

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 13, 2026

Greetings!

MPUUC and ARO (Antiracism Anti-oppression committee), as part of our social justice mission, pays reparations once a year to a group restoring housing to African Americans in the Bay Area and an indigenous group reclaiming their land.

This year, we are joining with Alameda County and the Russell City Redress Fund in paying restitution to descendants of Russell City whose homes were taken when the city of Hayward used eminent domain to confiscate their lands.

Russell City was an unincorporated area of what is now Hayward. It was never supplied with city services such as sanitation or plumbing. However, it survived for over 100 years between 1853 and 1964 and was a vibrant community at the time of its takeover.

In the 1940, most of the residents of Russell City were African American. The town swelled with the great migration of people fleeing Jim Crow oppression in the South. During WW2, many of them worked in the nearby Todd and Kaiser shipyards, but they often were refused housing close to their employment.

Residents of Russell City recognized an unofficial mayor, a police chief, and had a representative at the city of Hayward Chamber of Commerce. The residents of Russell City purchased a fire truck and formed a volunteer fire department.

Yet, in the 1950s when Russell City had 1400 residents, Hayward declared the city blighted. Arsonist fires destroyed many buildings including a hotel and country club. In 1960s, Hayward purchased some of the remaining buildings. In 1964, they declared eminent domain, took over the town, and replaced it with an industrial park.

Alameda County is trying to make amends. The City of Hayward and Alameda County Supervisors have formed a redress fund. They are paying the descendants of Russell City 1.3 million dollars in compensation. It is estimated that per person payments will be relatedly small, symbolic, and will not fully compensate the loss. However, acknowledging harm done and working to make amends is restorative for our communities.

MPUUC recognizes the findings of the California Reparations Committee as presented to us by committee member Don Tamaki. We realize that the treatment of

Russell City is just one of many ways that California has disenfranchised African Americans.

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in community healing.

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.



From the Head; From the Heart

This is a service about what we give to – and what we learn from – those whom we love who experience the world from a different mental perspective. MPUUC has long felt called to dedicate a significant portion of our collective ministry to understanding and appreciating the lives of those feeling misunderstood or neglected. We will share stories of what we've given and what we've received in return; what we try to teach and what we inevitably learn.

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associates Rev. Barbara Meyers and Mark Rahman. 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%.

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

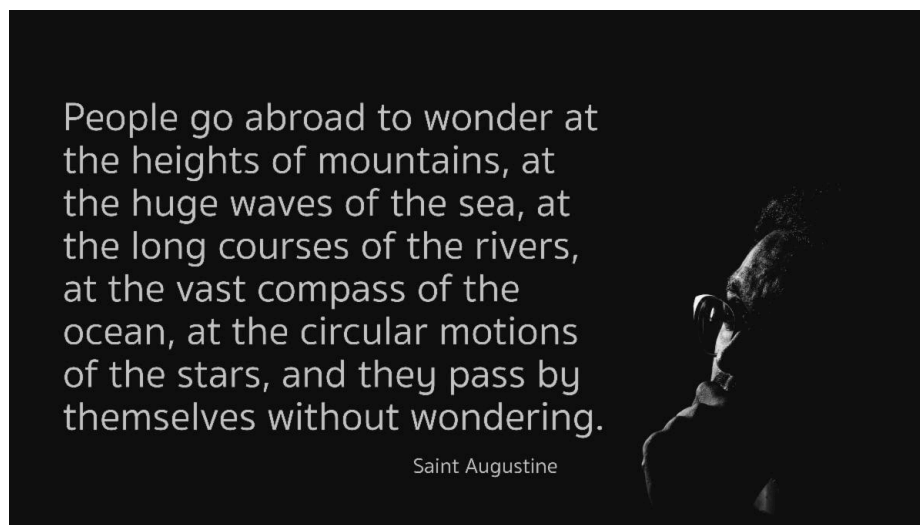
mail to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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 1st, 4th and 5th 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!!



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](#).

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>

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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