

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
August 19, 2026

Greetings!

A sense of immortality imbues us all. The concept of death rarely really knocks at the door of our notice. But events happen and time passes and processes must be performed. This week I am gathering all the info and decisions that I require for setting up a trust and a will, finally. Decisions that are not uncomfortable in and of themselves still trigger uncomfortable feelings about death and leaving people behind. Decisions about what if my loved ones do not out live me. A reminder not only of my impending doom (in the far future says my denial node) but of how little control I have over life. Strangely I seem to have more control over things, aka 'stuff', when I am passed on than I do alive.



Beyond family, who I leave money to says a great deal about what I value. That I care about the specifics of beneficiary is because service into the future beyond my own event horizon matters. It can have consequences for people not yet born just as my work while alive has consequences for people I might never meet. And it is more fun as I am worth more dead than alive and I can play with much larger sums for then than now. In a different way a Shakespeare quote (from the Scottish play) pertains to my legacy: "nothing in his life became him like the leaving it". For I will be leaving this life, I hope, to make itself a better place by my choices of who carries on in the manner that I endorse. It matters to me not that I should be remembered, but that I know I have a legacy that is meaningful. We don't always get a chance to truly matter, do so when you can.

Mark Rahman

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.

[Voluntary Association](#)

What does it mean to choose a faith community without sharing the same beliefs? Inspired by James Luther Adams, this sermon explores covenant, commitment, and how theists, atheists, agnostics, humanists, and seekers can unite in the shared work of Love and Beloved Community.



Rev. Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Melissa Holmes 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%.

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

Hi folks,

It's that time of the year again to start thinking about this year's Black and White auction.

This event is very important for our congregation, both in terms of fundraising as well as community building.

John Schaefer generously offered to lead it again, but he needs an assistant. Ideally, this assistant would lead it next year.

We already have a date of Oct 17, 2026 for this year's auction at Cole Hall.

Below is a description of being the auction leader and assistant.

Is anybody interested in being the auction assistant this year (and ideally leading it next year)? If so, please let John Schaefer and me know.



Responsibilities of Auction Leader and Assistant

Overview: MPUUC has conducted an auction for many years. It has shifted between in-real-life and fancy, to all-virtual and, most recently, hybrid including a somewhat informal gathering at Cole Hall combined with a Zoom auction. These events have generated between \$10,000 and \$15,000 each year. This write-up assumes a continuation of the hybrid auction.

These are the main areas of responsibility:

- Pre-auction publicity and logistics:
- Set up date for auction and confirm availability of Cole Hall
- Set up ticketing and sell tickets online (and in-person if desired)
- Develop articles for Week on the Peak
- Develop and, if needed, set up announcements during service
- Update Google survey form to collect items from members
- Set up Auction Platform on 32Auctions
- Confirm accounts are set up properly with MPUUC admin to ensure ticket and auction revenue go into our accounts
- Transfer information from Google Sheets into auction platform. Use pictures from donor or internet
- Work with people that donate items to get appropriate entries including dates, places, times, etc

Cole-Hall

- Set up arrangements for food including pot-luck and/or catered food and beverages
- Decorate Cole Hall
- Ensure setup of tables, table cloths, etc
- Takedown of Cole Hall
- Coordinate with AV team to ensure that event is broadcast on Zoom

Show Time

- Create "run of show" that begins at Cole Hall prior to start of Zoom and continues through the online-auction portion of the evening
- Get emcee(s) set up
- Coordinate/run any games or other entertainment

Post-Auction

- Work with MPUUC admin on any outstanding payments (system will automatically generate invoices and handles most payments)
- Answer questions from donors and bidders regarding items
- Send thank you notes

Ideally, the auction leader will be responsible for reviewing the above list and managing the overall process. Subsets of the activities such as handling donations, planning Cole Hall meal and logistics, should be delegated to a secondary person. The leader and assistant should both be able to perform all tasks to ensure redundancy. Other members of the congregation should be enlisted to lighten the load and to maximize a sense of ownership throughout the congregation.

All the scientific
knowledge that we
have of this world,
or ever will have,
is as an island
in the sea.
Still the mystery
surrounds us.

Chet Raymo

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 on Thursdays at 10:30 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](#).

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

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>



Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



As a direct result of the Supreme Court decision, *Louisiana v Callais*, 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)

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

Board Briefs

Attendees: Jay Steele, President, Drew Wilson, Treasurer, Valerie Stewart, Secretary, Lucienne Bouvier, At Large, Mark Rahman, At Large, Rev. Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez
Guests: Rev. Barbara Meyers, Paul Clifford



Personnel matters:

New WebMaster: The Board affirmed an electronic vote taken earlier to hire Kimberly Newton as the new Webmaster. The hiring date will be August 26, the beginning of the next pay period. All necessary steps to be taken to process her hiring.

Board/Minister Meetings-Workshop: The Board and Rev. Johnnie will engage in a 3 hour "Start-Up" meeting with Sam Pearl from the Pacific Western Region (UUA) Office at a future convenient date. The Board and Rev. Johnnie will have an in-person 'retreat' on September 26th with a communication skills workshop.

Hiring Policy: Given the onboarding of new staff and some complications due to incomplete communications, Rev. Johnnie suggested creating a "Hiring Policy" to provide clearer process. He volunteers to make an initial draft.

Financial Matters:

Treasurer's Report- Drew Wilson:

End of Year Report – Actual Income was more than the budgeted amount because of generosity of many members and Special Donations. Expenses came in less than budgeted. Resulting in us not having as large a deficit as had been projected. Canvass/Current 26-27 Budget: There was an additional donation of matching funds and an increase in pledges which result now with an expected deficit of only \$10k. Our assets remain at nearly \$300,000.

Reparations Fund, Account #839, Re-allocation:

Because the Alameda County Board of Supervisors did not process the \$1000 donation from MPUUC/ARO for the Russell City Reparations Fund before the end of our fiscal year (June 30) the check was to be returned. Account #839 will receive those funds and a new check will be issued to accomplish the intended donation to Russell City Reparations Fund.

Black and White Auction date Oct 17,2026

John Schaefer and possible co-chair to plan a hybrid event

Congregational matters:

Cyber Security / Facebook Security Review (Paul Clifford)

Paul reported on the various technology/cyber breaches/hacks that have occurred.

Email – soliciting money; seeking confidential information from Directory

Zoom bomber- (Rev. Greg's last service)

Facebook- Messages that attacked MPUUC member

Paul has prepared a list of the (approx.) 15 digital assets of MPUUC. There is no

current manual regarding security of the digital assets. Each asset is a vulnerability.

Recommends:

- 1) Training for the Congregation
- 2) REVIEW THE DIGITAL ASSETS and determine what the security needs are.

Paul and Steve Wallcave will consult about next steps and report to the Board.

Hospitality Team:

Rev. Johnnie suggests creating a Hospitality team to centralize supplies and production of potlucks and coffee hour. Valerie will put a message in Week on the Peak

Ministers Reports:

Community Minister Rev. Barbara Meyers / Quarterly Report

- UU Mental Health Network (Rev. Barbara is President-uumentalhealth.org): UUA President Dr. Sophia Betancourt and UU Director of Congregational Life Natalie A. Briscoe spoke at our Worship Service in May, their enthusiastic support brought a large audience.

- Rev. Barbara's Book: *Beloved As We Are: Building a Congregational Culture of Disability Inclusion* co-authored with Shelly Rohe has been published by Skinner House. available in July in 3 formats: paper-back, e-book and audio book. Rev. Barbara gave several talks about it as part of General Assembly.

* Locally, her position as Assistant Director of Life Reaching Across to Life has come to an end; last clients were seen at the end of May and the office cleared out June 1.

Rev. Johnnie Bloom- Ramirez

This first week has been filled with conversations, meetings, introductions, questions, ideas, and—perhaps most importantly—the beginning of relationships. I came into this ministry knowing that one of my first responsibilities would simply be to listen: to learn how Mission Peak works, to understand its rhythms, to discover where energy already exists, and to begin getting a sense of where we might grow together. And I have to say: I am excited.

Staff: I have met with Sandra and Ariel and begun to discuss our work together.

Committees: I have met with Encouragement Committee and am delighted to see pastoral encouragement recognized as a meaningful ministry of this congregation. I have also met with ARO and connected with the Music Committee and Worship Associates. More meetings to come.

Fully staffing COM will be necessary to fulfill the Fellowship requirements with UUA. New members are being sought.

Communication and Covenant are goals for a successful ministry.

Over the next several months, I will continue showing up at committee meetings, worship gatherings, conversations, and community events—not because I believe the minister needs to be involved in everything, but because before I can understand the ministry we might build together, I need to understand the congregation that already exists.

Schedule: I will continue the Thursday Morning Meetings with the Minister (on Zoom-slight time change); my usual Sunday off will be the 2nd Sunday. I use Fridays for writing. I will retain my overnight Hospital Chaplancy at UCSF on Wednesday nights.

Congregational Calendar /Planning:

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

Sept. 20- Sunday After-Service Potluck (3rd Sunday!)

Sept. 26 -Saturday Board "Retreat/Communication Skills Building"

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

November 23-Monday Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

December XX- Saturday Cookies and Carols

The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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 information about meetings or

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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