

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! March 4, 2026

Greetings!

Hello to all our Mission Peak UU Members and Friends!

As you have probably already heard, we (Jen Culp and DeAnna Alm) are your Canvass Co-Chairs! As we work our way into a new calendar year -- welcome to Spring! -- we have also been looking to our next congregational year, which starts on July 1. What do you think of when you think about Mission Peak UU Congregation? Inspiring sermons, making great friends, making great music, religious education for our children, education and introspection for ourselves, calls to justice and action to make the world better...these are all part of our shared dream! We're looking forward with excitement to our new minister and continuing to work with all of you to keep this dream of a Unitarian Universalist community continuing.



We hope that as many of you as possible will attend the service on March 8th and stay for our Canvass lunch afterward. We'll play some UU Bingo and have a chance to talk about all the things that keep us returning and that we would love to share with more of our community. For our long-distance members, or for anyone who can't make it on the 8th, we encourage you to RSVP for our Zoom event, which will be on Thursday March 12th at 7 PM. No food for this one, but plenty of joyful company. **Please [RSVP HERE](#) as soon as possible so we can plan appropriately.**

Many thanks to those of you who have already made your pledges -- thanks to you we are already over 30% of the way to our goal! If you would like to make your pledge before March 8, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Yours in hope and gratitude,

DeAnna Alm & Jen Culp

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.



To Love Without Counting the Cost

The mark of good leaders is to come up with a great plan to achieve everything that is possible. Such leaders are attentive, resourceful, focused and persistent. They're conscientious about figuring out what will need to happen to get where we want to go. They will know what success looks, what obstacles to look out for and what we can't afford. All of us are always hope for that one particular great leader will show up and do all of that for us. But, at Mission Peak, we - together - are the only leaders we have. We are the only ones who can say what is possible. This is a sermon about what we want and what we have to do to get it.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associates DeAnna Alm and Jennifer Culp. Melissa Holmes 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%.

Hi everyone!

Brian and Jen will be bringing Mamahouse pastries to share as part of the Canvass lunch after the service. Looking forward to a sweet treat and good fellowship together!

LUNCH AND LEARN SOUP MAKING

We need a few volunteers to make and bring soup for our Lunch and Learn (Shared Pulpit) session immediately after Sunday service on March 15 and April 12.

Soup Making Involves preparing approximately 2-3 quarts of either vegetarian soup or soup with meat. These can either be prepared at home (and then heated up during service) or cooked in a pressure cooker during service. OR – you can sign up to bring bread (and butter) and cookies (or some kind of dessert).

For more information and to sign up [CLICK HERE](#)

Calling all gardeners or gardeners-to-be:

The MP Covenant Garden (The MP Gentleman Farm? Community Garden? Everyone uses Community Garden. What should we name this thing?) is ready for a workday that will involve planting and general cleanup. **Please save the date for Sun, March 22.**

In the meantime, please review the [tracking spreadsheet](#). There are four tabs, the most significant being **Plot Allocations**. That tab contains the garden's Purpose/Mission Statement, along with **the Steward column** used for claiming some of the space. Refer to the **Layout** tab to match SF Giants player names with their corresponding beds. If you want to be extra fancy, use **Insert | Smart Chips | People** to add all of your contact info in one click.

Oh, and you'll also find headings for task tracking and for garden improvement ideas. Lastly, a huge thanks to Bruce Cates, who is trying to procure some seedlings. I should probably mention that I've unilaterally signed Bruce up as the Garden's official advisor. Congrats, Bruce! :)

That's all for now. My email is in the spreadsheet (hover over my People chip) if you have questions. Looking forward to a fun season of gardening with all of you!

Brian Culp



Volunteer!
Protect Our Democracy!
Have Fun!

We hope you will join as a volunteer this year! We especially need volunteers for Kennedy High in Fremont and James Logan in Union City.

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. We are offering a training on February 15, please contact Valerie Stewart for more information at ValerieMPUUC@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!!!**

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

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

Mar 12, Thur Logan, Union City

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

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

Instructions
for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

Mary Oliver



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 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](#).

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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.
(<https://forms.gle/gbXRkEqnDLQDsMPe9>)

Questions? email Ariel 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



The UU Church in Livermore (UUCiL) invites MPUUC to join them for an afternoon of acoustic music and harmony on Sunday, March 29th. The concert begins at 4pm. Optional, pre-concert music circle for families from 3-3:30pm. \$10-20 suggested sliding scale donation. 1893 N. Vasco Rd, Livermore. See [flyer](#) for more information.

MARK & CINDY LEMAIRE
Sun
29 Mar
4:00 PM
AN AFTERNOON OF ACOUSTIC MUSIC AND HARMONY

FIFTH SUNDAY COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

UUCiL
1893 N. Vasco Rd, Livermore
Child care available

\$10-20 suggested sliding scale donation
Light refreshments

MUSIC CIRCLE FOR FAMILIES
3:00-3:30 PM (before concert)
Explore rhythm, movement, and simple instruments in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

JUSTICE CORNER

UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH
FULL MOON GATHERINGS
next gathering: march 1

REGISTER AT:
<https://www.uumfe.org/spiritual-gatherings/full-moon-gatherings/>

Mark your calendars!

The next No Kings demonstrations are scheduled for March 28:



https://www.nokings.org/?SQF_SOURCE=indivisible

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



Taproot Gathering for BIPOC People

Thursday, February 19th

8:00pm ET / 7:00pm CT / 6:00pm MT / 5:00pm PT

2026 Dates:

- Thursday, February 19th
- Thursday, April 16th



In 2026, our movements have already delivered powerful blows to the administration's billionaire agenda, and we're in the best position yet to stop their death march and weaken their power. **Millions of white people are defecting and rising up– it's our role to be ready to move them away from authoritarianism and into movements of resistance.**

To be ready to accomplish all of this, next week on Wednesday, March 4 at 8 pm ET, we're launching our newest training program: [Block by Block Training and Action Series](#), to equip SURJ members to organize our communities to get into formation to do our part.

[As ICE has its eyes set on the next invasion location and the 2026 midterm elections approach, can you join us to be ready to win?](#)

8th Principle Learning

True Stories

[ts0oSdpenrm8 9fff87M7hg:6rb602a2iF0rlh 70a34f0 aau3Amyt19e1](#)

Ta-Nehisi Coates became one of the most influential voices on race in America, then watched the same institutions that elevated him demand moderation, balance, and silence once his work stopped being useful and started being destabilizing.

Coates did not rise through consensus. He rose through confrontation. At The Atlantic, his essays refused optimism, refused reconciliation language, and refused the idea that American injustice could be explained away as misunderstanding. He wrote about plunder, policy, and continuity, not progress. The work drew massive readership and institutional attention because it named what polite discourse avoided (The Atlantic archives).

[Continue in this link](#)



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Pacific Western - Regional Assembly 2026

Event format: Online & on-site

Date & time:

Friday, April 10, 2026, 5:00 pm - Saturday, April 11, 2026, 9:00 pm PDT

Click [here](#) for more information.

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde Announced as 2026 UUGA Ware Lecturer

Full Story

UUA General Assembly

[Click here](#)

Topic: "Who will speak for you when you can't?"

March 26, 2026 Thursday

Time: 1:00pm - 2:00 pm or so

Lake Elizabeth wing C

Fee: \$10

There are many things in life that are out of our hands. This is for anyone who is 18 years or older, it tells your health care providers, family of how you want to be treated if you become ill and can't speak for yourself.

Bring \$10 with you to class.

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
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 February 10, 2025. The next Board Meeting is scheduled March 10th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Meetings are by Zoom. Contact Secretary@MPUUC.org for the link.

- The Board Voted and Approved a resolution removing Holly Ito's name from its Charles Schwab account and replacing the names of the current President and Treasurer and our Administrator Sandra Lange. Treasurer Drew Wilson will conclude that change with Schwab, as well as continue updating other account management names.



Treasurer Drew Wilson reported that 79% of pledges are received as of 12/31. Spending is at 47% as of 12/31/25. The Canvass preliminary budget is prepared, included pie charts at request of Canvass Chair for demonstration to the Congregation

- President Jay Steele reported that the UUA Certification of the Congregation has been completed and accepted by the UUA. Jay will be traveling to Europe at the end of the month but will be available by email if necessary.
- Rev. Ward offered a Worship RACI following the very successful meeting with all the Worship related volunteers and Staff who craft our Sunday Services (the first since he became minister.) RACI – is a management tool-used to map out roles and responsibilities: **R**esponsible, **A**ccountable, **C**onsulted, or **I**nformed. He also offered a modified Organizational Chart that more accurately reflects the current status of volunteer roles at MPUUC- we still have more “Committees” listed than are currently functioning.
- The Search Committee reported that they are starting interviews of Applicants this week, after working on the questions for the Applicant during the Interviews. The Committee will ask questions for 45 minutes, then the Applicant can ask questions for 15 minutes. The Search Committee is pleased with the quality of the Applicants and looks forward to the interviews.
New committees that have been proposed during the Search process will be more fully described and considered for integration in the available congregational activities/resources.
- Work on obtaining a ramp for the Chancel in Cole Hall continues. The proposal submitted to the FUMC Board was approved by the new FUMC Board of Trustees; with the limitation that it is only for use by MPUUC, as they cannot assume liability for its general use in Cole Hall, which they rent out to other entities. Jay and Valerie are searching for a ramp which will be more ‘portable” and allow for easy installation and storage, as it will become an additional task for the Sunday Service Operations Team.
- The Board is consulting with the Worship Hosts about ways to simplify the tasks for Zoom for our hybrid services. We are recruiting for Worship Hosts, to help with Sunday Services. If you are interested, please contact Erik Alm.
- The Board reviewed the procedures for the Love Hero award special collection at the February 15th Service. The Love Hero Award will be given to Indivisible Fremont.

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

For more details about meetings or questions email 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](https://www.house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Adam Schiff (202) 224.3841



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