

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! November 12, 2025

Greetings!

Having a conversation, thinking with. As I've said, that's how I approach Sunday messages and what I hope for our time together, thinking with, not talking at or even merely listening to. By consciously engaging in this way we generate new ideas, thoughts, intentions both for ourselves and together that weren't even there before. They didn't exist. We are being no less than creative; growing ourselves, benefitting each other and contributing to the common good.



Henry Nelson Wieman, a mid-twentieth century Unitarian theologian, philosopher and professor (His and Paul Tillich's writings were the subject of Martin Luther King Jr.'s doctoral thesis.) developed the notion of Creative Interchange as a way to engage in relationships that build community and better our common life. His idea of Creative Interchange informed my coming to be with you: sharing the personal paths I'm taking and the footing I've been finding through these particularly difficult times brings me into conversation with myself, with what I know of MPUUC and each of you, and with the interactions and talks we may have together. In this way, for me, and I would say for and through each of us, Mission Peak can be thought of as no less than an inclusive, opportunity space for creative interchange in support of "the audacity of good in the world" and in resistance to what feels like an increasingly oppressive and limiting culture.

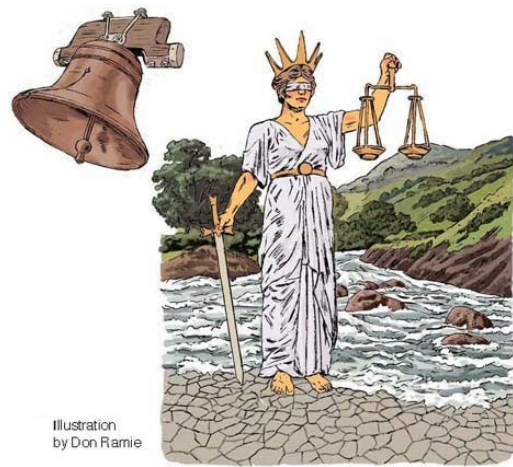
The title for Sunday, December 7, is "Notes Gathered Along the Way." Here's the service description: "This will be the last Sunday service I lead at Mission Peak - this time anyway. There may be thoughts you've noticed and remembered and questions that have stayed with you around what we've shared; insights 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."

So, in the spirit of Creative Interchange and our conversation together please send the notes you've gathered and would like me to consider to revjim@mpuuc.org no later than Monday, December 1. Sending some of them along the way might be a little better. Also, this Sunday, November 16 I will be holding a Congregational Conversation after service for anyone that's interested. Come join us. Let's think together. Let's be creative. Together.

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.



Liberty and Justice for All

America “the land of liberty” has become legendary. It began with the Puritans embarking on the long voyage to Massachusetts in search of religious freedom. The American political tradition, grounded in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, also teaches that a nation based on individual freedom, equality under the law, and the consent of the governed is best for guaranteeing the rights inherently belonging to every person. How is the United States living up to these high ideals?.

Don Ramie will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Jim McKinley. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriener 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.

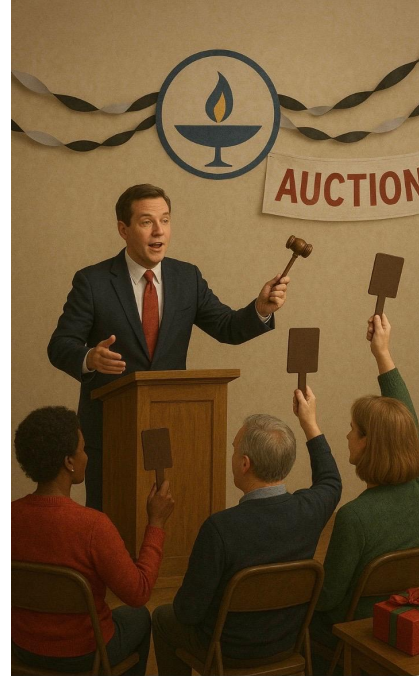
Pay on line at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card.
Note we use PayPal for this and they charge us around 3%.

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!!!



You wander from room
to room, hunting for
the diamond necklace
that is already around
your neck!

Rumi



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.

[HERE](#) is Day two of my Blog, In actual time, I have finished up the vagabond drive-about and managed to get through with no fatalities and only minor screaming (mostly me, I fear).

Sending you great love from the road.

I am almost finished on my amazing journey and ready to head home. I have been so busy out gathering experience, I have fallen way behind on the blogging. But [HERE](#) is Day 3. Feel free to comment or send your thoughts in emails. I hope you are all well and I can't wait to see you soon.



FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Sat Nov 15th **Parent Night Out** [RSVP required by Fri Nov 14th](#)

Fri Nov 28th **Green Friday** no rsvp required- just come!
We'll have coffee and pastries for the early birds:)

Wed Dec 3rd **Children join MPUUC choir rehearsal**
to prepare a song for service Sun Dec 7th

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



Upcoming musical events with Von Bringhurst

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

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,

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



Homelessness: "Beyond the Bridge" screening and discussion

***Beyond the Bridge* screening and discussion:** You are invited to a free screening and panel discussion about the documentary *Beyond the Bridge* on Thursday, November 20, 6:00-8:00, in the Washington West Conference Rooms, 2500 Mowry Ave., Fremont. Register at bit.ly/btbfremont for a free ticket. This award-winning documentary explores the housing crisis and actions our community can take to alleviate the harsh conditions unhoused people face.

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.

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

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553



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