

This Week on the Peak

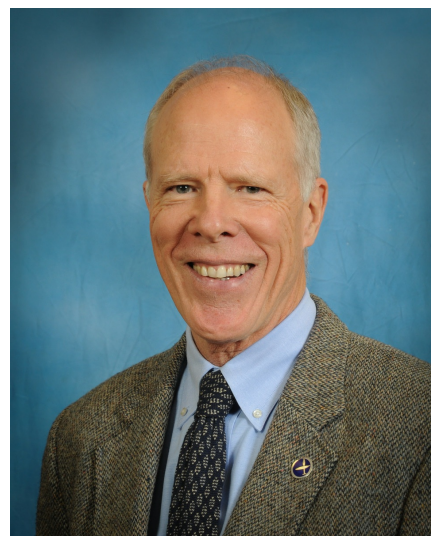


Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! October 8, 2025

Greetings!

As I jotted down some notes for this column, the clouds parted and in the distance, the bright snow covered peak of Mt Shasta appeared out of nowhere and made me smile. I was on the 5 pushing to get to Hayward in time for Friday dinner at Greg and Lucy's.

I've driven across country because of who you are and who MPUUC is. You are important. You matter. You hold an inclusive, inspired, engaged space in an overculture that would have it be otherwise. And by being here with you I can respond responsibly in some small way that matters in the world.



I am showing up because I care. It's hard to share everything about why and what MPUUC means to me, but over the next 5 or 6 weeks, you have to do just that for you and for the future of this congregation you love. It's imperative that you put into words who you are, who MPUUC is, why it's important now and what it aspires to be going forward so that someone who doesn't know you, can see who you are and want to show up and come care with you.

After the October 12 service, the Committee on Ministry is going to hold the first of 3 Congregational Conversations to help articulate how and why MPUUC matters to you, to your community and to the world. Why a minister should care with you and about you starts with you being able to share why you care. The COM will have more specific questions for you to reflect on, but I think they'll be something like: What are MPUUC's strengths? What are its challenges? What are you excited about and willing to help make happen? What are you looking for in a new minister? How are you, how is the congregation committed to and prepared to work together with a minister in mutual conversation and endeavor? Why should someone drive across country to be with you?

From the scribbles I made on the pad beside me in the car, I can just make out that the clouds had covered the shining beauty of Mt. Shasta ceding the view to an uninterrupted horizon of trees, ridge line and sky. I noted that friends and dinner

were waiting. I said: It'll be good to arrive and even better to be together.

Yes, indeed. It's good to be here.

Rev. Jim McKinley

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.



#52461971

My friend, Dave, who is a year and a half out from surgery to remove a brain tumor said that in the midst of these difficult times, we can be, each in our own way, a witness to goodness. That's a good, simple descriptor for how I've been trying to navigate the turmoil of the last year responsibly and sustainably. I feel more grounded, yes, even empowered than I've felt in many years. I hope you find some helpful goodness in our sharing to carry with you as well.

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Don Ramie. Elizabeth Bartmess 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%.

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

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](#)

Pete Zakel was a member of the First United Methodist Church who also sang in MPUUC's Peak Performers during the pandemic and who played in the Palm Hill Bell Choir of both our congregations. His memorial will be held this Saturday, October 11th, beginning at 11:00 AM in the Methodist sanctuary. We are all invited.

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

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.

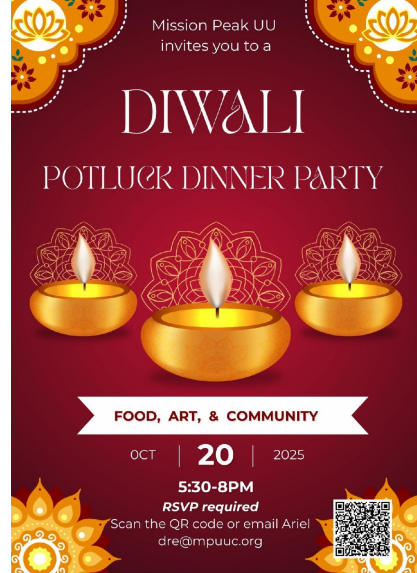
They are mostly sizes Small, X-Small and XX-Large.

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

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](#)



[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](#)

<https://mobilize.us/s/rjcfHt>

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

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](#)

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.
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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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