

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! May 20, 2026

Greetings!

Greetings to All!

I am Valerie Stewart, a member of the Board. Some of you may have heard me make the Sunday Service “welcome Announcements” last Sunday. I mentioned the UU value of participating in the democratic process. That is democratic with a small “d”- the ideal of a republic form of government with representation “by the people for the people”. Something that seems under threat today in various ways that have not openly manifested themselves in our society at least since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1965. And from the point of view of a historian, although that might represent the lifetimes of some of us- it is a drop in the bucket of time. So, what are WE to do?

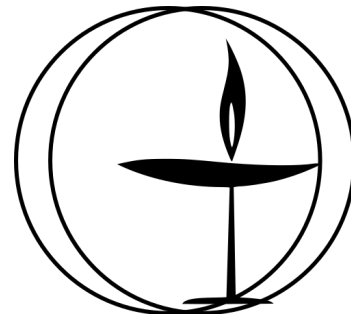


Well, look around at MPUUCers- they are in the streets, making signs, writing postcards, registering new voters, by Youth Voter Movement Volunteers 2026 working on campaigns, and institutional processes to make “the system” fairer and representative of the majority of folks living here in the U.S.- that is the 98% of us who only own 3% of the wealth of our nation. The June 2 Primary Election is coming up. There are so many seats in this race- many State and local offices that are SO IMPORTANT ! If you don’t know where to start- there are several non-partisan voter guides. The online resource VOTE 411.org that the League of Women voters helps coordinates is less helpful this year because candidates are *not* offering THEIR position statements. If you enter your zip code, you will see what will be on your ballot and can prepare and read about the offices you’ll be voting for. The Chronicle and other newspapers are covering the election and have some in depth coverage – at least of the Governor candidates. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2026/california-primary-sf-bay-area-voter-guide/>. Look for trusted sources of NEWS – general/local/special and see what they have prepared about the election. KQED has produced a Voter Guide for offices around the State and Northern California. <https://www.kqed.org/voterguide>. If you are interested in PUBLIC EDUCATION, check out EdSource - <https://edsource.org/2026/campaign-finance-public-instruction/758062>

And speaking of VOTING, MPUUC is entitled to TWO voting Delegates at General Assembly, this year 14-20 June. If you plan to attend GA- it is online this year, please consider being our DLEGATE! Contact any member of the Board if you are willing and able.

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.



Judgment is the Enemy of Curiosity

In the far back past there was a belief in magical properties of a group, a people or sometimes interpreted as a nation. A magical connection that imbued all who were of the people with a common attribute. One of these attributes was collective guilt. Because the people were connected by blood to a common ancestor who sinned or it was just considered to be their nature. It meant that any member was also as guilty as the original transgressor and could be treated as such. We no longer agree that magic exists intellectually but in practice it is still done. How shall UU's proceed in this Medieval ethos and bring sanity and modernity to the present?

Mark Rahman will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Paul K. Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriener, Knuti VanHoven and 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 - 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

Mission Peak UUC has renewed its Welcoming Congregation status!



Its **TRANSITION TIME**

Notes from your Transition Team –Paul Clifford, Mark Rahman, Beth Schaefer, Valerie Stewart

June will be the last month that Rev. Greg Ward will be serving Mission Peak UU Congregation. So, make sure you are available for his last 2 sermons on June 7 and 14. Don't miss hanging out with him at the Park at Lake Elizabeth at the ARO Juneteenth Picnic on June 21. You can also attend the Thursday morning online "Meetings with the Minister".

Here are the dates to mark on your calendar:

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;

June 22-28 - Working with Staff and Board to transition office operations and records

June 29 - Aug 23 - Rev Greg on vacation:

Aug 23 - Rev Greg's employment with MPUUC ends.

When Rev. Greg leaves, if he invokes the UU tradition of non-contact, you'll be waiting for our incoming Minister Rev. Johnnie Bloom Ramirez who starts with MPUUC on August 1st. In the meantime, Rev. Barbara will be available if you have a personal matter and wish spiritual guidance.

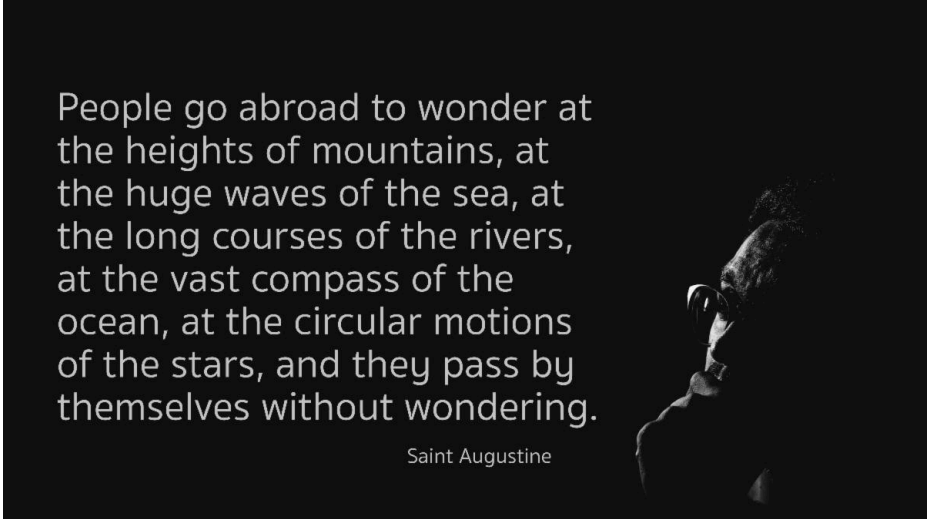
The Reverend Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez

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.”



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!!



People go abroad to wonder at
the heights of mountains, at
the huge waves of the sea, at
the long courses of the rivers,
at the vast compass of the
ocean, at the circular motions
of the stars, and they pass by
themselves without wondering.

Saint Augustine



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

Star King UU Congregation in Hayward is hosting this month's Online Game Night.

<https://zoom.us/j/98421021188?pwd=wMpKmTvK00Xg1XGn6cTbMkBRZaKaJ1.1>

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)

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

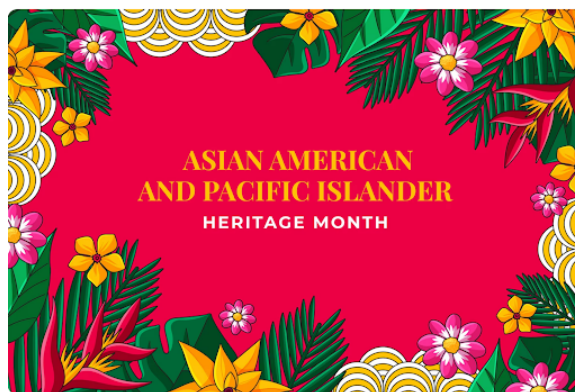


Support SURJ's Transition to a 501(c)4 Non-Profit – This is a pivotal moment for SURJ and we invite you to help us build the foundation of our c4 as we prepare for the work ahead. To educate, engage, and bring more white people into the multiracial movement for racial and economic justice, we need support 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 May 12, 2026. The next Board Meeting is scheduled June 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).



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 proposal 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 (5th 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 . 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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