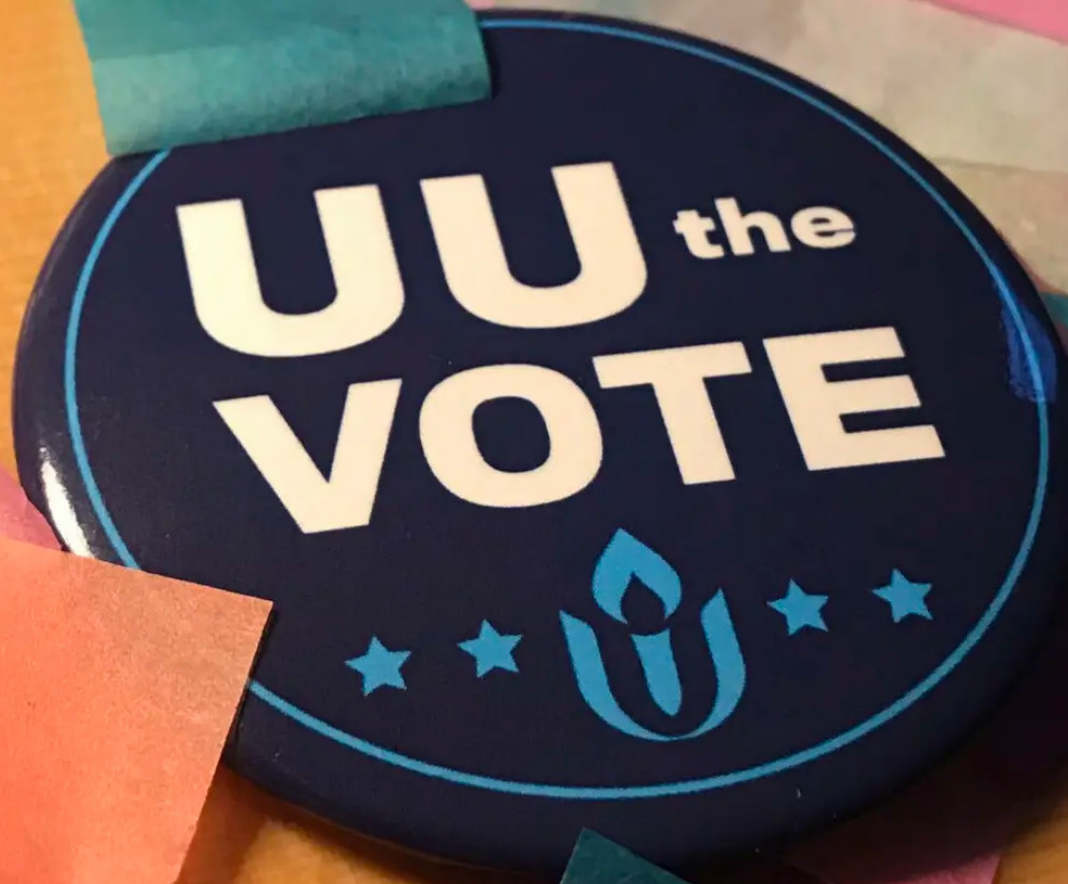


# **"Invitation to Participate in the Democratic Process"**

Sunday, September 15, 2024, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





**Order of Service**  
**Sunday September 15, 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	<i>All Through the Night</i> <i>Pour Light Upon Us</i>	Traditional Welsh Melody Arr. Drahmann/Wood George Oldroyd Reiko Oda Lane, organist
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Opening Words and Welcome	Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
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Unison Chalice Lighting	Mari Magaloni Ramos, Worship Associate
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Encendemos este cáliz para la luz de la verdad,  
el calor del amor, y el fuego del compromiso.  
Encendemos este símbolo de nuestra fe mientras nos reunimos.

*Hymn	<i>Come, Come Whoever you Are</i>
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Brief Invitations	Lucy Smith, Board Secretary
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## Greeting One Another

Story for All Ages

“The Great Pie-Rat Controversy”  
By Naomi King

Rev. Laura Shennum

Unison Covenant

Kate Steinberg, Ministerial Intern

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

Cal Ball, UU the Vote

Music

*Soneto de la Noche*

words Pablo Neruda; music Morten Lauridsen  
UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director

*When I die I want your hands on my eyes: I want the light and the wheat of your beloved hands  
to pass their freshness over me one more time to feel the smoothness that changed my destiny.  
I want you to live while I wait for you, asleep, I want for your ears to go on hearing the wind,  
for you to smell the sea that we loved together and for you to go on walking the sand where we walked.  
I want for what I love to go on living and as for you I loved you and sang you above everything,  
for that, go on flowering, flowery one, so that you reach all that my love orders for you,  
so that my shadow passes through your hair, so that they know by this the reason for my song.*

\*\*Children/youth exit to classes during doxology.

## Offering

Mari Magaloni

Our offering this morning will benefit **UU the Vote and the stamps** used for the ten thousand letters that will be sent out. [Learn more about UU the Vote on page 5](#). To make a donation on Vanco ([bit.ly/uusfpayments](http://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, 09-15-24.



Offertory Music     *Concord* from *Gloriana*

Benjamin Britten  
UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director

*Concord is here, concord is here our days to bless  
And this our land, our land to endue with plenty, peace and happiness.  
Concord and time, concord and time each needeth each:  
The ripest fruit hangs where not one, not one, but only two, only two can reach.*

Sermon     "Invitation to Participate in the Democratic Process"

Rev. Laura Shennum

\*Hymn 34

*Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire*

GIFT OF LOVE

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 6 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

## Benediction

Postlude     *Rigaudon*

IDOMENEE / Andre Campra  
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.



## PARTICIPANTS

### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life  
Kate Steinberg, Ministerial Intern  
Mari Magaloni Ramos, Worship Associate  
Cal Ball, UU the Vote  
Lucy Smith, Board Secretary

### **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

## OFFERTORY

Our offering this morning will benefit **UU the Vote and the stamps** used for the ten thousand letters that will be sent out. We launched a bold initiative to move Unitarian Universalists to organize communities around our values and principles. We created UU the Vote to challenge white supremacy and fascism, and to unite communities around faith-based goals and values. By the end of 2020, we had reached over 3 million voters through letters, postcards, phone calls, text messages, and voter registrations, as well as established working relationships in states and communities all over the country!

# Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

$\text{♩} = 72$

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
2. Though I may give all I possess,  
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,

and have the gift to all inspire,  
and striving so my love profess,  
our spirits long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,  
but not be given by love within,  
Let inward love guide every deed;

as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.  
by this we worship, and are freed.

Words: Hal Hopson, 1933–, (1 Cor. 13:1–3), © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: Trad. English melody, adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1933–,  
© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

GIFT OF LOVE  
L.M.

PRAISE AND TRANSCENDENCE

## TODAY!

### **Forum: Election 2024 Roundup! What can we expect?. Sunday, September 15, 9:30 am, TSK Room/Zoom**

Tim Redmond, editor of 48 Hills and former SF Bay Guardian editor, will discuss the tumultuous election and its potential outcomes. He will provide insights on local and national players and offer suggestions for ordinary citizens to contribute to the future of the country. This event is highly anticipated as we explore the issues and personalities involved in the elections. A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Zoom link <https://t.ly/uuforum91524> Do you have an idea for a Forum in the future? Go to <https://t.ly/forum-ideas>

### **Party for Democracy! - Sunday, September 15, 12:30 pm, TSK Room**

Join UU the Vote for lunch today! We will talk about election activity updates and do some community letter writing. Let's put our democratic principles into action! Your voice matters, and together we can create positive change in our world. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and make a meaningful impact. See you there!

### **UUSF Young Adults Lunch Outing- Sunday September 15, meet at UUSF after worship**

Join us on the third Sunday of each month to enjoy lunch with fellow UUSF young adults! For our next outing, after worship at UUSF, we will gather and walk to a local cafe, Pistachio Kitchen. This is a wonderful way to meet new folks and spend time with firm friends. We are open to all who are 18–39, whether you are new to our community or a long-time member. We hope to see you there! Email Membership and Young Adult Manager Emma Wakeling with any questions: [ewakeling@uusf.org](mailto:ewakeling@uusf.org).

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

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>

### **Registration for Sunday School Class Now Open!**

UUSF's children and youth programming runs from September to May, integrating Unitarian Universalist values, social justice, personal faith exploration, and community building. Please register your children and youth by going to <https://t.ly/RE20204> or scan the QR code. More info at <https://www.uusf.org/cre>



## CHECK THESE OUT!

### **Empower Communities: Apply for Grants Up to \$5,000! - <https://www.uusf.org/scwcommunitygrants>**

In keeping with our mission, the Society for Community Work Community Grants Committee gives grants to small community nonprofits. The Committee—Mary Jane Mikuriya, Bick Simpson, Melvin Starks, Anne Steele, and Athena Papadakos—receives applications and reviews them. Do you know of a small nonprofit doing meaningful work? Last year we gave grants between \$500 and \$5,000 to fund services for women and children, disability and aging issues, homeless services, mental health, ecology, performance art, and more. The deadline to apply is Monday, September 30th, 2024. Please contact Athena Papadakos at [scw-communitygrants@uusf.org](mailto:scw-communitygrants@uusf.org) if you have questions.

### **WANTED: For UUSF's October 20 Garden Party Auction! - Sunday, October 20 at 12:30 pm**

UUSF is seeking volunteers for the October 20 Garden Party Auction. They are seeking donations for the live auction and the silent online auction. The church is looking for volunteers! They need plant experts, balloon pop board builders, and cleanup volunteers. The auction is the church's major fundraiser, with over 50 volunteers involved. Go to <https://t.ly/uuauction2024> or scan the QR code. Visit our Garden Party Auction table in the Gallery after church. We also need your bottles of wine donations in order to create cases of wine to auction off at this year's auction. Please consider donating a \$20+ bottle of wine to support this major fundraising event for the UUSF! You can drop off bottles at the auction table on Sundays or at the front desk during the week.



# UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

## **Sensible Cinema: Willie Velasquez Your Vote is Your Voice - Friday, September 20, 6:30 pm, Zoom**

Willie Velasquez, a Hispanic heritage advocate, changed history by encouraging Latinx voters. His Southwest Voter Registration Education Project paved the way for political equality. The documentary, directed by Hector Galan, explores the obstacles he faced in achieving representation and addressing Latinx issues. More info at <https://www.uusf.org/cinema>

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## **Up On Top Luncheon & Starr King Way Performance Series Concert - Sunday, September 22**

SKWPS presents Cellist Christoph Wagner and Pianist Joanne Kong in an uplifting musical journey at 1:30 pm. Up On Top provides lunch at 12:15 pm. Support the ARTS at UUSF for the upcoming season. Learn more at <https://www.uusf.org/skwps>

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## **Postcards to Hitler: Defiance in Terror - Forum with Bruce Neuburger on Sun, Sept. 22, 9:30 am, TSK Room/Zoom**

**Marty Vanderlaan** in conversation with author **Bruce Neuburger**. An intimate history of the Holocaust, drawn from the final days of a Jewish family in Munich Postcards to Hitler tells the story of a Jewish family in Munich living as close neighbors to the demagogue who becomes the Nazi Führer. A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

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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>)

### **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))

### **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>

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### **California's Advanced Care Planning and End-of-Life Options - Sunday, October 13, 1:00-2:30 pm, TSK Room**

On October 13, a volunteer from End-of-Life Choices California will discuss California's advanced care planning and end-of-life options. The event will cover topics such as sharing values and end-of-life wishes, legal end-of-life options, and resources provided by the organization. Additional workshops will be held on November 10 and January 19 to provide information on wills, trusts, memorial planning, and discussing decisions with loved ones. Questions can be asked at the end of the presentation. Questions? Contact Rev. Laura at [lsennum@uusf.org](mailto:lsennum@uusf.org).



# 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>

# 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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### **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 for the 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>

### **Check out the Family and Friends Art Show**

The exhibition runs through November 3.

View artworks created by members and friends of UUSF in both the Thomas Starr King Room and Martin Luther King Room. The exhibits showcase a diverse range of artistic styles and mediums, including paintings and photography. Visitors can explore the unique perspectives and talents of the UUSF community, as well as discover new works from local artists. The King's Gallery is open to the public during regular church hours, providing a space for creativity and inspiration to flourish within the congregation and beyond.

## **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.

# 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>

**"Invitation to the Waters"**  
Sunday, September 8, 2024, 10:50 am



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