

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
September 2, 2026

Greetings!

As the summer comes to an end, things start getting busy at Mission Peak. The choir will sing this Sunday, Sept. 6th to start off our regular, first Sunday of the month program. Anyone who would like to sing with us can get on the choir mailing list by emailing "choir@mpuuc.org". We rehearse most Wednesday evenings in Cole Hall at 7:30 pm.



As your treasurer, I'd like to mention a side effect of the extreme generosity our congregation showed in the latest Canvass. We had a \$14,500 match for new or increased contributions, and it was oversubscribed by about \$10,000 thanks to all of you. One of the families who helped supply those matching funds, was so impressed with level of support shown for MPUUC, that they added an extra \$8,000 to their matching pledge, and another \$2,000 to their base pledge. So, the even better news (from my Treasurer's perspective) is that the \$21,662 deficit in the current budget is really only \$11,662 now!!

Clearly Mission Peak is important to many of us. It certainly is to me. With your continued love and involvement I believe we can become a significant force for good in the southeast bay. And remember, the more the merrier!

Drew Wilson

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.

The Limit Should Not Exist



Rev. Johnnie reflects on beginnings as sacred moments when the history we inherit encounters the possibilities we have yet to imagine. The sermon invites us to challenge the systems that restrict human flourishing and to remember that creation—and each of us—is still beginning. Together, we will consider what new world might begin when we choose curiosity, courage, and love over conformity and fear.

Rev. Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Melissa Holmes will be Worship Host. Peak Performers 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)

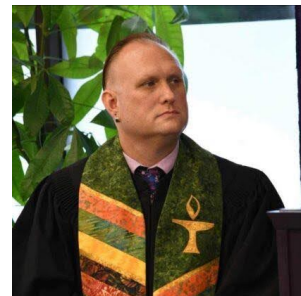
Drop envelope with a check in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
We will be collecting this once per week.

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%.

Rev. Johnnie's blog

Please click on link below for Rev. Johnnie's blog

<https://mpuuc.org/worship-overview/from-your-minister/>



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?

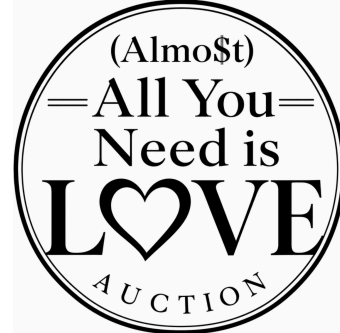
Please email Secretary@MPUUC.org

Get ready for fun! You will receive an email within the next few days with information about our upcoming auction. Here are three things you can do get ready for the event:

1. [Buy your tickets](#)
2. [Donate your item\(s\)](#)
3. Mark your calendars for the evening of October 17.

This event will be a great success with all of your support.

Thank you.



We seem to
think that
beginning is
setting out from
a lonely point...
We are never as
alone in our
beginnings as it
might seem.

John O'Donohue



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

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



Sept. 21- Monday
TCIC's International Day of Peace event, time/location TBD

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 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!

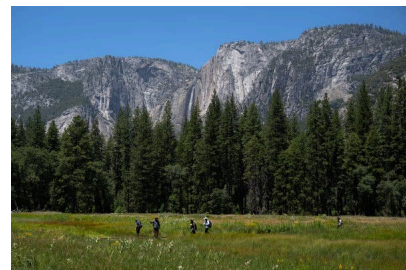
Children's Programming

JUSTICE CORNER

***Trump Administration Looks to Give a Swath
of Yosemite to a Developer***

By [Shawn Hubler](#) and [Maxine Joselow](#)

Shawn Hubler reported from Los Angeles, and
Maxine Joselow from Washington.
Aug. 28, 2026



The Trump administration has proposed trading away a small parcel of land in Yosemite National Park in California so a private developer can gain access to the park, according to federal officials and documents reviewed by The New York Times.

The potential deal has alarmed conservationists and former National Park Service officials, who say that Yosemite, the crown jewel of the nation's park system, should be off limits to development.

The proposal...first reported [by the news outlet NOTUS](#), calls for transferring a small parcel just inside the western boundary of Yosemite to a company controlled by Kingsbarn Realty Capital, a real-estate private equity firm.

We invite you to bring these items to our Full Moon Circle Gatherings:

- chalice or candle that connects you to the moon's light
- round stone or small object that connects you to the moon's energy, that you can hold in your hand
- shawl, blanket, or wrap for coziness
- mug of tea, glass of water, or something that cares for your physical body while in virtual space
- journal, pen, drawing paper, art supplies, or anything that will help you integrate our time together



[READ MORE + REGISTER](#)

Make-A-Will Month

August is National Make-A-Will Month! We encourage you to complete the essential task of creating an up-to-date estate plan, and we hope you will consider joining Niel (above) and the hundreds of members of UUSC's Legacy Society in helping carry forward critical social justice work for generations to come. **Build your human rights legacy at UUSC today.**



Already included UUSC in your plans but have not yet notified us? Let us know so we can welcome you to our Legacy Society.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



AI Is Being Trained to Favor Israel's Point of View –

In the latest SURJ blog post, Micki Luckey writes about how Israel has paid \$46.5 million to the firm Clock Tower X, run by a former Trump campaign manager, Brad Parscale. The focus? To influence AI chatbots so they will provide the Israeli government's point of view to hundreds, if not thousands, of queries.

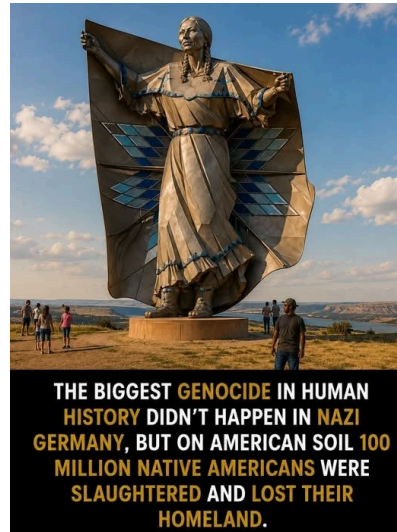


How A Jingle Defeated a Dictator – "On October 5, 1988, Chileans did something most of the world thought was impossible. They voted a dictator out of power. Not through a coup. Not through armed revolution. Through a plebiscite in which 55.99 percent of the population said "No" to General Augusto Pinochet's bid to extend his fifteen-year military dictatorship for another eight years." A long but very inspiring read from the *Anti-*

Authoritarian Playbook author Scot Nakagawa on what Chile's "No" campaign and the global history of cultural resistance can teach us about defending democracy in 2026.



8th Principle Learning



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FACEBOOK

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

The 2nd Annual Business Meeting of the PWR (Pacific Western Region) of the Unitarian Universalist Association took place Saturday, August 29, 2026.



PWR Co-Presidents' Annual Report, 2025-2026

The Co-Presidents of the Pacific Western Region of the UUA, are pleased to present to you our annual report, covering this, our first full fiscal year (July - September) as a 501(c) (3). This has been a dynamic and fruitful year of development and learning, So as the Co-Presidents of the first board that was elected by the communities of the region,.we are anxious to share with you what the region has accomplished and built this year. We want to share with you what we did, what went well, the challenges that we faced, what we learned, and what we plan for and hope for in the near future. And we want to invite you to participate in what is unfolding.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h6pw3H_k72LJa-0hK6Z4pQu9OducU4a7/edit

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
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 12- Saturday	Cookies and Carols

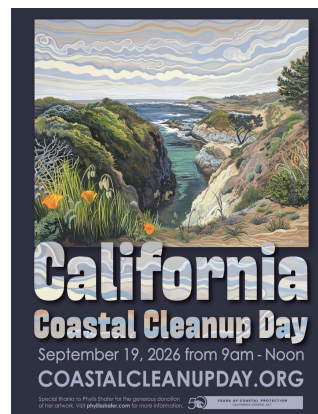
The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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 questions email president@mpuuc.org

California Coastal Clean Up Day is Saturday, September 19!

The California Coastal Commission is sponsoring the 42nd annual California Coastal Clean Up Day on Saturday, September 19th from 9 am to Noon.

Join your friends and neighbors at California's largest annual volunteer event to remove trash from beaches and inland waterways. Help protect people and wildlife by eliminating plastic pollution before it can cause any more harm. The California Coastal Commission has more information, a map showing coastal clean up locations and ways to sign up on their website at this link: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html>



Other ways to participate include:

Signing up with the East Bay Regional Park District at this link: <https://www.ebparks.org/get-involved/volunteer/coastal-cleanup>. They have several locations for Clean Up Day including Hayward Regional Shoreline and Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area. EBRPD provides all supplies.

Signing up with the City of Fremont at this link: <https://www.fremont.gov/government/departments/environmental-services/events/coastal-cleanup-day>. They have several locations including Central Park and Crandall Creek.

Signing up with the City of Milpitas at this link: <https://www.milpitas.gov/1206/Creek-Cleanups>.

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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