

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 14, 2026

Greetings!

Hi friends,

I hope you are all doing as well as can be this week, given disturbing news at multiple levels. I also hope you all stay safe, and if ICE comes to the SF Bay Area, I recommend remembering the lessons of Reverend Martin Luther King (MLK) Junior and the Civil Rights Movement in 1965. My understanding is that they were successful in creating positive change by practicing nonviolent protest that included staying calm under pressure, being respectful but still insistent, and bearing witness to the evils of racial segregation.



We have some great events coming up to honor the memory of MLK Junior this weekend. On Sunday, after getting inspired by Rev. Greg's message during the MPUUC service, we will go down to the Irvington Farmer's Market and let people know about our Monday day of service event from 10-12 pm in Cole Hall. At that event, we will create care packages for the unhoused. If we can brighten somebody's day with a care package, that makes it worthwhile. Please come join me for these events if you can. Reach out to Ariel or Rev. Greg for more information about these events. I want MPUUC to continue spreading the message that love is a better path than brutality and the "might makes right" message currently being propagated here and around the world by our country's federal administration.

I want to give a "shout out" to the search team (Mark, Beth, Kathi, Lucienne) for working with the UUA to advertise and review candidate applications for our next minister starting in the Fall. Also, thanks to Deanna Alm for volunteering to be Co-Chair for the Canvass for us. Lastly, I'm particularly touched by the enthusiasm of Brian and Jennifer Culp. Brian has already led one worship service in December, and Jennifer volunteered to be Canvass Co-Chair. Thank you, Culp family!

Cheers and in peace,

Jay Steele  
MPUUC board president

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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.**

### **Are UUs Ready for Dr. King...Yet?**

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 Associates Ariel Smith-Iyer and Jay Steele. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. 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%.

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### **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.

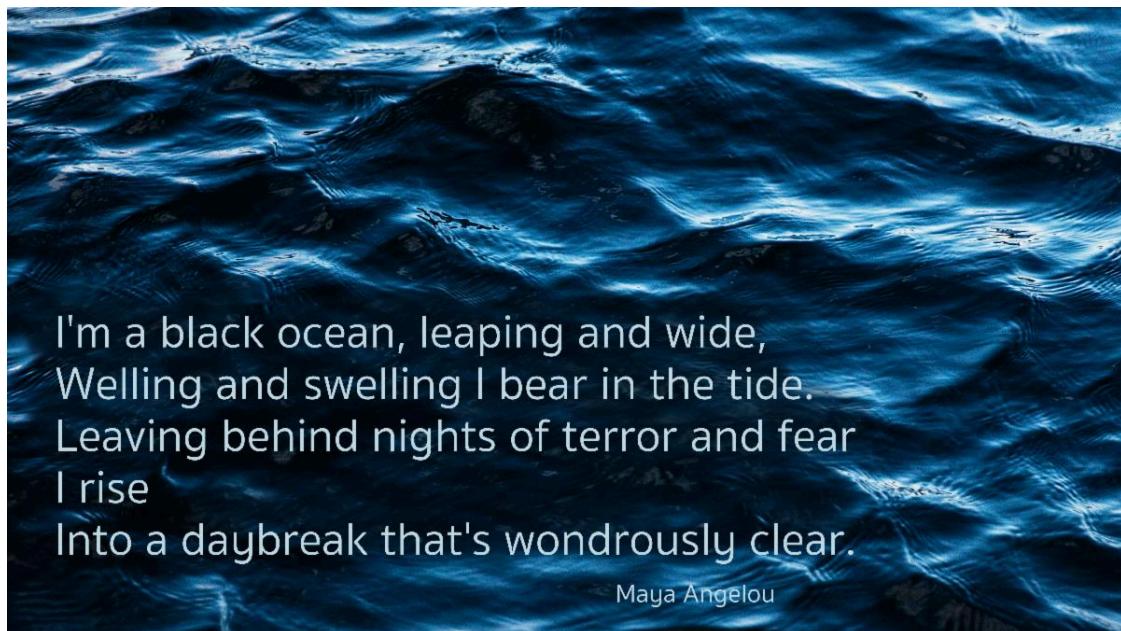
PLEASE sign up at the link below and be sure to indicate that you are with the "MPUUC" group and that you choose to work in FREMONT. This way we'll get info on where to go and what to do as a group. (Note: Beth requested that we get to canvass "The Slab" near church since many of us are getting to know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

In solidarity,

Beth Schaefer and Valerie Stewart



## 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

## 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](#)

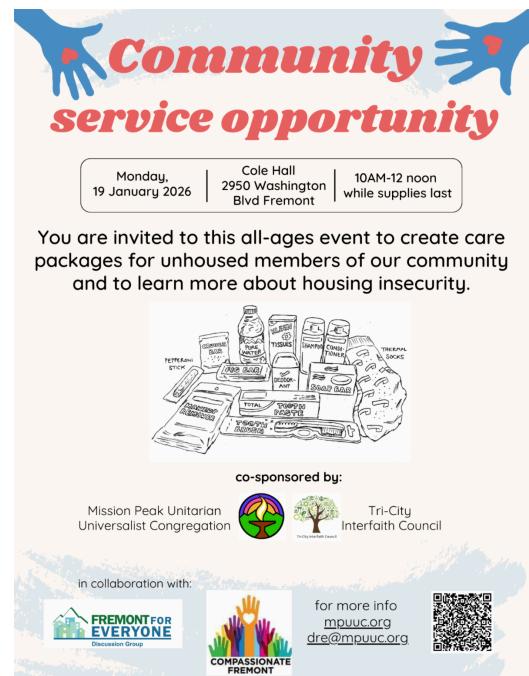
## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### *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](mailto: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](http://mpuuc.org) [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)



### *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

### Reparations

On **Sunday, January 25, 2:00 p.m. at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center**, there will be a free screening of the award-winning 30 minute film “Reparations”.

Here's the trailer: <https://www.newday.com/films/reparations> The film does a powerful job making the case for reparations, and why non-Black groups like the AAPI community need to get behind it as allies.

Here's the announcement for the Sunday, 2:00 p.m. **January 25th Reparations screening at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center**, followed by a panel with Pastor Mike McBride (who is among the leaders of the [ARRT coalition](#)), the filmmaker Jon Osaki, and me. The event is free.



## 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

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



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### 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](#).

## 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

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## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Click here](#)



## 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](http://missionpeakuu.org)**



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