

# This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA  
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!  
June 3, 2026

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Greetings!

Mark Rahman here.



I send you greetings. There are turning points and there are turning points. As Rev. Greg's time with us winds down in this, his final month in person, we contemplate change, loss, gain and growth. Looking forward to something not as we have known but not what we expect, either. Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez is known to us by only one service given last year. We shall learn to know all over again. We will go through our learning curve of one another, hopefully smoothing out the bumps. What we expect and what actually happens are certain to be very distinct and separate situations. The job of getting to know one another will be as great as the work of the congregation and not less important. Enter into new territory with humility and purpose. Rev. Greg has prepared us. We are ready for the next stage. It only remains for us to enter a future that cannot be like our previous future. Be sure to tender your thoughts to Rev. Greg before he must separate from connection. It has been an unusual tenure with Covid et al.

We live in a topsy-turvy world. Change happens faster every year. Our future holds even tougher challenges than the ones we have been facing even though those were tougher than the ones before then. Preparing for a future that is different from any we have known will challenge us in ways even now we cannot begin to imagine. We gather together for the strength that we could never manifest alone. As UUs we know that it is we who are called upon to be the miracle. As service is our prayer, we do not wait upon miracles. We make the miracle.

Mark Rahman

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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.

[Flower Communion](#)

Besides being diverse and beautiful, flowers speak a language of the heart. When we are in love, we often say it with flowers. When there's something to celebrate, we bring flowers. When someone we care about is sad, we console with flowers. In this community which experiences so many feelings all at once, we ask you to come conveying the feelings in your heart with flowers.



Ariel Smith-Iyer will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Greg Ward. Melissa Holmes 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%.

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### Share the Plate - May

Our May Share the Plate will go to the UU Mental Health Network

The Unitarian Universalist Mental Health Network is driven by a single goal: to empower the Beloved Community in honoring everyone's unique mental health journey towards wellness. Our own Rev. Barbara Meyers is the president of this denominational body.

You can contribute by making your check out MPUUC and put 'UUMHN' in the memo line

mail to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
P.O. Box 545, Fremont, CA 94537-0545

You can also pay online on our MPUUC [DONATION PAGE](#) with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "UUMHN" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

We will be collecting until June 7

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## COME CELEBRATE REV. GREG!

Plan now to attend the MPUUC celebration of Rev. Greg Ward and the amazing and profound gifts he has given us over the last seven years, as he moves into retirement.

We'll enjoy a party on SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 5:30-8:30PM IN COLE HALL. Please save the date.



You'll receive an email soon with more details and an opportunity to RSVP. Questions? Please email Terri King, Ariel Smith-Iyer or Beth Schaefer.

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MPUUC is having a Juneteenth celebration on June 21 after the worship service in Cole Hall at 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm at Lake Elizabeth Lion's One picnic center. If you haven't already, here is a link to use to give an RSVP for attending:

<https://www.evite.com/event/0364IIAE4SKDAAAY6EPRHBOE223GKQ>



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## CALLING FOR PLAYFUL AND POWERFUL VOLUNTEERS

We have had a few amazing, fun people sign up to be Multigenerational Playful Companions on our play rug in back of Cole Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. We still need a couple more volunteers to make this successful and fun. [CLICK HERE](#) for a new sign up sheet where you can put your name in on the row for childcare on the play rug for any date that works for you. You can also sign up for any other easy to do Sunday task. THANK YOU for bringing your spirit of possibility to MPUUC!!

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I get by with a  
little help from  
my friends.

Paul McCartney and  
John Lennon



## 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

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## 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](#).

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Star King UU Congregation in Hayward is hosting this month's Online Game Night. <https://zoom.us/j/98421021188?pwd=wMpKmTvK0Oxg1XGn6cTbMkBRZaKaJ1.1>  
Meeting ID: 984 2102 1188  
Passcode: gamefun  
See [flyer](#) for more info.

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)

## JUSTICE CORNER

### Fremont Pride Festival (FPF)

Fremont Pride Festival at Fremont's **Alameda County Library, is Saturday, June 13, 10 AM-2PM** (set up at 9:30 AM).



**Please help us woman (man) our MPUUC table** while we share with the community that all are welcome at MPUUC. Lunch will be provided. Please let Beth S, or Kathi B know if you would like to participate.

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**Mission Peak UUC has renewed its Welcoming Congregation status!**



There are three ways to take part, and ALL of them rain on Trump's parade!

**Host a Watch Party** - This is a GREAT WAY to grow our community. If you decide to host a party, please reach out to us at [info@indivisiblemarin.org](mailto:info@indivisiblemarin.org) and we will support your effort!



**Find a Watch Party** - A great way to connect with like-minded peeps in your community.

**Watch From Home** - Let's get all of our screens lighting up with this celebration of joyful community in living rooms across the country as a stark contrast to Trump's disgraceful spectacle in Washington!

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice , we believe that it is a moral failure to shovel \$71 billion MORE dollars to expand ICE raids, build more detention centers, and separate families.



We have a few suggestions....

\$70 billion dollars could:

- Provide SNAP benefits for a year for 30 MILLION people, or
- Pay 744,400 elementary school teachers' salaries for 1 year, or
- Provide Medicaid benefits for 8.17 MILLION people, or
- Provide Medicaid Benefits to 20 Million KIDS for One Year

Write your l your congress person:

[https://uusj.salsalabs.org/iat\\_feb2026\\_redress-ice-immigration-detention/index.html](https://uusj.salsalabs.org/iat_feb2026_redress-ice-immigration-detention/index.html)

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

FCI Dublin is a former federal women's prison that was shut down in 2024, following years of horrific staff sexual abuse and brave organizing by survivors. Now, the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has begun the process of transferring the FCI Dublin facility to another

federal agency—a first step towards reopening FCI Dublin as an immigration detention center.

The public now has **until June 1** to provide feedback on the BOP's plan. The **ICE Out of Dublin Coalition** is asking our community to [submit public comments](#) and tell the BOP: *keep FCI Dublin closed, and keep ICE out of Dublin!*



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## **Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA)**

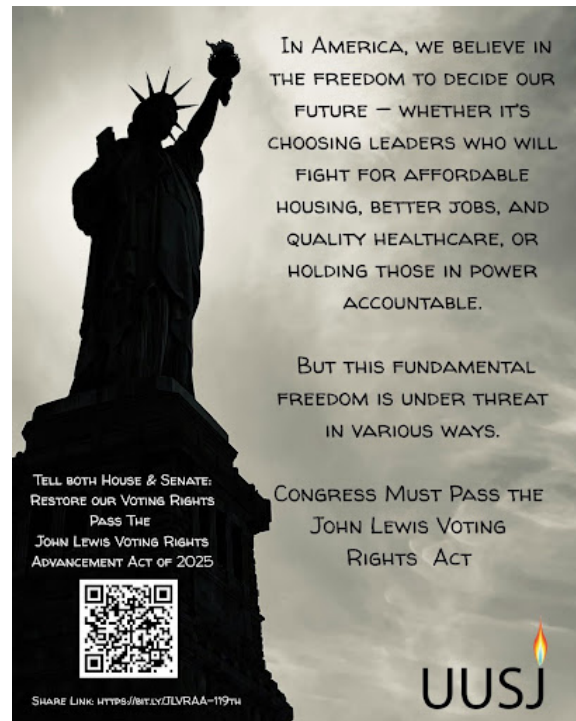
Join **Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA)** for a screening of *Palestine 36*. In 1936, as the British Empire tightens its grip on Palestine, Yusuf is caught between his village home and his work in Jerusalem. Amidst an anti-colonial revolt, and Jewish refugees fleeing persecution from Europe, all sides converge in a decisive moment for the entire region. Tickets are \$10.

**Location:** MECA, 1101 Eighth St, Berkeley  
**Thursday, June 4 • 6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**MECA Film Screening: *Palestine 36* (IN-PERSON)**

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## **8th Principle Learning**

### **Sign the petition to pass the John Lewis voting rights Act**



In America, we believe in the freedom to decide our future — whether it's choosing leaders who will fight for affordable housing, better jobs, and quality healthcare, or holding those in power accountable.

But this fundamental freedom is under threat in various ways.

Congress Must Pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act:

Sign at <https://bit.ly/JLVRAA-119th>

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## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

[Click here for more information](#)

### Board Briefs

The Board met on May 12, 2026. The next Board Meeting is scheduled June 9th 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).



The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM. DeAnna Alm was in attendance as the new At-Large Board member, due to the chronic illness that has rendered Michelle Wallace unable to participate on the Board.

#### A. Minister's Report:

Sandra has begun the off-boarding process with UUA, other actions are with MPUUC. There are 3 proposals from Ariel – moved to New Business.

MPUUC earlier last year agreed to a request to act as the fiscal agent for TCIC (TriCity Interfaith Council).

Rev. Greg reported he is creating a set-up of processes to minimize the impact on Sandra for MPUUC's fiscal sponsorship of TCIC.

#### B. Treasurer's Report: Drew

86% of Pledges have been received as of March 31, 2026. The balance Sheet is strong with \$333k in the bank.

If we receive all of expected pledge amounts outstanding, and don't spend all of budgeted funds, we will end the year nearly even. The projected budget for next year has additional expenses due to hiring a new minister and currently stands at \$267k.

#### C. President's Report

Last four services had live music, which brings life to the Services; The Worship Associates are working together to meet the challenge of creating Services without Ministerial direction; Canvass success is reassuring of the strength of MPUUC; Phishing of our Membership Directory was addressed in week on the Peak article.

#### Old Business

Canvass -DeAnna Alm To date we have pledges for \$259,090; 3 units have not yet pledged.

Hiring Rev. Johnnie Bloom Ramirez. The position of a "Contract minister" has not previously existed under UUA Ministerial categories. The Board will seek a consult from UUA to provide guidance and instruction for new issues relating to the employment factors for the position of "contract" minister.

A Charter for a Transition Team was approved. The Transition Team is composed of Paul Clifford, Mark Rahman, Beth Schaefer and Valerie Stewart. The Transition Team will focus

on logistical matters, while COM will continue to work with the Minister to ensure the spiritual and ministerial needs of the Congregation are served.

Annual Meeting preparation/ set agenda.

Reports by committees, Treasurer, President, are due now. The Agenda must be set and sent with the Notice to the Congregation by May 24.

Service scheduling for summer 2026 – the Worship Associate Chair is Mark Rahman, the RACI approved recently is being used and all involved in planning the summer services are using it to develop the summer service programming.

The Board approved the final revision of the three-year Lease with FUMC. The new lease will include an annual cost increase (first since 2019) and removes Room 2 from MPUUC usage. Rent in 26-27 will be \$3833 per month beginning July 1.

Child attention-givers care during services on the non-Children Chapel Sundays; only one regular volunteer (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday). Will change the sign-up procedure and Rev. Greg will put it in Week on the Peak seeking more volunteers.

Chancel Ramp in Cole Hall

A Letter from Rev. Barbara for ARO advocates for a fully accessible ramp/handrails. This poses difficulty given the FUMC Board's stipulation that the ramp not be permanent, due to the multiple users of Cole Hall, other than MPUUC. POA: Rev. Barbara and Valerie will meet with Pastor Youngmi and discuss accessibility.

Committees: The Board is still waiting for the Charter for the newly reorganized Social Justice Committee and will table until the Charter is received.

### **New Business**

Inclusion/exclusion of Childrens images in online recording of Sunday Services. Parents must specifically consent in writing. There are varying practices all over the local UUA communities. The Worship Hosts will be asked to continue to edit out children's facies until further notice.

Annual Meeting/Candidate Slate for vacant positions

Actions needed for Leadership Committee; recruit candidates for 2 board positions, 1 COM position, and at least 1 Leadership candidate.

Review budget for 26-27 (Drew) -see folder for draft

Income Sources: Pledge/Plate/Black&White/Interest Income

Projected Deficit: \$42k

Staff annual increase: CPI = 3% - possible later increase can be considered

Ariel has sent 3 proposals to the Board, all of which were approved.

1)for a summer Share the Plate assignment to replenish the MGCB discretionary fund for monies to cover the MLK Day of Action next year and get a new rug to use in the classroom(s);2) to carry over the same budget amount for next year, and 3) reorganize the website in "About Us" to include a Minister and Staff page, so people can find Ariel professional.

Selection of three Special Collections for summer

June – Ariel's request - MGCB Discretionary Fund

July – Fellowship Discretionary (potluck/fellowship events supplies)

August – Outreach (MPUUC Merchandise & pamphlets)

General Assembly – Delegate/Rep for MPUUC (June 14-20)

2 Delegates for MPUUC. We need to recruit attendees as Delegates ASAP

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)

## **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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