

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 31, 2025

Greetings!

Happiest of New Years to you.

I don't know about you, but on this last day of the old year, it's feeling like I'm walking backward into the new year. And there are many reasons why.

First, I really don't trust this last year we've been through. I don't want to turn my back on it for fear of being hit broadside with yet another unbearable bit of news. I've quickly become wary of living in a country that all of a sudden attacks sovereign nations, or turns its back on allies we've sworn to protect, or has suddenly chosen to only protect and serve only people of one political party, one religion, one ethnicity, one national origin, one gender, sexual orientation or economic status.



But the second reason I'm walking backward into the year ahead is just as compelling. After announcing my retirement in August, I am coming to terms with the reality that this will be the last year I will wake up on New Year's Day feeling like I'm surrounded by an entire community that has my back, shares my values, offers me wise counsel and good company. I want to turn around and walk confidently into the future knowing I do so with a compassionate community around me, but in some ways I feel a little too much attachment to let go of the people and things I've come to trust, respect and admire.

The theme this month is Practicing Resistance. I am hoping we can take some of the trust, commitment and passion for what good and true to move together toward the right side of history. And that we can compel other good folks to join us as we do. Practicing resistance isn't defiance or avoiding all we don't like. Nor is it about honoring our attachment to people who see everything the same way we do.

Practicing resistance is about recognizing our power and what we have it for. It is about taking risks to put the love we've found to its best use. It's about serving as agents of positive change over harm or personal comfort.

This Sunday, we will participate in our Fire Communion – naming the kind of people and community we want to become and letting go of the attachments that keep us from our ideals. On Sunday Jan 11, we will explore some inspiring stories of people and communities who've faced great challenge and modeled what courage looks like. And on Sunday, Jan 18, we will have our Action Sunday where we both talk about the courage to face outward as well as go out to the farmer's market and ask people to join us on our January 19 Day of Service.

It means so much to me that I get to do this with you. Thank you for helping make this New Year something we can all be proud of as the beginning of a new legacy.

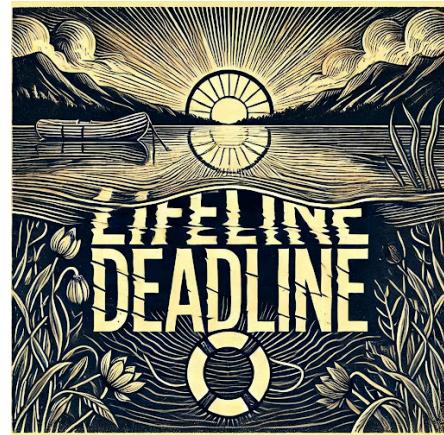
Rev. Greg Ward

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.

A Deadline for Lifelines

Every new beginning starts with the remnants of something that has ended. Much of what has ended has endeared itself to us in ways too valuable or too tender to release. These are the parts we hold on to, cherish and build from. But, there are also parts that hold on to us and won't let go. Sometimes old things flood our heart or take up all the available RAM in our head, keeping us from moving forward. This is a service about recognizing what we're ready to let go of.



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Von Bringhurst and Peak Performers 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%.

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

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

Thank you for your interest in the search process.

Best,
Beth Schaefer
Chair, Search Team

The City of Fremont is Seeking Volunteers for 2026 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

On any given night in Fremont, too many of our unhoused neighbors are sleeping in parks, vehicles, or on sidewalks. We need your immediate help to make a difference! The City of Fremont urgently seeks 150 volunteers for the vital 2026 EveryOne Counts Point-in-Time Count on **Thursday, January 22, 2026, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

This count, conducted in partnership with Alameda County, is more than just a survey. ***It's how Fremont secures the essential funding to support our unhoused residents and provide services.*** The more accurate our count, the better we can serve our community.

Some of us MPUUC Folks plan to participate in the counting and demographics-gathering of unhoused folks in Fremont as part of a county-wide effort on January 22. Mission Peak folks will be able to sign up as a group so that we can work as small groups together with people we know.

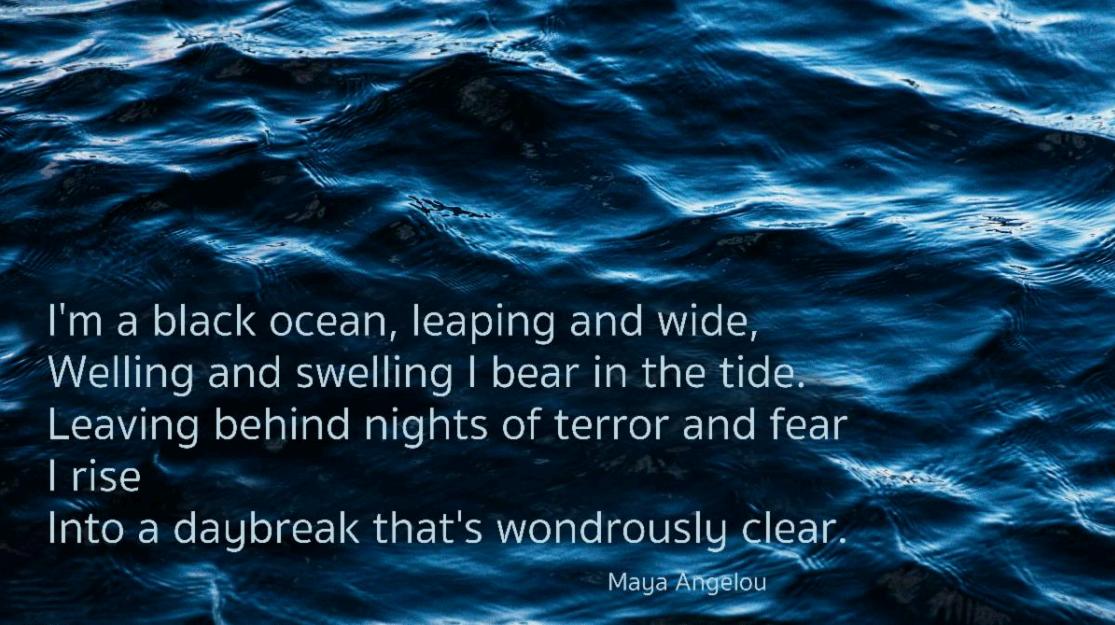
PLEASE sign up at the link below and be sure to indicate that you are with the "MPUUC" group and that you choose to work in FREMONT. This way we'll get info on where to go and what to do as a group. (Note: Beth requested that we get to canvass "The Slab" near church since many of us are getting to know some of those folks.) Here is the link: If you would like to be part of this, you can [sign up to volunteer](#) at <https://alameda.pointintime.info>. Remember to select "FREMONT" as your service location and include MPUUC as the group you are part of.

PLEASE consider this important one-time opportunity to help secure funding and services for these unhoused neighbors. Yes, this is extremely early (5-10am). Be brave! We suggest breakfast together afterward.

PLEASE email Secretary@mpuuc.org to let us know you are volunteering.

In solidarity,

Beth Schaefer and Valerie Stewart



I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear.

Maya Angelou



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 which usually meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. will not be meeting this Thursday because of the holiday. Please join us next week, January 8 when we will explore what it means to Practice Resistance. 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](#)

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

Martin Luther King Jr Day of service at MPUUC, Monday, January 19th 10am-12noon

MPUUC is again hosting an *all-ages community service event* in Cole Hall. Bring a friend, make a care package for someone in our community who is experiencing homelessness and learn more about housing insecurity.

Baked-good donations for our snack table are warmly welcomed! Bring them to service on Sunday Jan 18th or to the event on Monday.

Reach out to Ariel if you'd like to help make this event successful, dre@mpuuc.org



Community service opportunity

Monday, 19 January 2026 | Cole Hall 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont | 10AM-12 noon while supplies last

You are invited to this all-ages event to create care packages for unhoused members of our community and to learn more about housing insecurity.



co-sponsored by:

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  Tri-City Interfaith Council 

in collaboration with:

for more info mpuuc.org dre@mpuuc.org 

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.](#)

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

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.

8th Principle Learning

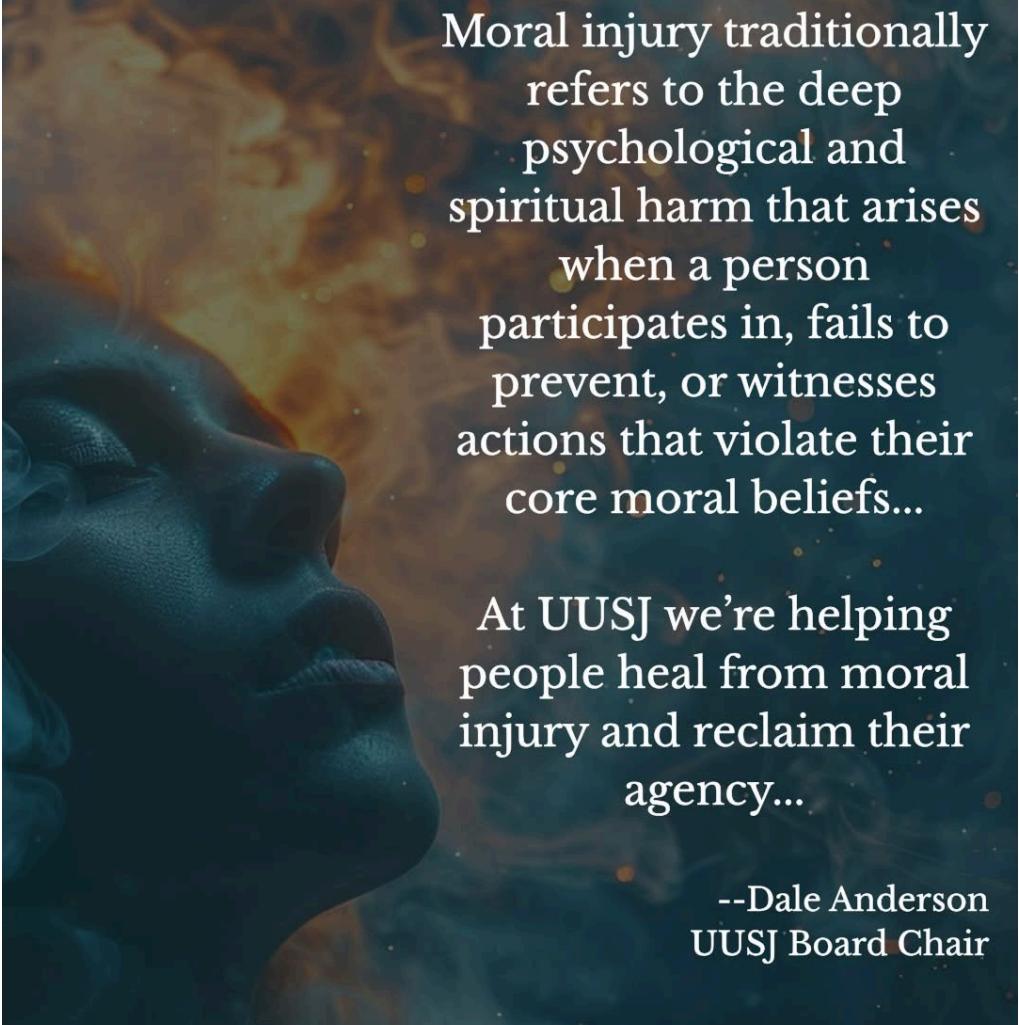
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

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

UUSJ Unitarian Universalists
for Social Justice
Advocating for UU Values in the Nation's Capital

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



Please notify 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. 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](#)
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



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