This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA

The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond!

November 4, 2026

Greetings!



Dear Ones,

I must confess that I woke up this morning feeling something that has been increasingly difficult to hold onto these past few years: **hope.**

As the election results unfolded, I found myself breathing a sigh of relief, not simply because of political victories, but because of what these results might represent for our democracy and the people who call this country home.

For some time, I have watched with growing concern as political rhetoric and policies have threatened the dignity, safety, and well-being of our neighbors. I know many of you have carried similar concerns, wondering what kind of world we are leaving for future generations.

Yet, this week, we witnessed something remarkable.

Across the country, voters elected a historic number of women and broke barriers that once seemed insurmountable. Women of color, Indigenous leaders, and LGBTQIA+ candidates achieved historic victories, bringing greater representation to communities whose voices have too often been marginalized.

These are not merely political victories. They are reminders that the boundaries of what we believe possible can change.

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to build communities rooted in Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity, with Love at the center. These are not simply beautiful words we speak on Sunday mornings. They are commitments calling us to recognize the humanity of others, particularly those historically silenced or excluded.

When someone sees a leader who shares their identity or experience, something profound can happen. A door opens. A possibility emerges. A young person begins to imagine a future they may never have dared to dream.

That, dear ones, is worth celebrating.

Yet, I recognize that an election, however historic, does not erase the suffering or uncertainty many continue to experience. Families remain frightened, communities

struggle under economic inequality, and neighbors wonder whether they will be treated with dignity.

Within our own congregation, we may hold different political perspectives. Our covenant does not require agreement on every issue, but it does call us to remain accountable to one another and to our shared values.

Our faith calls us not simply to celebrate those who win, but to care for those who remain vulnerable.

Hope, after all, is not certainty. It does not promise that everything will suddenly improve or that the struggle for justice has ended. Hope is the courageous conviction that transformation remains possible, even when the road ahead is uncertain.

And hope, like love, must become visible through our actions.

So, dear ones, let us celebrate the barriers broken and possibilities opened. But then, let us carry that renewed hope into the world through compassion, courage, and the sacred work of building Beloved Community.

Today, that spark of hope burns a little brighter in my heart. My prayer is that we tend that flame together.

Because hope is not simply believing that a better world is possible. It is choosing, again and again, to help bring that world into being.

In faith, hope, and love,

Rev. Johnnie

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.

Beware of 'Scientific' Racism

Stephen Jay Gould, in his 1981 book "The Mismeasure of Man", describes and debunks the long history of science serving racism. But I know from personal interaction that many of the erroneous supposedly scientific concepts still feed racist attitudes. This service will survey apparently scientific supports for racism and help equip us to identify and discredit them when we encounter them.

Paul K. Davis will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host. Jo Ann Schriner and Knuti VanHoven 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/

This year's black and white auction was a huge success raising about $15,000. Thank you to everybody that donated their time and talents, purchased tickets and attended the event. Special thanks to Ariel, Melissa, Nathan and Amy Schaefer for your help.

- John will send you a list of names of people that won your item(s).
- Please work with the winner(s) to ensure delivery of physical items and to plan dates for your events.
- You should have received an invoice from 32Auctions showing what bids you won. Please make payment this week if you haven't already done so.
- Some items are still available because they were not bid on. A list of available items is here

(**https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Y8WkP2UTUDixrYMnzd82m5WUMExwKhgVluUv7eFH89E/edit?usp=sharing**).

Please mark your name on the spreadsheet if you are interested in claiming a spot. Then, please contact the donor to let them know that you are buying a spot. You can make your donation using the standard payment methods that are mentioned during each service. There is no need to specifically identify it as a payment for the item (trust system is the easiest way to go here and all money goes into the same MPUUC pockets).



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**





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

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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



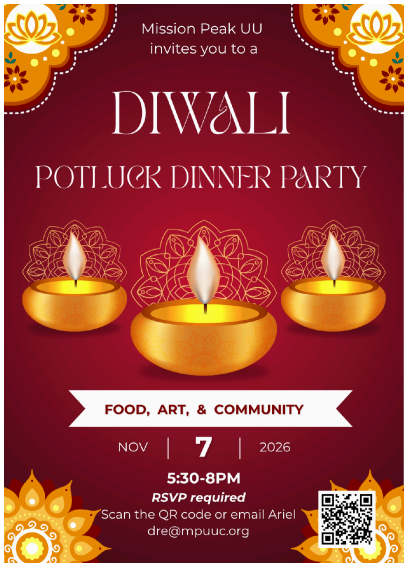
Nov 7th from 6-8pm - Saturday
MPUUC's 3rd annual **Diwali** potluck dinner and puja to be held in Ockerman 7/8

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!

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Sat Nov 7th *Diwali dinner/potluck/puja*. RSVP requested by Thur 11/5



Fri Nov 27th *Green Friday* in Coyote Hills no rsvp req'd



Sat Dec 12th *Tarp in the Park* in Cole Hall 12-3pm followed by *Cookies and Carols* in Cole Hall 3:30-5pm RSVP coming in Nov

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Children's Programming

Sun Nov 8th Children's Chapel
Sun Nov 15th Children's Chapel

JUSTICE CORNER

LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

Intersex Awareness Day on 0ct 26 is the 30th anniversary of the 1996 protest outside the American Academy of Pediatrics conference in Boston, It is focused on ending shame, secrecy, and non-consensual medical interventions on intersex children, while promoting bodily autonomy.

Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

SURJ BAY AREA SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. SURJ Bay Area is one of dozens of chapters, circles, and affiliates nationwide. Learn about **SURJ's mission, vision, and values**.

Want to get involved? Learn about our **Invest in Community** and **Palestine Solidarity** campaigns, as well as our **SURJ Bay Resistance Action Pods** doing immigration support, plus other chapter activities.

Fill out this short interest form and a SURJ Bay Area member will be in touch to answer your questions and explore with you the many ways you can get involved in the work of our chapter.

8th Principle Learning

Why are Baby Boomers destroying America?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y93aJxcYD68



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Click **here** for Updates

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!

Board Briefs



Attendees:
Jay Steele, President, Drew Wilson, Treasurer, Valerie Stewart, Secretary, Mark Rahman, At Large.
Rev. Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez
Guests: Steve Wallcave, Ariel Smith-iyer, Rev. Barbara Meyers

Personnel matters:
New Child Care Hire: Rajvi Metha for 1st Sunday each month during Service.

Financial Matters:
To-date pledges received provide 30% of the Budget. Some were pre-paid pledges received prior to July. Thanks to those early pledges we have $308,132 in the bank (this excludes the TCIC account).

Congregational matters:
Black and White Auction Oct. 17 was a **Great Success** thanks to the planning of John Schaefer and Jen King and the support of everyone in MPUUC. Our goal was exceeded.
Summer Chalice Camp concept approved for July 2027 (next fiscal year). A shared one week summer camp experience with Starr King congregation in Hayward for children.

Board/Minister Retreat: The Board and Rev. Johnnie had an in-person 'retreat' on September 26th with a communication skills workshop. Everyone felt it was very successful and Rev. Johnnie wants to offer the Communication skills workshop to the Congregation.
Website access to the Congregational Members Directory
A new protocol for access to the Member Directory is under development. Recent phishing attempts indicated we need a new process.
Fundraiser with FUMC on Dec. 5- Saturday night the **Silent Movies with piano Accompaniment at Cole Hall** and a potluck with FUMC before. This is a fundraiser for the Safe Parking Program (at FUMC in Dec.)
MPUUC Policies Updated; new Hiring Policy

Ministers Reports:
Rev. Johnnie
ACTIONS: Participated in International Day of Peace at St. Paul's, offered closing prayer
Board Retreat- hosted a Compassionate Communication Workshop
Participated in interview of New Hire/child care- Committee w/ Terri King/Beth Schaefer/Ariel Smith-iyer
Queer Trivia Night – attended with other MPUUC folks at Niles Discovery Church
Met with Von Brinhurst to discuss expansion of music program
Met with Hayward Starr King Minister Eric Meter- re: sharing Ariel time /Chalice Camp
STAFF: Sandra- Met before she went on vacation. His congregational credit card is here.
Ariel – Meet twice each month. Dia de Los Muertos / ofrenda construction to begin.
CONGREGATION Committees: **COM -still need members**, important for his credentialing
SCHEDULING: Hospital: usually Tuesday overnights
School: Thursday afternoons-3:30-7:00 - available extra evening hours
Rev. Barbara Meyers
• UU Mental Health Network – We plan to do a WAVE Cohort for mental health.
• Anti-Racism: Continued my education and involvement in the ARO team at MPUUC.
• Self-Care: I'm doing craft work 3-4 days a month. Strength training and walking.
• Book: The book Beloved As We Are has been published and I now have copies! My co-author Shelly Rohe and I were interviewed for:
o the UUA's Accessibility Resource Webinar,
o the UUA's In Good Faith blog post, and
o the VUU Podcast for the Church of the Larger Fellowship.
• The Artist's Way. I completed the 12-week class from the book The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron.
Completed an Art Studio in one room of our home. Resulting positive changes in my life:
o More spiritual practice. o Less time sinks o Better sleep o Calmer
o New friendships, including with a world-famous artist living in Fremont
o Realizing that I am/ have been creative in many ways

Congregational Calendar /Planning:
November 5-11
- Rev. Johnnie is on vacation- in a distant location

November 7
- Annual Diwali celebration - Cole Hall

November 23
- Monday Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

December 5 - Saturday
- Combined- MPUUC- FUMC Potluck - Cole Hall 5:30-6:30
- SILENT FILMs 7pm- Fundraiser for Safe Parking Program (SPP)- Cole Hall

December 12
- Saturday Cookies and Carols- Cole Hall

December 24
- Christmas Eve Service

The next meeting of the board is via Zoom, Tuesday, November 17, 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

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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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