

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, rainbow-colored object, possibly a piece of candy or a small toy. The hand is positioned in the center-left of the frame, with fingers slightly curled around the object. The background is a bright, warm, golden light, likely from a window or a lamp, creating a soft, hazy atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by warm tones of yellow, orange, and red, with the vibrant colors of the rainbow object providing a focal point.

"Belonging"

Sunday, January 14, 10:50 AM, 2024
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



Order of Service
Sunday January 14, 2024
10:50 AM - 12:15 PM

Livestreamed at bit.ly/uusfmedia

New to UUSF? Complete Our Connections form at <https://bit.ly/uuconnections2024>

A Guide for Newcomers! - What to Expect During Worship (read at <https://bit.ly/newcomersguide-uusf>)

Welcome to Worship!

UUSF no longer requires masks indoors on our premises,
following the lead of the San Francisco Department of Health.

We do, however, encourage people to wear masks or do anything else
that protects and respects their own health and comfort.

There is a designated mask-only area on the far right side of the Sanctuary.

Prelude *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*
Morning Has Broken

Bach/Van Hulse
Gaelic Melody/Dale Wood
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Opening Words and Welcome

Rev. Sonya Sukalski, Sabbatical Minister

Unison Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice for the spark of the unique gifts we each bring,
the warmth of beloved community,
and the fire of commitment.

We light this symbol of our faith as we gather together.

*Hymn 126

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 6 & 7 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Greeting One Another

Story for All Ages "Belle, The Last Mule at Gee's Bend: A Civil Rights Story" Rev. Laura Shennum
by Calvin Alexander Ramsey, illustrated by John Holyfield

Unison Covenant

Rev. Sonya Sukalski

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.

Reflection

Richard Davis Lowell, Worship Associate

Music *Ryan Mountain Suite: Prelude*

Giacomo Fiore, guitarist

Time of Prayer/Meditation

Rev. Sonya Sukalski

Music *Ryan Mountain Suite: Ricercare*

Giacomo Fiore, guitarist

Today's Offering will go to "Side With Love" Campaign of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Tomorrow, on the national holiday celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy, UUs across the nation will join Side With Love for 30 days of spiritual deepening. The organizers imagine our work and play to be a combination of a love letter, a warm hug, and a spiritual balm for all kinds of people seeking to embody our values and work for justice and liberation. Plan to check the weekly Flame (<https://www.uusf.org/flame>) for links and suggestions on ways to engage with a different topic each week, including Safety, Imagining, Possibility, Resilience and Interdependence. The organizers will post blessings, prayers, grounding practices and times for all ages that can inform a time of deepening and spiritual sustenance for the long haul. <https://sidewithlove.org/30-days-of-love-2024> is the link to check as well as donate (at the bottom of the page).

To make a donation on Vanco (<bit.ly/uusfpayments>), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code below, please select the line for either Sunday Plate Offering or Special Sunday Offerings. The designation is important to ensure your gift gets applied correctly. If you are sending a check, please mark in the memo today's date, 01-14-24, "Sunday Plate"



Offertory *Ryan Mountain Suite: Lullaby* Giacomo Fiore, guitarist

Reading Excerpt from Victoria Safford's sermon "Love's Conditions" Rev. Sonya Sukalski

Song *Pine City Air* Giacomo Fiore, guitarist

Sermon "Belonging" Rev. Sonya Sukalski

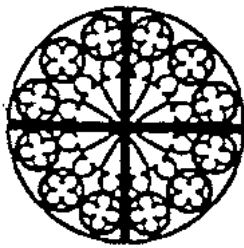
*Hymn 354 *We Laugh, We Cry* CREDO

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 8, 9 & 10 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

*Benediction Rev. Sonya Sukalski

Postlude *Onward, Ye Peoples!* Jean Sibelius
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Sonya Sukalski, Sabbatical Minister
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Richard Davis Lowell, Worship Associate
Linda Enger, Board of Trustees

Sunday Support

Shulee Ong, Camera; Eric Shackelford, Camera; Jackson Munn, Camera
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director
Thomas Brown, Jose Matias Pineda, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons
Judy Payne, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, Organist
Giacomo Fiore, Guitarist
Ben Rudiak-Gould, Songleader

ABOUT

Rev. Sonya Sukalski has always been curious about how people think about what is most important in life – following this interest in studying Cognitive Linguistics, Germanic Languages, and Adult Wellness Education before moving to the East Bay to attend Starr King School for the ministry. During seminary, Sonya had a short winter job in 2005 with the UU Justice (formerly Legislative) Ministry calling California congregations to send valentines to the governor in support of marriage equality. Sonya later helped develop the Young Leaders Project and SALT programs with UUJMCA. She has served a variety of sabbatical and family leave ministries with the San Jose, Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward, Chico, and Livermore congregations, and was the minister for the UU Fellowship of Tuolumne County from 2014-2020. Sonya enjoys nature, backpacking, yoga, playing the piano, and recently, playing with her preschool friends and nephews.

Giacomo Fiore is an Italian-born guitarist and musicologist. Giacomo Fiore has premiered new works for justly-tuned, electric, and classical guitars and released recordings for Populist, Cold Blue, Pinna, Spectropol, Paper Garden Records, and his own impressum. He teaches a wide range of historical and practical music courses at the University of San Francisco and UC Santa Cruz. Giacomo is a member of Ninth Planet New Music (the chamber group formerly known as Wild Rumpus) and an occasional performer for New Music Works, SFSound, and other Bay Area ensembles. The music presented today is excerpted from Giacomo's recent work "At the Harrison House," composed and recorded in March 2023 at the former residence of composer Lou Harrison in Joshua Tree.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

$\text{♩} = 88$

1. Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune our hearts to sing thy
2. Come, thou fount of ev-'ry vis-ion, lift our eyes to what may
3. Come, thou fount of in-spi-ra-tion, turn our lives to high-er

grace. Streams of mer-cy nev-er ceas-ing, call for
come. See the li-on and the young lamb dwell to-
ways. Lift our gloom and des-per-a-tion, show the

songs of loud-est praise. While the hope of life's per-
geth-er in thy home. Hear the cries of war fall
prom-ise of this day. Help us bind our-selves in

fec-tion fills our hearts with joy and love, teach us
si-lent, feel our love glow like the sun. When we
un-ion, help our hands tell of our love. With thine

Words: v. 1, Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, adapt.,
⊕ vs. 2–3, Eugene B. Navias, 1928–
Music: John Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D.

LOVE AND COMPASSION

ev - er to be faith - ful, may we still thy good - ness prove.
all serve one an - oth - er, then our hea - ven is be - gun.
aid, O fount of jus - tice, earth be fair as heav'n a - bove.



354

We Laugh, We Cry

♩ = 58 Unison

F Dm Bb

1. We laugh, we cry, we live, we die; we dance, we sing our
 2. A child is born a - mong us and we feel a spe - cial
 3. Our lives are full of won - der and our time is ver - y
 4. We seek e - lu - sive an - swers to the ques - tions of this

F Bb C F

song. We need to feel there's some - thing here to
 glow. We see time's end - less jour - ney as we
 brief. The death of one a - mong us fills us
 life. We seek to put an end to all the

Bb Gm C Bb C

which we can be - long. We need to feel the
 watch the ba - by grow. We thrill to hear im -
 all with pain and grief. But as we live, so
 waste of hu - man strife. We search for truth, e -

⊕ Words & music: Shelley Jackson Denham, 1950- , © 1980 Shelley Jackson Denham,
 ⊕ harmony by Betsy Jo Angebrannt, 1931- , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association

CREDO
 Irregular

F B \flat Gm G7 C

free-dom just to have some time a-lone. But
 - ag - i - na - tion free - ly run - ning wild. We
 shall we die, and when our lives are done the
 - qual - i - ty, and bless - ed peace of mind. And

B \flat C F Dm B \flat C

most of all we need close friends. we can call our ver - y
 ded - i - cate our minds and hearts to the spir - it of this
 mem - o - ries we shared with friends, they will lin - ger on and
 then, we come to - geth - er here, to make sense of what we

F Gm Dm C

own. And we be - lieve in life, and in the
 child. And we be - lieve in life, and in the
 on. And we be - lieve in life, and in the
 find. And we be - lieve in life, and in the

F F7 $+$ Dm Gm Gm7 C

strength of love; and we have found a need to be to-
 strength of love; and we have found a time to be to-
 strength of love; and we have found a place to be to-
 strength of love; and we have found a joy be-ing to-

HERE AND NOW

F Dm Gm Gm7

- geth - er. We have our hearts to
 - geth - er. And with the grace of
 - geth - er. We have the right to
 - geth - er. And in our search for

C F F7+ Dm Dm7

give, we have our thoughts to re - ceive; and we be -
 age, we share the won - der of youth, and we be -
 grow, we have the gift to be - lieve that peace with -
 peace, may - be we'll fi - nal - ly see: ev - en to

Gm Gm7 C Bb F

lieve that shar - ing is an an - swer.
 lieve that grow - ing is an an - swer.
 in our liv - ing is an an - swer.
 ques - tion, tru - ly is an an - swer.

TODAY!

Coffee Hour After Church!

Please come and join us in the gallery/courtyard for coffee and conversation after the service.

HAPPENINGS

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room

UUSF members are welcome to attend the congregation's monthly board meetings. They happen on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm and are located in the Fireside Room. They last about 2 hours. You could also Zoom in if you cannot attend in person. Please contact Board Secretary, Liz Strand at secretary@uusf.org for the link to the Zoom.

Forum, Jan. 21 at 9 am (breakfast). 9:30 am (event) : Humanizing Immigration with Bill Hing - www.uusf.org/forum

After 50 years of practicing and teaching immigration law, Professor Hing advocates for the dismantling of the US immigration law and enforcement system. Relying on personal experiences and other reported examples, he will recount his experience interviewing children in border patrol detention, representing asylum seekers within a biased system, advocating against the deportation of longtime residents—some with a criminal history deserving of a second chance—and dealing with immigration judges who believe attempted rape is not persecution or threats to sick a dog on noisy children in the courtroom. He applauds those who are engaged in the disruption of the current system.

Literarily Speaking/An Afternoon of Readings from UUSF Authors - Sunday, January 21, 12:30 pm in the TSK Room

Come enjoy lunch, readings, and discussions with UUSF authors. Readings from the works of Dennis Adams, Sue Anthony, Bruce Clements, Robin Larsen, Kathleen McClung, and Bruce Neuburger, with Elizabeth Strand as our moderator.

Congregational Covenanting Workshop - Saturday, January 27, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, King Rooms

Lunch, light snacks, and childcare are provided. Teenagers are encouraged to participate.

January at UUSF is Covenant Month, focusing on the importance of covenant in fostering community cohesion and growth and culminating in the crafting of a new congregational covenant which will outline our expectations for communication and responsibilities.

Aisha Hauser, UU educator and consultant, will be present to guide us through the process. Since 2022 she has been providing support and advice as we work towards becoming a truly inclusive community.

All members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to attend. In the morning we will engage in world café style small group conversations followed by collectively reviewing our resulting conclusions and insights. The afternoon session will be spent condensing ideas, forming our covenant, and voting on the covenant.

Click or type (<https://bit.ly/4aS09Ox>) or scan the QR code to register for the Saturday gathering Registration Form or, even if you cannot be present, to share your ideas through a questionnaire. Covenant Questionnaire can be found at (<https://bit.ly/48P4LmG>).



Forum, Jan. 28 at 9 am (Breakfast). 9:30 am (event) : (YIMBY) Solutions to the SF Housing Shortage - www.uusf.org/forum

Have you ever wondered why it costs nearly \$1 million and four years to build a single affordable housing unit? In this talk, Jane Natoli from YIMBY Action will dive into what's preventing San Francisco from building the housing it desperately needs. We'll understand the impacts of low-density housing on the environment, homelessness, racial equity, and politics. We'll also explain why figures like Donald Trump and Tucker Carlson are so adamant about keeping the low-density housing laws that have led to racially discriminatory practices across the country.

<https://www.yimbyaction.org/>

INTERFAITH WINTER SHELTER

UUSF will once again be hosting the Interfaith Winter Shelter this year from February 12 to March 4.

A partnership among San Francisco Interfaith Council, the SF Department of Homeless Services, and Episcopal Community Services, the IWS operates in different area churches during the coldest, wettest months of the year, providing shelter and meals to homeless men and women each night. For 30+ years, our congregation has hosted 60–70 guests—men and women—each night during the residency. It is an important ministry of the church and a vital service to the community.



We are looking for volunteers to help cook and serve breakfast Monday through Friday and folks who can help cook and serve dinner on six designated nights. We will also need volunteers to help with food procurement and with evening hosting. All volunteers must be vaccinated (boosters are advised!). We will be observing COVID protocols to make volunteering as safe as possible. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, follow this link to sign up, or you can contact **Gordon Sharafinski** at gsharaf@gmail.com, who will be coordinating volunteers, or **Hanna Hart** at hanna@harts.net. The shelter is always a favorite opportunity to make a difference!

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/UUSFIWS24> or scan the QR code.

Adult Spiritual Growth Classes (www.uusf.org/are)

LOVE AND DEATH - The Christian Scriptures for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals

A Six Week Online Course with Rev. John Buehrens. Monday Evenings, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, February 19 to March 25. This is quite unlike a traditional class in an orthodox Christian church during the season of Lent. Yet in 2024, Ash Wednesday, the start of that season, happens to fall on St. Valentine's Day, February 14. So perhaps we should ponder again a key assertion of the Christian mythos: Love Transcending Death. The final session is on Monday after Palm Sunday, starting what Christian tradition calls Holy Week. Each live session on Zoom will consist of three thirty-minute segments. The first will take up a key theme in the Christian scriptures, beginning with the meaning of the "Kingdom (or Commonwealth) of God" and the relationship between Jesus, John the Baptist, and the origins of the forty-day practice of Lent. The first key text will be the oldest and shortest of the gospel traditions, according to Mark. Participants will be encouraged (but not required) to read previous commentary by Rev. Buehrens in his book, *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals* (Beacon, 2004). Available through the UUA Bookstore, Beacon, Amazon, Thrift Books. Register at <https://bit.ly/loveanddeathuu24>

Minister's Book Group, led by special guest host Asani Seawell

Asani Seawell, a member of the UUSF, is going to lead the book group during the months of January and February while Rev. Vanessa is on sabbatical. Asani has picked *Tomorrow and Tomorrow: A Novel* by Gabrielle Zevin for January 2024 and *How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir* by Saeed Jones for February. Asani Seawell (she/her/hers) lives in Portland, OR, and has been a member of UUSF since January 2023. A lifelong lover of books, she spent her high school and college years as a library assistant and almost chose a career in library sciences before pursuing her degrees in psychology.

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern returns in March to lead the book group for *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* by Neil deGrasse Tyson on March 20, 2024.

All sessions will be on Zoom only, and more information can be found below and to register go to <https://bit.ly/mbg1232024>

Questions? Email Alicia Cover at acover@uusf.org.

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow: A novel by Gabrielle Zevin - Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 pm, Zoom

This book is a multi-layered narrative that spans across three decades and follows the lives of Sam Masur and Sadie Green, two individuals who first bond over video games in a children's hospital. They cross paths again in college and develop a successful video game. Their complex and enduring relationship explores themes of identity politics and privilege as they navigate the ups and downs of friendship, creative partnership, and their professional journey in the gaming industry. Zevin uses the video game industry as a backdrop to explore broader themes such as sexism, disability, pain, loss, grief, and the human desire for second chances and reinvention (from sparknotesai.com).

How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir by Saeed Jones - Wednesday, February 28, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Haunted and haunting, *How We Fight for Our Lives* is a stunning coming-of-age memoir. Jones tells the story of a young, black, gay man from the South as he fights to carve out a place for himself within his family, within his country, and within his own hopes, desires, and fears. Through a series of vignettes that chart a course across the American landscape, Jones draws readers into his boyhood and adolescence—into tumultuous relationships with his family and into passing flings with lovers, friends, and strangers. Each piece builds into a larger examination of race and queerness, power and vulnerability, love and grief: a portrait of what we all do for one another—and to one another—as we fight to become ourselves.

Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
415-776-4580 / info@uusf.org

OUR SOCIETY'S VISION

We, The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, delight in our authentic, inclusive congregation that reaches across generations, ethnicities, and differences. We take care of one another, building spiritual community, knowing that we are stronger and accomplish more together. Guided by our responsibility to future generations, we take leadership in shaping a compassionate, sustainable world. Inspired by our courageous heritage and compelled by conscience, we hold one another accountable to work for racial, environmental, and economic justice and the dignity and rights of all.

OUR SOCIETY'S MISSION

As a vibrant, joyous, caring, inclusive community of diverse people, we create a nurturing space for spiritual growth and learning. Based on our shared values, we work together courageously and publicly for human rights, economic justice, and environmental salvation.


UUSF MEDIA

You can listen to our sermon-only podcasts at <https://bit.ly/SermonsUUSF>

Visit <https://bit.ly/ServicesUUSF> to listen to our complete service podcasts

Watch our videos at <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

Go to our website at <https://www.uusf.org/>



"Promises of the Heart"
Sunday, January 7, 10:50 am, 2024

WATCH LAST WEEKS SERVICE: <https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>