

**"Oh the Possibilities!  
Annual Youth Worship Service"**

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 10:50 am  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

**Order of Service**  
**Sunday May 4, 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.

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Prelude      *Let All Things Now Living*  
                  *Praise to the Lord*

Ash Grove / Winston Cassler  
LOBE DEN HERREN / Martin Shaw  
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Opening Words and Welcome

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

Unison Chalice Lighting

Eli Boshears

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 298

*Wake, Now, My Senses*

SLANE

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

Greeting One Another

\*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

*Children/youth exit to classes during doxology.*

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

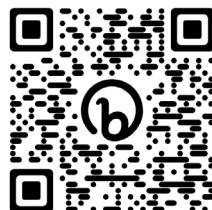
8  
ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.  
ca - da tie - rra, ca - da voz. A - men.

Crossing Paths Reflection

Hannah Murray & Sammy Alden

Offering

This morning’s offering will benefit the work of PERIOD., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that, largely led by youth, strives to eradicate period poverty and stigma around menstruation through advocacy, education, and service. [Learn more 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, 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, 05-04-25.



Offertory Music *Sentimental Melody*

Aaron Copland  
Anakin Gupta, pianist

Meditation

**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**

Reflection

Max Dubler

Music *Pure Imagination*

Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley/arr. Matthew Nielsen  
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Reflection “Whales”

Lucas Keeley

Reflection

Davia Ferree

Gifts to the Seniors

Rev. Laura Shennum and Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

\*Hymn 313

*Oh What a Piece of Work Are We*

DOVE OF PEACE

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 8 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Brief Invitations

Julia Wald, Trustee

\*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Rev. Laura Shennum

Postlude *Te Deum*

Marc Antoine Charpentier  
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.



# PARTICIPANTS

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Julia Wald, Trustee

Sammy Alden

Eli Boshears

Max Dubler

Davia Ferree

Anakin Gupta

Kenley Gupta

Oriana Joos-Moren

Lucas Keeley

Hannah Murray

## Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators

Jonathan Silk, Director of Communications

Kelvin Jones; Matias Pineda Salazar; Francisco Castellanos, Sextons

Carrie Steere-Salazar, Flowers

Linda Messner, Head Usher

## Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

UUSF Choir

Mark Sumner, director

Wm. García Ganz, pianist

# PERIOD.

This morning's offering will benefit the work of PERIOD., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that, largely led by youth, strives to eradicate period poverty and stigma around menstruation through advocacy, education, and service.

**Advocacy.** Menstrual health is a matter of human rights. People who menstruate deserve affordable and accessible menstrual products, untaxed and available in public places like schools, shelters, and prisons.

**Education.** Menstrual equity combats both period poverty and stigma. PERIOD. empowers local activists with grassroots training and education.

**Service.** From period packs to pallets of products, PERIOD. distributes period products to communities in need. Free of charge, always. To learn more, please visit [www.period.org](http://www.period.org).

# OFFERTORY UPDATE!

Last week we took the offering for **The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE)**.

We raised a total of \$573.00.

## Sign up for the All Church Retreat in the Redwoods, taking place from May 24 to 26

The All Church Retreat will take place from May 24-26 at the CYO Retreat Center in Sonoma County, featuring activities such as campfire songs, workshops, and games, along with comfortable accommodations and recreational facilities. Registration is open until May 15, with fees between \$175 and \$250 and scholarships available; for more information and to register, visit <https://t.ly/uusfretreat> or scan the QR code.



## Wake, Now, My Senses

*♩ = 108 Unison*

1. Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;  
 2. Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;  
 3. Wake, now, com - pas - sion, give heed to the cry;

feel the deep pow - er of be - ing in all;  
 join with each pil - grim who quests for the true;  
 voic - es of suf - fer - ing fill the wide sky;

keep, with the web of cre - a - tion your vow,  
 hon - or the beau - ty and wis - dom of time;  
 take as your neigh - bor both strang - er and friend,

giv - ing, re - ceiv - ing as love shows us how.  
 suf - fer thy lim - it, and praise the sub - lime.  
 pray - ing and striv - ing their hard - ship to end.

⊕ Words: Thomas J. S. Mikelson, 1936-  
 Music: Traditional Irish melody, harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1926- ,  
 renewal © 1992 Abingdon Press

SLANE  
 10.10.10.10.

4. Wake, now, my conscience,  
with justice thy guide;  
join with all people  
whose rights are denied;  
take not for granted  
a privileged place;  
God's love embraces  
the whole human race.

5. Wake, now, my vision  
of ministry clear;  
brighten my pathway  
with radiance here;  
mingle my calling  
with all who will share;  
work toward a planet  
transformed by our care.



# O What a Piece of Work Are We 313

$\text{♩} = 58$  *Unison*

1. O what a piece of work are we, how  
 2. Why need to look for mir - a - cles out -  
 3. But give us room to move and grow, but

mar - vel - ous - ly wrought; the quick con - triv - ance  
 side of na - ture's law? Hu - man - i - ty we  
 give our spir - it play, and we can make a

of the hand, the won - der of our  
 won - der at with ev - ery breath we  
 world of light out of the com - mon

thought, the won - der of our thought.  
 draw, with ev - ery breath we draw!  
 clay, out of the com - mon clay.

⊕ Words: Malvina Reynolds, 1900–1978, © 1958 Schroder Music;  
 renewed 1986 N. Schimmel

Music: *The Southern Harmony*, 1835, harmony by Charles H. Webb, 1933–  
 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

DOVE OF PEACE  
 8.6.8.6.6.

HUMANITY: WOMEN AND MEN



# Graduating Seniors



**Davia Ferree** is a Senior at Galileo High School and has been a member of the church Sunday School since they were about 3 years old. Their favorite memories from the church are lightsaber battles from Jedi Initiation and church retreat explorations. Davia has helped out with the younger Sunday school class and hopes to continue participating in the church community until they move to LA for the 2026 school year. :)



**Lucas Keeley** is excited to return to UUSF for a final hurrah before he heads to New York City to attend Columbia University in the fall. Lucas attended Sunday school at the congregation from 4th-7th grade and last participated in a service playing the piano at Rev. Alyson Jacks' goodbye celebration. In the last several years he has been exploring faith and community through Reform Judaism; outside the church or temple he enjoys creating theater, learning new musical instruments, and looking at the ocean.

## THE ARTS AT UUSF

### *A Shot of Soul*

Feel the Groove



"A Powerful Songstress"

*Rita Lackey*

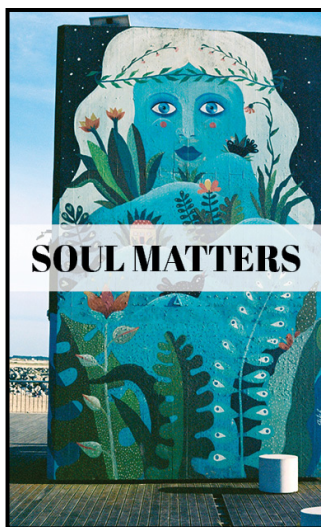
### **A Soulful Afternoon of Jazz and R&B Awaits!**

Sunday, May 4, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary

**Rita Lackey** is a powerful songstress with a vocal and piano style all her own! She delivers a blend of jazz, R&B, and original compositions that captivates her audience. This diversely talented SF Bay Area artist has opened for such greats as Maria Muldaur and B.B. King. The upcoming May 4th performance will also feature an album release of her new CD, *A Shot of Soul*. Ms. Lackey's back-up band for the engagement will be Mark Lee on drums and Tim Romain on bass. As a professional musician, she has performed at Yoshi's, the Art and Soul Festival, and numerous special events. Currently she teaches at Community Music Center in San Francisco and conducts vocal workshops. Having performed all over the globe, she brings to the stage a style reminiscent of the early days of popular music.



**STARR KING WAY**  
**Performance Series**



# May: Imagination

[uusf.org/soulmatters](https://uusf.org/soulmatters)

The Practice of Imagination...What does it mean to practice imagination? We use our imaginations all the time, whether we recognize it or not. We imagine what our day might hold, or imagine what that person may be thinking about us, or imagine a trip we are about to take. We need our collective imagination right now, more than ever! We need to be able to imagine ourselves in a world where love stamps out hate. Adrienne Rich reminds us, "But nothing less than the most radical imagination will carry us beyond this place, beyond the mere struggle for survival, to that lucid recognition of our possibilities which will keep us impatient and unresigned to mere survival." We need to imagine we are the answers to help create the world we want to live in. Walter Brueggemann writes, "The task of prophetic ministry is to nurture, nourish, and evoke a consciousness and perception alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture around us... Our culture is competent to implement almost anything and to imagine almost nothing... because imagination is a danger. Thus every totalitarian regime is frightened of the artist. It is the vocation of the prophet to keep alive the

ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing future alternatives to the single one the king wants to urge as the only thinkable one." Join us this month as we lean into the practice of imagination and our prophetic place in imagining the world anew.

## Poem of the Month

### So Generous A Sky By Robert Lavett Smith



May's like a melody by the Temptations,  
Whose wistful yearning permeates the air—  
Warning about imagination's snare,  
The heady perils of infatuation.  
The honeybees are masters of evasion;  
The scent of roses settles everywhere;  
Sweet eucalyptus trees are well aware  
Summer's sequestered, deep in preparation.  
In early May, it's easy to believe  
What we imagine will endure forever;  
The weather wears its kindness on its sleeve.  
We're sure so generous a sky would never  
Deny our fantasies the space to breathe;  
Even the cautious crows aren't half so clever.



The above image is "Wanderer in the Sea of Fog" by Caspar David Friedrich.

To engage in ancient practice of meditating on an image as a spiritual practice.

Written instructions can be found at <https://t.ly/visio-instructions>.

Watch this video recording and have us guide you through the process, go to <https://t.ly/visio-divina-may25>

## Minister's Book Group

*Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families* by Peggy Gillespie

Wednesday, May 21, 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom)

Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

This book is the Unitarian Universalist Association's chosen UUA Common Read for 2025. Told not through the lens of their struggles and challenges, including their political battles for legal rights, but the joy and richness of the lives of those interviewed and reflected in its stories, *Authentic Selves* is a beautiful compilation of life stories, photos, and reflections of trans and nonbinary people, as well as their partners, parents, children, siblings, and chosen family members. It reminds us of a lot, including the power and beauty (and courage) of living with authenticity. We will read it together with UU's across the country!

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



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

## TODAY!

### **May Day: Rise Up Now with Claudia de la Cruz - Sunday Forum, May 4, 9:30 am, TSK/Zoom**

A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 am - More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

May Day, or International Workers' Day, is celebrated worldwide but lacks official recognition in the U.S. due to its associations with socialism and communism; Claudia de la Cruz, a community organizer and 2024 presidential candidate, champions workers' rights and seeks to inspire activism against governmental injustices through her work rooted in liberation theology.

### **Write a letter to defend a climate prisoner—and stand up for the right to nonviolent protest!**

Roger Hallam, co-founder of Extinction Rebellion and Just Stop Oil, is still imprisoned despite a court ruling that his five-year sentence for nonviolent climate activism is excessively harsh, facing backlash from the industry and being denied release due to media interest. Supporters are encouraged to write letters advocating for Hallam and the right to nonviolent protest, with assistance available from UUSF member Wayne Hsiung after the service in the Gallery.

### **Pagan Interest Circle: Maypole Dance on May 4th at 12:15 pm, Courtyard**

The Pagan Interest Circle invites you to celebrate Beltane by dancing around the Maypole on Sunday, May 4th, at 12:15 pm in the courtyard. Participants will make flower-wreath May Crowns and enjoy community activities, including lighting a cauldron instead of a bonfire. Additionally, a Full Moon ritual will take place on Saturday, May 10th, at 6:45 pm in the Chapel.

### **New to this community? New to Unitarian Universalism? - Sunday, May 4, 12:30 pm, Fireside Room**

Newcomers are welcome to join us after the service to meet some of our members and learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. It's a great chance to meet other folks in the community, ask any questions you might have, and find out how to get involved in our programs and ministries. Free childcare is available to attendees who need it. We look forward to meeting you!

### **Spread Love: Join Our Card Ministry After Service**

Plan to stop by the card ministry table after the service on Sunday. 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.

### **Starr King Way Performance Series (SKWPS): A Soulful Afternoon of Jazz and R&B**

Rita Lackey, a talented songstress known for her unique blend of jazz and R&B, will perform on May 4th at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary to celebrate the release of her new CD, *A Shot of Soul*, with her back-up band. In addition to her performances, she teaches at the Community Music Center in San Francisco and conducts vocal workshops, highlighting her diverse musical talents. [www.skwps](http://www.skwps.com)



### **Yoga Peace & Power Workshop with Susanna Barkataki - Sunday, May 4, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Chapel**

Join a transformative 3-hour experience sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist EcoSocialist Network, exploring yoga's deeper roots and its potential for inspiring leadership and social change. Participants will overcome self-doubt, connect with a community of changemakers, and learn practices for grounded, justice-centered leadership. Attendees will leave feeling empowered and equipped with tools for sustained activism and personal growth.

## UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

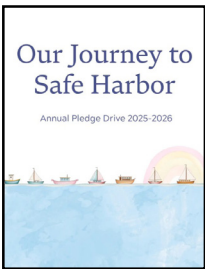
### **Join Us for Empowerment: Women's Rights Group Meeting- Saturday, May 10, 10:00 am, Kincaid Room**

Join the Women's Rights Group meeting on May 10 at 10 am to discuss group activities, share action ideas, and address volunteer needs for future events. Monthly meetings will be held on the second Saturday of each month throughout the summer and into the next church year, so bring your ideas for future activities to support the group's empowerment efforts.

### **Memoir of a Reluctant Giant with David Strachan & Davi Barker - Forum, May 11, 9:30 am, TSK/Zoom**

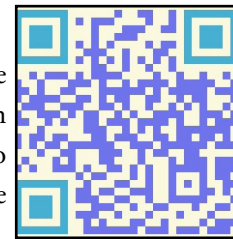
A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 am - More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

"Memoir of a Reluctant Giant" follows David Strachan's journey through the complexities of gender and identity, emphasizing themes of love, loss, and authenticity while showcasing his activism for LGBTQ+ rights and intersex issues. The memoir, introduced by ghostwriter Davi Barker, includes selected readings by David that reflect on his experiences with Klinefelter's syndrome and his advocacy since 1994.



## UUSF Annual Operating Fund Pledge Drive for 2025-26

If you haven't made your pledge yet, please do so now because every pledge helps. If you have pledged (or when you do), you will find origami boats waiting for you to put your name on them and add to the flotilla! To make your pledge or to learn more about the 2025-26 pledge drive go to <https://www.uusf.org/pledge> or scan the QR code. Also, you can visit the bulletin board with the harbor motif to pick up a pledge form if you need one and fill it out.



### Our New UUSF Podcast: "Pod and Country"

UUSF has launched a new podcast titled "Pod and Country," featuring Rev. Vanessa Southern and members Cal Ball, Michael Bossier and Mari Magaloni Ramos with support from the Hinckley Foundation and others. This magazine-style podcast promotes Unitarian Universalist values through interviews, comedy sketches, music, and poetry, aiming to inspire listeners in the fight against tyranny. The first episode features an interview with Rev. John Buehrens and is available on various podcast platforms, encouraging listeners to engage and share widely. Check it out by going to <https://podandcountry.podbean>.

### UUSF Review of Proposed Budget (Q & A Session Today) - Wednesday, May 7, 12:30 pm, On Zoom

The UUSF congregation votes each year to approve the upcoming year's budget. The proposed FY26 Budget was approved by the Board of Trustees on April 15th, read more about it at <https://t.ly/budget2025>. Members can submit written amendments by May 11th to [secretary@uusf.org](mailto:secretary@uusf.org) for consideration before the budget vote on May 18th. Due to a tenant revenue shortfall, an Extraordinary Operating Reserves Draw is necessary to prevent a deficit budget, and the second of two Q&A sessions will be held for members to ask questions on May 7th.

Zoom Link: <https://t.ly/20250507BudgetZoom>

### You're invited to the next UUSF Board Meeting! - 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The board meeting is open to UUSF members both in person and via Zoom. The board meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and members are recognized and allowed to share (briefly) a thought or concern at the beginning of the meeting, but can stay for the whole meeting if they wish. Meetings take place in the Fireside Room. You can also join via Zoom; email the Secretary of the Board for the Zoom link at [secretary@uusf.org](mailto:secretary@uusf.org).

## 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>

**"An Earth day Worship Service"**  
Sunday, April 27, 10:50 am, 2025



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