

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA
The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!
October 7, 2026

Greetings!

Hello from your affiliated Community Minister,

As many of you know, a book that I co-authored with Shelly Rohe *Beloved As We Are – Building a Congregational Culture of Disability Inclusion* was recently published by Skinner House Books. The book is about how congregations can be welcoming places for people with disabilities. Many non-disabled people feel anxious about whether and how to offer to help disabled people. I thought I would share some guidelines that we share in the book.



- Don't violate their bodily autonomy and personal space. Neither the person or their assistive devices or service animals should be touched unless they have consented to it.
- If you notice a disabled person struggling with something like opening a door or crossing the street, it is an act of kindness to offer to help without their having to ask you. This doesn't mean rushing in but rather asking them if they would like some assistance.
- Develop pastoral care assistance such as visits, taking someone to lunch, creating a companioning program or a comprehensive list of community services to which people can be referred. Offering these to caregivers is also a blessing.
- Become a good ally by advocating for them. Examples: ask for such things as captions, using the mic, making sure they can enter a room, making sure disabled children can participate in the children's program, without their having to ask for it.

In the spring, I plan to offer a book-read using the study-guide questions contained in the book. I hope you'll join me.

Rev. Barbara Meyers

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.



Costumes and Masks

Rev. Johnnie explores the roles, expectations, and identities we carry—and the courage it takes to remain connected to our authentic selves. Through personal stories, spiritual reflection, and a message of solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, this sermon invites us to create a world where Love gives each person the freedom to live fully and truthfully.

Rev. Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Jay Steele 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)

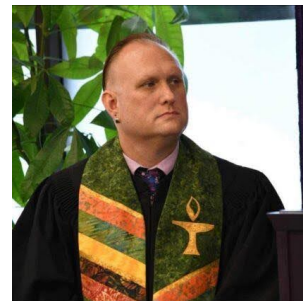
Drop envelope with a check in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
We will be collecting this once per week.

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

Our Black and White Auction is less than two weeks away. It's going to be a great evening of sharing our gifts, building our relationships, entertainment and food. Don't miss it. Here are a few reminders and key dates:

Submit Your Items by October 12. The catalog will go live on October 13 so please use this form to submit your item no later than noon on October 12.

<https://forms.gle/xGi4eEQL7uXAVRn66>

Buy Your Tickets: Jen and John are planning food for the Cole Hall gathering. We need to know how many people will be attending so please purchase your tickets no later than October 12. Every attendee - online and in-person - needs a ticket. You can buy your tickets here:

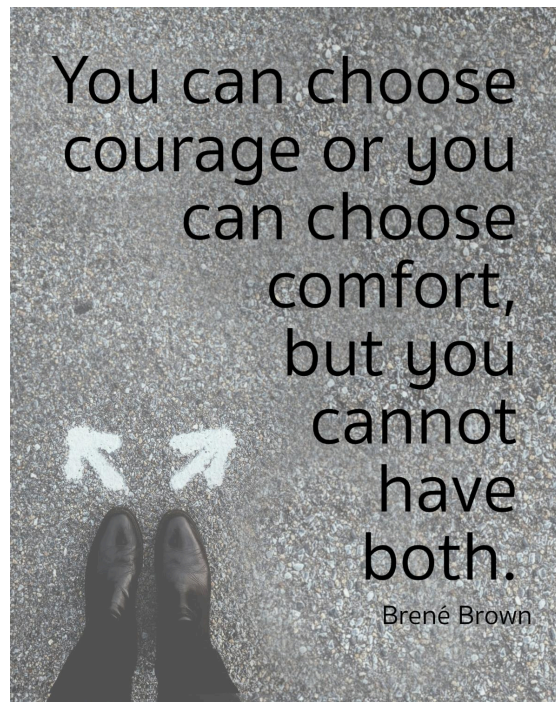
Purchase Tickets Here		(Almo\$t) =All You= Need is LOVE AUCTION	Donations Here	
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MPUUC BLACK & WHITE AUCTION

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/BTS6K7NWYW7D4/checkout/L2AZDQWLUVI36ZVQ7W6UUIYT>

Additional details can be found at: <https://mpuuc.org/2026-black-white-auction/>

This event only works because of the generosity of our community. Please help us make it an amazing evening.



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

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



Nov 7th from 6-8pm - Saturday
MPUUC's 3rd annual **Diwali** potluck dinner and puja to be held in Ockerman 7/8

Nov 23 at 7pm - Monday
Tri-City Interfaith Council's **Thanksgiving Service** at Washington Health, Anderson Auditorium

Nov 27- Friday
Green Friday at Coyote Hills- byo picnic lunch, MPUUC will provide coffee and pastries. Entrance to all EBRP is free on this day so buck the black friday trend and spend part of the day enjoying the outdoors with your UU community!

Sign-Up to bring Mexican food for Nov 1 Dia De Muertos Service

On November 1, we will celebrate Dia De Muertos at our Sunday service. Afterwards, we will share Mexican food that people have brought. Here is a sign-up sheet to bring Mexican food for that service.



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oaNrZw939VH4xMsJo95CH6nJbJZPowr-/edit?usp=sharing&oid=102940203490292123260&rtpof=true&sd=true>

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Saturday October 24th, 5-8pm **Halloween FUUN night!** Come in costume, bring a dish for the potluck dinner, then join games for kids in the playroom and classroom or games for grown-ups in 7/8. [RSVP requested](#) by Fri 10/23.

Our UU neighbors in San Jose are looking to start up a Dungeons and Dragons group and they're inviting us to help pick the time for the first meeting- follow [this link](#) to help choose the time. This is for kids 5th grade and up, any youth and adult is welcome to join.



Children's Programming

Sun 10/11 Children's Chapel

Sun 10/18 Children's Chapel

Sat 10/24 **UU Summer Camp teaser:** there are plans afoot for next summer to hold one week of UU Camp for kids (rising 1st-8th graders) in Hayward at Starr King UU Church. Join Ariel and the teens who would lead camp for a little taste of what you could expect. We'll teach the kids the Chalice Camp song, play a classic camp game and give them a little sampling of the curriculum: UU History and Identity. [RSVP](#) so we know how many to expect and what age children. Reach out to Ariel with any questions.

JUSTICE CORNER



In 2025 the American Renewal Project launched the Nehemiah Project, a 48-million dollar campaign to turn North Carolina into a Christian nationalist stronghold by 2030.

This year, the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina launched the Dogwood Faith Project, a five-year effort to powerfully combat this threat through phone banking and canvassing.

Join UU Justice NC for two opportunities to phonebank rural communities in NC!

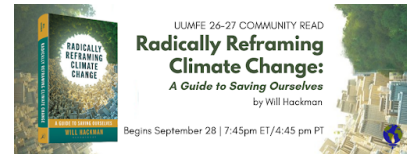
Ongoing:

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays @ 6pm ET / 3pm PT: Phonebank with ACLU-PA
- Mondays and Wednesdays @ 5pm ET / 2pm PT: Phonebank for helping voters with ballot curing with ACLU-PA

Community Read Starts in One Week!

We're one week out from our first **Community Read** meeting and there's **still time to sign up!**

We'll be reading *Radically Reframing Climate Change: A Guide to Saving Ourselves* by Will Hackman.



SIGN UP HERE

We're striving to make this a multi-generational program - **people of all ages are encouraged to sign up!** If you're interested in being a group leader for your generation, email us at office@uumfe.org.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations



Help SURJ canvassers get to AZ and TX with Seed the Vote! – SURJ Bay Area is partnering with Seed the Vote, sending our members to Arizona and Texas to knock on doors. We know talking to people face-to-face about the issues will make a difference on whether we can stop the Trump/MAGA agenda and retake the House and perhaps even the Senate. Seed the Vote doesn't want cost to be a barrier for anyone who wants to doorknock, so they help with hotel and travel costs for any volunteer who needs it. They know door knocking works, and SURJ Bay Area is showing up to help in this effort with grassroots fundraising. So please give whatever amount you are able—every dollar will make a difference!!

Tell Congress: Dissent is Not a Deportable Offense – The Trump administration has been using immigration enforcement in unprecedented ways to retaliate against people for political speech and advocacy, particularly on Palestinian rights. They have been weaponizing a clause in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to target people for deportation based on their political speech and vague “foreign policy risk.” We've seen this be used against Mahmoud Khalil, Salah Sarsour, and Leqaa Kordia, among a growing number of community members, students, and solidarity activists. Call on your member of Congress to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exclude unconstitutional foreign policy grounds for deportation and ensure that all of our First Amendment rights are protected.

8th Principle Learning



What's really at stake with H.R. 1?

More than a single piece of legislation. H.R. 1 touches the issues that shape our communities and our shared future—from economic dignity and healthcare to migrant rights, racial justice, climate action, and global solidarity.

Sign the Pledge:

<https://covenantforourfuture.o>

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: Kathi Bayne



Personnel matters:

New WebMaster: Kimberly Newton has been onboarded as the new Webmaster. She will begin the tasks of updating the MPUUC.org website with direction through Rev. Johnnie and other Congregational leaders. Sandra is her supervisor. Kim has created a form for requesting website modifications. Once there has been an initial review and update, the form will be made available for future changes

Hiring Policy: Given the onboarding of new staff and some incomplete communications, Rev. Johnnie drafted a "Hiring Policy" (we didn't have one) to provide a clearer process. The draft is under review by the Board.

New Child Care Provider Hiring

Ariel and Rev. Johnnie are currently recruiting for an additional childcare provider for the first Sunday.

Financial Matters:

Treasurer's Report- Drew Wilson:

The beginning of the fiscal year was strong due to funding from stock-offerings. Our current equity stands at \$317k. Our expenses at this time are covered.

Black and White Auction date Oct 17, 2026

John Schaefer and Jen King are co-chairs. This will be an outstanding hybrid event on Zoom and at Cole Hall.

Plan now for your service contribution and be ready on October 17th to bid and have a great time together.

Congregational matters:

Board/Minister Retreat: The Board and Rev. Johnnie will have an in-person 'retreat' on September 26th with a communication skills 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.

Hospitality Team:

Rev. Johnnie and Valerie will continue to recruit a Hospitality team to centralize supplies and production of potlucks and coffee hour.

Minister's Reports:

Rev. Johnnie continues to meet with Staff and Congregation members and Committees; familiarizing himself with the history and operations of MPUUC; planning for staff schedules and congregational activities in the coming months. He will offer more in his blog in WoP. He will begin classes on Thursday afternoons soon and be available in the evenings for MPUUC matters.

Congregational Calendar /Planning:

Sept. 26 -Saturday Board Retreat/Communication Skills Building

October 2-5 Rev. Johnnie on personal travel

October 5-20 Sandra on Vacation

November 5-11 Rev. Johnnie is on vacation- in a distant location

The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Tuesday, October 13, 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

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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