

**"To Honor Like a Snake:  
A Lunar New Year Celebration"**

Sunday, February 9, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



**Order of Service**  
**Sunday February 9, 2025**  
**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.

**Stay Engaged: Explore Our Busy Hand Activity Station**

Did you know we have a busy hand activity station at the back of the sanctuary for all ages?

You can find fidget toys, coloring, and so much more.

Check it out if you need something to keep your hands busy during the service.

Please return items before you leave the sanctuary.

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Prelude	<i>Peace and Hope</i> <i>Rejoicing - Bourree - Menuet</i>	George Frideric Handel G F Handel Reiko Oda Lane, organist
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Introit	<i>Gong Xi, Gong Xi</i> UUSF Choir and soloists; Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist <i>On every street and every lane, on everybody's lips, whenever people meet, the first thing they say is "congratulations." Congratulations, congratulations, congratulations to you; Congratulations...</i> <i>Winter has come to an end. That is really good news. A warm spring breeze is blowing to wake up the earth. Congratulations...</i> <i>The icy snow has melted. See the plum tree blossom! The long night is past. I heard the rooster crow. Congratulations...</i> <i>After experiencing so many difficulties, going through so many ordeals, how many hearts are looking forward to the news of Spring! Congratulations...</i>	Chen Gexin
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Opening Words and Welcome		Rev. Laura Shennum
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Unison Chalice Lighting

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

\*Hymn

*We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table*

WELCOME TABLE

- 1 We're gonna sit at the welcome table. We're gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, hallelujah!  
We're gonna sit at the welcome table, gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.  
All kinds of people around that table. All kinds of people...., hallelujah!
- 2 All kinds of people..., gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.
- 3 We're gonna feast on milk and honey. We're gonna feast on milk and honey one of these days, hallelujah!  
We're gonna feast on milk and honey. Feast on milk and honey one of these days.
- 4 No fancy style at the welcome table. No fancy style....., hallelujah!  
No fancy style..., gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

Greeting One Another

Bell Anthem

*The Gift of Grace*

Setting by Arnold B. Sherman

UUSF Bell Choir; Reiko Oda Lane, director

Time for All Ages

Kat Liu

\*Unison 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.

## Offering

Our offering this morning will be to support the work of **The Asian Law Caucus** (<https://www.asianlawcaucus.org/>). The Asian Law Caucus is committed to the pursuit of justice across society, with a specific focus on serving low-income, immigrant, and underserved Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Read more on page 5 or click [here](#). To make a donation on Vanco ([bit.ly/uusfpayments](https://bit.ly/uusfpayments)), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code, please select the line for Special Sunday Offering. 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, **02-09-25**.



Offertory Music    *It Gets Better*

Andrew Lippa arr. Mac Huff

UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

*It Gets Better Project is a nonprofit organization with a mission to uplift, empower, and connect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth around the globe. In 2010, in response to a rash of suicides that claimed the lives of several LGBTQ+ youth, the first It Gets Better video was released on YouTube urging young LGBTQ+ people to stay true to themselves despite bullying and other challenges of adolescence. Broadway composer Andrew Lippa composed this as his response—which became the ‘anthem’ video of the project.*

Meditation

Rev. Laura Shennum

In Words

In Silence...

*During this time if you have lost someone close to you in the past year, we invite you to stand or raise your hand in silent witness.*

In Music    *Mo-Li-Hua (The Jasmine Flower Song)*

Reading    Excerpt from “Snake” by D. H. Lawrence

Music    *If I Don't Love Your Eyes*

Chiye Kwon

Chiye Kwon, soprano; Akané Ota, mezzo soprano; Mark Sumner piano

*\*In recent years, my mind and heart were pried open by learning so much more about the history of the United States, especially about the ongoing cruelty toward minorities in the United States, especially black people.*

*Still, I believe in one of the American virtues: the ability and willingness to right the wrong. This requires humility. And faith with which we can hope that efforts to bring positive changes can nourish and heal all Americans.*

*On the other hand, if we don't harness our impulse of hate, if we keep inflicting harm onto vulnerable groups just because they look and speak differently, our “songs” will become just “an empty bell.”*

*This song is a somber reflection of the past and a prayer for a better future.*

---Chiye Kwon, composer and soloist in today's special presentation

Sermon "To Honor Like a Snake: A Lunar New Year Celebration"

Rev. Seanan Fong

\*Hymn No. 128

*For All That Is Our Life*

SHERMAN ISLAND

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

Invitations

Julia Wald, Trustee

\*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Rev. Seanan Fong

Postlude *Rigaudon*

Andre Campra  
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.

## PARTICIPANTS

### Worship Leaders

Rev. Seanan Fong, Affiliated Community Minister  
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life  
Kat Liu, Worship Associate  
Lori Lai, Worship Associate  
Julia Wald, Trustee

### Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Francisco Castellanos; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators  
Alex Schofield, Sound  
Jonathan Silk, Order of Service  
Matias Pineda Salazar, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons  
Judy Payne, Flowers  
Linda Messner, Head Usher

### Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist and Bell Choir Director  
UUSF Bell Choir  
Mark Sumner, Music Director  
UUSF Choir  
Chiye Kwon, soprano  
Akané Ota, mezzo soprano  
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

## Asian Law Caucus

Founded in 1972 as the nation's first legal and civil rights organization for low-income, immigrant, and underserved Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, we are dedicated to pursuing justice for these communities. **The Asian Law Caucus** mission encompasses a diverse range of ethnicities, including Arab, Middle Eastern, and Muslim populations, and is informed by solidarity with Black, Indigenous, and Latinx movements. They combine legal services, community empowerment, and policy advocacy to promote immigrant justice, economic security, and a multiracial democracy, primarily in the San Francisco Bay Area and California, while also extending our efforts to other states with growing immigrant populations. Learn more at <https://www.asianlawcaucus.org/>

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. For  
2. For  
3. For  
4. For

all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise; for  
needs which oth - ers serve, for ser - vic - es we give, for  
sor - row we must bear, for fail - ures, pain, and loss, for  
all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise; for

all life is a gift which we are called to use to  
work and its re - wards, for hours of rest and love; we  
each new thing we learn, for fear - ful hours that pass: we  
all life is a gift which we are called to use to

⊕ Words: Bruce Findlow, 1922-  
Music: Patrick L. Rickey, 1964- , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association

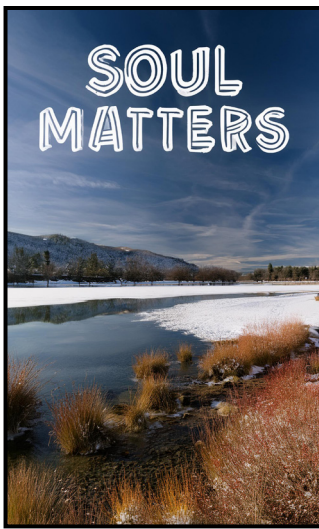
SHERMAN ISLAND  
6.6.6.6.6.6.

build the com - mon good and  
 come with praise and thanks for  
 come with praise and thanks for  
 build the com - mon good and

1.-3.  
 make our own days glad.  
 all that is our life.  
 all that is our life.  
 make our own days

4.  
 glad.





# February: Inclusion

Our theme for the month of February is the practice of inclusion. In a time when it feels like the safe place to be is curled up in bed with the curtains drawn, it can be difficult to know that challenging ourselves to be in community and welcoming others are the best places for us to find safety right now. Inclusion calls us to move beyond just belonging or tolerating. It calls us to live into our values and put love at the center of all we do. Inclusion invites us to examine ourselves and determine what we are not recognizing in ourselves that prevents us from being whole. The practice of inclusion reminds us we have to actively participate in our lives and in our communities to constantly become aware of how to make more room in our hearts and in our congregation. This is especially important when so many are pulling back policies and practices of expanding their communities. Let us enter into this month with curiosity about how we can be more inclusive of pieces of ourselves and inclusive of others in our congregation and community.

## Poem of the Month Implicit In The Light By Robert Lavett Smith

In February, month of indecision,  
A strained inclusion permeates the air—  
Squabbling sparrows shower with derision  
Spring's timid green, apparent everywhere;  
In colder climates, there might still be snow,  
Yet ripeness is implicit in the light  
That sifts through foliage to lawns below,  
Turning the withered grasses golden white.  
This skittish moment when two seasons meet  
Seems to encompass all the lumbering year:  
Spring's frigid drizzle and late autumn heat,  
Petulant fogs that never really clear.  
May we, too long indoors, resolve to be  
Open to nature's inclusivity.



Photo: The Women's Building San Francisco.  
Learn more at <https://www.uusf.org/soulmatters>

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

- Written instructions at <https://t.ly/visioinstructions>
- Participate in our August 4th service and guided meditation go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaAugust>
- Or watch this video recording and have us guide you through the process, go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaFebruary2025>

## Minister's Book Group

*Stress Less, Accomplish More* by Emily Fletcher  
Wednesday, February 19, 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom)

Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

I think I have never picked a self-help book for this group, but this month I am picking one. It is an easy read, and you may notice the pattern of too many chapters telling you how everything in your life will change before the one chapter that tells you the very simple thing she is asking you to do for 15 minutes twice a day. AND, and, and I think we will all need anchoring practices that quiet our nervous system. I've been adding her formula for meditation (and even her voice in the recordings you can access) to my morning and afternoon practices, and it is helping, so let me toss this easy read into our invitations to read and discuss together.

More info and to register: <https://uusf.org/are#mbg>



Welcome to these invitations to go deeper. Website: <https://www.uusf.org/soulmatters>





## STARR KING WAY Performance Series 2025

**FEB 2** – Special guest: **ANDREW FINN MAGILL**, multi-genre fiddler/violinist

**MAR 2** – **NANCY MUNN & JOACHIM REINHUBER\***

**MAR 8** – **WICKEDLY FUN BROADWAY SING-A-LONG\*\***

**APR 5** – **TWO LOOKS AT ONE ACT\*\***, immersive experience with a one-act play

**MAY 4** – Special guest: **RITA LACKEY**, gospel songstress/pianist

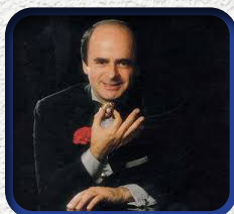
**JUN 29** – Special guests: **LOS CENZONTLES**, Mexican-American band

**JUL 20** – **RAMI BAR-NIV\***

**AUG 31** – **GIACOMO FIORE\***

**SEP 21** – **SHANNON WARTO & BOB PHILLIPS\***

**NOV 9** – Special guests: **BERNAL HILL PLAYERS**, flute, clarinet, piano



SUNDAYS, 1:30PM, UUSF SANCTUARY  
\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION FOR ALL EVENTS

\*SKWPS IN-HOUSE PERFORMANCE

\*\*SATURDAY 6PM WITH CATERED DINNER OPTION (\$30) MLK/TSK ROOMS

## UUSF Arts in Ministry & Shared Life Initiative present... We Don't Need No Stinkin' Fascism! PRESIDENT'S DAY SPECIAL!

UU writers, poets, musicians, and humorists have a thing or two to say about the mentality on display in autocratic circles. We'd actually like to keep a few things like democratic and human rights, public schools and libraries, fact-based journalism, and a livable climate . . . And now UUSF has been designated a **Good Trouble Congregation**, so let's get to it!

**Sunday, February 16, 12:30-2:30 PM, TSK Room**

Join us for a literary festival with food, readings, theater, & music.  
Donation \$10. No one turned away.

### Readings by

Kathleen McClung  
Dennis Adams  
Susan Anthony  
Gregory Stevens  
Bruce Neuburger

### Sketches by

Michael and Mari

### Music by

Francisco Herrera

### Special guest

S.E. Poet Laureate Genny Lim

### Moderator

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern





## TODAY!

### **How Animal Cruelty Helps Fund the MAGA Movement with Wayne Hsiung**

**Sunday Forum, February 9, 9:30 am, TSK Room and on Zoom.** A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The factory farming industry has significantly influenced the current administration, contributing tens of billions of dollars to operations that engage in inhumane practices, such as "ventilation shutdowns." Since 2022, over 90 million poultry have been euthanized due to the bird flu outbreak, highlighting the impact of these industrial farms on animal welfare and the environment. These operations also contribute to the depletion and pollution of natural waterways and the destruction of forests. Wayne Hsiung, an attorney and co-founder of animal rights organizations, will provide an important update on our food systems and efforts to ensure they remain safe and healthful. More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

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### **Sensible Cinema is hosting a screening of the documentary 'Small is Beautiful' by Carolyn M. Scott**

**Sunday, February 9 at 12:30 pm in the TSK Room**

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 9th, for the film "Small is Beautiful," which highlights a Sonoma community's fight against overdevelopment threatening the environment and local residents. The film discusses California's housing mandates and their impact on rural fire evacuation and community input. A panel discussion will follow with filmmaker **Carolyn M Scott**, environmental lawyer **Stewart Flashman**, former San Francisco planning commission VP **Dennis Richards** and Ph.D, Engineer and co-author of the Sonoma Valley 100 Year Plan **Bean Anderson**. MORE INFO: <https://www.uusf.org/cinema>

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### **Join the Fun: Sing Along Broadway Tickets Now Available Today in the Gallery**

Tickets for the Sing Along Broadway event are on sale today. This annual event is an opportunity to join UUSF members and friends in an evening of dining, fellowship, and song, led by Music Director Mark Sumner. Lift your voice in song with others, or offer a solo if you have a favorite Broadway tune you usually only sing in the shower! The Sing Along is Saturday evening, **March 8**. Hope to see everyone there!

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### **New UU: Welcome Home - Sunday, February 9, 1:00-2:30 PM, Fireside Room**

New UU is an interactive class offered quarterly by Rev. Laura Shennum and Emma Wakeling, which offers the chance to get a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. It offers an introduction to UU history, UUSF's mission and covenant, information about the membership process, and ways to get involved in our community. It is also one of the steps to becoming a member of UUSF, but it is open to anyone interested in learning more about our community. We will provide snacks. Email Membership and Young Adult Manager Emma Wakeling with any questions: [ewakeling@uusf.org](mailto:ewakeling@uusf.org)

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### **Spread Kindness: Join Our Card Ministry!**

Plan to stop by the card ministry table after the service. 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. We provide cards, notes, stickers, and postage.

## UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

### **Join the Heart of Service: Volunteer at Our Winter Shelter from Feb 10 to March 3**

Volunteer now for the Interfaith Winter Shelter at UUSF from Feb 10 to March 3. A joint effort of the San Francisco Interfaith Counsel, each year from mid-February to early March, our church hosts up to 70 unhoused folks and provides meals. You can sign up here to help cook and serve breakfast, cook and serve dinner, or be a host liaison for guest organizations that are cooking dinner. It's a wonderful way to serve our neighbors and connect with our Unitarian Universalist community. Sign up for multiple slots and feel free to bring friends! Children aged 8 and up are welcome with supervision. Younger children, please inquire. Sign up at <https://www.uusf.org/shelter>. You can also visit us at a table in the church gallery after the Sunday service. Questions? Email us at [wintershelte@uusf.org](mailto:wintershelte@uusf.org).

If you are a young adult aged 18-39 and you'd like to volunteer to make dinner alongside the UUSF young adult community on Thursday, February 13, please fill out this form (<https://t.ly/YAWinterShelter2025>) or contact Membership and Young Adult Manager Emma Wakeling at [ewakeling@uusf.org](mailto:ewakeling@uusf.org).

# UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

## **Climate justice is racial justice! Public Forum on Black Liberation with Journalist and author, Eugene Puryear EcoSocialist Network - Saturday, February 15, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary**

This Black History Month, join us on February 15 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary in honoring the revolutionary spirit of the Black liberation movement and committing ourselves to carrying on the struggle for freedom. Our honored guest is journalist Eugene Puryear of Breakthrough News.

Questions? Email [gregorystevensw@gmail.com](mailto:gregorystevensw@gmail.com).

## **Join the UUSF Arts in Ministry & Shared Life Initiative for a special President's Day event, "We Don't Need No Stinkin' Fascism!" on Sunday, February 16, from 12:30 to 2:30 PM in the TSK Room**

This literary festival will feature food, readings, theater, and music, showcasing the voices of UU writers, poets, musicians, and humorists who advocate for democracy, human rights, and a livable climate. The event will include readings from notable authors, sketches by local artists, and music by Francisco Herrera, with special guest S.F. Poet Laureate Genny Lim. Donations are \$10, but no one will be turned away.

## **What Kind of Bird Can't Fly: A Memoir of Resilience and Resurrection with Dorsey Nunn**

**Sunday Forum, February 23, 9:30 am, TSK Room and on Zoom. A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m.**

This talk will address the ongoing struggle for the civil and human rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, highlighting their inalienable nature. Given the current political climate, this conversation is vital. Dorsey Nunn, who was sentenced to life in prison at a young age, has spent over fifty years advocating for these rights. Recently retired as Executive Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, he co-founded All of Us or None, a grassroots movement focused on improving access to housing, employment, and voting rights for those affected by incarceration. His memoir, "What Kind of Bird Can't Fly," will be released in April 2024. More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

## **UUSF Day of Mindfulness - Saturday, March 1st, 10am-4pm**

Join us for the UUSF Day of Mindfulness on Saturday, March 1st, from 10am to 4pm, as we explore practices rooted in the Plum Village tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. In a time filled with ecological, political, and economic stressors, this event offers a chance to recharge through guided meditation, mindful movements, and group sharing. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch and will benefit from a brief dharma talk and deep relaxation sessions. A registration link will be available soon, and registration is necessary for planning purposes. All proceeds will benefit UUSF, and no one will be turned away due to financial constraints. For inquiries, contact Kat Liu at [shaktinah@gmail.com](mailto:shaktinah@gmail.com).

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**If you're new, please familiarize yourself with the guidance and support available on Sundays below. If you have any questions, an usher, greeter, or member of staff will be happy to help.**

**COVID-19:** 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. If you feel unwell, please stay home and enjoy the service at home via livestream. ([bit.ly/uusfmedia](https://bit.ly/uusfmedia))

**BUSY HANDS:** Explore our Busy Hands activity station located at the back of the sanctuary. You will find things like fidget toys and coloring for all ages to help you keep your hands busy during service. Please return items before leaving the sanctuary.

**Pets:** If you came with your pet, there is a pet-friendly section on the furthest section on the left toward the front of the sanctuary.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICE:** We can provide hearing assistance devices for the service. These are with the ushers in the back of the sanctuary, who will help you get oriented and comfortable with one.

**CANDLES:** In Unitarian Universalism we light candles to recognize sacred time, honor loved ones, mark important life events, and more. If you have something on your mind for which you'd like to light a candle, you are invited to come forward and light one silently during service.

**SOCIAL HOUR:** Everyone is welcome and invited to join us at social hour after service. This is normally in the courtyard (when weather permits) or in our Thomas Starr King room at the end of the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Help yourself to beverages and snacks!

**Welcome to UUSF: Connect and Discover**

**NEW TO UUSF?** Complete a Connections form to receive our newsletter, which includes a link to the Order of Service and Sunday Livestream. If you're at UUSF in person, you can find a yellow connections card at the welcome table in the gallery outside the sanctuary or in a pew in front of you. You can also fill it out online at <https://bit.ly/uuconnections2024>.

**A GUIDE FOR NEWCOMERS:** What to Expect During Worship (read at <https://bit.ly/newcomersguide-uusf>)



# 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>

"Inclusion"

Sunday, February 2, 10:50 am, 2025



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