

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! March 11, 2026

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Greetings!

Hello Friends!

I am Valerie Stewart, a member of the Board.



Isn't the weather just fabulous these last few days? Even with the time change and now dark mornings again (even when I leave the gym at 0630), the sun in the afternoons has trees budding out and flowers blooming- the California poppies are waving their heads through cracks in the sidewalk. The hills in the East are still green. The day wants you to put a smile on your face. For those of you who were in Cole Hall this last "Canvass Sunday", in person or from Zoomlandia, it was a time to be together and appreciate the bonds we develop with one another. Canvass isn't just about bringing money to fund the operations of Mission Peak, it is about recognizing the blessing of taking time with each other to know what your 'story' is- what are the likes/dislikes we share, what your struggles and accomplishments are, whether you grew up in the snow of Minnesota winters or the waving palms trees of Florida, whether you were an only child or the oldest of a large group of siblings and how each of those roles shaped you, offered you opportunities and challenges growing up, whether you always had plenty or struggled to pay bills. We all do have a common bond – we want the world to be a better place, for everyone. And we are willing to put our time and talents into action in ways to support that goal.

Some days make it seem that achieving a "better world" is an impossible goal, when all the news we read or hear tells us of chaos. And then you'll get a call, or a text, or an email – someone at Mission Peak has an idea, for an action, a committee, a song, a sermon, or they simply know that they can ask, when they are in need -or you are- and the bond of being in community, together, brings a warmth to your soul and maybe a smile to your lips. So, lets hold on to our dream of a better world, together.

See you at Sunday Service!

Valerie

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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.



### Hate Blinds with Shame, but Love Sees Beyond Limits

The story of Eddie Green is the story of a gay man who comes out in the South, finds his voice in Atlanta in the 1980s, and survives the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis. Through puppetry, performance, and community activism — including an appearance on America's Got Talent — Eddie transformed hardship into connection. He reveals how shame transforms into pride for LGBTQ+ communities whenever Love is the focus. As a survivor of multiple life-threatening illnesses - including the gradual loss of his eyesight, he recognizes that true vision comes from purpose, resilience, and community. This will be a service about overcoming cruelty with creativity, and living fully against the odds.

Eddie Green will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Greg Ward. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Various Musical Artists 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 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](#)

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## 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

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When we cede control of our attention, we cede more than what we are looking at now. We cede, to some degree, control over what we will care about tomorrow.

Ezra Klein



## 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](#).

### SINGING & POSTER-MAKING PARTY!

Many have enjoyed watching videos of people singing in Minneapolis.

They sing in the streets, at detention facilities, & places where ICE squads are housed.

The community gathers in places of worship & sings together as a community.

"Singing Resistance" has started a movement that's spreading across the nation!

They've provided training at online webinars and shared their songs.

**let's sing together!**

**we will learn songs of solidarity & resistance**

**Big Church St. James'**

**Building Community: A Singing & Poster Making Party**

**MARCH 27**

**Friday Evening**

**5:00-6:00 - Singing Together**

**6:00-7:00 - Making Posters**

**in preparation for No Kings Day**

**Bring Your Voices, Good Energy, Poster Making Supplies**

On Friday, March 27th, the eve of the NO KINGS protest, join us to sing songs of courage, love, and solidarity as a community. The songs are simple and taught by rote - no experience required! This will be followed by a Poster-Making Party.

St. James' Episcopal Church  
37051 Cabrillo Terrace

## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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



As we honor International Women's Day, **UUSC staff are preparing to join with our partners next week at the 70th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)**, the main annual gathering of states and civil society on gender equality.

The call to action is clear: we must ensure and strengthen access to justice for all women and girls. This includes upholding inclusive and equitable legal systems and eliminating discriminatory laws and structural barriers.

While this year is likely to be smaller and more contested than previous years due to U.S. policy changes, it continues to be an important venue to fight for gender equality. No matter the barriers, we are showing up at CSW70 to challenge the narrative of fear and to amplify the truth our partners live every day: justice and dignity for all must be collectively built.



**EVENTS** from UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH



Save the date or our annual Earth Day worship service! We will send information on how to register soon.

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

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



## No War! No Weapons!

Americans don't want to foot the bill for endless war—whether that's the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran or Israel's U.S.-funded genocide against the Palestinian people. Our tax dollars should be funding care for our communities, not killing.

A critical new bill, the Block the Bombs Act (H.R. 3565) has been introduced by Rep. Delia Ramirez. If passed, this bill would block weapons that have been documented in devastating attacks against Palestinians. [Email your representatives](#) to demand that they support this legislation and enforce U.S. law that prohibits military funding for human rights violations.

## **SAVE THE DATE! Friday, May 1 • May Day 2026**

**NO WORK. NO SCHOOL. NO SHOPPING.**

When the billionaires break every rule, it's going to take more than a rally to stop them. This May 1st, we will be flexing our collective muscle in a tremendous day of power—showing our unity and strength through a day of no work, no school, no shopping.

- ➔ 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.
- ➔ [Sign the May Day Solidarity Pledge](#). All out for May Day 2026!

## 8th Principle Learning

**Tell your Senators They Must Oppose SAVE Act 2.0**

*The federal government should not get in the way of our ability to vote.*

Write Your Senators

<https://bit.ly/SAVE-Act2>

**UUSJ**

## **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: RECORDING FEDERAL AGENTS IN PUBLIC**

1. **You have the right to photograph or film anything in plain view, including federal buildings and law enforcement, so long as you aren't trespassing or violating a lawful order.**
2. **If you're not under arrest, law enforcement needs a warrant to confiscate or search your device.**
3. **If you're arrested, officers still need a warrant to search your device's contents.**
4. **The government may never lawfully delete your photos or videos.**
5. **While the Constitution protects your right to record and helps you defend against unjustified retaliation or arrest, the exercise of this right can still carry risks.**

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**ACLU**

### **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://www.aclu.org/kyr-record)

### **DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS**



**Rising Resilient**

**Regional Assembly**  
Pacific Western Region of the UUA

**April 10-12, 2026**  
UU Society of Sacramento  
and online

**Register here!** And sign up to be a **vendor or exhibitor 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](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.**

## 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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