This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA

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

October 28, 2026



Greetings!

Dear Ones,

I remember that my father used to shake his head and tell me that he couldn't figure out where all the time in his life had gone. That you live through your life, and then you realize you're old!!

I'm having a similar experience now. I'm trying to figure out when this started happening. Was it when I went through menopause? That certainly was an important transition in my life. Was it when my sons started saying, " Remember when we used to do that?", even though it seems like just yesterday to me. Was it when I retired from Kaiser? Maybe all of these events, and others?

So what did I expect when I got older...old!?!?

Well, one thing I thought is that I would get wiser. Don't we get older and wiser?

Guess what. I don't feel any wiser. I continue to make mistakes! I thought that with time I would make fewer. Nope. I keep making mistakes. Some are the same ones. As much as I try to be conscious of them and try to avoid them, I keep making them. Oh, and I make new mistakes too! Oh dear, where's the wiser part?

I suppose one of the wiser parts is I've learned that I will never stop making mistakes. Bummer. Old ones and new ones.

I've been giving myself some grace about this. I suppose that if I keep my mind open, even though I keep making mistakes, I can at least learn from them. Maybe some of them?

I suppose this is another wiser part? I can continue to learn? And learn from my mistakes?

I certainly hope so. And I also hope I can learn other lessons to become wiser.

Like to continue to give myself grace about this.

But... if anyone has any other suggestions about becoming wiser, I'd love to hear them!

Contemplatively yours,

Lucienne

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.

Dia de los Muertos

Dia de los Muertos is a holiday coinciding with the Catholic celebration of All Saints' Day. Distinctly a Mexican celebration, it involves remembering those that passed before with offerings and prayers.

Rev. Johnnie Bloom-Ramirez will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Sharon Davis. Erik Alm will be Worship Host. Peak Performers with Von Bringhurst will provide our music.

Please remember to sign up to bring something for our special Mexican food potluck after the service this Sunday - link below

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

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!

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

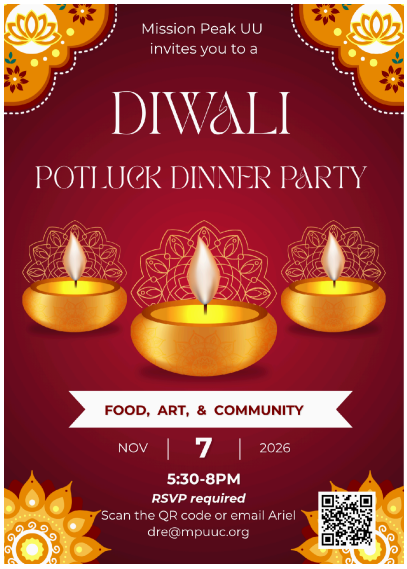
On November 1, we will celebrate Dia De Muertos at our Sunday service. Afterwards, we will share Mexican food that people have brought. Here is a sign-up sheet to bring Mexican food for that service.



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

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

UUSJ Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Advancing UU Values in the Nation's Capitol

Do You Have a Plan to Vote?
Democracy isn't something we watch from the sidelines. It's something we build and defend together.

Track Your Ballot Receipt
To see if your vote-by-mail ballot has been received and accepted by election officials, use the official California Where's My Ballot? Tool.

To check your voter registration status in California, you can look up your official record online using the California Secretary of State My Voter Status Tool.



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



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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