

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 3, 2025

Greetings!

The metaphor for my last WotP column chose itself. I'm writing to you the day before I return to Hayward from a week in Portland helping my daughter recover from serious illness. When I drove out to be with you and MPUUC a little over 2 months ago, she was thriving and I was cruising. I had no idea that I would as Ram Dass says in the title of his classic book: "Be Here Now." After my time with her this week, I am confident that with the help of her family and because of her own gifts and inner strengths, she is going to thrive again. She is going to be fine. Yes, things will be different than they were before. The old usual is no longer of use. And not only is she adjusting her life and reimagining her future, but everyone who loves her deeply is also reimagining and living into what is needed as we learn and experience what that is. Deep reflections, new directions.



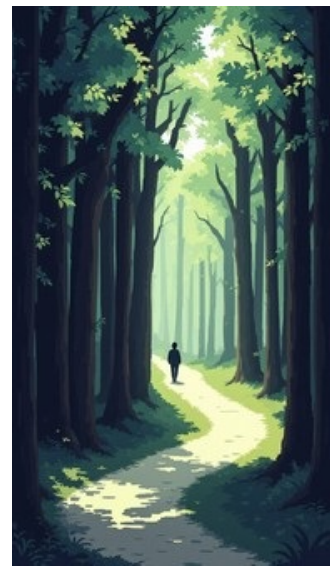
Now, as my time at Mission Peak comes to a close, I realize that MPUUC is at a similar juncture in its life. These two months have been an important and an informative time. 4 months ago most of you had no idea you'd "Be here now," but here you are. And with the help and support of those who care deeply that Mission Peak live on, you have committed to hiring a contract minister for up to 3 years. And that's just the beginning. I have confidence that because of your gifts and inner strengths you will thrive. But to make that happen you have to commit to reimagining and living into what is needed. All the signs tell you that if you simply continue as you are MPUUC will not. Whether it continues or not is up to you. You have now bought MPUUC maybe 2 years to adapt its lifestyle. There is no one else. There never has been. Deep reflections, new directions.

As I prepare to leave, I want to thank you for your support and love. You have helped bring out the better in me. That is one of your special gifts. Now somehow you must figure how to share with others what you have shared so generously with me. Please. I know you can do it. You are important and you are important to me..
The world needs you, Mission Peak.
Thank you for sharing you, with me.

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.



Notes Gathered Along the Way

This will be the last Sunday service I lead at Mission Peak - this time anyway. There may be thoughts you've noticed and remembered and questions that have stayed with you around what we've shared; insights that came up from our conversation together; things to add in. Notes gathered along the way. I'll have mine. Send and bring yours. It'll create a rich, wonderful mix. Let's enter the month of December with sharing our gifts and wrapping up our time together with a bow.

There is an after Service meeting from Sabbatical Brochure on Next Steps

Rev. Jim McKinley will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Peak Performers (and guests) 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%.

Congregational Conversation on Dec 7

Your Committee on Ministry will be hosting a brief after-service Congregational Conversation on December 7 about: what we have learned from the Sabbatical; an update from our ministry search team; and our next steps forward in our search for a minister. We welcome everyone to attend either in person or in Zoomlandia.

November Share the Plate - Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the UU Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 50 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals—the “guests” in Guest at Your Table.



We will be collecting until December 28.

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

A Reminder and Request from Rev. Jim:

In the Nov 12 WOTP, I asked for any questions or topics you'd like me to speak to in my Dec.7 message, "Notes Gathered Along the Path." I have my notes, but I'd like to hear what you've jotted down, what has come up for you and what you might like to hear more about. I'll select a few. Please email them no later than Dec. 1. (Ok, maybe the 2nd or 3rd.)



Send to revjim@mpuuc.org

Feeling gratitude
and not expressing
it, is like wrapping
a present and not
giving it.

William Arthur Ward



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](#)

Beloved Community,

The MPUUC Board has voted to collaborate with our host church, the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), which is a sponsoring site for the City of Fremont's Safe Parking Program. FUMC will be hosting the Safe Parking Program Guests for the month of December 2025.

We've offered to help with "Hospitality" which means providing morning breakfast or dinner in the evening. Additionally, we will designate the Sunday Service Collection on December 14 as a Share the Plate with FUMC for purchase of Gas gift cards for the Guests.

MPUUC Volunteers are needed for "Hospitality", providing either breakfast or dinner, which is served in Ockerman Rooms 7-8, daily from December 1 – January 1. There are other FUMC Volunteers who will be present at the same time and will handle the Check-in/Check-Out process for the Guests.

Morning Volunteers 6:45AM (SPP Check-Out Time: 7 to 8 AM)

Need volunteers – Dec. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 / December 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 / December 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

Evening Volunteers (SPP Check-In Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM)

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM, come early to set-up.

Dec. 8, 13, 14, 15, / 20, 21, 22, / 26, 27, 28

Please sign-up SOON using this [linked form](#) for any date you are available to provide a Hospitality meal service. If you have questions or wish more information, please email Valerie Stewart at Secretary@mpuuc.org

The Fremont Safe Parking Program, which is one facet of the City of Fremont Homelessness Response Plan. Program accepts individuals or couples over 18 living in their vehicle with a valid CA Driver's License. The program currently has capacity for 15 passenger vehicles. The program is a rotational model, with faith-based organizations across the city hosting participants on their site for one month before rotating to the next site. Six churches in Fremont participate. There is no drop-in enrollment for this program. You can learn more about the program at <https://www.fremont.gov/residents/homeless-response/homeless-services/safe-parking>

For breakfast -

breakfast casseroles, English muffins/ soft breakfast bars /cold or instant hot cereals/yogurt/fruit/hard boiled eggs/juice/ individually wrapped cheese/

For dinner-

Casseroles/ soup/ stew/chili/ soup-sandwich
Salad fixings/dressing/ fruit/ bread & butter/dessert items

Dear Friends,

After a week of entertaining guests, hosting TG and coming down with a horrible cold, here is the latest of the Irish Countryside blog posts. Please feel free to comment and share.

Rev. Greg's Ireland Blog

Day 1 – SFO ☐☐ Dublin ☐☐ Bushmills, No. Ireland ()

Day 2 – Bushmills, No. Ireland ☐☐ Sligo (Giant's Causeway, Bushmills Distillery)

Day 3 – Sligo ☐☐ Kilrush (Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery)

Day 4 – Kilrush ☐☐ Kenmare (Cliffs of Moher, Poul nabrone, Grange Stone Circle, Kenmare Stone Circle)

Day 5 – Kenmare ☐☐ Cork (Dingle, Tralee, Uragh Stone Circle, Drombeg Stone Circle)

Day 6 – Cork ☐☐ Kilkenny (Castlenalacht, Blarney Castle, Rock of Cashel)

Day 7 – Kilkenny ↔ Navan (Brownshill Portal Tomb, Athgreany Stone Circle, Aughnacliffe Portal Tomb)



Sustainablestyle

You may remember that last year, Sustainable Style collected our recycled clothing. Starting Sunday, November 30th, they will again sweep in and help you make the most of these resources. We will be bringing clothing recycling bins for you and your family to donate your collected garments to. Every year, only 13% of clothing is donated or recycled to maximize their environmental and socioeconomic value, while the others account for millions of tons of waste. Sustainable Style encourages the reuse of these precious resources, as we will directly provide all your donations to local second-hand shops to improve the longevity of these materials and help more Fremont locals afford this necessity.



Simply bring your old clothing to Mission Peak UU, and we can work together to improve our Fremont community and global environment!

*Sustainable Style is a youth-led environmental-awareness 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in the Bay Area. For more details, visit stylesustainably.com, as we will directly provide all your donations to local second-hand shops to improve the longevity of these materials and help more Fremont locals afford this necessity.

ARO Displays Banned Books at Fremont Library

Your ARO (Anti-Racism Anti- Oppression) Committee is making another statement in Fremont. A large wall display showing a variety of children's books that are banned somewhere in the U.S. will go up on December 1 for a month in the Children's Section of the main library. Check it out! As the wall display indicates, none of these books is banned here. Directions for borrowing these books is included. Don Ramie has helped create eye-

catching artwork with the ARO team, led by Kathi Bayne and Rev. Barbara Meyers. Visit the display and tell your friends!

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Sun Dec 7th **Children join the choir to sing a Christmas song in service**

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



JUSTICE CORNER

[Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \(UUSC\):](#)

[UUSC Invites UU's to Support our Partner-led Delegation to COP30](#)



This November, the 30th UN Climate Change Conference will be held in Belém, Brazil. Also known as COP 30, the convening offers member countries and attendees the opportunity to discuss and negotiate action on climate change. Grassroots leaders can share their firsthand experience and advocate for sustainable solutions. UUSC is supporting eight of our partners in attending COP 30. [Champion their efforts by showing your support on social media by clicking here.](#)

[Read more about the conference here.](#)

[UUSC Blog: Diligent Hope: From the Pacific Islands to New York](#)

"We are not drowning, we are fighting!" proclaim the grassroots leaders of the Pacific Islands. At September's Pacific Rising conference in Fiji, UUSC partners from across the region reconnected for the fourth convening. They are united by their experience confronting the impacts of climate change, and they gather to exchange bold, local solutions to address the crisis. I witnessed firsthand their shared fears, unique challenges, rigorous care, and unwavering ambition.

[Read the full post here.](#)

[Join UUSC's Resistance Network](#)

UUSC's rapid response hub mobilizes people of faith and conscience to defend freedoms and protect communities facing injustice. Whether resisting civil society crackdowns, defending trans and non-binary communities, supporting people in migration, or countering climate regression, our network acts with urgency and solidarity.

[Click here to learn more and join the network](#)

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



Thursday, December 4 • 7:00 – 9:00 pm [Know Your Rights Workshop](#) (IN PERSON)

Friends of La Peña Immigrant Rights Committee and East Bay Sanctuary Covenant invite you to a free community training that will cover how ICE operates and collects information and what to do during an ICE encounter. It will prepare advocates and allies to give urgently needed "Know Your Rights" information to community members. RSVP required.

Location: La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

Friday, December 12 • 12:00 – 1:00 pm [SURJ Bay Area Action Hour](#) (VIRTUAL)

Want to take tangible steps to end racial injustice and white supremacy? Want to make your voice heard in the current political climate? Join a SURJ Action Hour! This is one way to truly *Show Up for Racial Justice* through collective action. We meet over Zoom to take concrete steps together: calling elected officials, signing petitions, sending emails, etc. Closed captioning will be available in the main room of Action Hour calls. We'd love to have you!

SAVE THE DATES!

Thursdays, January 29, February 12, and February 26 • 6:00 – 9:30 pm [SURJ Bay Area Winter 2026 Study & Action](#) (VIRTUAL & IN PERSON)

Join this three-session Study & Action curriculum designed to get to the core of what we need to know about systemic racism so we can respond to the current moment with integrity. We'll examine how white supremacy shows up in our daily lives and ground ourselves in the long tradition of anti-racist practice. Between sessions, we'll commit to take action together with one of the two SURJ campaigns—Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Invest in Community Campaign that's working toward reimagining public safety. The 1st and 2nd meetings will be held on Zoom. The 3rd meeting will be held in-person in Oakland, CA, with a hybrid Zoom option for those who cannot make it. Free and registration is now open.

8th Principle Learning

US Airstrikes in the Caribbean and Implications for Domestic Militarization in U.S. Cities



Brett Heinz, Global Policy Coordinator for Economic and Climate Justice, American Friends Service Committee (the Quakers), will speak to us about U.S. airstrikes in the Caribbean, the broader history of efforts to merge the War on Drugs with the War on Terror, and implications we need to be aware of for the Trump administration's domestic militarization and threats to use the Insurrection Act to target U.S. cities militarily.

Policy Talk with Brett Heinz, American Friends Service Committee

This Event Dovetails with our Monthly No Frills Action Hour: Constitutional Law, Not Martial Law:
<https://bit.ly/ActHour-November>



Thursday, November 20
8:00 p.m. ET • 7:00 p.m. CT •
6:00 p.m. MT • 5:00 p.m. PT
RSVP: <https://bit.ly/Airstrikes-Militarization>



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Click here](#)



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

Board Briefs

November 2025 BOARD BRIEFS

The Board met on November 21 due to travel conflicts with an earlier date.

- The Board confirmed the electronic vote approval of three matters; 1) Approved financial support for community showing of *Beyond the Bridge* and discussion of Fremont Homelessness Response Plan on Nov. 20; 2) Approved of the integration of two policy revisions in 2024 to the Board Policies, Sec.7, Finances, and Sec. 14, Safety Policy; Approved the Search Committee's Minister Search Proposal.
- The Treasurer's Report's Balance Sheet reported a \$345, 893 balance in all accounts and that expenses are at 25% of budget at this time.



- The Board THANKED the Search Committee for its hard work to survey the Congregation to represent MPUUC accurately in the Minister Search Proposal. Review is ongoing with the UUA Pacific Western Region representative Sam K. Pearl, with final edits to be completed for publishing to the UUA on December 2. Everyone has participated in creating a hopeful, accurate description of who we are at MPUUC and who we want to be.
- We have a few weeks left with Rev. Jim McKinley, our Sabbatical Minister. We have all appreciated his time with us and the thoughtful interactions he has had with so many of us. Remember to say “hello” before he goes. December 7 is his last day with us.
- The Board voted to join FUMC, our Methodist host Congregation, in their operation of the Fremont Safe Parking Program this December. A notice will go out to the Congregation in Week on the Peak about providing “Hospitality”, which is breakfast and dinner meals. The Board decided to create a special collection “Share-the-Plate” on December 14, for funds to contribute to the Gas cards for the Guests.
- At the December Meeting the Board be considering 1) ongoing actions as part of the Ministerial Search; 2) a new policy on “Rites of Passage”; 3) approving several Committee Charters; the Contract Minister Search Committee, Safe Space, Conflict Resolution, and accepting volunteers to renew our Welcoming Congregation status.

The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Meetings are by Zoom. Contact Secretary@MPUUC.org for the link.

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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