

"Building Belonging in the Midst of Differences"

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





Order of Service

Sunday September 21, 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>O Come, You Longing Thirsty Souls</i> Ciacona in E - minor	FOREST GREEN / Richard Purvis Dietrich Buxtehude Reiko Oda Lane, organist
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Opening Words and Welcome	Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
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Unison Chalice Lighting	Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern
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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. Light 3. Song 4: Voice

Greeting One Another

Time for All Ages “The Sign of the Tassel”

Rev. Laura Shennum

*Unison Covenant

Mark Caswell

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.

Reflection

Mark Caswell

Offering

Rev. Laura Shennum

In honor of September being Suicide Awareness Month, today's offering will go to support **San Francisco Suicide Prevention**. The mission of San Francisco Suicide Prevention is to provide emotional support, education, assistance, and intervention as necessary to all individuals in crisis and those impacted by them, with the goal of reducing suicides and self-destructive behaviors. The 24-hr hotline is 415-781-0500, and the 24-hr text hotline is 415-200-2920. You can learn more about their services at <https://www.sfsuicide.org/>. 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, **09-21-25**.



Offertory Music *Pie Jesu* Andrew Lloyd Webber
Katie Ivie, soprano; Emanuela Nikiforova, violinist; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

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 *Solace* Scott Joplin
Emanuela Nikiforova, violinist; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Reading Excerpt from "The Power of Bridging:
How to Build a World Where All Belong" by John A. Powell Mark Caswell

Music *Belonging* Marie-Claire Saindon
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director

The air moves in me and I move in the air,
The purity of water flows through me and the sun's sacred energy gives me life.
I am on the earth and I am of the earth,
The purity of water flows through me and the sun's sacred energy gives me life.
Although I am but a fragile singularity, a simple brushstroke upon the canvas of creation,
I have a head full of ideas and a heart full of love.....like you,
like you, like you, like you.
—Paul Grindlay

Sermon "Building Belonging in the Midst of Differences" Rev. Laura Shennum

*Hymn 1023 *Building Bridges* Quaker Round
([CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 7 TO VIEW HYMN](#))

Brief Invitations Carl Cade, Trustee

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice Rev. Laura Shennum

Postlude *Connected* Brian Tate
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Offertory Update

On Sept. 14 we took the offering for Open Door Legal's Garden Cleanup Project, and we raised a total of \$854.



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern

Carl Cade, Trustee

Sunday Support

Shulee Ong; Eric Shackelford; Alicia Cover; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators

Jonathan Silk, Communications Director

Kelvin Jones; Matias Pineda Salazar; Francisco Castellanos, Sextons

Amy Kelly, Flowers

Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

UUSF Choir

Mark Sumner, Music Director

Katie Ivie, soprano

Emanuela Nikiforova, violinist;

Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Faiths4ClimateJustice:

Date & Time:

Sunday September 21st
Before & after service



Location:

First UU San Francisco
Courtyard

Resource Fair

Sun Day is an all-ages celebration of
clean energy and **climate action**.

Music Food & Games

Learn about...

Plug-in solar & rooftop solar

Find EV Rebates

Write postcards to legislators

DIY bird feeders

DIY air purifiers

And so much more!

Demystify clean energy and learn
local, doable, and joyful ways to
GREEN your home and life.

Hosted by the
Environmental Justice
Working Group

Building Bridges

1023

$\text{♩} = 96$

1 Fm Cm Fm Cm

Build - ing Bridg-es — be - tween our di - vi - sions, — I

2

reach out to you, will you reach out to me? With

3

all of our voic-es — and all of our vi - sions,

4

friends, we could make such sweet har - mo - ny.

Words: The women of Greenham Common peace occupation in England, 1983

Music: Contemporary English Quaker Round



TODAY!

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.

Young Adults Lunch - Sunday, September 21, 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

Join us for the Young Adults Lunch on Sunday, September 21 at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room, where we will order food for delivery to accommodate our growing group. This month, lunch is complimentary from UUSF as a thank you for our community's growth. No registration is needed; just drop in and enjoy!

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>

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

Join us for an enchanting afternoon of music with Shannon Warto 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!



UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Join the UUSF Food Pantry: Volunteer, Help Families, and Make a Difference! - Saturday, September 27

Join the UUSF Food Pantry on Saturday, September 27, from 8:15 am to 11:15 am at Old First Presbyterian Church to volunteer and help families in need. Parking vouchers are available, and families with children aged 5 and older are welcome to participate; sign up by going to <https://www.uusf.org/foodpantry>

Are you interested in Small Group Ministry?

We are assessing interest in Small Group Ministry and considering forming groups this year. These groups consist of 8-10 people who meet bi-monthly to discuss relevant themes and topics. If you're interested, please click the link at <https://t.ly/2025SGM> to express your interest.

Embrace Aging: Exclusive Screening of 'Grains of Sand' and Creative Workshop - Sunday, October 5, 12:30 pm, TSK

Join us on Sunday, October 5th, for an exclusive screening of the documentary 'Grains of Sand' followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Sarah Gross. The event begins at 12:30 pm with a light lunch, and the film starts at 1:00 pm. After the screening, participate in a collage workshop exploring friendship and creativity in aging, led by Sarah Gross and Suzanne Gibson. Space for the workshop is limited to 20 participants, so be sure to register at <https://t.ly/GrainsofSand>

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROGRAMING uusf.org/are

The Story of Horatio Stebbins: A 175th Anniversary Lecture - Monday, October 20, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm (On Zoom)

Rev. John Buehrens will lead a lecture on the life of Horatio Stebbins on October 20 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm via Zoom. Stebbins served as a pastor for 36 years, making significant contributions to the community, including saving Mark Twain's life and helping establish universities. He overcame personal challenges and scandals, gaining respect from a diverse range of individuals. Interested participants can register at <https://uusf.org/are#story-of-stebbins>.

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

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>.

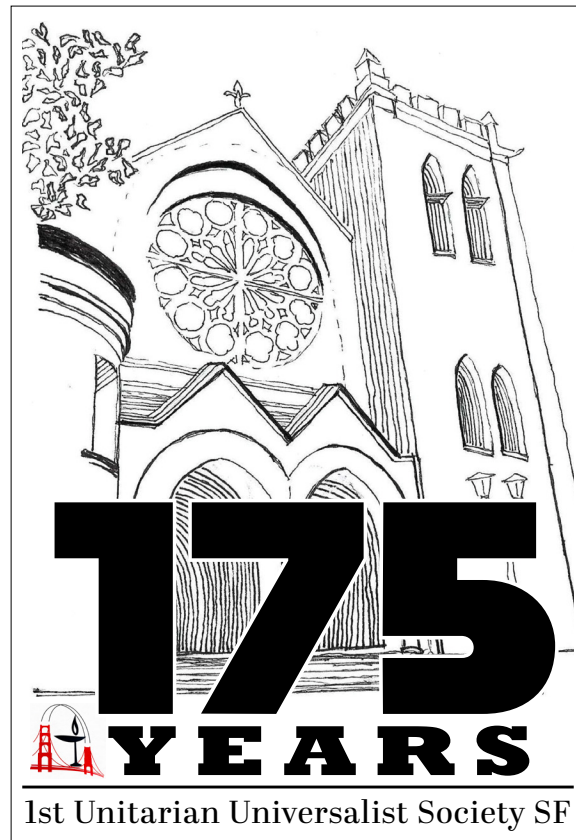
HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICE: We can provide hearing assistance devices for the service. These are with the ushers in the back of the sanctuary, who will help you get oriented and comfortable with one.

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>)



Join us for a festive luncheon and inspiring services as we honor 175 years of spirit, song, and solidarity!

Luncheon Details

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: King Rooms

Enjoy lively entertainment, delicious food, refreshing libations, and a live auction!

RSVP Required!

Individual invitations to the luncheon have been mailed. Please respond soon.

To RSVP go to <https://www.uusf.org/175> or scan the QR Code

****Special Services Throughout October:****

- Rev. Dianne Miller on October 12
- Rev. John Buehrens on October 19
- Rev. Vanessa Southern on October 26



****Online Lecture:**** Join Rev. John Buehrens on October 20 for an engaging discussion on Horatio Stebbins, a key figure in our history.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our rich heritage and the achievements that have shaped our community! <https://uusf.org/are#story-of-stebbins>

CELEBRATING



175 YEARS

UUSF's 175th Anniversary Silent Auction Is Just 3 Weeks Away

We are seeking quality wine donations for UUSF's 175th Anniversary Silent Auction, happening in just 3 weeks! Please consider donating a bottle of wine valued at \$20 or more to help create auction cases. Donations can be dropped off at the Auction Table on Sundays or at the front desk during the week, with a deadline of Sunday, October 12th.

For more information, contact **Thad Smith** at 630smith@gmail.com.

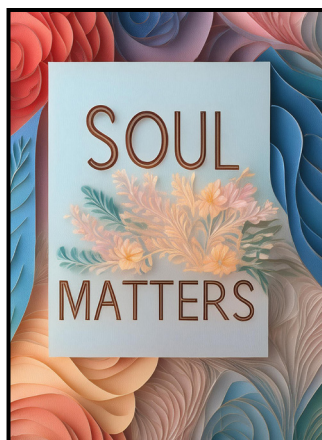
Additionally, we welcome donations of services, experiences, and more—visit UUSF.org/auction to contribute or check out the items already listed.

If you have questions or wish to discuss your donation, feel free to reach out to Cheryl at cdd.mft@gmail.com or 415-282-2200.

UUSF's 175th Anniversary Silent Auction Is Just 3 Weeks Away so now is the time to enter donations of services, experiences, parties, entertainment, trips, and treasures.

Just go to our auction website: UUSF.org/auction or scan the QR Code below.



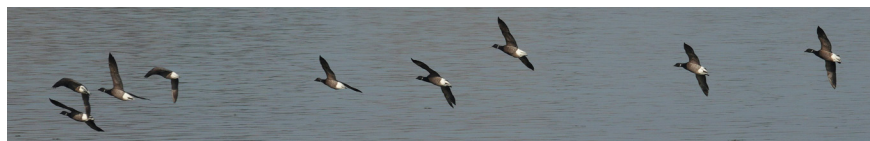


September: Building Belonging uusf.org/soulmatters

"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."



Visio Divina: 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/imageofthethmonth-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

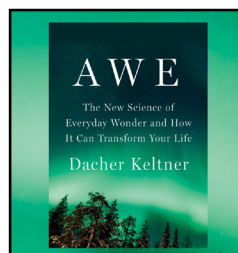
Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life by Dacher Keltner

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>

ART SHOW

UUSF Family and Friends Art Show

Discover the amazing creativity of more than forty-three artists at the UUSF Family and Friends art show in the Kings Gallery. There is also artwork for sale! Art Committee chair Paul Kensinger can be reached via email at clrquest@aol.com, or go to the church office to inquire about a piece you are interested in.



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>

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.