

The Soul of America: Worth Saving?

Sunday, December 13, 10:50 AM, 2020

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





Order of Service
Sunday, December 13, 2020
10:50 AM to 12:15 PM

Livestreamed at <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

New to UUSF? [Complete our Newcomer Form Here](#)

Prelude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Op. 122)
Once to Every Soul and Nation

Reiko Oda Lane, organist
Johannes Brahms
EBENEZER/David Ruhl

Opening and Welcome

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Hymn 121

We'll Build a Land

CREATION OF PEACE

Leandra Ramm, Brielle Marina Neilson, Ben Rudiak-Gould, Asher Davison, songleaders

[\(CLICK HERE OR SCROLL DOWN TO PAGES 5 & 6 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Unison Chalice Lighting

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

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

Meditation on Breathing

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.

Ritual of Remembrance and Commitment

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Spoken and Silent Meditation

Music Leandra Ramm, soprano; Brielle Marina Nielson alto; Ben Rudiak-Gould, tenor;
Asher Davison, bass; My-Hoa Steger, pianist, Mark Sumner, conductor
We Would Be One Jean Sibelius

Update on SCW

Offering

Our offering this morning will go to the Society for Community Work's Sponsorship Fund.



Music

Asher Davison, bass; My-Hoa Steger, pianist

The Impossible Dream from *Man of La Mancha*

Mitchell Leigh

Reading "america the beautiful again" by Richard Blanco

Music Leandra Ramm, soprano; Brielle Marina Nielson alto; Ben Rudiak-Gould, baritone;

My-Hoa Steger, pianist, Mark Sumner, conductor

Lights Upon Our Soul

Nick Page

Sermon "**The Soul of America: Worth Saving?**"

Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake

Hymn 119

Once to Every Soul and Nation

EBENEZER

Leandra Ramm, Brielle Marina Neilson, Ben Rudiak-Gould, Asher Davison, songleaders

[\(CLICK HERE OR SCROLL DOWN TO PAGES 7 & 8 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake

Postlude

The Promised Land

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

American Spiritual/Arr. Joyce Jones



PARTICIPANTS

Service Notes

Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake, Guest Minister
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Technology

Eric Shackelford, camera
Shulee Ong, camera
Jonathan Silk, sound/oos design
Joe Chapot, social media
Thomas Brown, sexton
Alex Darr, Zoom Coffee Hour

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist
Mark Sumner, conductor
Leandra Ramm, soprano
Brielle Marina Neilson, alto
Ben Rudiak-Gould, tenor
Asher Davison, bass
My-Hoa Steger, pianist

Cover image by Dwyn Reyes ([learn more](#))

ABOUT

Dorsey Odell Blake has served as Presiding Minister of [The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples](#) (San Francisco) since 1994. Fellowship Church was co-founded in 1944, as the nation's first intentionally interracial, interfaith congregation by Dr. Howard Thurman. Dr. Blake also serves as Faculty Associate at Pacific School of Religion as well as a faculty member of the Proctor Institute, Children's Defense Fund. Additionally, He is a member of the Advisory Board of Ethics in Tech. He also chairs the Gus Newport Institute.

$\text{♩} = 120$

1. We'll build a land where we bind up the bro - ken.
 2. We'll build a land where we bring the good tid - ings to
 3. We'll be a land build - ing up an - cient cit - ies,
 4. Come, build a land where the man - tles of prais - es re -

We'll build a land where the cap - tives go free, where the
 all the af - flict - ed and all those who mourn. And we'll
 rais - ing up dev - as - ta - tions from old; re -
 sound from spir - its once faint and once weak; where like

oil of glad - ness dis - solves all mourn - ing. Oh,
 give them gar - lands in - stead of ash - es. Oh,
 stor - ing ru - ins of gen - er - a - tions. Oh,
 oaks of right - eous - ness stand her peo - ple. Oh,

Words: Barbara Zanotti [Isaiah/Amos], adapt.,
 © 1979 Surtsey Publishing Co.

⊕ Music: Carolyn McDade, 1935- , © 1979 Surtsey Publishing Co.,

⊕ arr. by Betsy Jo Angebrannt, 1931- , © 1992 Unitarian
 Universalist Association

CREATION OF PEACE
 11.10.11.10. with refrain

we'll build a prom - ised land that can be.
we'll build a land where peace is born.
we'll build a land of peo - ple so bold.
come build the land, my peo - ple we seek.

Come build a land where sis - ters and broth - ers, a - noint - ed by


God, may then cre - ate peace: where jus - tice shall roll

down like wa - ters, and peace like an ev - er flow - ing stream.


The musical score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves, treble and bass, with a grand brace. The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the voice staff. The score is divided into four systems, each containing a voice staff and a piano accompaniment. The first system includes the lyrics: 'we'll build a prom - ised land that can be. we'll build a land where peace is born. we'll build a land of peo - ple so bold. come build the land, my peo - ple we seek.' The second system includes the lyrics: 'Come build a land where sis - ters and broth - ers, a - noint - ed by'. The third system includes the lyrics: 'God, may then cre - ate peace: where jus - tice shall roll'. The fourth system includes the lyrics: 'down like wa - ters, and peace like an ev - er flow - ing stream.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, providing a harmonic and rhythmic foundation for the vocal melody.

Once to Every Soul and Nation



$\text{♩} = 104$





1. Once to ev-ery soul and na-tion comes the mo-ment
2. Though the cause of e - vil pros-per, yet 'tis truth a -




to de-cide, in the strife of truth with false-hood,
lone is strong, though its por-tion be the scaf-fold,

for the good or e - vil side: then to stand with
and up - on the throne be wrong. Then it is the

truth is no - ble, when we share its wretch-ed crust;
brave one choos-es, while the cow - ard stands a - side,



⊕ Words: James Russell Lowell, 1819-1891
Music: Thomas John Williams, 1869-1944

EBENEZER
8.7.8.7.D.



[BACK TO PAGE 3 \(CLICK HERE\)](#)

Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications

Deadline: Wednesday, December 16

Each year we thrill to an abundance of red poinsettias dedicated in honor or in memory of special loved ones.

Please begin making your \$25 Poinsettia donations for 2020. You may pay by check, and if there is a dedication name note it on the memo line.

Alternatively, you may pay via uusf.org payment donate button ([here](#)), but select Sunday Flowers/ Poinsettias line. You input the dedication online, but it is suggested you also email it to jsilk@uusf.org by Wednesday, December 16.



"Welcome to this year's Special Holiday Virtual Coffee Hour "Warmth of Home."

Sunday, December 13 at 12:15 PM

Below are some conversation questions and two games to play. Feel free to take these suggestions or do whatever works for your group! Thank you for coming and partying it up with us. You look great!

Conversation Questions

- How do you like to stay warm during the Holidays?
- What do you like most about where you are living right now?
- What was the most meaningful or special gift you have ever been given?

Game - Holiday Alphabet

Figure the order to go through and then repeat, alphabetically by first name of course! Using the topic of all "winter holidays," and you can go round the group each taking a turn at a letter, starting with A to Z naming something from that category beginning with your letter until you have gone through the whole alphabet.

Game - I went to the UU Holiday Fair and I bought...

Figure the order to go through and then repeat, alphabetically by first name. Each player goes to the market and names something they bought. Then the next player needs to remember all the items said before them. This gets harder as you go round.

For instance – player 1 says 'I went to the UU Holiday Fair and I bought ... chocolate'. Then player 2 says 'I went to the UU Holiday Fair and I bought ... chocolate, and a loaf of bread'. Then player 3 says 'I went to the UU Holiday Fair and I bought... chocolate, a loaf of bread, and 3 oranges'.

You keep going until either someone makes a mistake, or is eliminated when someone makes a mistake and the winner is the last one still in."



Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/725737157>

Meeting ID: 725 737 157

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,725737157# US (San Jose)



Blue Christmas Vespers

December 23rd, 6:00pm

If this season feels especially difficult, if you are grieving, if you seek extra quiet, comfort and community, join us for a “Blue Christmas” service and gathering on December 23rd at 6:00pm. This time will be both a vespers service and time for some reflection and sharing. We will make and hold space for whatever might be present for you in this season, through music, sharing and meditative ritual.

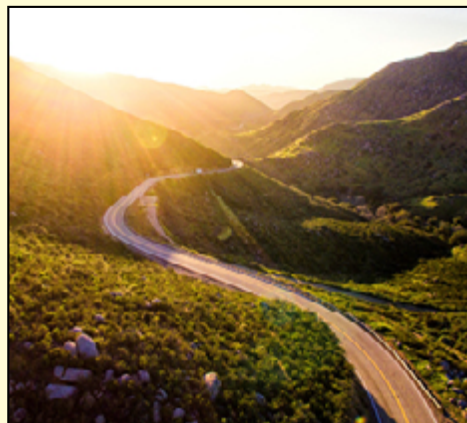
Register [here](#) by 12/16 to receive a small care package for the service. We will send you the zoom link and/or phone number so you can join.

Journey Toward Wholeness Racial Equity Task Force Meeting

Tuesday, December 22, 7PM to 8:30 PM

The Journey Toward Wholeness / Racial Equity Task Force meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday. Last month we created a covenant for our work together and clarified that our focus, for the moment, will be on furthering the work within UUSF to dismantle white supremacy culture and build Beloved Community.

If you're interested in joining us on Tuesday, email info@uusf.org for meeting information and the materials for the meeting.





Humanists and Non-Theists

Immigration and Human Rights

Sunday, December 13, 1PM

In honor of International Human Rights Day, join us for this for a thoughtful conversation about immigration and immigrant rights and what we can all do to help. This panel discussion will feature Professor Bill Ong Hing and Denise Bell.

Professor **Bill Ong Hing** is the Director of the Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic at the University of San Francisco and is the founder of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center where he continues to volunteer as general counsel.

Denise Bell is the Researcher for Refugee and Migrant Rights at Amnesty International and was previously Senior Campaigner for Refugee and Migrant Rights, leading implementation of Amnesty's Welcome campaign on refugee rights. She came to AIUSA from the U.S. Department of Justice, where she was an Attorney Advisor on the New York Immigration Court. She was a Sudan Country Specialist for AIUSA and the campaigner for its Darfur campaign. She has worked in various capacities on forced displacement issues since the mid-1990s, when she worked with refugees and IDPs in Croatia following the Dayton Peace Accord. She is barred in the state of New York and sits on the City Bar's Immigration and Nationality Law Committee.

This event is co-sponsored by the UUSF Humanists and Non-Theists Committee and Amnesty International-Group 30

Please join us for this Zoom meeting using the link below:

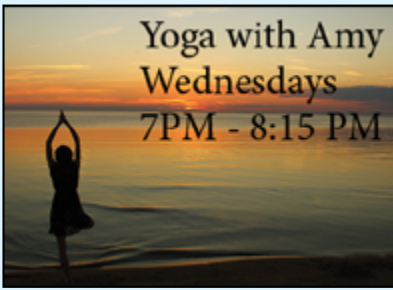
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81623102278?pwd=RmpWd0o4ZFdSMzJUZUdvSINHTWhZQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 2310 2278

Passcode: 119756

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)



Yoga with Amy

Wednesdays from 7PM - 8:15 PM (**December 16**)

Led by Amy Hunt

[REGISTER HERE](#) - [EMAIL US](#)

These sessions are open to anyone, from those with no previous yoga experience to longtime yoga practitioners. As in most yoga classes, the sessions promote strength, flexibility, balance, and focus, as well as creating space for relaxation, but these particular sessions have a therapeutic intention, aimed to increase the resilience of your nervous system, essential to managing stress. These sessions are drop in, which means that you are free to join when you can. However, while a single yoga class can help us reset, the benefits of yoga practice build over time, so it's best to attend sessions each week if possible. Amy Hunt is a yoga teacher and yoga therapist (C-IAYT), as well as a high school English and Psychology teacher (and a UU!) Her training is primarily from the Mindful Institute, where she studied yoga therapy for mental health.



New UU: A 2-Session series for Visitors and Newcomers

Tuesday, February 2 and 9. From 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Led by Rev. Alyson Jacks and Rev. Vanessa Southern

[REGISTER HERE](#) - Questions? Email Rev. Jacks - ajacks@uusf.org

Join Revs. Jacks and Southern, and special guests, for a two session New UU class. This interactive class will introduce you to Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. If you don't have Zoom capability, there is a simple way to call in to participate.

Session 1: A quick journey from Past to Present, Unitarian Universalist history and theology.

To understand where we are now culturally as a movement, in our philosophies and practices, and our place in the larger landscape of religious history, we'd like to give you an overview of some of the big sweeps of time and where Unitarian Universalism's roots began and where we find ourselves today. We will cover history, theology and a bit of what we call "polity" -- how we run ourselves and why we do it like that.

Session 2: First UU Society Past to Present

Along the same lines we'd like you to see the history of this particular congregation, its place in the life and history of San Francisco and California. What has been part of this life, and right now how does this congregation understand the work of spiritual growth, the call to social action, what are our worship traditions (and why are they the way they are), how do we connect and take care of each other, and what is entailed in being called "a member."



UUSF MEDITATION MINISTRY

[Adult Religious Education Classes](#)

Meditation is a practice where an individual uses a technique – such as mindfulness, or focusing the mind on a particular object, thought, or activity – to train attention and awareness, and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state.

UUSF has the great fortune to offer two meditation programs you can participate in at any time. They are lead by **Elena Hanyo Perez**, a member of UUSF, licensed acupuncturist, and lay minister with Bright Dawn Center for Oneness Buddhism.

ZOOM LINK

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75735734442#success>

PASSWORD: metta

Morning Metta Meditation

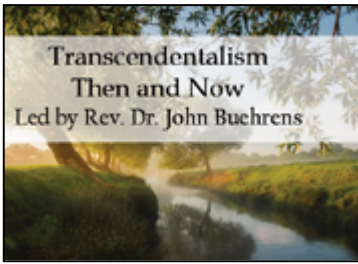
Tuesdays & Thursday, 8-8:30 AM

A simple, centering loving kindness meditation practice which is appropriate for all religious backgrounds and levels of meditation experience

Equanimity Practice

Fridays, 8-8:30 AM

A meditation practice on cultivating equanimity- that is accepting the reality of life's highs and lows, and developing an attitude of peaceful calm abiding throughout the inevitable changes.



Transcendentalism Then and Now

Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2021 7:30 - 9PM

Led by Rev. Dr. John Buehrens and hosted by UU Church of Palo Alto

Registration: Advance registration is required. Please email **Marilyn Austin** at areclasses@uucpa.org to sign up for the class. The link will be provided to registered participants.

Rev John Buehrens is the retired senior minister of the UU church in San Francisco. After the last time he gave a guest sermon at UUCPA, numerous members of our congregation asked the ARE Committee to arrange for him to teach a class for us. We have finally accomplished that! On the four Wednesday evenings in January, from 7:30 to 9:00, Rev. Buehrens will teach a class via zoom entitled Transcendentalism: Then and Now. He will identify contemporary issues as well as explore the pioneering efforts of our spiritual forbears in spiritual practice, women's rights, anti-racism, and ecotheology. All four sessions will include both lecture and discussion. Those wishing to attend should email areclasses@uucpa.org in order to receive the zoom link.



Minister's Book Group: January

Wed, Jan. 27, 7:30-8 pm OR Thurs, Jan. 28, noon-1:30

Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Join the Minister's Book Group in January when we read and discuss Michael Pollan's "How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence."

The book is a journey through the renewed fascination with what psychedelics are teaching the medical and therapeutic world about how our mind functions and what relief it may offer to some of the most painful realities of life -- depression and the painful work of facing death. Since the work touches on so much that is often thought part of the religious realm I am particularly interested in discussing it with our book group.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



The soft breezes and the inclusive culture of Hawaii—the most diverse state in the union—are calling all UUSF members and friends to participate in the fabulous Aloha AUUction 2021! This major UUSF fundraiser and fun-raiser will be held from the comfort of our homes, and all of us can participate to help our UUSF community thrive in the new year. We'll need donations in every category: Experiences, Services, Collector's Items. All of us can do something.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW IDEAS:

- Weekend or week-long getaways
- Cooking class
- Zoom scavenger hunt
- Storytelling, Homemade soup
- Dinner preparation and delivery
- Wine, beer, sake or kombucha tasting
- Live online concert
- Original art item
- Baking/cooking projects with ingredients brought to your door
- Kids' art materials kit delivered to your door
- Planter filled with plants/flowers of your choice
- Earrings made to order, 2 hours of garden care
- Driveway car wash
- 2 hours of shopping or other errands

To make a donation of any experience, service, or item [click here](#)

To get more information, please email Sue Anthony
at susan.j.anthony@comcast.net.

[WATCH A VIDEO HERE!](#)

20s & 30s Events

Becoming Together - Wednesday December 16

7:00 to 8:30 pm - Join via ZOOM (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81007012772?pwd=K0pHV21lVGhWVGtRUlhDYktiRmlIUT09>)

All people ages 18 to 39 are invited to join us at Becoming Together, our bi-monthly reflection time.

TNT Hangout - Saturday December 19

6:00 to 8:00 pm - Join on ZOOM (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88683333891?pwd=S2hpNjhjL211NytiS0JsVG9JUkRlZz09>)

All folks ages 18 to 30s are invited to our young adult group's regular hangouts.

More Details at uusf.org/tnt

Gather Here For The Longest Winter Night!

Saturday December 19th at 7:00 P.M.

Winter Solstice, December 21st, is fast approaching, and now is usually a season of merrymaking as we celebrate the Return of the Sun. This year, the cold shadow of Covid-19 keeps us from coming close together to share First Candle Light from the Yule Log and to dance the Spiral Dance. There will be no communal Feast. So, it is good to reflect on an important theme of this Solar holiday: we have the reserves (from our harvest season), the resources to get us through the hard times. We share our gifts in community as an affirmation that, together, we have enough. We have enough to sustain us, to protect each other, despite our fears, until the Reborn Sun grows strong in spring, cycling again into a Season of Abundance.



So, **The Pagan Interest Circle** will gather virtually, to celebrate Winter Solstice in a ritual on ZOOM, Saturday December 19th at 7:00 P.M. Maybe we will give intangible gifts to each other. I know that we will all receive Love. Please join us! You're invited. Questions? **Nancy Buffum** at nancybuffum@gmail.com NOTE: To access the ZOOM link to this ritual, contact **Christine Patch-Lindsay** at cplhealer@comcast.net NO LATER than 3:00 P.M. December 19.

Police Murder And The Struggle For Justice, A Conversation with Gwen Woods and Lisa Bishop

Saturday, December 19, 11AM (On Zoom)

The UUSF Forum is honored to host **Gwen Woods** and **Lisa Bishop** to discuss the crucial issue of police violence against Black and Brown people and what can be done to stop it. They have taken up the struggle to seek justice for [Mario Woods](#), who was killed by SFPD on December 2, 2015 and [Sean Monterossa](#), on June 2, 2020 in Vallejo. Together we will hear their stories and discuss what we can do as a community to work towards justice.

Mario was shot and killed by S.F. police officers Charles August, Winson Seto, Antonio Santos, Nicholas Cuevas and Scott Phillips on December 2, 2015. Then-S. F. District Attorney George Gascón declined to criminally charge the officers. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors declared Mario Woods Remembrance Day to take place every year on July 22nd, Mario's birthday.

Sean Monterossa, 22, was killed by Vallejo police officer Jarrett Tonn on June 2, 2020 while protesting the murder of George Floyd. Tonn did not exit his vehicle while approaching the scene and shot through his moving patrol car's windshield at Sean who was down on his knees on the ground, unarmed. To this date, there has been no attempt to bring charges for the shooting.

Forum UU is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99509975138?pwd=ZytnajNqdGo2RUdiWGRIeStuRGRZQT09>

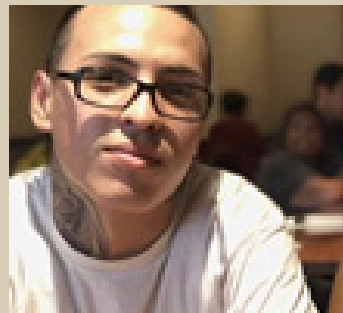
Meeting ID: 995 0997 5138

Passcode: 298564

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab0SatXmAo>



Humanists & Non-Theists

Winter Solstice Celebration

Sunday, December 20 at 1:00 p.m.

Come join the Humanists and Non-Theists for a fun afternoon zoom party to celebrate the Solstice. We will be joined by Bay Area Vocalists Torbie Phillips and Gina Harris. They have performed in many Bay Area nightclubs and sometimes performed together. Torbie and Gina have graciously agreed to share some of their stories and music with us. Be prepared to be entertained! It will be interactive and fun.

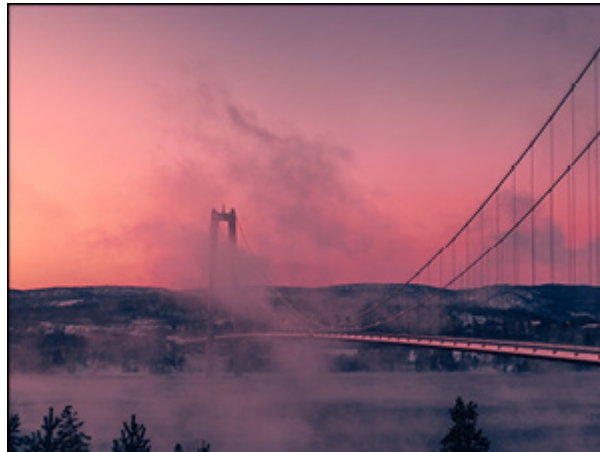
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85634356821?pwd=UXBhUGsyTkswbGhDSW51ay9VcjRIUT09>


Meeting ID: 856 3435 6821

Passcode: 841094

Dial by your location


+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)






Because **of you**, life doesn't stop


#VitalToLife




ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS
are encouraged to help maintain social distancing.



All donors must bring and wear a **MASK** or **CLOTH-BASED FACE COVERING**.



DONATIONS TESTED FOR COVID ANTIBODIES
to help identify potential convalescent plasma donors.



DONATE BLOOD
vitalant.org 877-25-VITAL

Blood Drive

First Unitarian Church

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Location: TSK Room
1187 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

To make an appointment, visit vitalant.org and click donate. Use your unique sponsor code: **First Unitarian**

vitalant. 
Formerly Blood Centers of the Pacific



BAY AREA FOOD INSECURITY ON THE RISE! NEED Help? Want to GIVE Help? BOTH?

Food insecurity is on the rise across the nation, including the Bay Area, as the continued COVID-19 pandemic affects jobs and reduces the access to healthy food by vulnerable seniors and individuals in quarantine. One study says that food insecurity has tripled in San Francisco in the past 6 months. If you are among this rising number of people and don't know how to access healthy food, we are here to help:

To Get Help connecting with sources of free healthy food, contact our lay chaplaincy team at Chaplains@uusf.org

THE SAN FRANCISCO / MARIN FOOD BANK NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

In the past six months, this wonderful organization has almost doubled the number of households it serves to about 60,000 a month. Both the increase in the number of people served and the suggestion that those over 60 do not volunteer for safety reasons during the pandemic has produced a critical need for younger volunteers.

TO HELP, please join us at the INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY!

Every Saturday
7:30 AM to 11AM
[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

Council of Committee Chairs Meeting **Sunday, January 10, 12:15 PM (on zoom)**

The Council of Committee Chairs (COCC) will hold a ZOOM meeting on Sunday, January 10, following services that day. Invitations with call-in instructions will be sent to current committee chairs, but others are invited to attend.

The COCC meeting will cover topics including the on-going work on our Journey to Wholeness, Center Updates, the Annual Operating Fund and updates from members regarding plans for the rest of the church year.

Anyone with questions or who would like to suggest other agenda items can contact Board members [Rochelle Fortier](#) or [Carrie Steere-Salazar](#).



Wednesday Morning Vigils!

Wednesdays from 7:30-9AM at UUSF

As a consequential election approaches, With the overt threat to subvert its outcome; With the prospect of a shift in the Supreme Court that could threaten long held basic rights; Our choices and our voices on the ballots and in the public square are critical.

We cannot afford to be silent. We invite you to join fellow UUs and other people of conscience as we gather with signs and banners in front of our church.

We have banners and signs but feel free to make and bring your own addressing those concerns you find most critical to raise.

We want to do this in a way that is safe for everyone so please bring and wear your masks, use hand sanitizer, and socially distance.

The garage and interior of the church will not be available so please find street parking if you drive.

Let us know what you think at neveragain@uusf.org



The Perfect Body and Ladder - Dec. 6

[Click Here to Watch Last Weeks Worship Service](#)



UUSF MEDIA

[Listen to our Worship Sermon Podcasts Here](#)

[Check out our Complete Worship Service Archives Here](#)

[View all our videos Here](#)

[Read our Newsletters Here](#)

[Contact us here](#)

Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Since its founding in 1850 our 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.

For more about our congregation,
please visit our website at www.uusf.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
415-776-4580 / info@uusf.org