

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! August 12, 2026

Greetings!

Grace

This wasn't the topic that I planned to write about. But then life happens, so here I am using the word "grace" and offering gratitude to several members of our Beloved Community.

What does that word mean? It depends on the context in which it is used. I started to investigate the way the concept of spiritual grace is expressed and used. Since I am not a Christian, I was not comfortable with much of what I read because it required belief in a heaven/hell/Jesus as the son of God/God as the only source of spiritual grace. Some writings separated "grace" as being spiritual or secular.



I did find this which I found helpful:

Grace is the free and unmerited favor or kindness extended to others, often without expectation of return. In religious and spiritual contexts, grace is considered a divine blessing or assistance given by a higher power, especially in Christianity, where it is seen as God's unconditional love and forgiveness toward humanity. Grace can also refer to elegance of movement, thoughtfulness in behavior, or a calm and composed manner. Practicing grace in daily life means showing compassion, patience, and humility, even in difficult situations.

Secular grace was defined as proactive acceptance, love and caring for our fellow human beings person to person. Secular grace replaces traditional prayer with an expression of gratitude for the earth, human labor, and community.

There are many times in life when challenging events multiple and weigh heavily on you heart and or mind. How I behave in such times, especially towards others, is not always calm, composed or thoughtful. But even so many of you here at Mission Peak treat me with kindness and patience – thank you. You are teaching me grace.

Perhaps at its best, grace is about being accepted and loved for who you are as you are. I am happy to be part of this Beloved Community that practices grace. Thank you.

See you at Service

Valerie

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.



"Love is....."

Love is first. Love is great. Love is a quest for the hero. Love thy neighbor as thyself. Okay. Sounds good. But what exactly is the love that is at the center of UU faith? Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu looks into the various ways we can love as UU's. The sermon is recorded from the UUA General Assembly service of June 21, 2026.

Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Erik Alm will be Worship Host.

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%.

Summer Special Collection for June, July and August:

June: MCB Discretionary Fund (MLK and new Rug)

June 21: Board Choice

July: Fellowship Discretionary Fund (Potluck Supplies)

August: MPUUC Outreach Materials (Pamphlets, shirts and swag)

Please donate if you are able, in one of these ways:

Write a check to MPUUC with "name of collection" 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 "name of collection" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "name of collection") 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 "For name of collection" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%



JOIN the HOSPITALITY TEAM!

Can you help with Sunday Service Coffee Hour, ordering and tracking supplies for our events ? We want to have a TEAM to support our congregational events. Many hands make easy work. Interested?

Please email Secretary@MPUUC.org

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!!

You are
allowed to
be a work in
progress!

Mel Robbins



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 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](#).

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Aug 22 – Saturday
Congregational Potluck & Games 6-8 pm Cole Hall
(Ariel)



Sept. 20- Sunday
3rd Sunday After-Service Potluck

Sept. 26 -Saturday
Board "Retreat/Communication Skills Building" Cole Hall, Teen Rm

October 17- Saturday
Black and White Auction (Cole Hall/Hybrid)

Nov. 23-Monday
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service TBD

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Saturday August 22nd 6-8pm all congregation **potluck and game night**
[RSVP](#) preferred but not required

Saturday September 19th 12-4pm **"Tarp in the Park"** at the UU Church of Livermore 1893 N Vasco Road Livermore. This is a byo picnic lunch and fun day for LGBTQ+ folks and allies, a quarterly programming of UUCiL. Reach out to Ariel if you have questions. She'll be there and hopes you will too!

Children's Programming

Sunday Aug 16th **Childrens' Chapel**- go straight to the classroom

JUSTICE CORNER

[South Bay Interfaith Climate Justice Summit](#)

Climate protections, clean energy progress, and our social safety net are facing growing threats. Join clergy, lay leaders, youth, and community members from diverse faith traditions for an afternoon of faith leadership and advocacy training, relationship-building, and opportunities to take action together for climate justice and the common good.

Together, we'll explore how our shared values can become a stronger moral voice for protecting our communities, advancing climate justice, and building the relationships and leadership needed to create lasting change.



Open to clergy, lay leaders, youth, and community members of all faith traditions—and anyone inspired by faith-based values.

RSVP: [HERE](#)

<https://uufs.org/events/south-bay-interfaith-climate-justice-summit>



We, the People:

A Multi-faith Call to Consciousness
for the United States

We're living in a moment that calls for moral clarity—
and imagination.

Together, we can help shape a shared vision for the world we do not yet have—one where all humanity and all creation can thrive. This project brings people of faith together to name this moment and give voice to what comes next.

Event Details:

Via Zoom

Monday, August 17th

8:00 pm ET, 7:00 pm CT,
6:00 pm MT, 5:00 pm PST

Register Here:



<https://www.synanim.com/registerwethepeople>



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Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



As a direct result of the Supreme Court decision, *Louisiana v. Goolsby*, Tennessee Republicans split TN-09 into three heavily Republican districts in an effort to wreck and divide the voting power of Black communities that have organized together for generations. So, this race is bigger than one Congressional seat– it's about fighting back against anti-democratic authoritarianism and fighting for the legacy of the Civil Rights movement.

SURJ works in the South because it is and has always been a stronghold of the right's power, *and* a stronghold of Black political power and a vision of liberation for all of us. [Join our partners at Freedom Summer and All Roads Lead to the South for a mass call on Tuesday, August 18th at 8pm ET to learn more about how to get organized as we head toward Election Day!](#)

Join the Freedom Summer mass call

ONGOING

2nd Monday Each Month • 6:00 – 8:00 pm • [Bay Resistance Monthly Meeting](#) (IN PERSON)

Location: First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14th St, Oakland

Thursdays • 5:00 – 6:30 pm • [Human Billboard for Gaza](#) (IN PERSON)

Location: El Cerrito Plaza, corner of San Pablo & Carlson, El Cerrito

Fridays • 4:00 – 5:30 pm • [Banner Drop to Stop the Genocide in Gaza](#) (IN PERSON)

Location: Berkeley Pedestrian Bridge over I-80; park at the Seabreeze Parking Lot, 598 University Ave, Berkeley

Bay Area Muwekma tribe land repatriation

"On July 30, 2026, tribal leadership announced that 150 acres of ancestral land above the Silicon Valley floor were officially repatriated to the (Muwekma) tribe."

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2498800073918112>

8th Principle Learning

"If you believe in jailing homeless people you already believe homeless people should have Housing paid for by the public. You just decided that Housing provided should be super expensive, should suck, and their lives should be miserable while they receive that Housing and Food, which says a lot less about homeless people" and a lot more about you. JWYNIA (modified)

John Schaefer is working with Peggy Rahman and others to produce a special comedy show on Saturday August 15 at 7:00 at the Odd Fellows Lodge in Fremont. Proceeds from the show will benefit the Alameda County Chapter of NAMI, to support their education and outreach programs. Please buy a ticket, or consider donating directly even if you can't attend, by visiting

<https://funnyandclean.ticketspice.com/laugh-for-mental-health>.

This is a great chance for members of our community to gather in laughter while supporting an important cause.

Click [here](#) for flyer



South Bay UU congregations in SV Pride parade 8/30

I am Alan Herrmann from the UU congregation in Sunnyvale. I am writing to invite members of Mission Peak UU to join members of the Sunnyvale and San Jose UU congregations in the SV Pride parade on Sunday August 30 in downtown San Jose. We are already registered for a position in the parade, and we have a large yellow "Side with Love" banner to carry proudly. The parade starts at 10:30 so attendees will miss the Sunday morning service that day. Please spread the word and let interested persons contact me. Thanks!

Alan Herrmann
UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale
408 930 9460
alan@alanherrmann.com

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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