

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
January 7, 2026

Greetings!

Greetings and salutations from your at large Board member, Mark Rahman (he, him, his). Now that the holidays are mostly behind us, life is still busy. The Search Team, of which I am a member, have put the help wanted ad in play and we have responses already. Work never ends and we are on to the next step of backgrounds and interviews. This week is interview prep for the whole team and a mock interview to follow. We also have to be able to answer their questions about Mission Peak in a way that is truthful, accurate and still presents us as a good place to be. As always, let any member of the Team know what you are looking for in a minister. Hint: there is only one Greg Ward. And what you want the candidates to know about us.



Looking forward to the New Year and instead of resolutions I would like to acknowledge blessings and express gratitude. One big (actually four) blessing is our paid staff. Sandra, Von, Greg and Ariel are amazing as a team and individually. One way you can tell that they are fantastic is that you hardly ever notice them at work. Everything seems to proceed so smoothly that you would never know there ever were problems. When we do choose and hire a new minister, it will be important that we all do what we can to integrate, not only staff but the whole congregation with the new minister. Rev. Greg has done a fantastic job on the administrative side these last six years. While it won't be the same, we really want everything to work just as well as it has been.

In addition to paid staff, there are the volunteer positions that also keep the Sunday services operating. Two of those positions are currently empty and are consequential positions. The first is an at large board member. A shorthanded board is more likely to wear down the existing members. And we can get more work done with more hands. Please consider being central to the operations of Mission Peak. Being on the board allows one to learn much about the operations of your congregation. The second opening or openings is for Worship Host, the person who runs all of the electronics, video, zoom and makes the worship leaders look good in spite of everything. It is an opportunity to learn everything about audio boards, zoom and so much more that has confused you as technology march is faster than we can manage. Training is free and is done at the highest level of quality. Please consider these openings and any others that peak your interest.

Thank you for your support and attention and see you on Sunday,

Mark Rahman

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.



Practicing Resistance

This month's theme is 'Practicing Resistance'. When we look out at the world, we see acts of blind or selfish rage, vengeance, violence, unfettered greed or imperial conquest. Practicing resistance, then, begins to appear like a holy calling. Indeed, it is what former civil rights leader and congressman, John Lewis called, 'Good Trouble.' In this service, we will hear some of the stories of inspired defiance to everything harmful in order to consecrate the emergence of what is precious and essential.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Beth Schaefer. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Jay Steele 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.

[Click here](#)

Thank you for your interest in the search process.

Best,
Beth Schaefer

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.

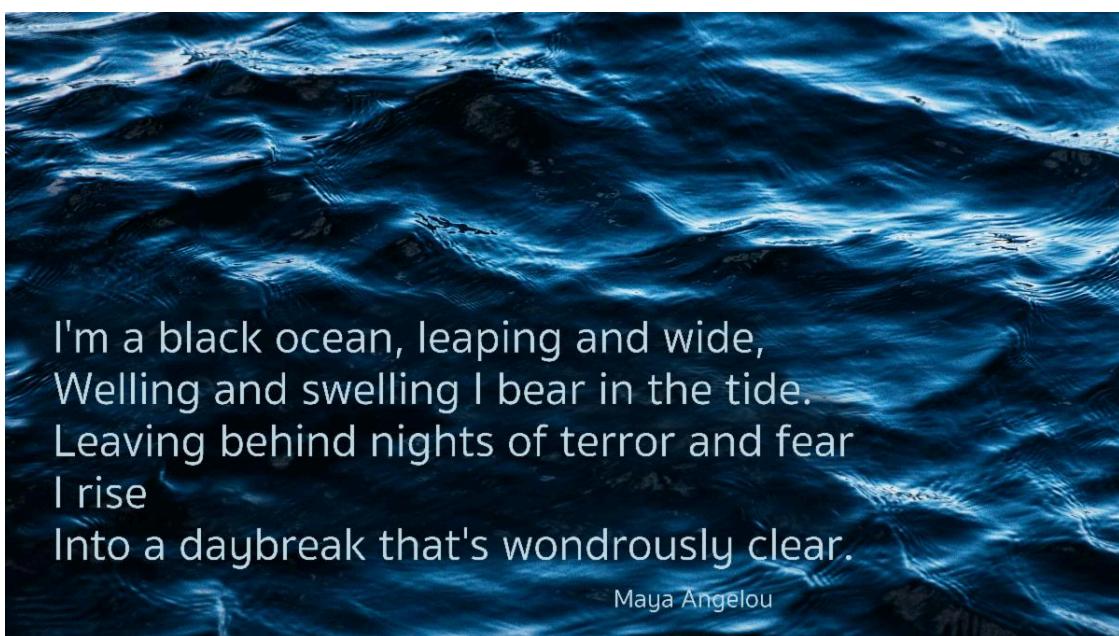
PLEASE sign up at the link below and be sure to indicate that you are with the "MPUUC" group and that you choose to work in FREMONT. This way we'll get info on where to go and what to do as a group. (Note: Beth requested that we get to canvass "The Slab" near church since many of us are getting to know 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



Julie

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,

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](#) [Press here](#)

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

A poster for a community service opportunity. The title 'Community service opportunity' is at the top in large red letters, with blue hand icons on either side. Below the title is a box containing event details: 'Monday, 19 January 2026', 'Cole Hall 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont', and '10AM-12 noon while supplies last'. The main text '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.' is in the center. Below the text is a drawing of a care package with various items labeled: PEPPERONI STICKS, BOTTLED WATER, TUBERS, LARSEN COOKING OIL, TRAIL MIX, TOTAL, CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, COCONUT OIL, COCONUT FLAKES, and COCONUT FLOUR. At the bottom are logos for 'FREMONT FOR EVERYONE' and 'COMPASSIONATE FREMONT' along with QR codes and contact information for 'Tri-City Interfaith Council'.

Saturday Jan 24th 6-8pm Potluck and scrapbook event

Bring your keepsake notes/cards/photos from 2025 and bind them into a little book to take home. All supplies provided, feel free to bring any art you want for the cover and invite a friend!

RSVP required by end of day Fri 1/23

JUSTICE CORNER



UUSC: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Today, our thoughts are with the people of Venezuela who are facing sudden instability, uncertainty, and violence because of the recent actions of the Trump administration.

UUSC is deeply concerned by our government's increasing aggression and foreign interference. We join with the UUA in condemning U.S. military strikes against Venezuela.

We are also reminded that our partners around the world serve as a counterpoint to abuses of power by building alternative systems and communities of care in the wake of increasing militarism.

UUSC urges our elected leaders to follow their example by pursuing peace and upholding human rights and international law.

UUSJ Annual Faith in Democracy Series, 202

In the United States, most of us value resolving disputes without violence, political or otherwise, unlike the type of violent expression we experienced during the January 6th riots and insurrection of 2021.

This week, on **Tuesday, January 6**, our friends at Franciscan Action Network (FAN) are hosting the annual 'Faith in Democracy' series to help us remember that fact and move forward to restore a properly functioning and fully representative democracy. This year, they have organized two events around themes of New Vision and Facing Challenges:

- An Interfaith Concert (in-person or online via YouTube)
- A Policy Panel (virtual only)

UUSJ is a proud co-sponsor, and we, as Unitarian Universalists, are invited to join — be sure to review the details below.

Please join us for a moving interfaith musical expression of solidarity, followed by a stimulating conversation about how people of faith can stand up for democracy in 2026 as the United States approaches critical midterm elections.

- All of us at Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



**Wednesday, January 14 • 5:00 – 6:00 pm
SURJ Action Hour (VIRTUAL)**

Join **SURJ National** to take action together over Zoom and show up against Trump's illegal, immoral agenda. Each Action Hour will have a training portion so you'll have everything you need to plug in and make an impact—like calling and writing representatives and making public comments on government websites. Newcomers to SURJ will get an orientation in a Welcome Breakout. Can't make this one? These Action Hours occur every other Wednesday—check the 2026 schedule [here](#).

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

8th Principle Learning

8th Principle UU Learning Community

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

As we hold the people of Venezuela in our hearts and prayers, we offer this resource, excerpted here, to congregations. Please consider sharing it widely in your communities.

"Caracas, January 3rd

There is something simple
which power forgets
and clouds of smoke
and the roar of rotor blades
cannot conceal.

There are people there.

Wherever "there" is
on the frontlines
of every empire's effort
to manifest dominion.

Just. People.

Running on the sidewalk,
panicked at the borders.
cans of food and children's toys
rattling even now in the trunk of a car that,
for today (meu deus), still starts..."

<https://www.uua.org/.../ingoodfaith/solidarity-venezuelans>
#Venezuela #Solidarity #UnitarianUniversalism #Peacemaking

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Click here](#)



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:



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



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