



"Revisiting Stories: The Prodigal Son and Belonging"

Sunday, September 14, 2025, 10:50 am
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



Order of Service

Sunday September 14, 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	<i>Wake, Now My Senses</i> <i>Life Is the Greatest Gift of All</i>	Traditional Irish Melody/ Paul Manz Harold Drake Reiko Oda Lane, organist
Opening Words and Welcome		Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Unison Chalice Lighting		Carmen Barsody, Worship Associate

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

*Hymn 368

Belong and Sing!

ROBESON

1. Faith 2. Hope 3. Love 4: Joy

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

Ritual of Conferral of the Title “Minister Emerita”

Rev. Alyson Jacks, Rev. Margot Campbell Gross, Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Rev. Laura Shennum

Congregation: We, the members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, in recognition of your loving service and leadership of this congregation as minister, ask if you will accept the title and henceforth serve us as Minister Emerita?

Greeting One Another

*Unison Covenant

Mark Caswell, 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

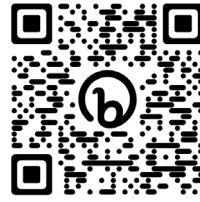
8
ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
ca - da tie - rra, ca - da voz. A - men.

Reflection

Carmen Barsody

Offering

This week's offering aims to raise \$2,000 for the **Open Door Legal Garden Cleanup Project**. So far, we have raised \$1,200 of the needed amount. 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. To learn more 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, **09-14-25**.



Offertory Music *Walk Together, Children*

arr. Moses Hogan
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director

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 *The Road Home*

Stephen Paulus
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director

Sermon "Revisiting Stories: The Prodigal Son and Belonging"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 1018

Come and Go with Me

arr. Kenny Smith

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 7-8 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Brief Invitations

Linda Enger, Vice Moderator, Board of Trustees

*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.

Come to the Celebration of Rev. Alyson Jacks!





PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Rev. Margot Campbell Gross, Minister Emerita
Rev. Alyson Jacks, Minister Emerita
Carmen Barsody, Worship Associate
Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern
Linda Enger, Vice Moderator, Board of Trustees

Sunday Support

Shulee Ong; Eric Shackelford; Alicia Cover; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators
Desired Effect, Sound
Kelvin Jones; Matias Pineda Salazar; Francisco Castellanos, Sextons
Judy Payne, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist
UUSF Choir
Mark Sumner, Music Director
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Open Door Legal Garden Cleanup Project

This week's offering aims to raise \$2,000 for the **Open Door Legal Garden Cleanup Project**. So far, we have raised \$1,200 of the needed amount. 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. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to this cause!



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

1018 Come and Go with Me

Easy swing ♩ = 120

1. Come and go — with me to that land, — Come and go
free - dom in that land, — There'll be

with me to that land, — Come and go — with me to that land
free - dom in that land, — There'll be — free-dom in that land

— where I'm bound. — (where I'm bound) — Come and go
— where I'm bound. — (where I'm bound) — There'll be

Chord symbols: F, B^b7, F7, F7/E^b, B^b, F/C, Dm, Dm/C, G/B, G7, G7, C, C7, C7/B^b, C6

Words & music: African-American spiritual, slavery period,
arr. Kenny Smith, 1965 -

Come and Go with Me - 2

F FM7 F F7 B \flat

with me to that land, — Come and go with me to that
free - dom in that land, — There'll — be free - dom in that

F/C F/A B \flat M7 Dm/C F/C C7

land, — Come and go with me to that land —
land, — There'll — be free - dom in that land —

Am/C C7 F C7 F

1, 2, 3 4

— where I'm bound. — 2. There'll be —
— where I'm bound. — 3. (There'll be) —

8vb

3. There'll be justice in that land. . .
4. There'll be singin' in that land. . .

TODAY!

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 morning forum to support those affected by ICE, with doors opening at 9 am for breakfast. The forum will feature presentations on ICE facts, personal testimonials, and initiatives for Sanctuary church commitments, followed by breakout groups discussing various support tasks. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in initiatives like court accompaniment, emergency assistance, and planning for Immigrant Appreciation Day on October 18.

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 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>

Spread Love: Join Our Card Ministry After Service

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. Be part of this ministry, which means a great deal to community members that are unable to be with us in person. Cards, notes, stickers, and postage are all furnished.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Refuse Fascism: The Trump Regime Must Go - Sunday Forum, September 21 at 9:30 am in the TSK Room and on Zoom

On September 21, Refuse Fascism will be here to discuss the need to remove the Trump regime, starting with protests on November 4, 2025. They argue that fascism is already present and call for millions to rise against it. The movement plans to flood Washington, D.C. with nonviolent protests, surrounding key government buildings. A coalition of faith, community, and civic groups is encouraged to join this effort, drawing inspiration from historical social movements. The urgency is emphasized, stating that failure to act could have dire consequences for future generations. More info and links to Zoom can be found at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>.

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.

Join the Neighborhood Flamekeepers: Ignite Community Connections - Sunday, September 21, 12:30 pm, Chapel

Affiliated Community Minister Rev. Seanan Fong's community ministry, the **San Francisco Contemplarium**, is launching a new program called the Neighborhood Flamekeepers—a multigenerational community of neighbors who care for their neighborhood through human connection and emotional support, while supporting and learning from each other. We would love folks from UUSF of all generations and backgrounds to apply. To learn more, please join him for an info session after service on Sunday, September 21, at 12:30pm in the Chapel.

Afternoon Jazz with Shannon Wardo, Bob Phillips and Camellia Latta Sunday, September 21, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary

Join us for an enchanting afternoon of music with Shannon Wardo and Bob Phillips, as they perform beloved jazz standards from their 2022 CD, *A Moment with Bob*. Shannon, known for her angelic voice, has a deep passion for jazz, while Bob is a celebrated jazz pianist from the Monterey Peninsula. The concert will also feature the mesmerizing flutist Camellia Latta, enhancing the experience with her soul-stirring sound. This event is part of the Starr King Way Performance Series (SKWPS) and promises to be an unforgettable experience!



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.

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.

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)

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>

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

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.

CHILDREN/YOUTH: All ages are welcome in the Sanctuary for service. Children/youth and their parents/guardians are invited to sit together in the first few rows of pews. Most Sundays, we also offer a variety of age-specific programming; turn to the back of the Order of Service for today's offerings.

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. To read our new dog policy (as of July 2025), visit <https://bit.ly/uudogpolicy>.

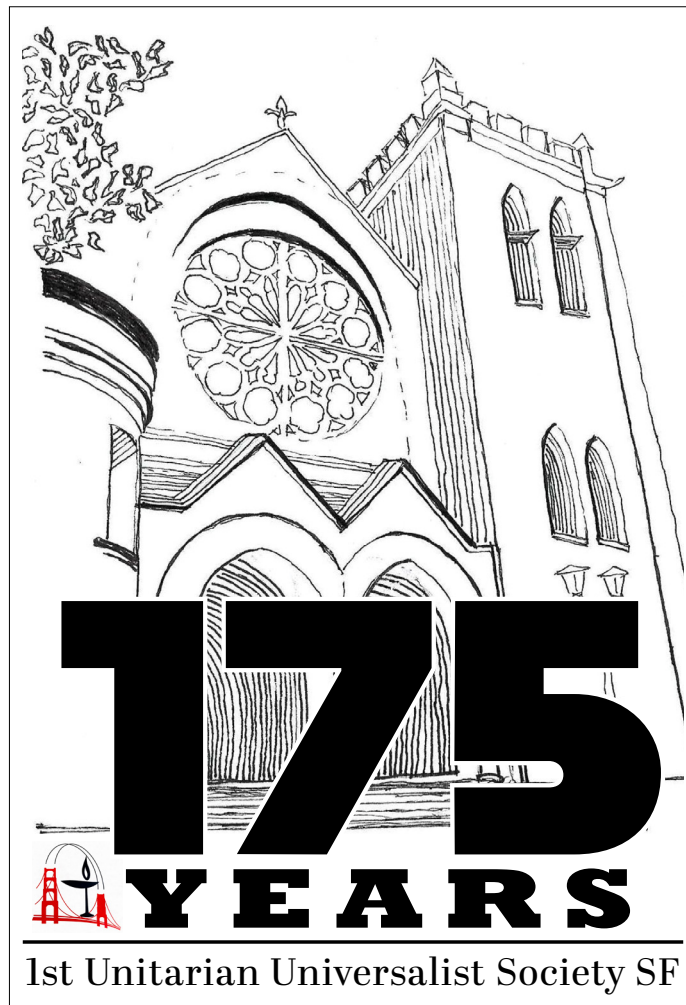
HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICE: We can provide hearing assistance devices for the service. These are with the ushers in the back of the sanctuary, who will help you get oriented and comfortable with one.

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!

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/newcomersguideuusf>)



The 175th Anniversary Celebration

Join us in celebrating 175 years of community at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco! This milestone event honors our ancestors, celebrates our current community, and looks forward to future generations. We invite you to our anniversary luncheon on Sunday, October 26, 2025, starting at 12:30 PM in the King Rooms, where we will enjoy lively entertainment, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a live auction.

Invitations will be sent out soon, and we kindly ask that you RSVP to help us provide an accurate count for catering.

In addition to the luncheon, we will uplift our spirits throughout October with a series of special services. Rev. Dianne Miller will preach on October 12, followed by Rev. John Buehrens on October 19, and concluding with Rev. Vanessa Southern on October 26. Join us as we commemorate our rich heritage and celebrate the achievements that have shaped our community.

CELEBRATING



175 YEARS

UUSF's 175th Anniversary Silent Auction Coming Soon

UUSF's 175th Anniversary Silent Auction goes LIVE on Sunday, October 5,
less than a month away!

Donations to our silent and live auctions are now appearing on our auction website at UUSF.org/auction. This is a beautiful thing as we work to strengthen our church financially after financial setbacks with a long-term tenant.

We are thankful to those of you who have already posted your donations of services, experiences, parties, entertainment, trips, and treasures to our auction website. For those of you who are still mulling over the details of your offering or have questions, please contact us. Or catch us at the 175 Celebration table in the gallery on Sundays. If you already know what you want to offer, go to UUSF.org/auction or use the QR code below.

Want to give your item the very best chance for multiple bids? Then donate early, as Silent Auction items are posted in the order in which they are received. Want to talk your idea over with someone or simply repost last year's item?

Please do not hesitate to email, text, or call Cheryl at cdd.mft@gmail.com or 415-282-2200. Again, that's UUSF.org/auction, or use the QR code below.



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>

This Sunday (Sept 14):

- Preschool/Nursery will be in Classroom A from 10:45am to 12:15pm.
- Grades K-5 will start in the Sanctuary at 11am, exit during the Doxology, and then have class in Kincaid until 12:15pm.
- Grades 6-12 will not have class, and are instead encouraged to volunteer in the congregation or attend worship.