

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 17, 2025

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Greetings!

Happy Holidays from you treasurer, Drew Wilson. Here's hoping you have a lovely yearend and a great new year.

I am happy to report that several donors have given the board reason for holiday cheer by completing their annual pledges early. Of course, we still need everyone who can to complete their pledges by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, so we can end the fiscal year in as good a shape as we are now. Meanwhile, as a part of helping the search team with their packet, I combed through the records to develop a graph of average per-person pledges which reveals a major strength of Mission Peak, our VERY generous members. I am so proud of how our membership has stepped up to support Mission Peak, our staff, and our mission, even as Covid-19 and other issues have reduced our membership. I am also grateful for the tremendous help Sandra provides with the financial aspects of Mission Peak. This allows me more time to do the rest of my board work, and also assist the search and canvass teams with their efforts.



Speaking of the search, the team has done fantastic work in producing a very fine snapshot of Mission Peak's current state for potential ministers to read. And, they did it in a very short amount of time. Hopefully we will attract not just several good candidates, but at least one candidate that is a great fit for our current needs.

Finally, I, and the choir, love singing under Von's direction. I like it so much, that I joined a community choir he directs out of the Community School of Music and Art in Mountain View. This choir will be singing along with two children's choirs and a high school choir in a concert on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the school. Von has chosen some wonderful pieces for our part of the concert, so you won't want to miss it.

Drew Wilson

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## This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online.  
See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.

## Lessons from a Solstice Centered Culture

Although there are many parts we may love, the spectacle of Christmas - and its' high-watt insistence that we cheerfully eat, drink, decorate and shop non-stop until we drop - has pushed aside the original religious premise from which it came to dominate the 'reason for the season.' Fresh from a tour of megalithic Ireland, with its earliest roots in pagan and Celtic wisdom, Rev. Greg accepted the invitation to explore the darkness as it descended all around him. This service will explore some of what those remarkable cultures thought were worth worshipping and the questions they might ask of us today.



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Terri King. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Jay Steele and Bruce Cates 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%.

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Please enjoy this year's [2025 Christmas Greetings from Staff](#)

## OUR MINISTERIAL DISCRETIONARY FUND

On Christmas Eve, it is our tradition here to take up a special Collection. The Ministerial Discretionary Fund exists to care for the unexpected needs of our members and friends. These are the emergency moments in the lives of those least able to afford them. This past year, we have used the Ministerial Discretionary Fund to help subsidize someone's rent, buy groceries, pay for some car repair that allows someone to commute to work; Send flowers or cards when people have had surgeries or celebrated anniversaries. These are crucial events in the lives of people we love that aren't covered in our operating budget. But they are essential in letting people who are struggling know they matter. If you have the means to make a difference by contributing to this fund, we hope you will give generously.

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**SUPPORT the Safe Parking Program this DECEMBER**

The MPUUC has joined 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 hosts 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 "Hospitality" Volunteers provide either breakfast or dinner, which is served in Ockerman Rooms 7-8, daily until 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.

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

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

Need Hospitality volunteers – Dec. 18, 20, 22,23,24,25,26,27, 29, 30, 31

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

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

Need Hospitality Volunteers -Dec. 21, 22, 26, 28, 29

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## 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%

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Dear Mission Peak Congregation,

Here is the link to the Ministerial Search Profile that has been submitted to the UUA so candidate ministers can learn about MPUUC, its members and its activities. This is offered for your information, NOT for editing. If you have a comment that you think might be useful for the Search Team to consider when interviewing potential ministers next year, you may send it to: [search@mpuuc.org](mailto:search@mpuuc.org)

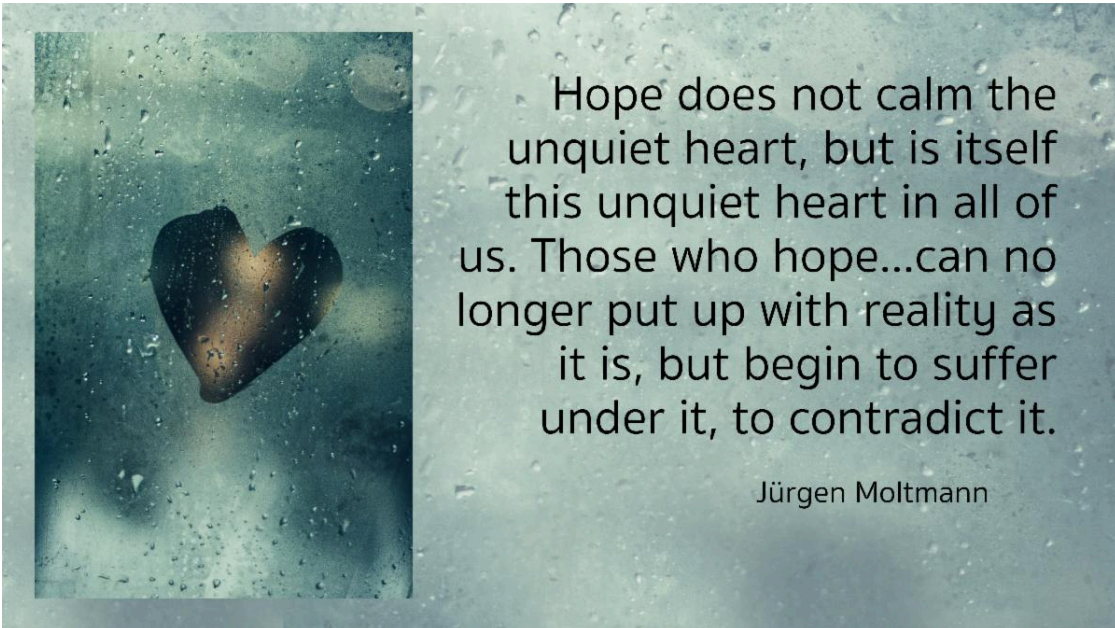
Otherwise, we ask your respect in remembering that this has already been submitted and would be very difficult to alter.

[Click here](#)

Thank you for your interest in the search process.

Best,  
Beth Schaefer  
Chair, Search Team

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## 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](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org). Or ask one of us: Greg, Barbara, Sharon, Jo Ann S, Don, Lucienne, Julie

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## 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](#)

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## 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!

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## Los Posadas Festival

Our Peak Performers choir is performing as part of the Las Posadas festival this coming Monday evening, December 22nd. The event starts at 6:00 at the Mission San Jose Museum on Mission Blvd at the end of Washington 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.



## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

## JUSTICE CORNER



The UU Ministry for Earth 2025-26 Community Read is ["What if We Get it Right?" by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson](#). We will continue meeting on the last Tuesday of every month at 4:45 PM PT / 7:45 PM ET for a total of 9 sessions. ([Click here if you want help translating to your time zone.](#)) We can't wait to look toward an imaginative future for climate justice with you!



The next discussion is set for the evening of January 27th, which will focus on the fourth section, "Follow the Money". You only need to register once to attend all remaining sessions. [Click here to print a poster](#) for your congregation's bulletin board.

[Register to attend here.](#)

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## Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

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**Weekdays • 12:00 – 12:30 pm • Jewish Voice For Peace Power Half-Hour for Gaza(VIRTUAL)**

**How To Have Courageous Conversations** – In time for the holidays, IfNotNow has put together *A Guide for Discussing Israel/Palestine* at your dinner table. Especially geared for Jewish community members, the guide is also a useful tool for anyone to have courageous conversations about Palestine with family and friends.

**Tell your Members of Congress to Condemn the Trump Administration's Anti-Immigrant Policies** – The Trump administration is responding to the tragic attack on two National Guard troops by pursuing collective punishment against the most vulnerable in our communities to advance a racist and unconscionable anti-immigrant agenda. Trump has said he plans to expand his xenophobic travel ban to more than 30 countries, halt asylum applications, and impose more restrictions on nationals of the existing 19 travel ban countries. Congress must stand against this hate-filled effort to scapegoat entire communities, including our Afghan and Somali neighbors who have become the focus of some of these most recent attacks.

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## 8th Principle Learning

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

May the lights of Hanukkah fill your home with hope, joy, and love.

Wishing you eight nights of reflection, gratitude, and miracles.

Happy Hanukkah from [UUFSJ](#)



Moral injury traditionally refers to the deep psychological and spiritual harm that arises when a person participates in, fails to prevent, or witnesses actions that violate their core moral beliefs...

At UUSJ we're helping people heal from moral injury and reclaim their agency...

--Dale Anderson  
UUSJ Board Chair

Donate Today



<https://uusj.salsalabs.org/20252026Donation/index.html>

Read More:



[bit.ly/Moral-Emotions](http://bit.ly/Moral-Emotions)



Photo by Amore Seymour from Pixabay

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Click here](#)



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

## Board Briefs

The Board met on December 9, 2025 via Zoom. Trustee At Large Michelle Wallace was absent due to health matters. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm. via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

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](http://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)



Please notify [President@mpuuc.org](mailto:President@mpuuc.org) if you have concerns or want the Zoom link to attend the meeting.

1. The Board noted the conclusion of the Sabbatical period with the departure of Rev, Jim McKinley as of December 7th and the return of Rev. Greg Ward. Rev. Ward thanked MPUUC for the privileges and support that is the sabbatical period and plans to share insights and experiences in the coming months.
2. Finances: Currently the Budget has received 56% of its anticipated funding for the 25-26 year and expenses are only at 33%, which is a positive situation. There is still work being done to sort out the status of/access to the SRI CD accounts. Drew and Jay will work to get clarity.
3. The Ministerial Search Committee reported that the Congregational Profile is now accessible on the UUA website for minister candidates to review. The Search Committee will monitor the profile and report any new activity/developments to the Board and the Congregation.
4. 4. MPUUC Policies Review: Board Policy 2. POLICIES requires a review for update every two years (last done fully in 2023.) The Board will meet in-person to review them after the Sunday Service January 4, 2026, in the MPUUC Office. All are welcome.
5. Updating the website. The Board is continuing to standardize the protocol to make updates to the website, so all important documents and recordings of Services are available there.
6. "Rites of Passage" a description of services available for MPUUC members and friends is under construction.

## 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



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 | [missionpeakuu.org](https://missionpeakuu.org)



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