

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
October 29, 2025

Greetings!

I send you greetings. I am Mark Rahman and a member of the Board. I also, for my transgressions, am a member of the Search Committee. This coming Sunday the congregation is voting to authorize the Board to hire a Contract Minister. Please attend. If we do not have a quorum, then we may not proceed with the hire. The meeting, very shortly after the service, will be hybrid. You may vote in person or online. The authorization to be voted on is designed to bypass any ambiguity in bylaws that are made incomplete by additions to ministry created by the UUA. There has been some uncertainty in what the vote would be on. The Board has put forward the action to be taken. Exact wording is to be found in the Board explanation and background to which there is a link in this Week on the Peak down below.



The Search Committee is studying the responses to the survey as they come in. Time is limited and we are striving to balance alacrity with accuracy. Creation of the Profile shall begin as soon as the authorization is given. Our goal is to be done with the draft in two weeks and be sent off to the UUA department that helps with ministerial search. We need to give them extra time as something called Thanksgiving comes in the middle of their time. Upon critique from that quarter, we shall reedit and be ready to put it out live on December 2. At which time our work is done (not). I thank everyone for helping us on our way in many different ways. Be well, take excellent care of yourselves and know we love you.

Mark Rahman

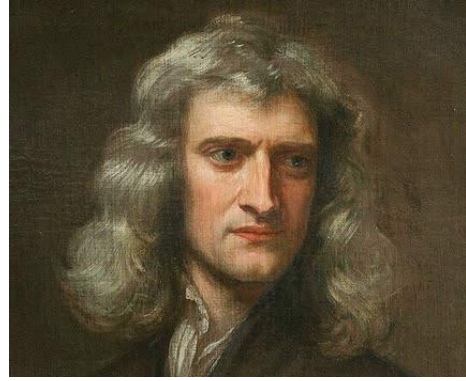
This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for

how to attend services.

Isaac Newton the Theologian

It is not generally known that Newton spent much time studying the Bible and formulating theological concepts. He developed an essentially unitarian concept of God and elucidated how the Bible had received small additions to support trinitarianism. But, even more profound was the effect of his science on religion. He dispelled the concept that the sky could be the religious heaven by providing laws of nature which apply equally to earth and the heavens. This is an example of how our search for truth may have unexpected consequences for our spiritual life.



Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. David Johnson will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven, Sharon Davis, David Johnson 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.



To: The Mission Peak Congregation
From: The Mission Peak Board

We at Mission Peak UU Congregation find ourselves in the situation where we need to hire a minister for the 2026-27 church year. Rev. Greg Ward is retiring at the end of June 2026. The Board has called a Congregational Meeting for November 2, 2025, after the morning Service. The Board seeks the Congregation's authorization to hire a **Contract Minister** to meet our immediate need. This action does not require a change in the MPUUC Bylaws; however, the Board seeks the explicit authorization from the Congregation for the Board to determine procedures for and execute the hiring of a Contract Minister.

WHAT IS THE QUESTION:

The Board is asking you to vote "Yes" or "No" on this statement:

We, the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, authorize the Board to undertake the hire of a Contract Minister for a period not to exceed three years.

WHY:

The MPUUC Board recommends using the "Contract Minister" search because we believe that it is most in line with the needs and the operation of Mission Peak. MPUUC was founded with bylaws in 1994 at a time when the UUA recognized two types of ministry – "called" and "interim" and those two types of ministry are addressed in our bylaws. The UUA has modified its categories of ministry and provided guidance to ministers and congregations in the last few years, including as recently as September 2025. There is still a category of "called" ministry and now there is the category of "transitional ministry" (basically anything that is not "called"), which contains several types of ministries. Those categories include "interim"; however, after the Ministerial Search Task Force and Search Team have studied the new UUA guidance and consulted with the UUA Congregational Transitions Director, Christine Purcell, we believe a "Contract Minister" search is most in line with the needs and the operation of MPUUC.

Contract ministry is the most flexible category. Congregations with fewer than 125 members and those with part-time ministry positions use the contract ministry search process because of its flexibility and simplicity. When a congregation is unsure about ministry and/or how much of it they need or can sustain financially, a congregation may contract with a minister for a year or more, with the option to renew as the contract ends. A contract minister may be called after a couple of years of ministry partnership, if there is a desire to do this which is shared by the minister and the congregation.

CONCLUSION:

The Board of MPUUC believes that a Contract Minister position best meets the

upcoming needs of the Congregation and seeks explicit authority from the Congregation to engage in the hiring process for a Contract Minister.

Congregational votes require a quorum. Please plan to stay in-person or on Zoom for the meeting. If you are unable to attend in-person or on Zoom and request an ABSENTEE BALLOT, you must request your ballot by **6 pm Friday Oct. 31. YOU MUST RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY 6PM NOV. 1, Saturday**, to be counted. Send your ballot request to SECRETARY@mpuuc.org.

Members:

If you want more information in your consideration of this question, the Board includes the following information from our bylaws and various UUA staff guidance materials – with the link for the source to each excerpt. Please use this [LINK](#) to read that separate document.

In Fellowship and with Gratitude for your patience as we learn how to “search” under new conditions,

The MPUUC BOARD

Jay Steele

Drew Wilson

Valerie Stewart

Michelle Wallace

Mark Rahman

2025 Black and White Auction

By now you know that the 2025 Black and White Auction is on November 22 and it's going to be hybrid. Hooray! Details are available on our [website](#) and in the email you received last week. 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%

Compassion hurts.
When you feel connected,
you also feel responsible...
and you cannot easily turn
away. Your destiny is bound
with the destinies of others.

Andrew Boyd



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](#)

Thank you BRIAN and JEN and all the HELPERS!

Brian and Jen Culp organized and led a Cole Hall Garden Cleanup effort on Saturday Oct. 25.

Please know how much looking at the beautiful garden brings joy to everyone.



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:)



Sat Dec 6th 3:30-5pm **Cookies and Carols** we'll be in Cole Hall: you bring cookies, we'll bring decorations. No RSVP req'd. Questions? email Ariel: dre@mpuuc.org



Upcoming musical events with Von Bringham

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 soprano Von Bringham, 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



Unpack the Compact: Resisting Trump's Latest Attack on Higher Ed

In case you have not heard, the President has released a higher education compact demanding that colleges and universities adopt his "Loyalty Oath" to secure federal funding nationwide ([AAUP](#)) ([Guardian](#))([CommonDreams](#)).

It is time for students, faculty, and administration of ALL colleges and universities across the country to unite and reject all unconstitutional attacks on higher education.

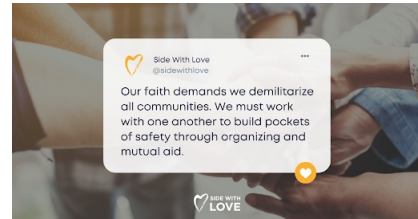
Get involved with the [Friday, November 7th Student Day of Action](#).

Hosted by [Frontline for Freedom network](#), of which UUSJ is a member, and the American Association of University Professors, Amnesty USA, and other partners.



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



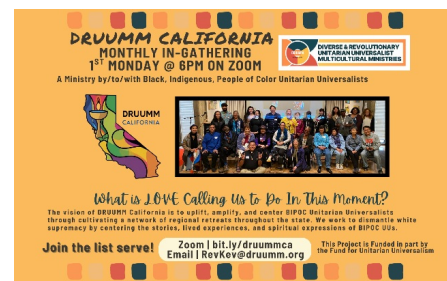
[A Statement from the Arab Resource and Organizing Center \(AROC\), About the Ceasefire](#)
– "After two years of unimaginable horrors unleashed upon the people of Gaza, a deal was struck to stop Israel's assault, free political prisoners, and allow in desperately needed humanitarian assistance. It's 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/1Iz1ZJTdjEB6Wxb9hRehM1DFvLpe4CcP_u

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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