

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 1, 2026

Greetings!

How about a little quiz to start off the month of April!

What UUA program is celebrating its 26th anniversary this year? Hint: it was written in collaboration with the United Church of Christ (UCC). The program as a whole, across various curriculum written for ages 5 and all the way up to age 105, dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. It provides honest, medically accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.



It's Our Whole Lives (OWL)!

In March MPUUC, in collaboration with UU Sunnyvale, UU Los Gatos and UU San Jose, are collectively offering the grades kinder-1st curriculum. We had our info session online and the 2 hour parent/child orientation in Sunnyvale. Now we're in the middle of 4 sessions offered here in Fremont before the class moves locations to Los Gatos and Sunnyvale for the final 4 sessions. It's been wonderful to see kids coming together from these congregations to learn and explore these invaluable lessons. Last week we talked with them about consent, as 5-7 year olds would: "Can I touch my elbow to your elbow? Can I touch my ankle to your wrist?" letting the kids practice saying yes and no in response. We talk about gender identity, all the different ways that family can look and ways that a baby can become part of a family with lessons on babies, pregnancy and birth. Our final session is a party with children and their parents/caregivers, celebrating all that they've learned and highlighting one of the central tenets of OWL: that parents/ caregivers are their children's primary sexuality educators.

As I mentioned in the intro paragraph, OWL curriculum begins with this earliest level, grades k-2. There is a curriculum written for grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. After that there's a curriculum for Young Adults, another for Adults and finally one for Older Adults. MPUUC's tradition from years past has been to offer the grades 7-9 curriculum so it's exciting to be expanding what's offered here, now benefiting our youngest kids. We hope to find a way for all of our young people to get the chance to take these classes, either here at MPUUC or at or in collaboration with our UU neighbor congregations. If we had a deeper bench of trained facilitators

(right now I'm the only trained OWL elementary facilitator) we could feel more confident about being able to offer this class to the next batch of kinder-1st graders. A few of my colleagues and I are working on putting together a weekend long training, likely in the fall and at the UU Sacramento congregation, for anyone who wants to get trained, please reach out if being a part of this life-saving education sparks your interest.

Ariel Smith-Iyer

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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.



### The Difference Between Eastering and Being Eastered

When it comes to Easter, there is a well known and powerful story that tends to dominate the day. But there are many who are not needing a licensed and corporate Easter Story. They are needing a story of their own. A story of how love that is surely lost finds new life. A story of being saved by a love that won't die. A story that we have faith in because it happened to us. This Easter, we will hear some other Easter stories as we work to come up with our own.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Shauna Pickett-Gordon 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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### Share the Plate - March

MPUUC's March Share the Plate goes to The League of Women Voters (LWV). The (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in our democracy. With active Leagues in all 50 states and more than 800

Leagues across the country, it engages in advocacy, education, litigation, and organizing to protect every American's freedom to vote.

We will be collecting until April 19.

Write a check to MPUUC with "LWV" in the memo line and mail 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 an envelope with a check (with "LWV" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "League of Women Voters") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "League of Women Voters" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

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## 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 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](#)

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The land is the real teacher. All we need as students is mindfulness. Paying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world, receiving its gifts with open eyes & open heart.

Robin Wall Kimmerer



## 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](#).

## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

MPUUC is teaming up with Starr King UUC, our neighbor UU's in Hayward, for an evening of shared online fellowship. Our very own Julie Ganzlin will be there leading one room of lively conversation and SKUUC's Ben Ogilvie will lead a game in a separate room. Another SKUUC volunteer will lead a room with games for kids. This is our first time to try something like this- join us and see how it goes! Follow this link to get info on how to join the zoom: [starring.org/zoomgames](https://starring.org/zoomgames)

([flyer attached](#))



## The Year to Save the Earth

Saturday, April 18 at 2:00 PM  
*Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore*  
Suggested donation: \$20



Many in UU communities know Jim's music well, and this program brings together his songs, poetry, and projected imagery in a moving exploration of our relationship with the Earth. The concert reflects themes of climate justice, interdependence, and collective action, with opportunities for audience participation through singing and reflection.

## JUSTICE CORNER

UUMFE's 2025-26 Community Read:  
"What If We Get It Right?" (WIWGIR)



If you'd like to join us, [please register here to receive the Zoom link](#). You only need to register once to attend all 9 sessions. [Click here to print a poster](#) for your congregation's bulletin board.

[Sign up for the Community Read email list here](#) in order to receive the most up-to-date communications.

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We're excited for our second month of reviving our [Full Moon Gatherings!](#) Each gathering will take place on the Sunday night closest to each full moon from 8-9pm ET/5-6pm PT. We meet next on April 5th to honor the Pink Moon. [Please click here to get all of the details and register to attend.](#)



We invite you to bring these items to our Full Moon Gatherings:

- chalice or candle that connects you to the moon's light
- round stone or small object that connects you to the moon's energy, that you can hold in your hand
- shawl, blanket, or wrap for coziness and a ritual moment acknowledging the upcoming lunar eclipse
- mug of tea, glass of water, or something that cares for your physical body while in virtual space
- journal, pen, drawing paper, art supplies, or anything that will help you integrate our time together

[READ MORE + REGISTER](#)

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**LGBTQ**

*Welcoming Congregation*

National Day of Silence April 10

National Day of Silence is a student-led movement to protest bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students and those who support them.

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





**Wednesday, April 15 • 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**SURJ Bay Area Introductory Meeting (VIRTUAL)**

Are you looking for a political home where you can build skills, deepen relationships, and stay in the fight for the long haul? Do you want to get in motion with other white people on the right side of history? Join us at this virtual gathering to learn about SURJ Bay Area's work, hear our strategies for organizing to bring more white people into the movement for racial and economic justice, and find concrete ways you can show up. Together we'll explore how you can make connections, take part in campaigns, and organize with our multigenerational membership. Zoom link sent upon registration.

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Friday, May 1

May Day: NO WORK. NO SCHOOL. NO SHOPPING.

Against a blue and gold background a person holds a white megaphone blasting  
WORKERS OVER BILLIONAIRES in white letters on red.

When the billionaires break every rule, it's going to take more than a protest to stop them.

This May 1st, we will be flexing our collective muscle in a tremendous day of people power—showing our unity and strength through a day of no work, no school, no shopping.

Everyone can do at least one of these:

- No Work means take the day off, call in sick, or take collective action through your union or work place.
  - No School means not going to class, or organizing a class or campus walkout.
  - No Shopping means withholding your buying power, especially when so many companies profit off the violence and war of the Trump administration.
  - Join SURJ in Oakland for a resource fair and march held by the Sin Fronteras coalition. Join us.
  - Sign the May Day Solidarity Pledge. All out for May Day 2026!
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## 8th Principle Learning

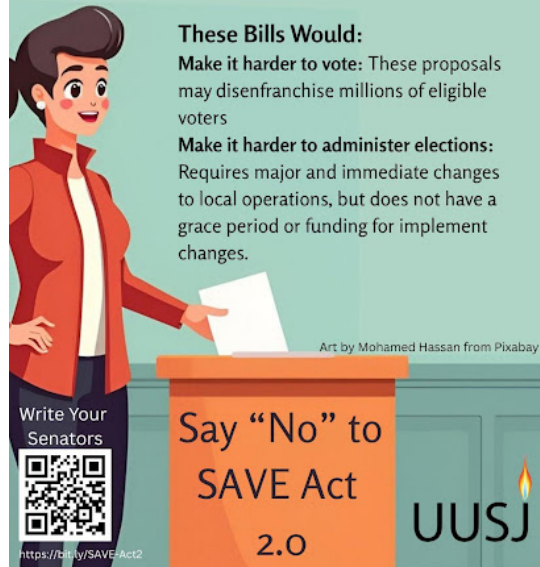
Take Action:

1. Write Your Senators:  
<https://bit.ly/SAVE-Act2>
2. Call Your Senators via Common Cause Phonebank:  
[https://www.mobilize.us/commoncause/event/921096/...](https://www.mobilize.us/commoncause/event/921096/)
3. Attend the Rally on Wednesday:  
[https://www.mobilize.us/lightfordemocracy/event/921003/...](https://www.mobilize.us/lightfordemocracy/event/921003/)
4. Call Your Senator using this script:  
Find your Senator:  
<https://uusj.net/wp1/federal-legislative-lookup>  
Call the Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Script:

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_, I live in \_\_\_\_ (town and state) and I am a person of faith. I join others from across the U.S. in calling on you to oppose any version of the SAVE Act, be it the "Make Elections Great Again Act" (H.R. 7300) or "SAVE America Act" (HR 7296). None of these bills, make it easier to vote. They risk participation and strip states of their Constitutional right and responsibility to administer elections. I say hands off my access to the ballot box. The SAVE Act is a red-line for me.

HR 7300, the Make Elections Great Again Act,  
HR 7296, The Save America Act,



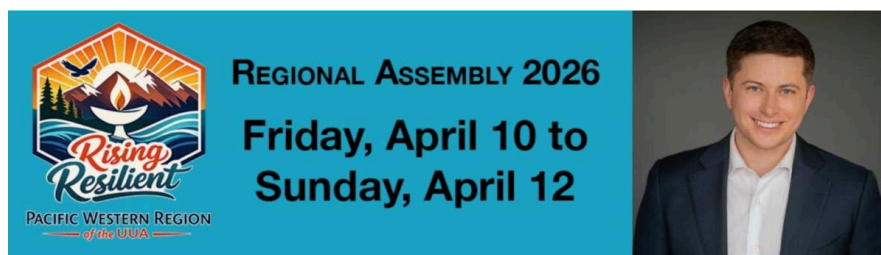
## ACLU

The First Amendment protects your right to record government officials performing their duties in public.

This applies to ICE agents, police, FBI, National Guard troops, and any other government officials.

Learn more [at aclu.org/kyr-record-](https://aclu.org/kyr-record-)

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS



Presenting the Keynote of the Regional Assembly is Sam Ames, a life-long UU, attorney, and rabblouser for civil rights. They will speak on this:

### How to Survive a Scapegoating: Lessons from Trans Troublemakers on Fighting for Your Life without Losing Your Soul

**Sam Ames**, a civil rights attorney who has been fighting for LGBTQI+ equality for over 15 years, will join us on the final night of Regional Assembly to share a few lessons from the trans community about how to weather these cycles of panic and exhaustion. We will look honestly at the landscape around us: court decisions that shape our rights, policies that threaten vulnerable communities, and the ways public narratives can amplify fear. But we will also root ourselves in something older and more profound—that state systems have never been the source of our worth and dignity. Love has.

[Register here](#)

## SAFE PARKING PROGRAM. resumes at FUMC 4/1 -4/31

The FUMC Congregation is again hosting the City of Fremont SAFE Parking Program (SPP) Guests at FUMC April 1 - April 31. If you would like to participate with support for a meal or other needed items, please contact Erin Fritz at [Erin.Fritz@comcast.net](mailto:Erin.Fritz@comcast.net)

MPUUCers can provide dinner or breakfast meals, more information and a link to the sign up sheet in next week's Week on the Peak!

### 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 March 10, 2025. The next Board Meeting is scheduled April 14th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Meetings are by Zoom. Contact [Secretary@MPUUC.org](mailto:Secretary@MPUUC.org) for the link (24 hrs. notice please).

Board Member Michelle Wallace continues to be absent due to health issues. Guests attending included members Beth Schaefer and Kathi Bayne.

1. Canvass got off to a great start thanks to the excellent organization by DeAnna Alm and Jennifer Culp.

2. Rev. Ward reported that the Worship Workshop last month has provided the foundation for continuing to develop organization for 'teams' that will take on all the tasks for coordinating and presenting Sunday Services. Rev. Greg is using his final months to transition the tasks for Sunday Service to the lay leaders at MPUUC and provide a foundation for our next minister to work from upon their arrival. Rev. Greg's last day is June 21, 2026.



3. Treasurer's Report (Drew Wilson) indicated that most of the longtime accounts have been updated with the Current Board information. Our current assets total \$358,347 and the expected budget deficit is reduced to approx.. \$1500, due to special donations.

4. President Jay Steele reported that he continues to coordinate with the Webmaster to update the Congregational Documents section of the [MPUUC.org](http://MPUUC.org) website to accurately reflect our current operational structure at Mission Peak. He consulted the Worship Hosts about ways to simplify the tasks for Zoom for our hybrid services. The Hosts will experiment with some options for screen sharing.

5. We are recruiting for Worship Hosts, to help with Sunday Services. If you are interested, please contact Erik Alm.

6. The Search Committee reported that there are 5 Ministerial Candidates remaining (originally 9 applied). The Search Committee is looking at each of their 3 'top choices' candidates with the question about who will be the best 'fit' for MPUUC and also asking how much change will MPUUC handle? The Search Committee has decided to seek a 'consultation' about how to make the best decision for the Congregation.

7. Beth Schaefer and Kathi Bayne (from the Search Committee) made a presentation/proposal to the Board to establish a "Social Justice Executive Committee" (based on the previous Social Justice Council Charter, 1/19/2019 document from the website.) The Social Justice Executive Committee will provide an umbrella for administrative purposes for *Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO)*, *Civic Engagement Committee* (*Vote Forward letter writing, Youth Voter Movement*,

They also proposed two new Sub-Committees to include:

- a. Environmental Committee (Brian & Jennifer Culp)
- b. Welcoming Committee (Mark R. and Kathi B.)

They also proposed two new "affinity groups" –for members and friends who identify with the subject of the Group. The groups must adhere to UU values and MPUUC Mission Statement. (They do not report to the Board.)

- a. BIPOC
- b. LGBTQ+

The Social Justice Executive Committee, the two new Sub-committees and the two Affinity Groups were approved, with the understanding that the necessary charter documents will be created to describe the purpose/scope and actions for each committee/group.

President Jay will consult with the Leadership Committee to address the current vacancy on the Board (we are permanently short one Board Member-at-Large). As well, as the need to begin outreach to the Congregation for Officer positions that will be open and voted on at the Congregational Annual Meeting JUNE 7th.

#### **Old Business:**

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. Storage locations are being explored.

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)

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## **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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