

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 22, 2025

Greetings!

Your Search Team (Kathi Bayne, Beth Schaefer, Lucienne Bouvier, Mark Rahman) has been very busy these last few weeks. We have been tasked with finding just the perfect minister. And now we are asking you to do a lot in return. In the next couple of weeks, there are several congregational meetings. The first will be a Congregational Conversation. We are hoping to use this time to get feedback from the congregation on the story that we will present to prospective ministers. Because we may not be able to attract what some might consider the “best” minister, we really need to make sure we get the best fit for a minister. We have to have the most accurate and full information about the congregation that we can get. From what individuals feel to what the congregation as a living, breathing soulful entity feels.



The search committee will put out a survey either today or tomorrow that we hope will provide that perfect information. In as much as no survey is perfect, we are hoping also that at the meeting and at any other time you can do so, please contact a member of the search committee to let us know of anything you think we might have left out. Because the fit between minister and congregation is so important, we are really hungry for all of the best and most accurate information possible. This is your contribution to your own future. We are all in this together.

On November 2, the congregational meeting is to find out what the congregation wants in the way of duration for the term of hire. The meeting will be hybrid. We are hoping for as many people attending as is practical. We are further hoping that the congregation will be able to consider where we stand in terms of the range of pay and benefits that we may offer. We will need the congregation's decision because our bylaws do not address the specific situation we find ourselves in. Therefore, it is best to avoid confusion in the future by knowing best how we shall proceed from here. Clear guidance will illuminate the path most splendidly. We have far yet to travel and will rely on our community to provide courage and resolve. Enjoy life and be well.

Mark Rahman

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.



Patterns of Wisdom

It feels like every day brings more "unprecedented" news. We are having trouble finding and keeping our footing. We live in a chronic fog of what George Carlin called "Vuja De". Yet we have guides who can help us regain our orientation. The story of Mary and Martha from the New Testament and legends that followed pass along human wisdom of ways to live well; get your feet back under you, get grounded as it were, amidst the distractions and fears of troubling times. In many ways - we have all been here before.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Peak Performers with Von Bringhurst 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%.

CALLING ALL MISSION PEAK MEMBERS
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2025 -after Sunday Service

Dear Fellow Congregation Members,
The Board notifies you of a **CONGREGATIONAL Meeting**
on **November 2, 2025**, after the Sunday Service.

The Ministerial Search Team and the Board will update you on the status of the Search process AND you will be asked to decide the TERM of the Ministerial Contract we will offer for this application. Terms for contract Ministers are usually 2

or 3 years in length with the option to renew, if the parties chose to do so.

If you want a copy of the handout from the meeting on Oct.12, with information about the “Contract Minister” search process- please send your request to Secretary@mpuuc.org.

2025 Black and White Auction

The 2025 Black and White Auction is back and we have exciting news - IT'S HYBRID. Mark your calendars now for the event which will be held on Saturday November 22. You will have the opportunity to join others in Cole Hall from 5:30 - 6:30 for nourishment. At 6:30 we will start the online auction party. Bids will close at 8:00.

[Buy your tickets here](#)

[List your items here](#)

Check your email for more details soon. The planning committee is led by John Schaefer with assistance from Julie Ganzlin, David Johnson, Emily Hessenover and Beth Schaefer.



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%

Stripped of violent reaction...
anger always illuminates what
we belong to, what we
wish to protect, and what
we are willing to hazard
ourselves for.

David Whyte



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](#)

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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:)



Upcoming musical events with Von Bringhurst

I wanted to make you aware of some upcoming events you should consider attending.

CSMA recital - Friday, November 7th, at 7:30pm in CSMA Tateuchi Hall ([map](#))

“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

Garden Work Day - Saturday, October 25, 2025

With the help from some local volunteers, we're doing a fall garden work day this Saturday at 10 a.m. We're in need of shovels, rakes (garden rakes, not leaf rakes), and hoes. If you have one or more of these you're willing to lend, please leave them in the garden sometime on Friday, 10/23.

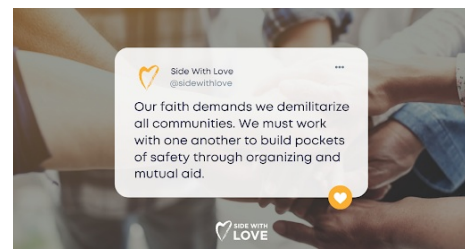
I'd highly recommend laying them down behind the raised bed on the north side (the bad that's currently un-planted) on Sat afternoon, and we'll leave them there for pickup on Sunday. Thanks in advance for any help you can offer!

Please contact [Brian Culp](#) if you have any questions.

JUSTICE CORNER



We are witnessing further consolidation of authoritarianism in the U.S. with 35,000 US troops deployed domestically. This increase in militarization at home and abroad doesn't make anyone safer.



We know UUs are showing up in this moment to resist. Around the country, people of faith and conscience are supporting ICE watch endeavors, establishing and maintaining solidarity funds, and showing up at detention centers - like those that were [tear gassed and assaulted](#) at Broadview Detention Center in Chicago.

We offer this [prayer](#) for those in communities with military occupation:

Our faith demands we demilitarize all communities. We must work with one another to build pockets of safety through organizing and mutual aid. As UUs, we believe all people deserve safety in their communities with investments in health care, housing, and community.

Check our [weekly action updates](#) for curated readings, resources, and actions so we may respond faithfully and strategically in this moment. Updates are posted on Tuesdays at noon ET.

ACT: Immigrant Defense

Dig into immigrant defense in your area—join a local solidarity fund, ICE watch, or [4th amendment workplace](#)/

If you don't have one in your area or want to skill up, check out [Defend and Recruit's upcoming Immigrant Defense Strategies trainings](#) on October 21 and 23 (with November and December dates available, too!). This introduction training will cover the basics of your immigration defense

READ:

[What You Need to Know if the National Guard Is Deployed to Your State by the Trump Regime](#)

LEARN: Surveillance Self-Defense

From the Electronic Frontier Foundation: [Surveillance Self-Defense: Tips, Tools, and How-Tos for Safer Online Communications](#).



"For Unitarian Universalists, this is faithful, moral action because democracy and the right of all people to have a voice and a vote are at the very heart of our Seven Principles. This work is about the inherent worth and dignity of every person; it is about restoring right relationship with the planet; it is about our commitment to justice and equity for all people. We are called to courageously embody the deepest values of our faith with our hearts, bodies, and spirits while building toward an abundant future in which all are free and flourishing." – Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Don't forget to vote
Special election November 4, 2025
re: Proposition 50
Encourage others to vote!

**Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO)
Recommendations**

[A Statement from the Arab Resource and Organizing Center \(AROC\), About the Ceasefire](#) – "After two years of unimaginable horrors unleashed upon the people of Gaza, a deal was struck to stop Israel's assault, free political prisoners, and allow in desperately needed humanitarian assistance. It's a critical moment for the Palestinian people, and indeed for all movements fighting for liberation and dignity. Where we go from here will have profound implications for the region and in many ways the world at large."

[California Law Forbids ICE from Making Arrests at Courthouses. Officers Are Showing Up Anyway](#) – Read the blog by Nigel Duara of CalMatters that looks at the California law that bans immigration enforcement at courthouses and how ICE is detaining people there anyway, arguing it's a safe place to apprehend someone.

DRUUMM CALIFORNIA MONTHLY IN-GATHERING 1ST MONDAY @ 6PM ON ZOOM

Zoom | bit.ly/druummca
Email | RevKev@druumm.org

[Please click here for flyer](#)



Reparations Bills Signed by Governor Newsom

Gov. Newsom signed two reparations bills, SB 437 requiring the CSU to explore options to determine how to confirm an individual's status as a descendant, and SB 518 creating the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery. Nearly **8,600** letters were sent to Governor Newsom in support of the reparations bills. The Governor also vetoed AB 57 related to the Home Purchase Assistance Program for descendants of formerly enslaved people, and AB 62 related to the Civil Rights Department and applications from persons dispossessed of property taken as a result of racially motivated eminent domain. Don Tamaki, who spoke to MPUUC about his work on California reparations, asks us not to be fooled by media coverage focusing only on the vetoes. The governor's signing of SB 437 and SB 518 are **historic first steps** in the legislative process. Here is a press release about this event: <https://alliancefor.org/2025/10/14/gov-signs-reparations-bills-2025/>



Video on Lynching Research on Universalist property

At our service on October 19 we showed a short form of a video by Joetta Prost on research she had done about lynchings in her county. A longer version of this film in which she discusses how she went about her research and the importance of white people learning about lynching, can be viewed



here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Iz1ZJTdjEB6Wxb9hRehM1DFvLpe4CcPu>

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

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, Tuesday, November 11, 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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