WELCOME TO MISSION PEAK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



Lessons from a Solstice Centered Culture

Worship Leader: Rev. Greg Ward
Worship Associate: Terri King

Worship Host: Steve Wallcave
Music: Jay Steele, Bruce Cates

Sunday, December 21, 2025 10:00 AM
Service theme for the month: Choosing Hope

We are very glad that you are with us today and hope you feel our welcome. If you would like to learn more about us and receive our weekly email newsletter, please send an email to welcome@mpuuc.org. We request your name, email, phone number and address. We'd be happy to answer any questions.

Our Mission Statement:

The foundation of Mission Peak is love. We are a spiritual community of open minds, nurturing growth and healing in ourselves and all people. Together we strive to live compassionately and courageously as we work for a nonviolent, just and sustainable world.



Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values.
Interdependence of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and our place in it.
Pluralism – We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience and theology.
Justice – We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.
Transformation – We adapt to the changing world.
Generosity – We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
Equity – We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

Order of Service

Sunday, December 21, 2025 10-11:15 a.m.

Centering Thought

"This is the solstice, the still point of the sun, its cusp and midnight, the year's threshold and unlocking, where the past lets go of and becomes the future." *Margaret Atwood.*

"In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer." *Albert Camus.*

"After the longest night, tomorrow we sing up the dawn." *Dacha Avelin.*

"Maybe you have to know the darkness before you can appreciate the light." *Unknown.*

"The winter solstice has always been special to me as a barren darkness that gives birth to a verdant future beyond imagination, a time of pain and withdrawal that produces something joyfully inconceivable, like a monarch butterfly masterfully extracting itself from the confines of its cocoon, bursting forth into unexpected glory." *Gary Zukav*

Prelude Bruce Cates

Bell Rev. Greg Ward

Call To Worship Terri King

Chalice Lighting Terri King

We light this chalice...To remind ourselves
to treat all people kindly,
because we are all one family;
To take good care of the Earth,
because it is our home;
To live lives full of goodness and love,
because that is how we will become
the best people we can be.

Welcome Mark Rahman

Welcome Song Children of the Earth (Solstice Chant), hymn #1063 Jay Steele
Alicia S. Carpenter

Time for all Ages Once Upon a Winter Solstice - A Tale of Dark and Light Karma Cloud
Written by Karma Cloud, illustrated by Serena Tearno-Brucker Serena Tearno-Brucker

Practice of Generosity (Offering) Terri King

Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:

- Use the QR Code in the OOS (Note: 3% surcharge).
- Mail check to MPUUC P.O. Box 545 Fremont, CA 94537-0545
- Drop envelope with check in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Pay online at https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/ with credit or debit card (Note: 3% surcharge).

Joys and Concerns Invitation		Rev. Greg Ward
Song of Reflection	Happy Xmas (War is Over) John Lennon and Yoko Ono	Jay Steele
Shared Joys & Concerns		Rev. Greg Ward
Reflection		Rev. Greg Ward
Anthem	Light One Candle, hymn #221 Peter Yarrow	Jay Steele
Message	Lessons from a Solstice Centered Culture	Rev. Greg Ward
Closing Hymn	Solstice Song Alouette Iselin	Jay Steele
Extinguishing the Chalice	#456 We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.	Terri King
Benediction		Rev. Greg Ward

Next Week's Service: December 24 5:00 pm – "Lessons of the Grinch"

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associates Brian Culp and Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Melissa Holmes. Peak Performers with Shauna Pickett-Gordon will provide our music.

Joy was never really his plan - which involved serial breaking and entering, theft, coercion and taking candy from babies. But the Grinch's story reveals a marvelous conversion. The moment of reckoning comes when, while scaling the mountain symbolic of his immense hubris and pride, the Grinch listens for the inconsolable wailing from the town he just pillaged. But the moment of schadenfreude never came. The Grinch heard rejoicing instead. Come as we explore ways we might find our own conversion to Joy and override the cynicism and self absorption that has become, at times, too at home in the world.

Go to https://mpuuc.org/zoom/ for order of service and how to connect for all services

Announcements:

ARO, with the help of Don's artistic skills, has put up a beautiful display of some of the children's books that have been banned somewhere in our country at Fremont Main Library in the Children's section.
We are supporting the free search for knowledge for our children. Please come by. Also, bring a child if you can. The display will be up all month.

Our Peak Performers choir is performing as part of the Las Posadas festival this Monday, December 22nd at 6:00pm at the Mission San Jose Museum on Mission Blvd. People will walk to Sisters of the Holy Family at 211 Avenida Palmdale where the choir will sing beginning about 5:30 or 5:40. There is very limited parking at the Sisters, so if you can walk the distance please start at the Mission. For more information you may contact Von Bringhurst, Drew Wilson or Paul Davis.

In search of mental health family support or peer support resources in the larger Tri-City area? Contact Rev. Barbara Meyers, a mental health educator and peer support provider. Email com_minister@mpuuc.org, or call 510-493-1796.