



"Raindrops, Rivers, Oceans: An Annual In Gathering to Community"

Sunday, September 7, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



Order of Service
Sunday September 7, 2025
10:50 AM - 12:15 PM

Livestreamed at bit.ly/uusfmedia

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

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

Welcome to Worship!

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

We do, however, 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.

Prelude *Happy the Home Where Love Abides*
 Themes from The Seasons

Alice Jordan
Antonio Vivaldi
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Opening Words and Welcome

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

Unison Chalice Lighting

Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern

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.

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

Greeting One Another

*Unison Covenant

Rev. Seanan Fong, Community Minister

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.

Invitation into the New Year

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Reading "Threshold" by Norma Kaweloku Wong (from *When No Thing Works*, 2024)

Response *Step by Step*

arr. Harold Waldmar

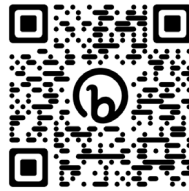
Step by step the longest march can be won, can be won.
Many stones can form an arch, singly none, singly none.
And by union, what we will can be accomplished still;
drops of water turn a mill, singly none, singly none.

Water Ingathering

Rev. Southern, Rev. Shennum, Rev. Fong, Mark Caswell

Offering

This week's offering aims to raise \$2,000 to support the **Open Door Legal Garden Cleanup Project**. Open Door Legal, a non-profit organization in San Francisco, provides free legal services to low-income residents across more than 35 legal areas, promoting universal access to the law and reducing poverty. In collaboration with UUSF, a garden renovation project is being organized at Open Door Legal's offices in the Excelsior district office. Learn more and to volunteer turn to [page 5](#). To make a donation on Vanco (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, **09-07-25**.



Offertory Music *Love is the spirit of this church* Paul Ayres
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Blessing Laura Shennum and Surprise Guests

Music *Homeward Bound* Marta Keen
UUSF Choir, Morgen Warner, Kate Offer, soloists;
Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Brief Invitations Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

*Hymn 368 *Now Let Us Sing* ROBESON

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Postlude *May Sun Warm You* Gerald Custer
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Rev. Seanan Fong, Community Minister
Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern
Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Alicia Cover; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director
Kelvin Jones; Matias Pineda Salazar; Francisco Castellanos, Sextons
Judy Payne, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist
UUSF Choir
Morgen Warner, Kate Offer, soloists
Mark Sumner, Music Director
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Open Door Legal Garden Cleanup Project

This week's offering aims to raise \$2,000 to support the **Open Door Legal Garden Cleanup Project**. Open Door Legal, a nonprofit organization in San Francisco, provides free legal services to low-income residents across more than 35 legal areas, promoting universal access to the law and reducing poverty. In collaboration with UUSF, a garden renovation project is being organized at Open Door Legal's offices in the Excelsior district office. Open Doors staff requested the garden space renovation so it can be used by staff and clients, especially those with children, when they meet and discuss their specific situations and cases. In joy and support of their work, we raise the money, and volunteers who signed up will roll up their sleeves to make this project happen.

Thank you to everyone who signed up for the three Sundays in September! We still need alternates in case anyone can't make it. Please visit <https://t.ly/gardenproject25> to sign up as an alternate.

Offertory Update

On August 31 we took the offering for SF CLOUT and we raised a total of \$483.28.

Now Let Us Sing

368

$\text{♩} = 116$

1. Sing to the power of the
Now let us sing, sing,
faith with-in. Sing to the power of the
sing, sing. Now let us sing, sing,
faith with-in. Lift up your voice,
sing, sing. Lift up your voice, be not a -
be not a-fraid, sing to the power of the faith with-in.
afraid, now let us sing to the power of the faith with-in.

2. Sing to the power of the hope within. . . .

3. Sing to the power of the love within. . . .

4. Sing to the power of the joy within. . . .

Words & music: Anonymous

ROBESON
Irregular

ART SHOW

Artist Reception for UUSF Family and Friends Art Show

Sunday, September 7, 12:15 pm in the King Rooms!

The UUSF Family and Friends Art Show is being celebrated at the artist reception on Sunday, September 7th, from 12:15 pm to 3:00 pm. We cordially invite you to attend. This thrilling event highlights the extraordinary abilities of more than 43 artists, each of whom contributes their own creative flair.



THE ARTS AT UUSF



Afternoon Jazz with Shannon Warto, Bob Phillips and Camellia Latta

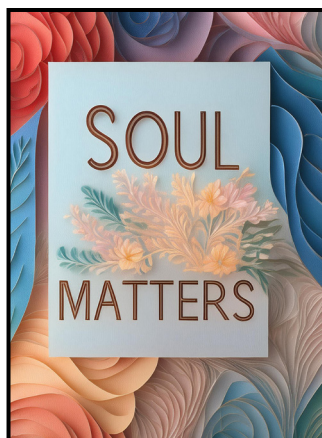
Sunday, September 21, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary

We invite you to an afternoon of enchanting music with Shannon and Bob as they share their take on beloved jazz standards featured on their CD released at the end of 2022, *A Moment with Bob*. Shannon Warto, a native of the Monterey Peninsula now based in San Francisco, is deemed to have “the voice of an angel,” with a repertoire of many genres but holds a special love for singing jazz. Bob Phillips is a locally renowned jazz pianist in the Monterey Peninsula whose talent, improvisation, and joy at the keys are a delight to witness. Camellia Latta, an ethereal and mesmerizing flutist in the San Francisco area, will also be featured, adding her lush, soul-stirring sound to a select number of songs. This concert is an experience not to be missed!



STARR KING WAY Performance Series

<https://www.uusf.org/skwps>

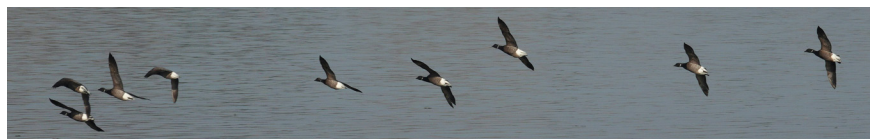


September: Building Belonging uusf.org/soulmatters

“A Start of a New Project: Building Belonging”

As we come back into the community from our summer adventures, we are encouraged to engage the theme of Building Belonging. As Rev. Dr. David Breeden suggests, “Belonging is not something given—it is something we build, with open hands and open hearts.” How will we build belonging this year? What do you need to feel you belong in this congregation? What will you do to open your hands and hearts to others to help them feel they belong? We will explore this theme through worship, our question of the month, visio divina, classes, and our poem of the month. We look forward to starting this effort together and hope you do as well.

Poem of the Month



“Wild Geese” By Mary Oliver

“You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting –
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.”



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

Ruby Bridges & Norman Rockwell - “The
Problem We All Live With” More info about the
image can be found at the link below.

(<https://t.ly/imageofthefmonth-September2025>)

Written instructions for Visio Divina 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/202509VisioDivina>

Minister's Book Group

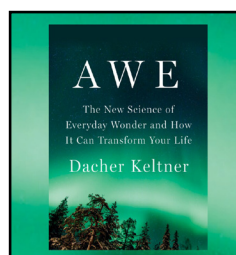
*Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can
Transform Your Life* by Dacher Keltner

Wednesday, September 24, 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom)

Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Dacher Keltner is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. He is an expert on the science of human emotion and the director of Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center. One of his areas of study is the emotion, the feeling, of awe, of wonder—where we find it, how we are hardwired to seek and be fed by it, and what its role is and can be in a full and flourishing life. Join the exploration of awe.

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



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



Prepare to uplift your spirit as we commemorate 175 years of history in San Francisco, with a series of exciting services this October.

The Rev. Dianne Miller will be preaching on Sunday, October 12.
The Rev. Dr. John A. Buehrens will be preaching on Sunday, October 19.
The Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern will be preaching on Sunday, October 26.

Our 175th Auction Celebration will follow the service on October 26!

CELEBRATING



175 YEARS

UUSF 175th Anniversary Auction 2025

Don't miss our thrilling Online Silent Auction, kicking off on Sunday, October 5, and wrapping up at 11 PM on Sunday, October 26.

Following that, we invite you to our Live Auction and Party in the King Rooms, held after services on Sunday, October 26, in celebration of our 175th anniversary.

We encourage your support in any of the following ways:

- **Donate an item**
- **Bid on auction items**

Thinking about donating something new to the auction this year? Want to talk your idea over with someone or repost last year's item? Please do not hesitate to email, text, or call **Cheryl** at cdd.mft@gmail.com or 415-282-2200. Or if you are ready to make your donation, simply go to <https://t.ly/175auction-donate> or scan the QR code below.



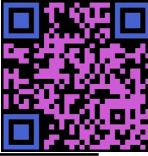
TODAY!

Sunday Forum with Dean Preston - Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 am in the TSK Room and on Zoom

Dean Preston is a statewide housing advocate, tenants' rights attorney, and member of the Democratic Socialists of America. He served as the elected representative of District 5 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 2019 to 2025. Zoom link: <https://t.ly/20250907UUForum>. You can phone in at +1 669 444 9171. Meeting ID: 981 2421 0006 Passcode:908922

Sunday School Registration Now Open

Each year we ask families to register their children and youth for our programming. This allows us to determine the staff and space we need on Sundays. You can register at <https://t.ly/RE2025-26> or scan the QR code.



UUSF Family and Friends Art Show and Reception - Sunday, September 7, 12:15 - 3:00 pm, King Rooms

Join us for the artist reception on Sunday, September 7th, from 12:15 pm to 3:00 pm, as part of the UUSF Family and Friends Art Show. There are over 43 artists in this show. This is a wonderful chance to meet the artists and appreciate their creations.

New to this community? New to Unitarian Universalism? - Sunday, September 7, 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!

Join the UU Vote/Reclaim Our Vote Initiative for Voter Support

Visit the UU the Vote/Reclaim Our Vote table in the gallery today or any Sunday from now until early October to learn how you can assist with writing postcards of encouragement to voters in a significant election. Watch the inaugural event at <https://t.ly/reclaimthevoteevent>

A Conversation with Wendsler Nosie, Sr., Apache Stronghold - Today from 4-6pm @ First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

The San Carlos Apache have been fighting for 11 years to protect their sacred land, Oak Flat, from being sold to a mining company, which would result in significant environmental destruction and the loss of a site vital to their cultural and religious practices. Led by Wendsler Nosie, Sr., the Apache Stronghold is rallying support from over 200 Native American tribes and various faith communities to halt the land sale, currently paused by a temporary injunction pending a court decision on religious freedom. The struggle for Oak Flat highlights broader issues of environmental justice, displacement, and the fight for sacred spaces, drawing support from diverse groups advocating for common humanity and the protection of vulnerable communities. First Presbyterian Church of Oakland is located at 2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Justice not Just Ice: A UUSF Congregational Meeting on Sanctuary in Our Time - Sunday, Sept. 14, 9:30 am, TSK Room

Join us for a special morning forum on Sunday, September 14, from 9:30 to 10:50 am in the TSK Room, where we will take mindful action to support those impacted by ICE. Doors will open at 9 am for a light breakfast, providing an opportunity to gather and prepare for an important discussion.

Let's Celebrate with Alyson Jacks - Sunday, September 14

Please join us in the courtyard after the service on Sunday, Sept 14, for a luncheon celebration of Rev. Alyson's new emerita status in our community. A light buffet will be served, including vegetarian and gluten-free options, followed by cake—including gluten-free and vegan options. Come on down!

Join the Green Revolution: Celebrate Sun Day with Fun, Food, and Clean Energy

Sunday, September 21, in the Courtyard before and after church!

Join the Environmental Justice Working Group on September 21st for an all-ages celebration at the Courtyard, featuring vegan treats, music, and resources to help you embrace clean energy and reduce your carbon footprint. Discover local ways to green your home and life while learning about solar power, heat pumps, and electric vehicles in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROGRAMING uusf.org/are

Love At The Center Online Version - Mondays, Sept 8 through Oct 6 - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Rev. Laura Shennum will facilitate a discussion on the book "Love At The Center," which examines UU theology through new values such as Justice and Love, with 5-6 essays read at each meeting. Interested participants can register for Zoom access at <https://t.ly/loveatthecenter2> and obtain the book through the UUA Bookstore, Amazon, or by contacting Alicia Cover for emailed essays at acover@uusf.org.

You're invited to the next UUSF Board Meeting! - 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

The board meeting is open to UUSF members both in person and via Zoom. The board meets the 2nd 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.

Soul Matters Spiritual Practices Small Group - Second Thursdays, Online - 6:30pm to 8pm

Join the Soul Matters Spiritual Practices Small Group online on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30pm to 8pm, facilitated by Rev. Laura Shennum. Participants will explore a new spiritual practice each month, engaging both individually and as a group, with registration required go to <https://t.ly/8TbGY> for Zoom access and practice materials.

Elder Wisdom Group - Second Wednesdays from 12pm to 2pm in the Fireside Room

Calling all our Senior Citizens! Join Rev. Laura on the second Wednesday of each month to engage in topics that are important to you. A light lunch will be provided. We will decide our focus areas in September and there is no need to register. For more information, contact Minister of Congregational Life Rev. Laura at lsennum@uusf.org.

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

Larry Danos Memorial Service - Sat, Sept. 13, 1:00 pm, Sanctuary

Wanda Uvonne Jones-Most: Celebration of Life Service - Sat, Sept. 27, 12:00 pm, Sanctuary

Suzie Thorn Memorial Service - Sun, Sept.28, 1:00 pm, Sanctuary

More Informaton and links to livestreams can be found at <https://t.ly/MemorialServicesUUSF>



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)

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

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 Previous and Upcoming Services:
<https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>



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

Today's Sunday School Plans
<https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>

PreK/Nursery: Basic Care, Classroom A,
10:45am-12:15pm

Grades K-12: No classes. Join us for the
multigenerational worship service in the Sanctuary!

Registration is not required. Please pick up your
children/youth when the service is over. If you have
questions, ask a greeter or anyone with an official
metal nametag.