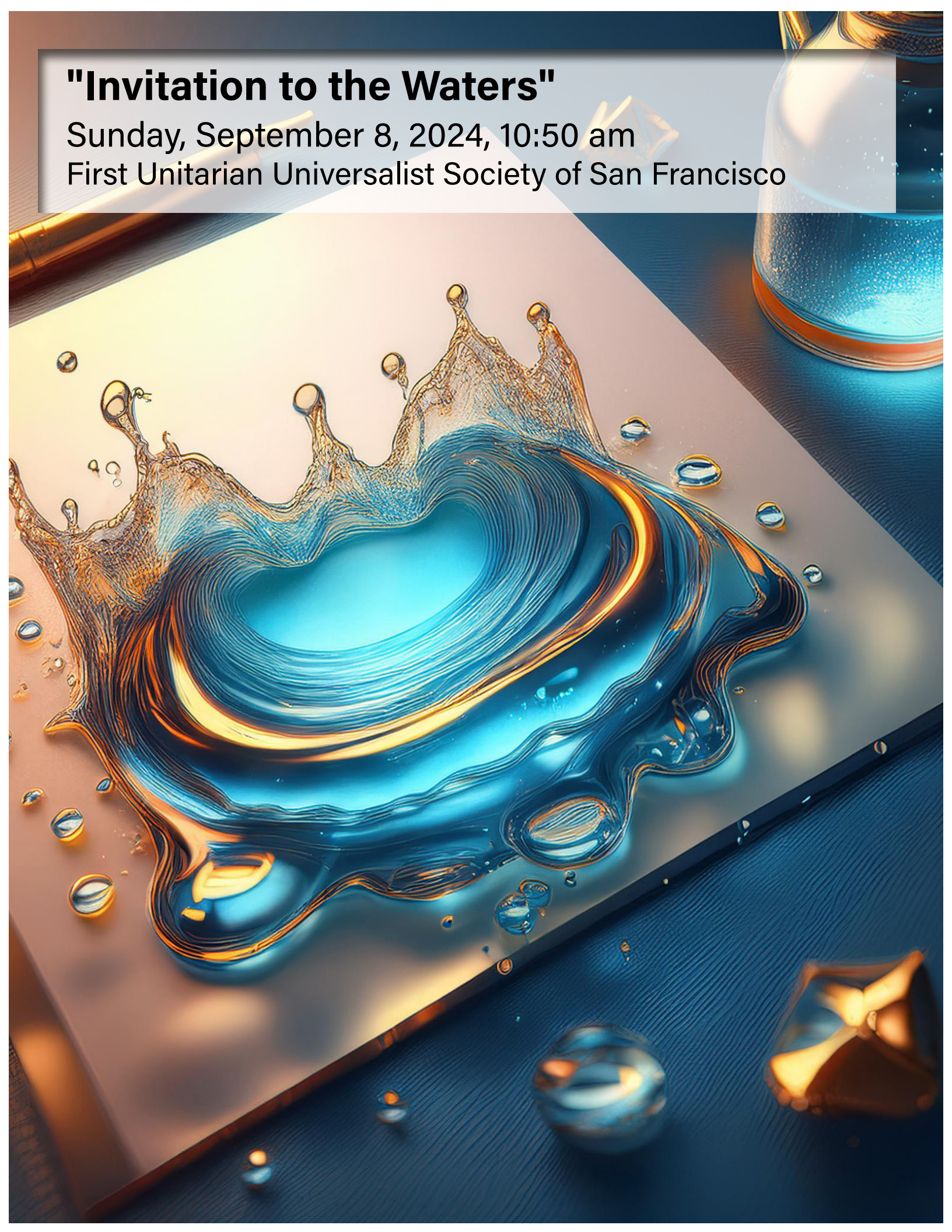


# "Invitation to the Waters"

Sunday, September 8, 2024, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco







**Order of Service**  
**Sunday September 8, 2024**  
**10:50 AM - 12:15 PM**

Livestreamed at [bit.ly/uusfmedia](https://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, strongly recommend 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.

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Prelude      *Shall We Gather at the River?*  
                 *Fuga - Ciacona in D minor*

Robert Lowry/arr. Dale Wood  
                                 Johann Pachelbel  
                                 Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Welcome

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Opening Words by Rumi

Unison Chalice Lighting

Daniel Jackoway, Worship Associate

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.

\*Hymn

*Come, Come Whoever you Are*

Brief Invitations

Galen Workman, Board Moderator

Greeting One Another

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.

## New Member Ceremony

Rev. Vanessa, Rev. Laura, Emma Wakeling, Judith Stoddard

## Welcoming New Members Dance Moment!

## Intro to Ingathering

Rev. Laura Shennum

## Music

*Water*

words and music by Anders Edenrot  
 UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director

Water.... In the midst of a melting snowman, in the sound from a whistling kettle,  
 In the gently alighting crystal of ice, in the dewdrops of a colorful petal.  
 To live, everyone must have water, to give, not to deny each other,  
 To bring from source to mouth just like the food of love from a nursing mother.  
 Sweet as an angel's kiss, salt as her falling tears,  
 Droplets in patience wearing away the mountain of time for billions of years.  
 In the shape of a cloud evolving, in the gleam when your skin perspires,  
 In the curse of a lost and foundering ship, in the silent face Narcissus admires.  
 To kill for in a global battle, to chill well in a plastic bottle,  
 To find between air and earth, both cold and wet says Aristotle.  
 Mild as a mermaid's song, wild when the oceans roar,  
 Never been born and never been buried, infinite waves caressing the shore.....water....

## Water Ingathering

### Offering

Our offering this morning goes to **Food and Water Watch** (<https://t.ly/FoodWaterWatch>), an organization that fights for safe food, clean water, and a liveable climate, by organizing its 2 million supporters at the local, state and federal levels to advocate for a voice in the political process, and through target action in the courts. After a summer of floods, hurricanes, wildfires and all the evidence of climate change, may we heed the call to lean into all the levers for accountability and systemic change to our relationship to the natural world. 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, 09-08-24.



Offertory Music     *The Water is Wide*

American Folk Song, arr. Luigi Zaninelli  
UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director

Blessing

Rev. Laura Shennum

\*Hymn 1046

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Robert Lowery

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

Benediction

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Postlude

*Festival Toccata*

Percy Fletcher  
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.



## PARTICIPANTS

### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister  
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life  
Kate Steinberg, Ministerial Intern  
Emma Wakeling, Young Adult Manager  
Judith Stoddard, Membership Committee  
Daniel Jackoway, Worship Associate  
Galen Workman, Board Moderator

### **Sunday Support**

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Francisco Castellanos, Camera Operators  
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director  
Thomas Brown, Jose Matias Pineda, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons  
Athena Papadakos Flowers  
Linda Messner, Head Usher

### **Musicians**

Reiko Oda Lane, Organist  
UUSF Choir  
Mark Sumner, Music Director

## WELCOME

Welcome back to church and welcome new members for cake and coffee following the Sunday Service. We are so excited to have everyone here to worship together and build community. Please feel free to stay and mingle, share stories, and make connections. We hope you feel at home here and find a sense of belonging in our UUSF Community of Communities. Thank you for joining us today, and we look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Be sure to check out the Soul Matters bulletin board to add your answers for this month's question and see what opportunities you can sign up to attend. Website: <https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>

# 1046 Shall We Gather at the River

♩ = 120

C G7

1. Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have  
 2. On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver  
 3. Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev'-ry bur-den  
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, soon our pil-grim-age will

G

trod,— with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing  
 spray,— we will walk and wor-ship e-ver, all the  
 down.— Grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-  
 cease,— soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the

G7 C F

by the throne of God?  
 hap-py gold-en day. Yes, we'll gath-er at the  
 vide a robe and a crown.  
 mel-o-dy of peace.

C G C

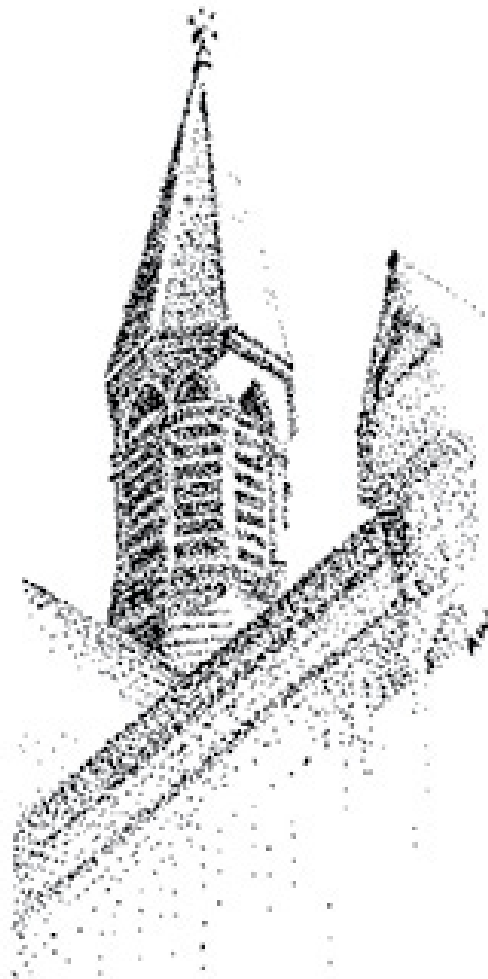
riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er,

Words & music: Robert Lowry, 1826 - 1899; First published in *Happy Voices* in 1865.  
 HANSON PLACE, 8.7.8.7 with refrain

*Shall We Gather at the River - 2*

gath- er with the saints\_ at the riv - er that flows by the throne of \_ God.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains the bass line. Chord symbols F, C, G7, and C are placed above the top staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign on the bottom staff.



## TODAY!

### Registration for Sunday School Class Now Open!

This year's programming begins with our annual waffle breakfast on Sunday, September 8 at 9:30am. The breakfast is free and open to everyone in our Sunday School community, whether it's your first time at UUSF or your 500th. We hope to see you there! Registration is open for the 2024-25 school year! Please register your children and youth by going to <https://bit.ly/UUSF-RE2024> or scan the QR code. More info at <https://www.uusf.org/cre>



### Forum: This Election Will Reverberate for Two Generations. Sunday, September 8, 9:30 am, TSK Room/Zoom

Join Church member Cal Ball for a Sunday Forum discussing the election and its impact on democracy. He will discuss attempts to undermine democracy, the Supreme Court's role, and the importance of voting rights for marginalized communities. A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. Zoom link <https://bit.ly/20240908-FORUM>. Do you have an idea for a Forum in the future? Go to <https://t.ly/forum-ideas>

### Spread Love and Gratitude at the Card Ministry Table - Sunday, September 8, 12:15 pm, Gallery

After the service, plan to visit the card ministry table. You will have a chance to write a card to those in our community who have experienced illness or loss, as well as a chance to thank those who are serving our community. Cards, notes, stickers, and postage are all furnished.

### Happy Birthday To You!! - Sunday, September 8, 12:30 pm, Gallery

Is your birthday in July, August, or September? If so, then stop by the Birthday Table in the gallery after service to pick up your birthday surprise! We will celebrate the next quarter of birthdays in December.

### UUSF's Garden Party Auction - Ideas Meeting in the Kinkaid Room at 12:30 pm. All are invited!

On Sunday, October 20th, UUSF will host its Garden Party Auction, featuring African daisies, asters, sunflowers, mums, and azaleas. The event includes food, music, and a plant show. Membership is open, and donations can be made online, at the gallery, or in-person. Click the link: <https://bit.ly/uusfauction-2024>. The Auction Committee is meeting this Sunday, September 8 at 12:30 pm in the Kincaid Room. All are welcome, and no prior experience is necessary. There are two other meetings before the actual auction, but at this first meeting, we are especially open to new ideas.

### Group Art Show & Reception!

#### Sunday, September 8, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, King Rooms

You're invited to the Friends and Family Group Artists' Reception. Look at the wonderful art in the TSK and MLK rooms. There will be refreshments and food to enjoy while you admire the wonderful artworks and speak with the artists who created them. This event is open to everyone, and it is free! We hope to see you there to celebrate the creativity and talent of our Friends and Family Group artists. Don't miss this opportunity to support local artists and enjoy a lovely afternoon surrounded by beautiful artwork.



## UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

### Party for Democracy Sunday, September 15, 12:30, TSK Room

Party for Democracy features food, music, and election updates. National phone banking starts August 27th and continues weekly through October. UU Phoenix invites volunteers for door-to-door canvassing in Arizona, and donors can support UU the Vote activities through Fund-a-Need.



# UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

## **Join us for an Appreciation Lunch then Music with Up On Top! Sunday, September 22, 12:30 pm, TSK Room**

On September 22, Up On Top, an afterschool program for kindergarten to fifth-grade kids in Tenderloin and Western Addition, invites attendees for an appreciation lunch and Starr King Way Performance Series.

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## **Starr King Way Performance Series (SKWPS) - Sunday, September 22, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary**

SKWPS presents Christoph Wagner and Joanne Kong in an uplifting musical journey on September 22nd. Up On Top provides lunch, and a suggested donation of \$20 is requested. Support ARTS at UUSF for the upcoming season. Learn more at <https://www.uusf.org/skwps>

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## **We Don't Need No Stinkin' Fascism! Writers' Hopes for Humanity. - Sunday, September 29, 12:30 pm, TSK/Zoom**

Unitarian Universalists of S.F. Writers and UUSF Arts in Ministry & Shared Life Initiative are hosting a literary festival on September 29, titled "We Don't Need No Stinkin' Fascism!" The event will feature food, readings, theater, and music, with speakers and performers. For more information and to RSVP go to <https://uusf.org/#arts-in-ministry>

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## **Soul Matters** (<https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>)

### **The Invitation to Play - Saturday, September 14, 1:00-4:00 pm, TSK Room**

Join Michael Bossier and Mari Magaloni Ramos for a playful session on September 14, focusing on exploring one's voice, building community, and cultivating a deeper self. To register go to <https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>

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### **Minister's Book Group - Wednesday, September 18, 6:30-8 PM (Zoom)**

Minister's Book Group will discuss *Faithful Practices* by Erik Walker Wikstrom, featuring diverse contributors sharing their spiritual practices in everyday life, offering inspiration for those seeking spiritual growth. Lead by Rev. Laura Shennum. To register go to <https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>

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### **Craft the Theme Small Group - Sunday, September 22, 1:00-3:00 pm, Art Room**

Come engage in a small group process with craft materials and express what the theme means to you. This small group does not require a full year commitment. You are welcome to bring your own supplies, and supplies will be provided. To register go to <https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>

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### **Soul Matters Groups - Small Group Ministry**

UUSF's small group ministry program offers monthly themes-focused, twice-monthly groups led by trained facilitators. Register and inquire about the program. Learn more about Small Group Ministry at <https://www.uusf.org/sgm> To register go to <https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>

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## **Adult Spiritual Growth Classes** ([www.uusf.org/are](http://www.uusf.org/are))

### **BIPOC Small Group - Deepening Series - Third Sundays starting September 15 from 1:00-3:00 pm**

BIPOC Small Group - Deepening Series, led by Rev. Seanan Fong, will provide a space for the BIPOC community to engage in spiritual themes and practices. To register go to <https://uusf.org/are#bipoc-small-group>

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### **Creating Your Own Theology Three Part Series - First Set: Thursdays, October 3-24, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm**

Rev. Laura Shennum's three-part series, "Creating Your Own Theology," will explore personal beliefs, systems, and integrating theology into communal theology, fostering deepening commitments in a covenantal faith community. To register go to <https://www.uusf.org/are>

# Arts in Ministry and Shared Life

## Events for September

We raised almost \$30,000 at last year's auction for our "Arts in Worship and Shared Life" initiative. The impetus for raising this money was hearing in our strategic planning process of the desire for greater use of the arts in our life together. There was a desire to hear and see expressed, to celebrate and understand and be more embracing of one another's cultural histories and traditions. You also saw the arts as a way to bridge different generations and life experiences. And we all wanted to bring vibrancy and depth to our understanding of the arts and cultural traditions that are important to people in our city, important to people in our own community, and to invite all of us to reflect, as the arts so often do, on the biggest questions of the search for truth and meaning. These explorations would, we hoped, would add another layer to the extravaganza of joy in our life together, and build deeper connections among us. Thanks to the generous donations at last year's auction, we have some funds (and an excuse) to lean into this experiment together! Below is some of what is happening with that this month. Please join in with your ideas and participation!



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### Group Art Show & Reception!

Sunday, September 8, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, King Rooms

You're invited to the Friends and Family Group Artists' Reception. Look at the wonderful art in the TSK and MLK rooms. There will be refreshments and food to enjoy while you admire the wonderful artworks and speak with the artists who created them. This event is open to everyone, and it is free! We hope to see you there to celebrate the creativity and talent of our Friends and Family Group artists. Don't miss this opportunity to support local artists and enjoy a lovely afternoon surrounded by beautiful artwork. What are your outlets of creative expression?

### Starr King Way Performance Series (SKWPS)

#### Wagner and Joanne in Concert

Sunday, September 22, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary

Your new Starr King Way Performance Series (SKWPS) will soon feature the award-winning duo, Christoph Wagner and Joanne Kong, sharing some words to breathe UU life into some outstanding musical masterworks for cello and piano. Up On Top will provide lunch for those arriving early or staying after church. We will ask a suggested donation of \$20 for entry to the 80-minute concert. Keep an eye out for special news about how you can further support ARTS at UUSF! Website: <https://www.uusf.org/skwps> Questions? Email us at [skwps@uusf.org](mailto:skwps@uusf.org).

### UU of S.F. Writers and UUSF Arts in Ministry & Shared Life Initiative presents:

#### We Don't Need No Stinkin' Fascism! Writers' Hopes for Humanity.

Sunday, September 29, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, TSK Room/Zoom (<https://t.ly/9-29-24-uusfwriters>)

On September 29, a literary festival will take place at UUSF, featuring readings, theater, and music to protest against patriarchy, racism, militarism, and genocide, with readers and performers including Dennis Adams, Susan Anthony, Michael Bossier, Robin Larsen, Mari Magaloni Ramos, Kathleen McClung, Bruce Neuburger, Gregory Stevens, Tyson Casey, Starr King School of Ministry, and special guest reader James Tracy. Bruce Clement provides an introduction, while Senior Minister Vanessa Rush Southern will guide the discussion. RSVP: <https://t.ly/9-29-24-rsvp>

### Your ideas?

If you have an idea for a concert we might host please email Mark Sumner ([sngwtme@gmail.com](mailto:sngwtme@gmail.com)) and he will provide you with a link to an application to complete.

If you have an idea for any arts related event we might host that you would be willing to be a leader in making happen, please email Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern ([vrsouthern@uusf.org](mailto:vrsouthern@uusf.org)) and she will provide you with a link to an application to complete.



# September

## The practice of Invitation

What is in an invitation? It looks so simple—the envelope or virtual envelope we get with the invitation to join in some moment or adventure? A movie, a party? Or the hand extended from someone on bended knee and the larger invitation to join in a life together: Will you marry me? Seems so simple. Just an invitation. Want to join this church? Be my friend? Go climb a mountain? Get an ice cream? What is written and tucked in an invitation if it is real and with the potential to welcome the fullness of everyone invited to be in an authentic relationship? What does the practice of invitation, the spiritual practice of it, say about what we believe invitation requires of us?

## Poem of the Month

### September Is An Invitation

By Robert Lavett Smith

Think of September as an invitation.  
Along the Northern California coast  
Summer refuses to give up the ghost:  
Abundant leaves go golden with persuasion.  
The scrub pines have a sense of the occasion.  
They knelt before hard turbulence, supposed  
Tenacity could bear what wind imposed,  
And now have hunkered down for the duration.  
Golden October, waiting in the wings,  
Reminds us of kind seasons in the East  
That seemed to promise, oh, so many things.  
We have the ravens' word on this, at least—  
September is a month for offerings,  
That sees the year's munificence increased.



To engage in ancient practice of meditating on a piece of writing as a spiritual practice.

- Written instructions at <https://t.ly/VisioDivina-Instructions>
- Participate in our August 4th service and guided meditation go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaAugust>
- Or watch this video recording and have Ministerial Intern, Kate Steinberg, guide you through the process, go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaSeptember>

Welcome to these invitations to go deeper. Website: <https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>

# Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

415-776-4580 / [info@uusf.org](mailto: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.

## CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT (under construction)

In an effort to make the world a better place, we support each other's journey to seek truth with openness, curiosity and respect for different perspectives and paths.

As love is our spirit, we commit to respect, accept, listen to and support each other.

We hold ourselves and each other accountable by continually assessing our individual and community actions toward living into our covenant. This will include speaking up when someone's actions are not aligned.

We commit to be in community with openness and loving kindness, acknowledging our own biases and differing perspectives.

We welcome the newcomer, we commit to building trust with each other, we celebrate differences and make space for repair when harm occurs.

## UUSF MEDIA

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

Check out our Podcasts <https://www.uusf.org/worship-archives>

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



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

**"Gaining Our Freedom"**  
Sunday, September 1, 2024, 10:50 am



Scan the QR code ↑ to visit our UUSF Media YouTube channel and view upcoming and previously recorded services.