homelessness in a comprehensive way? The answer surprised us with its simplicity, as two large cities proved that solving homelessness is within reach of any community.

The filmmakers, Don Sawyer and Tim Hashko, are coming to Fremont as part of their ambitious impact campaign around the key issues in this film, including a 40-city screening tour with post-screening panels and Q&As, as well as actionable calls-to-action and follow-up activities for audience and community members. The campaign is focused on changing the national discourse on solutions to homelessness, addressing the upstream causes of homelessness, and addressing the downstream via housing and robust supportive services in combination.

<https://asolutiontohomelessness.com/> See the trailer:
<https://youtu.be/MQFZPyo-TSs>

Please put this date on your calendar and show up in your purple MPUUC T-shirt as part of the solution we want to see in our community.

Stay well and **be kind** to one another. Thanks,

Valerie

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.



Understanding Joy

Joy as both concept and reality is important to me; in a simple, deep, understated way. Parenthetically, happiness may touch on joy and overlap, but it's not to be confused or conflated with how I understand joy. Joy is basic and foundational. It's central to my theology and how I frame and practice hope. It's our birthright, each of us, everyone, always. And yes, joy is resistance. I know this. Now to put that into words.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Terri King. 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%.

Jen and Brian are bringing what we think are Fremont's best pastries - from [Mamahouse](#) bakeshop - for the post-service social time. So skip breakfast Sunday morning, and your tummy will thank you at 11am



2025 Black and White Auction

It's time! Time to buy your Black and White auction tickets. Time to submit your items and time to get excited about this awesome hybrid event taking place on November 22. Details are available on our [website](#). An [FAQ](#) is also available here. This event can only be successful with your help.

Please [submit your item\(s\)](#) no later than November 14 to ensure that it gets into the catalog before bidding starts on the 15th. Please [buy your tickets](#) by November 18 to let us know how many people to plan for. Let's get ready for some fun!!!



October Share the Plate - Equal Justice Initiative

Our Share the Plate will go toward the Equal Justice Initiative. Founded by Lawyer and author, Bryan Stevenson, The Equal Justice Initiative organizes toward ending mass incarceration, challenging racial and economic injustice, raising awareness of the trauma inflicted by racial violence and protecting the human rights of the most vulnerable people in American society.

We will be collecting until November 9.

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



Earth is so thick with
divine possibility that
it is a wonder we can
walk anywhere
without cracking our
shins on altars.

Barbara Brown Taylor



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](#)

Greg is now in Ireland, and before he left he wrote us a wonderful letter. Click on this [link](#) to see Greg's letter and this [link](#) for his itinerary.

[HERE](#) is the first installment of my blog for Ireland. It comes as I am entering Day 6 - but there is so much that goes with arrangements, adventure, logistics (and sleep) I am only able to get through one day of the blog for every week of travel.

I'm looking forward to sharing more. You are welcome to write comments - either in the blog or by email.

“Everything Old is New Again: A Cabaret Concert & Conversation” is a conversation and exploration between three artists covering songs from disparate genres to see which songs are truly new. Diving deeply into the meaning inside and behind the song, selections will be drawn from the canons of art song, opera, musical theater, jazz, popular, and world music. Featured artists include countertenor and sopranoist Von Bringhurst, vocalist Adesuwa O, and pianist Shauna Pickett-Gordon.

I'm looking forward to this set and hope you can join us.

Clerestory concerts - November 14th and 16th

[Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Youtube](#)

Join us for a transcendent journey from shadow to brilliance. Light Unhindered weaves together a contemplative program of a cappella works that invoke celestial illumination and spiritual awakening.

This concert is a direct reflection of our name, guiding you through moments of illumination—from the quiet glow of dawn to the full brilliance of the noonday sun.

This isn't just a concert; it's a living tapestry of sound. We've curated a program that brings hope and light to a world that desperately needs it. We'll bring ancient music to light with the intricate, double-choir piece *Exultemus Domine* by Benedetto Bagni—a work you won't find on any recording. You'll also be bathed in the majestic climax of Michael Trotta's *Surge Illuminare*, a piece designed to wash over you like a wave of radiant light.

We invite you to step out of the darkness and into the light with us for an unforgettable evening of wonder and comfort.

- Friday, November 14, 2025, 8:00 PM, St. Mark's Lutheran Church ([map](#))
- Sunday, November 16, 2025, 7:00 PM, St Mark's Episcopal Church ([map](#))

Tickets at clerestory.org

Von Bringhurst Music Studio - Lessons

I'm ready to begin offering lessons at MPUUC in either voice (all levels) or piano (up to intermediate). If interested, please let me know when would be best for you to meet.

Lessons are usually 30, 45, or 60 minutes. A weekly cadence usually works best. I'm including my [private studio PDF](#) that has guidelines, prices, and other information relevant to most of your questions. Feel free to forward this to any interested parties, and to copy me in if useful.

Be as specific as you need or want, and I'll be able to identify when would work best for my various commitments and making sure I can be regularly present for lessons. I can also consider virtual lessons as needed or wanted.

I plan to adjust availability and deploy whatever schedule is best in January 2026 or sooner if feasible. Feel free to forward this to other interested parties.

Be well,

Von Bringhurst (he/him or they/them)
Director, *Peak Performers*

JUSTICE CORNER

[UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt Signs onto Open Letter](#)

From Pres. Sofia:



"I am proud to join with over 100 faith leaders denouncing political violence and condemning attacks on free speech and the independence of our country's nonprofit organizations. Unitarian Universalist religious tradition upholds values of pluralism and justice and encourages free speech and open discussion from people of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

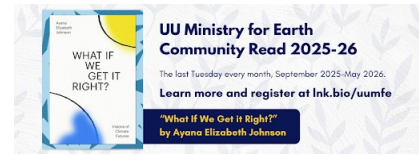
I join with other people of faith and conscience in calling on all political leaders, including the President and his administration, to unequivocally support freedom of speech and religious liberty, and to ensure that the government does not target individuals and nonprofits for exercising that freedom.

We the people are the democracy; it lives in our commitments to one another, and we make this powerful idea real only when we can live our values fully and without fear of violence or retaliation."

You can find the full letter and list of signatories at <https://faithleadersforfreedom.my.canva.site/>

We can't wait to discuss this wonderful book with you!

If you'd like to join us, [please register here](#) to receive the Zoom link, then [click here](#) to sign up for the email list. You only need to register once to attend all 9 sessions.



Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



Prepare to Mobilize If/When Trump Invades the Bay Area with ICE or Troops

While Trump has apparently backed off his deployment of troops to the Bay Area, this can change at any moment and his mass ICE raids are still happening as was the case in Stockton over the weekend. Bay Resistance member organizations (including SURJ Bay Area) are closely monitoring the situation. At any moment, we may need to mobilize to ensure authoritarian overreach is not normalized. [The best way to keep informed is to sign up for Bay Resistance alerts.](#)

[Support Families in Gaza](#) – Watermelon Connections (WC) is a grassroots mutual aid collective with a mission to help people in Gaza survive genocide. WC supports a group of over 24 families in Gaza by connecting with them personally, amplifying their stories, and fundraising to help them access food, diapers, medicine, clothes, tents, and other necessities. To get involved: 1) Visit WC's linktree of families in need and choose one that you can support with a monthly recurring donation at whatever amount you're able to sustain. 2) Share your family's campaign with 5 friends and ask them to join you in making a monthly recurring donation!



Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. SURJ Bay Area is one of 150 chapters and affiliates nationwide. [Learn about SURJ's mission, vision, and values.](#)



Want to get involved? We offer [one-on-one intro meetings](#) with a SURJ Bay Area member where you can learn more about what we do, ask questions, and figure out the best way to engage in the racial justice work of our local chapter.

Want to support our work? You can make a tax-deductible donation for SURJ's organizing and educational efforts. [Make a one-time donation or become a monthly sustainer.](#) Thanks!

[Learn More](#)

8th Principle Learning



Fremont Rainbow Community
First and Third Wednesdays
November 5 and 19
10am-12:30pm
Wing A Street Side - FREE



Come and make new friends, show your PRIDE, or become an ally by joining Fremont Rainbow Community. This group meets twice a month for inspiring lectures, discussion, current events, film, music, and LGBTQ+ topics.

Click [here](#) for more information/events. Please note that lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Temple Beth Torah, our neighboring synagogue, is hosting a special concert on November 9. They're raising funds for their synagogue as well as for the World Central Kitchen. It's going to be a wonderful concert of Jewish music

from around the world. Click [here](#) for flyer.

THE LIGHT THAT MAKES YOU REMEMBER
A Concert of Diasporic Music
Benefitting World Central Kitchen & Temple Beth Torah
Featuring Rebecca Sacks, mezzo-soprano & Mary Stocker, piano

Sunday, 11.09.25 at 3 p.m.
Temple Beth Torah
42000 Paseo Padre Parkway

\$36 general admission
\$50 reserved seating
\$100 sponsor, get your name in the program, and reserve a seat

Purchase tickets [here](#)



Temple Beth Torah
42000 Paseo Padre Parkway
Fremont CA 94539
510.656.7141
engage@bethtorah-fremont.org

Tri-City Interfaith Council holds 64th Annual Thanksgiving Service

The Tri-City Interfaith Council (TCIC) will hold its 64th annual Thanksgiving Service at a new location, with an earlier start-time. The service will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 3551 Decoto Road, Fremont, CA 94555 and start at 7:00 pm. Please park in the rear of the building. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship for those who attend in person. The service will be streamed on Zoom. You can access the livestream using the QR code on the flyer or by sending a request through the website: <https://tcicouncil.weebly.com/contact-us.html>

[Click here for flyer](#)

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Lifting Up Our Neighbors

Monday, Nov. 24, 2025 @ 7:00pm
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
3551 Decoto Road, Fremont, CA 94555
Please park behind the building.



Sponsored by Tri-City Interfaith Council tcicouncil.weebly.com
You are encouraged to bring finger food to share for the reception.

Offerings will be received for the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area.

To attend virtually, use this QR code



Board Briefs

1. The date of the next Board meeting has been changed due to travel schedules. The new date is Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m.
2. *Update* to Board Briefs

A matter that has been deferred by the Board and is still under review is to create a policy to address how “rites of passage” activities (events that don’t happen as part of a service) will be handled at MPUUC. This year, we’ve had 3 memorials in less than 6 months and discovered that there was nothing in writing to give guidance to members or staff. If anyone would like to review the draft policy, please send a note to Secretary@mpuuc.org.

October 2025 BOARD BRIEFS

1.Ministerial Search

After participating in a meeting on 9/25/2025 with Christine Purcell, UUA Congregational



Transitions Director, the Board voted to Approve the 2025-2026 Ministerial Search Committee members; Kathi Bayne, Lucienne Bouvier (UUA Liaison), Mark Rahman, Beth Schaefer (Chair).

A draft Charter, with timeline and tasks, including organizing a survey for the Congregation, was sent to Search Committee for review and input at their meeting on Oct. 17, after which they will refer Charter back to the Board, and with the Committee input the Board will take a digital vote to approve the Charter.

Board President will complete the UUA online form to initiate the Contract Minister search profile in the MinistrySearch System (the UUA on-line portal) with Search Committee information. Because the new category of "Contract Minister" is not directly described in our bylaws, the Board concluded we need a congregational vote to agree on the period for a contract minister and to clarify the Board's authority.

The Board calls a Congregational Meeting NOVEMBER 2

2. Sabbatical Ministry

Rev. Jim McKinley has begun his term with MPUUC. He is at Services most Sundays and is a joy to have with us. Dec. 7th will be his last Sunday Service with MPUUC. Sunday with Rev. McKinley in pulpit - Oct 26 /Nov. 9 /Nov. 23/ Dec. 7).

3. Financial actions

A new account was established (#319) for Music Discretionary, added \$1000 which permits funding of a new electronic keyboard and stand. These funds resulted from the summer collections.

Additional funds received have reduced the projected budget deficit (at this time) to \$11,300. These include \$825 from members for prior year pledge received in this fiscal year, \$3,500 in memory donations received in June 2025, which are going to our Operating budget.

Treasurer and President are still in process of transferring signatures on various bank/credit union accounts.

4. The Black and White Auction – November 22, 2025

This fabulous Team of John Schaefer, July Ganzlin, who are returning to lead the newcomers -David Johnson, Emily Hessenauer and Beth Schaefer are hard at work. The Black & White will be hybrid, with an in-person event starting at 5:30 in Cole Hall and the bidding will be online from 6:30-8:00 pm.

5. Community Minister Barbara Meyers

Rev. Meyers offered two quarterly reports. She continues her work as Asst. Director of Life Reaching Across to Life counseling services, which may face Measure 2 funding issues. Her UUA activities include: Mental Health Network – which included a GA workshop on Companionship and NAMI resources/ online LGBTQ support group starting /UUA Addictions Ministry / UUA Accessibility Group. Publication of her next book- addressing Disability is on the horizon, Skinner House has sent draft of the book. At MPUUC she is a member ARO/ Encourage Comm./COM. She offered a Recommended reading: *Loretta Ross – Calling In, How to Start Making Change with Those you'd Rather Cancel*

The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Friday, November 21, 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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