

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 6, 2026

Greetings!

Hi friends,

I hope you are all well. I want to make a bit of a public service announcement today. As most of you hopefully know by now, our MPUUC web site was hacked at the beginning of April due to one or more persons responding with the address list and password to a fake email in my name, but with a different email sender address. Hackers are easily able to read names of leaders and their emails from the publicly accessible portion of the MPUUC website and generate emails falsely indicating these names as sender. Given the existing hack, now some hacker has all of our personal email addresses, phone numbers, and physical addresses from our MPUUC address list. This could easily be sold on the dark web to all sorts of other hackers.



Unfortunately, the amazing technology now available to us from our computers and smart phones with internet access must be treated with caution, like you would behave if walking around the streets of a busy city at nighttime. And us older folks (yes, I am eventually becoming part of that great group) need to be particularly careful since technology is rapidly changing. It is estimated that Americans lost 21 billion dollars due to cyber-enabled crimes in 2025, and Americans over 60 years old lost 7.7 billion dollars of this amount. Existing relationships, loneliness, greed, and fear appear to be the best hooks to scam people. Hopefully we all get good community support through MPUUC, and thus are immune to such things. But, as noted above, it is easy to get fooled by ever increasingly elaborate scams. Furthermore, hackers could use the information in the MPUUC address list to get at us.

I suggest the following simple rules:

1. Do not automatically trust an email.
 - a. An email may appear to come from someone you know and trust, but this could be sent by somebody else. For MPUUC, given our hacked address list, any of us may receive an email now with malicious intent.
 - b. Check if the sender email address matches the name. If the sender email address is completely different, do not respond to the email but delete it. For example, in one attempted hack, an email was sent out in my name (Jay W. Steele) but with sender email address jeffwens089@gmail.com.
 - c. If the email is asking for private information (e.g., passwords) or money, be very suspicious. This could falsely indicate that it comes from someone you would normally trust, such as your minister or MPUUC president. If you have any doubts, it

would be best not to respond directly to the email, but to initiate a separate email to that individual's known email address and thus see if the request is legitimate.

d. Do not click on any links in the email unless you are very sure that it is legitimate. If the email supposedly comes from an organization, it is usually preferable to go directly to the organization's website independently of the email and use that instead. And check that the website has "https" in its URL, which offers some security.

2. Now that hackers have our personal contact information, be very careful about attractive strangers suddenly contacting you via telephone, email, or social media with a cute picture and an interest in a relationship. Also watch out for an offer to get rich with cyber currency. Another is that a relative got kidnapped. We've had this on phones and Facebook for some time, and now I'm seeing this on LinkedIn also.

3. Use an anti-virus checker on your computer, update it regularly, and use it to check for viruses often.

Cheers and stay safe,

Jay Steele
MPUUC board president

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.



Maternal Blessing

Everywhere we look across this beautiful planet, we see the struggle to come of age in an uncertain world. The world can be relentless and unforgiving in the challenges it requires us to face. But one unmistakable blessing it has incorporated is that of mothers and mothering. In this service, we will hear and see stories of the way this maternal blessing shows up across disposition, circumstance, environment, climates and species.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Beth Schaefer. Erik Alm 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%.

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)

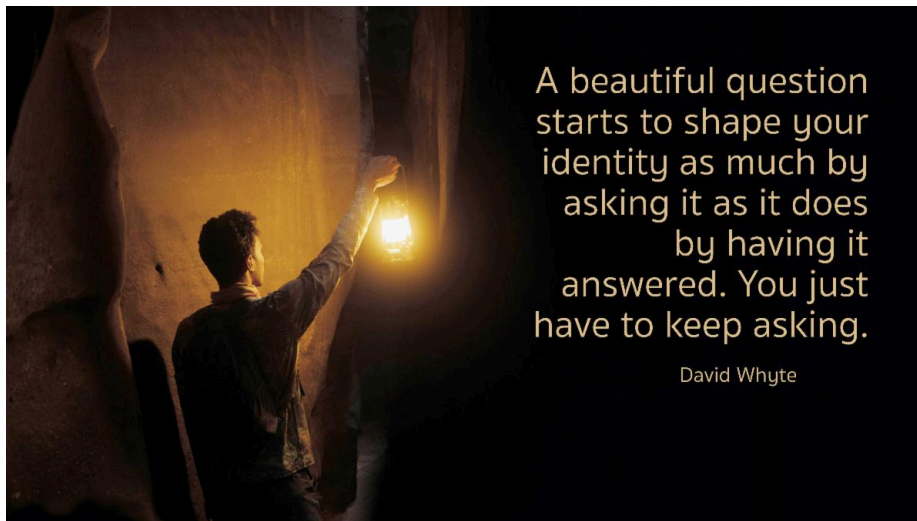
Drop an envelope with a check (with "TCEC" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Tri-City Ecology Center") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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.



A beautiful question
starts to shape your
identity as much by
asking it as it does
by having it
answered. You just
have to keep asking.

David Whyte

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

[June 8: The Gathering - Declarations of Democracy](#)

On June 8th the Gathering will engage with the 250th anniversary of the United States and the prophetic call this moment places before us as people of faith.



This is more than reflection. It is a faithful act of proclamation. Our spiritual traditions remind us that prophecy is not about predicting what will come but courageously speaking truth into the present and calling new worlds into being.

[Join us June 8 at 8pm ET / 5pm PT.](#)

Join us live or watch the recording later, every second Monday of the month at 8pm ET / 5pm PT / 4pm AT / 2pm HT. Register at sidewithlove.org/the-gathering.

We must oppose Reconciliation 2.0

The administration has set a **June 1** deadline for passage of the reconciliation bill, so it is urgent that you contact your Senators and Representative now! Urge them to cut back on the huge increases in funding for ICE and CB



Negotiations on reforms failed during a two-week funding extension in February, so the partial shutdown has now lasted for more than 60 days. However, ICE and CBP enforcement activities have continued using funds from the nearly \$140 billion provided to them in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

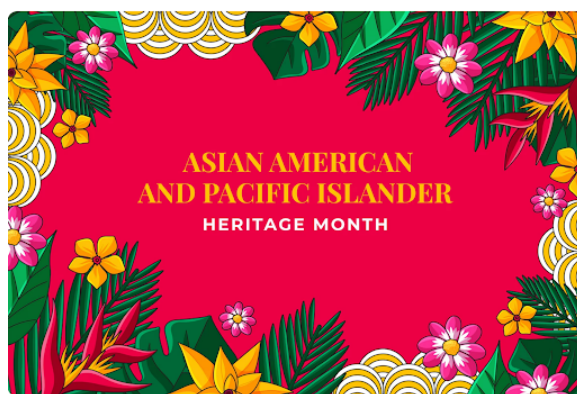


Support SURJ's Transition to a 501(c)4 Non-Profit – This is a pivotal moment for SURJ and we invite you to help us build the foundation of our c4 as we prepare for the work ahead. To educate, engage, and bring more white people into the multiracial movement for racial and economic justice, we need support from all those who share our mission and values. Every contribution will make a difference! Donate once or become a monthly sustainer. Thanks!

Tell Congress: No War on Iran, No Weapons for Israel, No ICE in Our Communities –The Block the Bombs Act now has 68 co-sponsors thanks to your protests, emails, handwritten letters, and constant pressure. Still, the Israeli military continues dropping U.S.-made bombs and the Pentagon wants another \$200 billion to fund horrific U.S. attacks on Iran. All while ICE rakes in billions to terrorize immigrant communities here at home. Email your representatives today to say, "Not my tax dollars!"

Send Aid to Cuba – The Caribbean island nation is facing a deepening crisis driven by Trump's brutal economic and military blockades. The human cost is devastating. Global Exchange is launching a Bay Area Humanitarian Aid Hub for Cuba in San Francisco's Mission District to mobilize community solidarity and deliver urgently needed supplies. Working directly with Cuban communities, they will collect and ship essential humanitarian goods. You can also donate money to support the shipment.

8th Principle Learning



“Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is observed annually in May, in the US. It recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.”

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

A Voice for Courage, Justice, and Faith. Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde Is Our 2026 Ware Lecturer

Mariann Edgar Budde serves as spiritual leader for the congregations and Episcopal schools in the District of Columbia and four Maryland counties that comprise the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. The first woman elected to this position, she also serves as the chair of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, which stewards the ministries of the Washington National Cathedral and Cathedral schools.



<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

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-led 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)

FUM 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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