

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! January 28, 2026

Greetings!

Hello Dear Members and Friends of Our Beloved Community,

On MLK Jr. Day, after our community event at Cole Hall, I drove to Hayward to participate in their annual MLK Jr Day of Celebration. The keynote speaker was retired Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge

LaDoris Cordell, a long-time professional friend. Judge Cordell was the first African American woman on the state bench in Northern California back in 1982, which is when we first met. I love to hear LaDoris speak- she is smart, witty, thoughtful and an excellent “speaker”; she knows how to construct her presentation and hold the attention of every audience to whom she speaks- if you see she is speaking somewhere, I recommend you attend. At the MLK Jr celebration LaDoris spoke of many of the challenges and accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement and those who participated in and lead it. From her mentors she learned that there was an eleventh commandment – “Thou Shall Not be Indifferent”- and she has incorporated that into her way of living. Those words resonated with me and seemed to create a micro-description of being a UU. Because we value the interconnected web of all that is our universe, our existence and one another, we can’t be indifferent when we see injustice.



There is plenty of injustice at the moment. “Move fast and break things” is a strategy to prevent an opposition from forming to the multitude of ways that our democracy is under attack from the current federal administration. But what is hopeful is that people are forming loud opposition, even at the cost of their own lives. Living in California we are spared some of the conservative actions -so far- that exist in other states, but we cannot “be indifferent” or our freedoms here will also be at risk. I recently became aware of a bill (Safer Communities Through Opportunities) in the California Assembly that would provide more options for diversion for defendants in non-violent cases. The organizations that support AB 1231 reads like a laundry list of groups we all support, but the opposition from law enforcement groups is strong, even though research demonstrates that diversion from the prison system and making restitution to a victim – restorative justice- is far less expensive to our society. Yes, we have much on our MPUUC plates - supporting solutions for our unhoused neighbors, Canvass is coming up, we are “in search” for a minister for our

next church year and will have much “transitioning” to do when Rev. Greg leaves, but we can’t become overwhelmed – we are a community of “Caring Hearts and Open Minds” and from being “in community” we can take strength and not be indifferent to opportunities to make our world a kinder, better, softer place for all in our inner-connected web. Together we *are* better.

See you at Services,  
*Valerie*  
Board Member

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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.



### **Dodging Bullets on Route to the Promised Land**

We all need to know what to do when the bullets start flying. This is something we all need to think about, because the work of liberation - overthrowing oppression - requires risk. And few people go through war without losing a single battle. We have to know how to experience the pain of loss, how to carry the grief and bear the weight of a broken heart. In the immortal words of boxer, Mike Tyson, 'everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face.' Truly great people know what to do after that.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis.. Steve Wallcave 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%.

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**Volunteer!**  
**Protect Our Democracy!**  
**Have Fun!**

**MPUUC** has collaborated with the **League of Women Voters** of Fremont, Newark and Union City and the **Youth Voter Movement** to register over [13,500 future voters](#) from our local high schools, since 2018. We hope you will join as a volunteer this year!

Adult volunteers collaborate with energetic student leaders to make VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES a success for all high school juniors and seniors. There are tasks for all: greeting students, distributing/ collecting materials, answering questions, proofing/sorting/counting forms, handing out treats, etc. We provide the logistical info, supplies, snacks, and camaraderie. Just bring a democracy-for-all spirit (maybe a friend) and enjoy the multi-generational impact.

There are morning and afternoon shifts (approx. 0800-12:00 and 11:45-3:30)

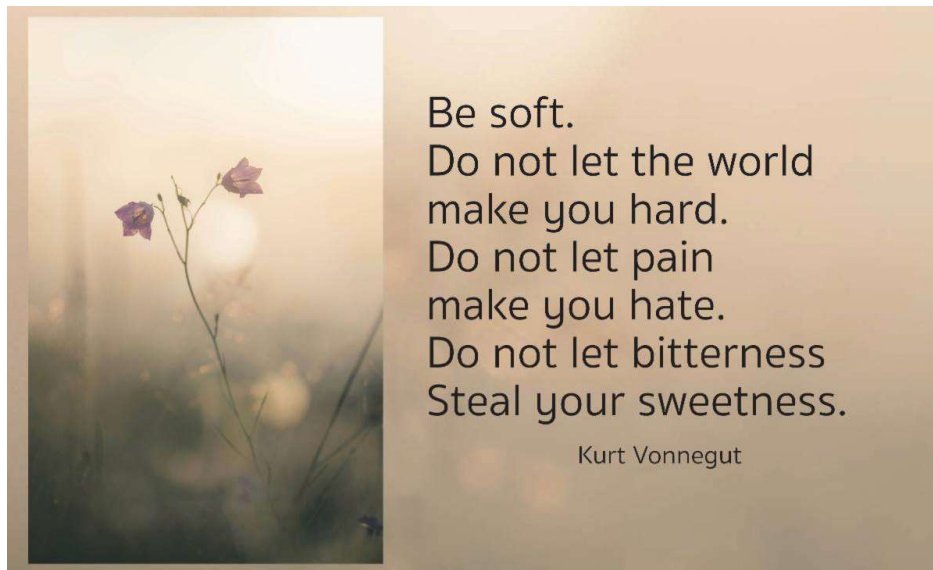
[Event Dates, High Schools, Cities](#)

Jan 23, Fri Mission, Fremont  
Jan 26, Mon Washington, Fremont  
Feb 02, Mon Irvington, Fremont  
Feb 04, Wed Conley, Hayward  
Feb 10, Tue New Haven Acly, Union City  
Feb 18, Wed Bridgepoint, Newark  
Feb 23, Mon American, Fremont  
Feb 27, Fri Newark, Newark  
Mar 12, Thur Logan, Union City

PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO SIGN-UP ON OUR VOLUNTEER FORM:

<http://bit.ly/4q6aoGp>

[Click here for flyer](#)



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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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## Update from Your Search Team

MPUUC's Ministerial Search Team is currently considering seven candidates who have expressed interest in our congregation. We're reading applications, listening to recorded sermons, talking to references, and we plan to start interviewing the candidates next week. This is exciting work and we are hopeful about finding and attracting a minister who is a wonderful fit with Mission Peak.

— Beth Schaefer, for the Search Team

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Mark your calendars for a special, ***all ages Sunday service on February 8th***. The MCB Team (Multigenerational Community Building) has put together an inspiring and fun service designed to help connect the generations, from our youngest members to our oldest. We'll enjoy a shorter than usual, child-friendly service then Valentine and music making stations followed by a tea party and simple lunch.

Please bring a tea cup or two if you'd like! Reach out to Ariel or Lisa if you have tea pots and sandwich stands to share.



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## Saturday March 7th *Potluck and game-night* 6-8pm

Bring a tasty dish to share and a fun game you like to play or come play one someone else brought! Last game-night we enjoyed a few rounds of "Catch Phrase" and "Would you Rather..."

RSVP requested by the night before, 3/6.

Questions? email Ariel [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)

MPUUC invites you to:

## Potluck & Game night

Saturday March 7th from 6-8pm



Bring a tasty dish to share and a game you like to play or play one someone else brings.  
Cole Hall 2950 Washington Blvd.



RSVP REQUESTED BY FRI 3/6  
USE THE QR CODE OR  
EMAIL ARIEL DRE@MPUUC.ORG



GET IN TOUCH WITH US!  
2950 Washington Blvd  
www.mpuuc.org  
dre@mpuuc.org

Our Whole Lives ([OWL](#)) for kinder-1st grades is happening this fall in collaboration with MPUUC and the UU congregations in Sunnyvale, Los Gatos and San Jose! More info to come. Reach out to Ariel with questions, [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)

## JUSTICE CORNER



# LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

### LGBTQ+ Commemoration Dates

February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)  
National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) is dedicated to raising awareness about the disproportionate impact of HIV on Black and African American communities. First observed in 1999, NBHAAD highlights the importance of community involvement and improved access to HIV education, prevention, testing, and treatment services. This year's theme is "Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), national HIV prevention efforts led to a 10 percent decrease in the number of Black or African American people diagnosed with HIV between 2017 and 2021

-[National Institute of Health](#)

Mark your calendars!

The next No Kings demonstrations are scheduled for March 28:





[https://www.nokings.org/?SQF\\_SOURCE=indivisible](https://www.nokings.org/?SQF_SOURCE=indivisible)

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Commission on  
Social Witness

### Monthly Conversations on Abolition

As your congregation engages with the CSAI, join CLF's Monthly Conversations on Abolition.

#### ["Using Restorative Justice with Children and Youth"](#)

Tuesday, February 10, 8–9:30pm ET

We will talk about how to use restorative practices with children and youth, including in school systems as an alternative to the suspension-to-prison pipeline. [Register now.](#)

#### Restorative Justice

#### ["From Principles to Practice: Restorative Justice in Oklahoma"](#)

Monday, February 23, 6:30–8pm ET

In this third session of the restorative justice series, Rev. Dr. (Tamara) Celeste Lebak, Founder and Chief Unlearning Officer of the Restorative Justice Institute of Oklahoma, and Xavier Graves, Executive Director of RJIOK, share how restorative justice is being practiced on the ground across Oklahoma. Drawing from their work in schools, communities, and justice-adjacent systems, they will explore the RJIOK model, what meaningful partnership with local restorative justice organizations can look like, and how congregations can discern their role in supporting accountability, repair, and community healing beyond the sanctuary. [Register now.](#)

[Past event recordings](#) can be found at the Abolition, Transformation & Faith Formation Hub.

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

## **Tell Congress: No Secret Police**

– Demand that Congress block the unchecked growth of ICE and put an end to Donald Trump's secret police force. ICE now has a bigger budget than the militaries of most countries—and it's being used to target, detain, and terrorize our communities, not keep us safe. This agency has arrested elected officials, disappeared people off the street, and torn families apart. That's not law enforcement—that's authoritarianism. Add your name to demand an end to ICE's abuse of power and reign of terror.

[https://act.womensmarch.com/sign/congress\\_NoSecretPolice/](https://act.womensmarch.com/sign/congress_NoSecretPolice/)

## **Call Congress:**

**Stop Starving Gaza and Block the Bombs** – The Israeli military has been killing Palestinians on a daily basis, restricting aid, and delaying the reopening of the Rafah crossing—the most critical lifeline for entry and exit from Gaza. This winter, seven Palestinian children have died from freezing temperatures due to the Israeli military occupation's blockade of critical aid. As Israel's largest military funder, the U.S. has the power to ensure humanitarian aid access and end the killing. Take action now by telling your members of Congress to advocate for the immediate reopening of Rafah crossing, for all aid to enter Gaza, and to pass the Block the Bombs Act (H.R. 3565) to stop arming Israel.

<https://act.uscpr.org/a/letaidin>

## **DropChevron:**

Demand local institutions drop this Big Oil war profiteer as a corporate sponsor – Big Oil corporation Chevron is raking in the profits from Trump's invasion of Venezuela, the Israeli government's genocide against the Palestinian people, and climate destruction around the world. Chevron whitewashes its long history of fueling war crimes by sponsoring events, sports teams, and institutions that offer real value to their local communities. Institutions everywhere should reject all affiliation with Chevron in protest. Take action now to demand that local institutions #DropChevron as a sponsor.

A group of red flowers and green leaves are surrounded by the words Abolish Ice, No Human is Illegal

[Click here](#)

## **8th Principle Learning**

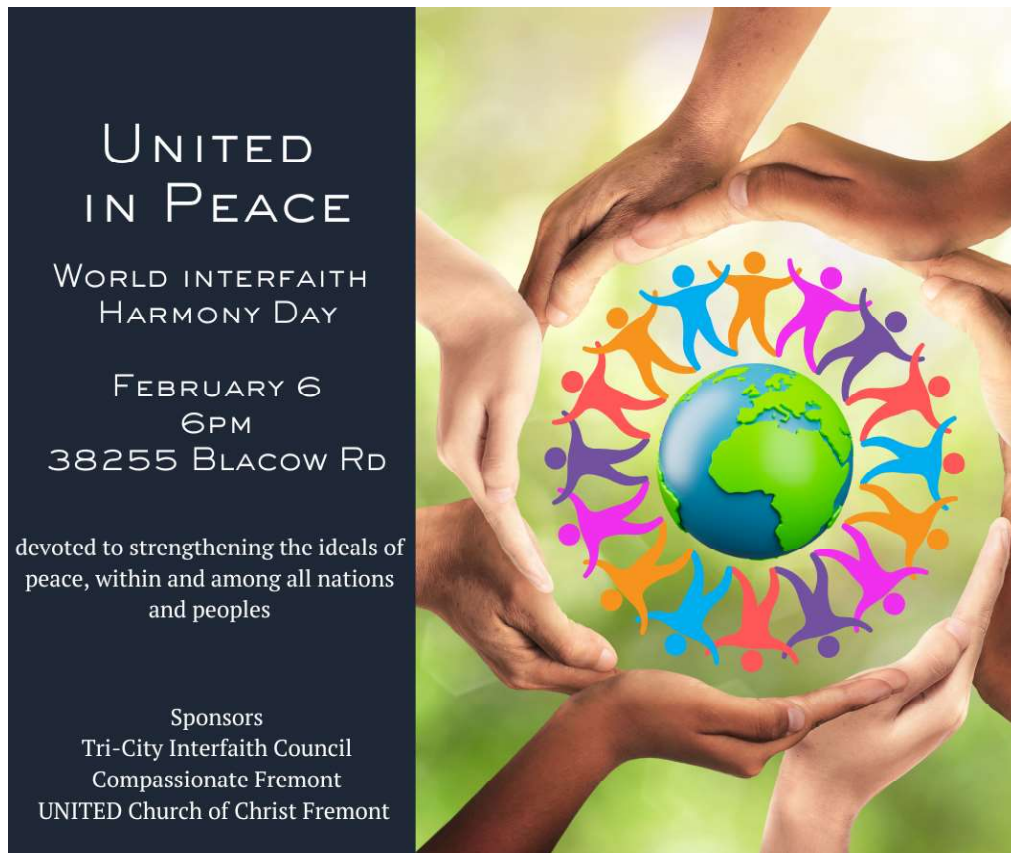
Increasingly, psychologists emphasize that people can be morally injured not only by what they do, but by what they see others do—especially when the wrongdoing is committed by leaders, institutions, or family members they once trusted.

--Dale Anderson UUSJ Board Chair  
Please take care of yourself.

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



Uniting for Peace is the theme of our World Interfaith Harmony Day Vigil.  
We will be gathering outside if the weather cooperates.  
We share the stories of children living in conflict zones.  
We will have luminaries for all the countries at war or in conflict zones.  
We will remember the places the US has bombed/military action in the last year.  
And have a time to pray for countries whose government's are threatening and killing their own people.  
At the end we will light candles and singing.  
Then you are invited to come inside to share fellowship with food and conversation.



If you would like to help, with the vigil through music or prayer please contact me.

Peace,  
Rev. Charlene Hinckley  
President, Tri-City Interfaith Council.  
630.746.2229 (cell)

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# A Non-Musician's Guide to How Music Works

## Unlocking the Magic of Music!

A Special Lecture Series by Dr. Giancarlo Aquilanti – Dr. Aquilanti is Music Director of the Stanford University Wind Symphony & the Music and Choir Director at St. Anne's Episcopal Church

Join St. Anne's very own Dr. Aquilanti for an accessible and illuminating journey into the structure and emotional power of music. Designed for *everyone*, this series will demystify the basic elements of music, transforming the way you listen!

| EVENT     | DATE                       | TIME    |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------|
| Lecture 2 | Saturday, February 7, 2026 | 2:30 PM |
| Lecture 3 | Saturday, April 18, 2026   | 2:30 PM |

Where: St. Anne's Episcopal Church,  
2791 Driscoll Rd, Fremont

Please check [www.stanneschurch.org](http://www.stanneschurch.org)  
for updates to the program



**Related Event:** Stanford Wind Symphony Winter Concert conducted by  
Giancarlo Aquilanti - an inspiring evening celebrating African American music -  
Feb. 28, 2026 at 7:30 PM @ Bing Hall

**Donations to St. Anne's Episcopal Church are Welcome.**

### Board Briefs

The Board met on January 13, 2026. Trustee At Large Michelle Wallace was absent due to health matters. The next Board Meeting is scheduled February 10th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Meetings are by Zoom. Contact [Secretary@MPUUC.org](mailto:Secretary@MPUUC.org) for the link.



1. The Board affirmed an earlier electronic vote to approve Jennifer Culp to be the Canvass Co-Chair with Chair DeAnna Alm. The Canvass Committee will be working with the Treasurer who will draw up an estimated budget for the coming year. The estimate at this time is that MPUUC will need to increase pledges by 15% over this year.
2. Rev. Greg will be holding a "Worship Summit" on January 24 with all those in the congregation who participate in creating Sunday Services. The goal is to establish lines of responsibilities and re-distribute tasks in anticipation of his retirement and a new minister onboarding with MPUUC.
3. The Sunday Service on January 25 will be conducted by Guest Minister, Rev. Jay Atkinson.
4. The Search Team reported that as of the meeting date five individuals have submitted applications, representing a variety of ages, cultures and ministerial experience from 0-12 years. The closing date is February 2. When all applications are received the Search Team will begin to schedule Zoom meetings with the applicants. They are currently consulting with various sources to develop questions and role-playing in practice interviews. The Team wants to base their assessment on the quality of what the candidate can bring to MPUUC, not merely compare one candidate to another.
5. The Board reviewed the existing Board Policies as required by the Bylaws, a new Sec. 19 was approved to describe the "Rites of Passage" services that MPUUC members are entitled to, other minor corrections were approved. The updated version of the Policies will be uploaded to the website within the month.
6. We are still exploring the options to install a ramp on the cancel in Cole Hall to make the raised platform more accessible. Any design and installation must be approved by FUMC. Jay Steele created an excellent presentation and Valerie Stewart will discuss it with the FUMC Board.

7. The MLK Day of Service project planned by MGCB Director Ariel Smith-Iyer was approved to accept donations to help cover costs. Everyone expressed their appreciation for the excellent effort by Ariel in organizing the project, creating a “public-facing” project to involve MPUUC with the larger community.
8. MPUUC is undergoing the annual UUA Certification process which must be completed by February 2, with reports to the UUA. Our Office Administrator Sandra Lange, President Jay Steele and Membership Committee will coordinate to complete the report.

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) . For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

## 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](http://house.gov)  
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631  
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553  
Senator Adam Schiff (202) 224.3841



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