

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! March 18, 2026

Greetings!

Greetings from the heart of MPUUC!

Mission Peak is alive with activity. Search is zeroing in on our top choice(s). We have difficulty in settling on one 'best' candidate. An embarrassment of riches. The board is busy setting up for the transition from one great minister to another. We are reinvigorating worship by the lay leaders with Rev. Greg's fantastic help. Zoom is being restructured by Zoom and by our changing needs. We will be working on that for a while yet. The organization of MPUUC governance is being streamlined at the same time that opportunities are being opened. The congregation itself is readying for the March 28 'No Kings' Rally. Purple shirts and all. It is our reputation among the candidates that we engage in a great amount of work for a small congregation.



Which brings me to a different focus. We manage to engage in a great deal. There is much that is before us. It is up to you of the congregation to determine what that much is. Many options are open that you might take to make your own. Welcoming Congregation. Worship Associates. Social Justice in any or all its many facets and our country needs them all. This is not sending you out there dumped into the deep end but joining with UU's everywhere and the greater Fremont area. To be shaped as you would have it. Grow something that is uniquely yours and ours. To the level of effort that you can manage without being overworked. Opportunities. A legacy.

And now a plea. Our board has an opening. One without attached responsibilities. It is an occasion when you can see the inner workings and for the first few months simply offer your opinion and get feedback. Everyone would like to push policy in a direction and learning how and eventually why it isn't easy is true gold. Everything is easy if you do not have to do it yourself. Even if you are brand new here, this will contribute a bunch. I will thank you. The rest of the board will thank you. The congregation will thank you. And it will be an unending source of conversation. I look forward to meeting someone new.

Mark Rahman

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.



Between Hello and Goodbye

Go anywhere and it's the same. There is a time that comes - a little after we arrive, and a little before we leave - where we realize that our 'stuff' is all over the place. Usually, it is when we realize we're moving on that we start to notice how spread out we are and try to gather everything up in nice, neat piles. But from the moment we realize we're leaving, every time we go about tidying things up, we - unconsciously, but unvariably - leave things a little mixed up. This is a sermon about the fine art of leaving... and the ways we long to stay... and the ways our heart tries to make sense of it all.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven, Sharon Davis 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%.

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%

IMPORTANT CONVERSATION ON CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Tomorrow, Thursday March 19 at 7:00 pm that Rev. Greg and Ariel are holding to explore how to optimize the Sunday morning experience for all the members and friends interested in getting their Worship needs met.

At the February 22nd worship service, there were children present. This represents an exciting milestone. MPUUC has long wanted to attract parents and children to attend on Sunday mornings. One of Ariel's goals in coming here was to revitalize and grow the program and we've seen steady growth on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays when she has been here to offer programming. The 22nd was a 4th Sunday of the month which points to success even beyond what we'd planned. The question becomes how we will respond.

We are really interested in hearing your ideas. We want to encourage young families and children to come because they are our future. And we want to honor and accommodate those people who are our present. Ariel and I were hoping we could all put our heads together to debrief and consider some good ideas. Click on [Rev. Greg's Zoom Room](#) to attend. It would be so great to have your perspective.

SPECIAL SANDWICH SQUAD

This Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM Rev. Greg and Ariel will be working with a contingent from Mission San Jose High School's Poverty Patch Up who have made care bags for our neighbors without permanent housing. We will gather at Cole Hall at 10AM to make sandwiches and bring the care bags and water down to the slabs. All are welcome.

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](#)

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.

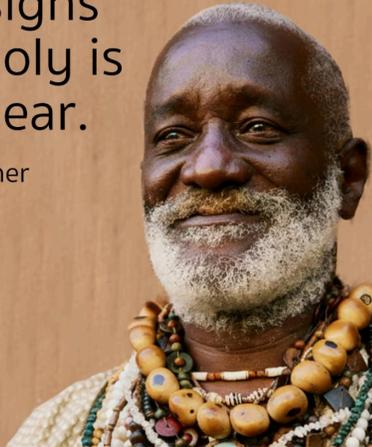
Oh, and you'll also find headings for task tracking and for garden improvement ideas. Lastly, a huge thanks to Bruce Cates, who is trying to procure some seedlings. I should probably mention that I've unilaterally signed Bruce up as the Garden's official advisor. Congrats, Bruce! :)

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

Pay attention to the things that bring a tear to your eye or a lump in your throat because they are signs that the holy is drawing near.

Frederick Buechner



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](#).

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.

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
Fremont, CA



let's sing together!

we will learn songs of solidarity & resistance

Building Community: A Singing & Poster Making Party

MARCH 27
Friday Evening
5:00-6:00 - Singing Together
6:00-7:00 - Making Posters

Big Church St. James' in preparation for No Kings Day

Bring Your Voices, Good Energy, Poster Making Supplies

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 CONNECT 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.



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



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

**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



UUSJ Adobe 2026

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://aclu.org/kyr-record-)

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS



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.

News from our Tri-City Interfaith Council (TCIC) partners:

FREE CLOTHING SWAP at 810 Walnut Ave. on March 27-28. Hours are Friday, March 27th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and in the evening from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Also Saturday morning, March 28th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

<p>Don't Shop CLOTHES SWAP & More <i>NO NEED TO GIVE TO GET . . . ALL ITEMS ARE FREE</i></p>	
<p>SWAP TIMES</p> <p>Friday, March 27 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Friday, March 27 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Saturday, March 28 9:00 am to 12:00 pm</p>	
<p>DONATE THESE TYPES OF ITEMS</p> <p>New or Gently Used Clean Clothes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's, Women's, Maternity, Teen's, Children's, and Babies' • Halloween Costumes • All Sizes Welcome <p>Home Goods and Other Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books, DVD's, Home Decor, Linens, Toys, Crafts, Fabric, Working Baby Strollers, Shoes, Sporting Goods, and Kitchen Items, etc. • Items' with small parts (such as puzzles or Legos) should be placed in a bag so they are kept with the set. <p style="text-align: center;">AFTER THE SWAP, LEFTOVER ITEMS GO TO CHARITY</p>	<p><u>WE CANNOT ACCEPT THESE ITEMS</u></p> <p>NO Dirty Items NO Broken Items NO Ripped or Stained Items NO Medical Supplies NO Furniture NO Mattresses NO Underwear or Lingerie NO Baby Baths NO Baby Bouncers NO Car Seats No Breast Pumps NO Diaper Pails NO Toilet Training Seats</p>
<p>DATES & TIMES OF LAYING OUT ITEMS</p> <p>Wednesday, March 25 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Friday, March 27 from 9:30 am to 10:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may also lay out items anytime during the swap.</p> <p>During the swap if you are donating, please lay out items on the designated tables <u>BEFORE</u> taking items!</p>	<p>LOCATION OF THE SWAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</p> <p style="text-align: center;">810 Walnut Avenue Fremont, California 94536 (in the Gym)</p> <p>FOR MORE INFO Join our Facebook Group @ Fremont Clothing Swap</p>

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 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 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 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

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
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553
Senator Adam Schiff (202) 224.3841



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