

Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Families and Children

Interested in learning about our Family Ministry and Sunday School programs?

Visit our website (www.uusf.org/family-ministry-classes-and-programs)

Questions? Rev. Alyson Jacks, ajacks@uusf.org or 415-776-4580.

Take a Seat

For people with chemical sensitivities, there is a scent-free zone, at the front of the right aisle. For people with service animals, please find marked area on left aisle.

Hearing impaired? Just ask an usher for an assistance device.

Candles

At the front of the sanctuary may be lit at any time as a silent sign of gratitude or concern.

Fill Out A Yellow Visitor Card

Let us know who you are by filling out a yellow visitor card. We'll send you our weekly e-mail, The Flame, and our monthly newsletter, FirstNews.

Tour of the Church (Sundays)

Meet your guide at the foot of the Chancel at 12:15 PM.

Stay For Coffee Hour and Conversation

Coffee hour will follow the service in the TSK Room or Courtyard.

Bookcorner

Open on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month following the service.

People Ages 18 to 39

Stop by the 20s & 30s table in the Gallery after Worship to meet the young adult community and learn about upcoming events. Questions?

Email youngadults@uusf.org or call 415-590-7836.

Humanists And Non-Theists Discussions

12:30 PM most Sundays in the Fireside Room.

Newcomer Orientation

First Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM.

Invitation To Membership - February 2 (email ajacks@uusf.org)

1st Sunday of alternate months. Info: www.uusf.org/membership

Please go to www.uusf.org/newsletters current church activities.

Community Suppers: An Opportunity To Host

Happening Next Spring 2020! A great way we connect with one another is through potluck Community Suppers, hosted by a member in their home -- on an evening of their choice. The guests are from a list of folks who've said they want to attend a supper. The only requirement is that you have room to host at least five people. If you'd like to be a host, or to find out more about this opportunity, please contact **Peter Gross** at pwgross@sbcglobal.net.

Social Justice Action: Wednesday Morning Rush Hour!

Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 AM to 9AM

Please join our witness with signs and leaflets to those in rush hour traffic in front of our sanctuary every Wednesday morning from 7:30-9AM. Questions? Email neveragain@uusf.org

Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Since its founding in 1850 this congregation has been a beacon of religious liberalism in this city. During the Civil War, the Rev. Thomas Starr King was credited with keeping California in the Union. He also challenged racism, raised millions for humanitarian relief and inspired new efforts in education.

Unitarianism and Universalism in America both arose in New England during the American Revolution. Because the roots of both traditions are in the Judeo-Christian tradition, you will see on the walls of our sanctuary two inscriptions:

"What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (from the Hebrew prophet Micah) and "The Kingdom of God is within you." (from the Gospels)

Our religious forebears were far more interested in the teaching examples of Jesus than in beliefs about Jesus. Today we agree more about how we strive to treat others than we do about beliefs. Our backgrounds and spiritual orientations are diverse. Among us are people who consider themselves atheists, agnostics, humanists, Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, Pagans and people guided by other forms of spirituality and belief.

Belief is many things, and so is disbelief. But we are interested in what happens to us when we open our minds to wider truth, our hearts to compassion, and our souls to the call to work for justice and peace.

If you are interested in learning more, we invite you to a Newcomers Orientation usually held on the first Sunday of each month following the service. At the Welcome Table you will find pamphlets and other information. For more about our congregation, please visit our website at www.uusf.org.

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY - Auction and Gala Celebration!

Save the Date: Saturday, February 1st!

The theme this year is the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Start thinking about which one of your hats you are going to wear – the more whimsical, the better! We will need volunteers, auction items and your participation. Tickets are \$25 for adults or two tickets for \$45 and \$8 for people under 18. Go to (bit.ly/uuauction2019) to buy tickets. Questions? Email **Julia Wald** at Jpwald@waldlawyers.com.

The Silent Auction Committee seeks a volunteer to help with social media in order to promote the event. For example, creating a presence on the UUSF's Facebook page. Contact **Cheryl Deaner** at cdd.mff@gmail.com if you can help.

The Auction Committee is looking for special items we can include in our Silent Auction. We are particularly interested in items that are "experiences" that you can provide and share with other members. This could be putting together a picnic for 8 people to attend the SF Mime Troupe's new production this summer or hosting dinner for 4 to 8 people at our home. We invite you to use your imaginations!

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



The Big Question

Sunday, January 5, 2020

11:00 AM



Order of Service
Sunday, January 5, 2020
11:00 AM to 12:15 PM

Prelude *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Bach / Van Hulse
 Reiko Oda Lane, organ

Opening and Welcome Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

***Hymn 12** *O Life That Maketh All Things New* TRURO
 Shanon Warto, song leader

Unison Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice for the light of truth,
 the warmth of love,
 and the fire of commitment.
 We light this symbol of our faith
 as we gather together.

Brief Invitations Reece Hart, Trustee

Greeting One Another

When I breathe in, I'll breathe in peace.
 When I breathe out, I'll breathe out love.

***Covenant**

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its prayer. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in freedom, and to help one another.

***Doxology** TALLIS' CANON

From all that dwell be - low the skies; let songs of hope and
 De to - dos ba - jo el gran sol; sur - ja, es - pe - ran - za

5
 faith a - rise; Let peace, good - will on earth be sung through
 fé, a - mor; ver - dad, y be - lle - za can - tan - do, de

8
 ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
 ca - da tie - rra, ca - da voz. A - men.

The children and teachers depart for classes on the second stanza. If you want your child to attend Sunday School, meet in the gallery following the children's recessional, or ask for assistance in the church office. **Rev. Jacks (ajacks@uusf.org)** can answer questions or address special needs.

Ritual of Remembrance and Commitment Rev. Southern

Times of Spoken and Silent Meditation

Music *Lagrima* F. Tarrega
 Eric Hamilton, guitar

Reflection Lisanicole Sarkisian, Worship Associate

Offertory Music *Canarios* G. Sanz

Reading *What I Mean* Bruce Marshall

Music *Le Nit de Nadal* trad. Catalanian folk song

Sermon *The Big Question* Rev. Dr. David Usher

***Hymn 350** *The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time* MCKEE

***Benediction** Rev. Dr. David Usher
(Please be seated until after the Postlude)

Postlude *We Believe in Oneness* BWV 680 J.S. Bach

* Please rise as you are able.

Rev. Dr. David Usher is a lifelong Unitarian hailing originally from Adelaide, Australia. After four years as a jackaroo in the Australian outback he spent two years traveling the world so before studying for the ministry at Oxford, England, where he gained a Masters Degree in Philosophy and Theology. He also has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Andover Newton Theological School in Boston. In his 36 years of ministry he served congregations in England, New Hampshire and California, and now is living in retirement in San Mateo. He was founding President of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, and is the author of two books.

Classical guitarist, **Eric Hamilton** has been playing the guitar all his life, starting lessons at 10 years old. He has been performing as a guest artist at UU since 2004. He has taught music education in both the San Francisco and Oakland Unified school districts and to date has recorded 13 CDs. Along with his musical endeavors, Eric is a master guitar and orchestral string technician, currently acting as quality control inspector for two of the leading musical instrument importers in the Bay Area. He makes his home in Emeryville.

After the Service Today

Never Again is Now Sunday Rally! - Sanctuary Steps (TODAY)
 We will be out on the steps together today with signs, fliers, songs, and art drawing attention to the injustices and atrocities being committed in our names by ICE.

Newcomer Orientation
 12:30 PM, Murdock Room (TODAY)
 New to this church? New to Unitarian Universalism? Come to this informal, interactive orientation to learn more about our church community and our faith tradition. Newcomer orientation is co-led by our ministerial and membership teams. Open to everyone.

Humanists & Non-Theists: 1PM, MLK Room (TODAY)
 "Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines"

Shulee Ong and Lori Lai will report on their recent UUCP pilgrimage. They are working on a video about UUCP and will give us a preview of their work-in-process at the session. Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, who is now based in the Philippines (originally from Oregon), will also be in attendance and will share his insights regarding UUCP. We'll start at 1:00 in Martin Luther King room. A light lunch will be available for purchase. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming

Companionship Lunch - January 8, 12:30 PM to 2PM, TSK Room

Would you like an opportunity to check in and spend time with members of your church community? All welcome! Join us on Wednesday, December 4, TSK Room from 12:30 PM to 2PM.

Food Pantry - NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

We need volunteers for All Faith's Food Pantry **Saturday, January 11** held at Old First Presbyterian Church at Van Ness and Sacramento People with strong backs should arrive. † 7:30 AM to unload the truck, others should come at 8 or 8:30 AM to hand out food.

Contact **Ben Bear**: bbear@sfmfoodbank.org, to sign up.

January Full Moon - January 11, 7PM, Chapel

The Pagan Interest Circle Invites You to Howl at the Full Moon Saturday January 11. Let's draw on Wolf Magic: sniff out hidden insights or knowledge, and to detect unexpected sources of danger, the capability to overcome hostile conditions with resourcefulness. Let's use this Energy to plan clever ways to achieve our goals for the upcoming year.

Sunday Forum - January 2020 - 9:30 AM, MLK Room

January 12: Sharif Zakout, Rev. John Anderson and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb will speak about the persecution, mistreatment and incarceration of Palestinian children.

January 19: Virginia, member of the Bay Area steering committee of the Poor People's Campaign will speak on the campaign's aims and plans.

January 26: Professor Susan Bartlett Foote, author of *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls* will speak about how to win a campaign for better mental health care -- a discussion moderated by Rev. John Buehrens.

Adult Religious Education Classes

Minister's Book Group

Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 PM - 8PM & Thursday, January 30, 12PM- 1:30 PM

Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

"An Indigenous People's History of the United States" by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. This book is the suggested Common Read for the denomination for the year and rightly so. We will have two chances for folks to join in a conversation: Wednesday, January 29, 6:30-8PM or Thursday, January 30, noon-1:30 PM. Please RSVP to **JChapot@uusf.org**. This book will be available for free 1 week loan prior to the group meeting, from the Book Corner, for details please see **Louise Diskerud** at the Sunday Book Corner in TSK Room, we will have 2 copies. After the book group they will be available for sale at 1/2 price.

UU Midrash

Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30 PM - 8PM

Led by **Kat Liu and Sam King**

Unitarian Universalists often have trouble relating to biblical scripture. Via the the Jewish tradition of midrash we will make sense and meaning out of biblical stories, bringing their relevance into our times. Come learn about midrash, read some examples, and if so inspired write your own. Register at www.bit.ly/midrash2019 or call us at 415-776-4580

New UU: A one-session class for prospective members

Saturday, January 18, 10AM to 1PM

Led by **Rev. Alyson Jacks and Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern**

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation? This informal and interactive one-session class, led by Revs. Jacks and Southern will help you become more familiar with our community and our faith tradition.

Register at www.bit.ly/newuujan2020