

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 29, 2026

Greetings!

Your Encouragement Committee

There's an Encouragement Committee here at Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist. We believe no one in our congregation should feel alone in difficult times, so we reach out to members facing challenges to let them know we care. The Encouragement Committee is led by Sharon Davis. Our minister and community minister are both on the committee, as well as myself, Jo Ann Schriener, Lucienne Bouvier and Debbie Livingston. Colleen Arnold consults and gives us training. Input from our professional ministers, and the Joys and Concerns we read on Sundays, indicate which individuals in our community might appreciate nurturing when bad news comes. We believe we are each other's good news. We listen, and can visit if requested. Our work is pastoral, but connections to social services are available, as well as a small budget for financial aid in the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Then there's a "caring quilt" made by members of Mission Peak some years ago. It goes to stay temporarily with anyone who needs a little TLC at this time. The congregation is invited to join our outreach when they hear Joys and Concerns during worship or read "Circle of Life" in *Week on the Peak*. New volunteers on the Encouragement Committee are always welcomed. It's a great way to get to know people and show love for our community. If interested, send an email to eclead@mpuuc.org.



Sincerely,

Don Ramie



The Caring Quilt.

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.

Keeping Your Balance in a Topsy Turvy World

Brené Brown's new book *Strong Ground* invites us to move beyond simply "not losing" and instead lean into strategies that help us truly thrive. How might these ideas shape the life and future of a religious community like Unitarian Universalism? Join Rev. Becky Leyser, community minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, as she guides us in exploring these insights and what they might mean for our shared spiritual journey.



Rev. Becky Leyser will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Melissa Holmes 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%.

Share the Plate - April

Our April Share the Plate will go to the Tri-City Ecology Center.

Make your check out MPUUC and put 'TCEC' in the memo line

We will be collecting until May 17.

Write a check to MPUUC with TCEC 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)

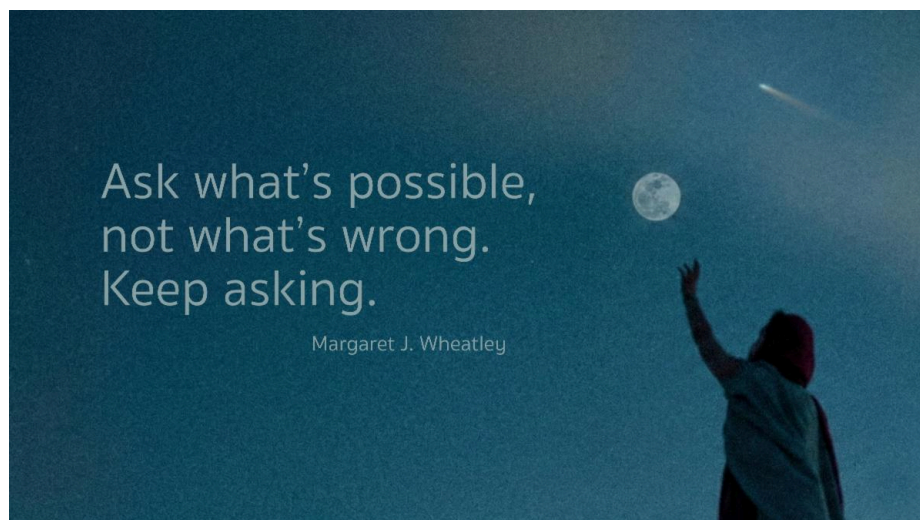
Drop an envelope with a check (with "TCEC" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Tri-City Ecology Center") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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



CALLING FOR ALL CARE-FILLED PLAYFUL SPIRITS

It's been quite noticeable in the last few months that we've had so many more children in services – EVEN on days where we don't have paid staff to welcome and play with them. This is not just good – it's GREAT. It means our post-Covid aspirations of returning to a truly Multigenerational community are becoming reality. Our current staff are not able to add more Sundays at MPUUC due to other commitments. To keep this going, for now, we need at least six people who will sign up to be available to greet, engage, play with and care for our children in Cole Hall. This [SIGN UP SHEET](#) has more information and a chance to have the magic of children in your life.



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

Mark your calendars for our next joint, *MPUUC - SKUU (UU Hayward) - UUCiL (UU Livermore)* **online fellowship and game night: Sat June 27th from 6-8pm** (more info to come)

Parent Night Out (PNO) Sat May 30th 5-8pm in Cole Hall. [RSVP](#) by May 29th

JUSTICE CORNER

No Kings is over for now. What is the next step?
May Day May 1
NO WORK. NO SCHOOL. NO SHOPPING.



For more information on May Day planning:

Join Indivisible & allies this Thurs 8pm ET/5pm PT to prep for May Day actions: <https://indivisi.org/mydy423>

Youth Voter Movement, the League of Women Voters, and the Ohlone Politics Club present SUFFS



A free evening of entertainment with Suffragists, Broadway talent, women's history, and fun Ohlone College building five level two Sharma dining hall 8 PM May 8.

Appropriate for ages 10 and up. You can sign up for the performance below: <http://bit.ly/4chg9.Lt>

UU Ministry for Earth- Recommended Community Read book

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.

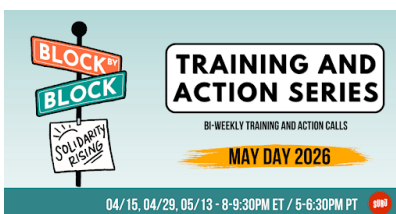
Sign up for the Community Read email list here in order to receive the most up-to-date communications.

Ayana
Elizabeth
Johnson

WHAT IF
WE
GET IT
RIGHT?

Visions of
Climate
Futures

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



We have explored [noncooperation tactics & strategies](#), how and why we use neighborhood canvassing as a strategy to recruit people, and jumped into breakout rooms to plan our next steps.

If you missed it or want to re-watch the call, [find the recording and slides here on the Block by Block page of our Member Resource Hub website](#). You will always be able to find our training materials for this series at: <https://act.surj.org/a/blockbyblock>.

Your Next Steps: Keep Organizing For May Day!

Our [toolkit](#) has everything you need to organize for May Day—but to get started, focus on these immediate next steps:

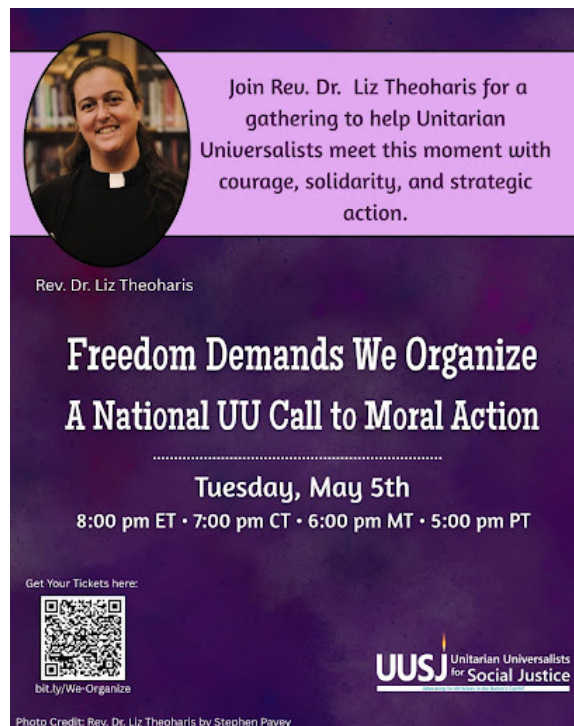
1 [Sign the May Day Pledge!](#)

Your commitment should be realistic but meaningful—something you can follow through on, even if it takes planning or feels a bit uncomfortable. Not everyone can miss work, but many can participate by not shopping or taking other actions.

- Will you take the day off work?
- Keep your kids home from school?
- Avoid shopping?
- Attend or organize an action?

Sign the Pledge to so we can track our impact: act.surj.org/a/maydaypledge

8th Principle Learning




Join Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis for a gathering to help Unitarian Universalists meet this moment with courage, solidarity, and strategic action.

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

**Freedom Demands We Organize
A National UU Call to Moral Action**

Tuesday, May 5th
8:00 pm ET • 7:00 pm CT • 6:00 pm MT • 5:00 pm PT

Get Your Tickets here:

bit.ly/We-Organize

UUSJ Unitarian Universalists
for Social Justice

Photo Credit: Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis by Stephen Pavoy

The classical a cappella ensemble Clerestory would like to offer you an unlimited number of complimentary tickets to our upcoming performances on Saturday, May 2 at 8pm in San Francisco and Sunday, May 3 at 4pm in Berkeley. More details below. Simply reserve in advance using the promo code PRIMA2026, and feel free to share with friends and colleagues.

Clerestory--named for the windows of cathedrals that let in light, and now in its 20th season--will feature the era-spanning program *Prima Materia*, exploring the ancient building blocks of the universe and of music. Please join us with our compliments!

Click [here](#) for more information.

Board Briefs

The Board met on April 14, 2026. The next Board Meeting is scheduled May 12th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Meetings are by Zoom. Contact Secretary@MPUUC.org for the link (24 hrs. notice please).



Search Team Report was presented by Mark Rahman, who confirmed that the Board was asked to approve and did, offering a one-year Contract Minister position to the Reverend Johnnie Bloom Ramirez, who has accepted the MPUUC offer. Rev. Johnnie will begin his ministry with MPUUC on August 1st. Here is a little bit about "Rev. Johnnie":

The Reverend Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez

Rev. Johnnie(he/they) was born and raised in Southern California, in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. He holds a BA in Organizational Management and graduated from Meadville Lombard with a Master of Divinity. During the pandemic he completed a

Chaplain Residency at University of California, San Francisco Medical Center and co-lead a covenanting community completely online. Until recently, Rev. Johnnie continued to serve UCSF as per diem chaplain. He is married to Rene, and they have an adult son Geordyn. A total history nerd, he builds historical garments, and he also runs a nonprofit historical reenactment company in his spare time. He works as a flight attendant with United Airlines, offering “chaplaincy in the sky.”



MPUUC will provide a Transition Team to Rev. Johnnie consisting of Mark Rahman, Valerie Stewart, Beth Schaefer and Paul Clifford.

Treasurer's Report by Drew Wilson

1. Schwab has accepted the transfer of authorization for new individuals to be the authorized account names (Jay Steele and Drew Wilson).
2. SRI Credit Union- Jay and Drew are now the authorized signers.
3. Fidelity Charitable Investor Advised Fund- has been transferred to a new operating system.
4. Congregation has rec'd 84% of the pledged amount for the current fiscal year.
5. This year may end without a deficit -thanks to additional monetary gifts received.
7. Next year's budget has to be revised- to take into account the additional expenses we will incur on-boarding a new minister.

Canvass Co-Chair DeAnna Alm attended the meeting and gave a report on the state of Canvass.

All but 6 “units” have pledged. \$242,690 with the matching funds (\$14,500 is matching, \$228,190 is pledges). Jen Culp was a great co-Chair and DeAnna hopes that in spite of her busy schedule she'll consider being part of Canvass next year.

Minister's Report by Rev. Greg Ward; Reviewed his upcoming schedule as he prepares to retire:

June 7 Flower Communion

June 14 Rev. Greg's last sermon/Worship Leader

June 21 ARO JUNETEENTH Service and MPUUC Picnic – Rev. Greg's last day for public participation; he will be working with Staff and the Board June 22-28

June 29 - Aug 23 Rev Greg on vacation: Aug 23 Rev Greg's employment with MPUUC ends.

2. He reported on the March 19th discussion on what to do on days when there is no Children's Chapel, and children are present, how can we offer to support children and parents at the Service?

POA: Seek volunteers who will sit with and engage children in Cole Hall during the Service to allow parents to attend. Sign-up sheet for 1st, 4th, 5th Sundays. If the Volunteer and child(ren) stay in Cole Hall, we need only 1 volunteer, if they leave Cole Hall, it will require two adults.

3. April 25- Meeting with the Worship Taskforce. Completed the new RACI. At this meeting the Sunday Service planning will be completed for the “Summer”.

Community Minister Barbara Meyers attended the meeting and gave her Quarterly Report.

1. Her position at Life Reaching Across to Life will end at end of June, Alameda County has lost funding for peer/family support. Client meetings through May, June will be their shutdown process.

2. UU Mental Health Network – May 31st Service at 3 pm, Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President is speaker

3. ARO – work continues, today met to plan Juneteenth Picnic

4. Book status (*Beloved As We Are: Building a Congregational Culture of Disability Inclusion*). Pre-Order will be available at GA. Rev. Barbara suggested she could possibly offer a summer Sermon at MPUUC.

5. Rev. Barbara continues to attend to self-care with crafts and physical exercise.

President's Report, Jay Steele, reviewed the Ministerial Search chronology resulting in the selection of Rev. Johnnie Bloom Ramirez and his acceptance of a one Contract Minister position with MPUUC to begin August 1, 2026. The contract that was signed and sent to UUA on April 6 contains some erroneous material and will need to be redrafted and signed again.

2. Many **MPUUC** folks were at the No Kings Rally in Fremont, March 28, and **visible to the community**.

3. The lease with FUMC is under review by the Board, it proposes the first rent increase in the history of MPUUC at FUMC and removal of Rm 2. Discussions will continue with FUMC Board.

4. Summer Services are still to be planned, using the new RACI for Worship Associates.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee updates (Jay and Rev Greg will work on this)

Charter for the Social Justice Oversight Committee has been requested from Kathi and Beth. Other proposed Committees have submitted Charters. We need to update the list of active Committees, especially for identification for Reports in the Annual Report to the Congregation.

2. Chancel Ramp (Valerie is working on this)

FUMC Board has approved use of a ramp, as long as it is "portable" and can be removed when MPUUC is not using it. There are ramps without handrails and ramps with handrails. The Sunday SetUp Team can only manage weight of ramp w/o rails. A 6' ramp (meets ADA requirements) cost \$729.99/ item #SSG-06, no handrails. POA: Talk to ARO to see if they agree to a ramp without railing.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Vacancy - DeAnna Alm volunteered and was approved to serve out the remaining 2 months as a Director-at-large. Thank YOU DeAnna!

Worship Associates Chair - Mark Rahman volunteered to be the Chair of the Worship Associates. Thank you Mark! Planning for the summer services will continue with future meetings.

FUMC Lease -Valerie volunteered to communicate with the FUMC Board about the new three-year proposed lease. A concern is the loss of use of Rm 2 as we continue to grow our Children's program.

Annual Meeting – June 7, 2026, Preparation for this includes requesting all Officeholders and Committees to prepare their Annual Report to be included in the **Annual Report** to the Congregation;

Completion of the Draft Budget, Notice to the Members of the Congregation and request for Agenda topics. Coordinate with Sandra for all Report requirements.

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



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