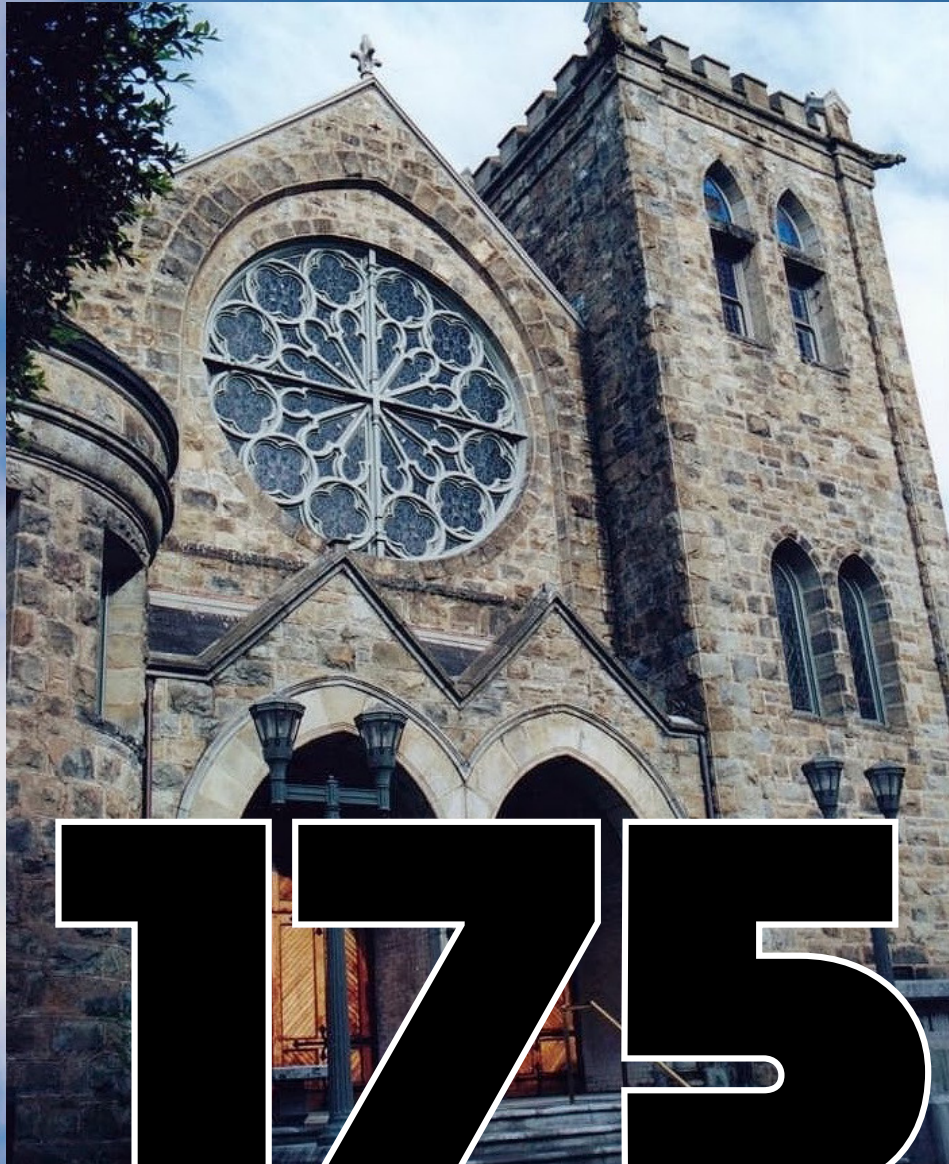


"The Rest of The Story"

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



175



YEARS

1st Unitarian Universalist Society SF

Order of Service
Sunday October 12, 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/newcomersguideuusf>)

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	Concerto, I. Overture	Friedrich Gulda
		Christoph Wagner, cellist; Joanne Kong, pianist

Opening Words and Welcome	Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
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Unison Chalice Lighting

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

*Hymn words from Hymn 33, *Sovereign and Transforming Grace*
to the tune of Hymn 2, *Down the Ages We Have Trod*
(Listen to the tune and follow along!)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Sovereign and transforming Grace,
we invoke your quickening power;
reign the spirit of this place,
bless the purpose of this hour. | 2. Holy and creative Light,
we invoke your kindling ray;
draw upon our spirit's night,
as the darkness turns to day. | 3. To the anxious soul impart
hope, all other hopes above;
stir the dull and hardened heart,
with a longing and a love. |
|--|---|--|

Greeting One Another

Time for All Ages "Everyday mysteries"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Unison Covenant

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its prayer.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in freedom, and to help one another.

*Doxology

TALLIS' CANON



From all that dwell be - low the skies; let songs of hope and
De to - dos ba - jo el gran sol; sur - ja, es - pe - ran - za

5
faith a - rise; Let peace, good - will on earth be sung through
fé, a - mor; ver - dad, y be - lle - za can - tan - do, de

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

Reading A prayer by Harry Meserve

Offering

The offering today will be taken to support the work of **The Sogorea Te Land Trust** (sogoreate-landtrust.org). They are an urban, Indigenous, women-led land trust in the San Francisco Bay Area that works to return Indigenous lands to Indigenous people through repatriation, cultural revitalization, and land restoration. Founded in 2012, it facilitates the creation of sovereign Indigenous spaces for ceremonies, language, food, and medicine, and calls for healing from the legacies of colonization. The trust's work is supported by voluntary "Shuumi Land Tax" contributions from non-Indigenous people living on the Lisjan Ohlone territory. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code below, please select the line for Special Sunday Offerings. 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, 10-12-25.



Offertory Music *Arioso*

Johann Sebastian Bach
Christoph Wagner, cellist; Joanne Kong, pianist

Meditation

Rev. Diane Miller

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 to this loss.*

In Music *Sarabande* from Suite for Solo Cello

Bach
Christoph Wagner, cellist

Reading “Letter to a Colleague” to David O. Rankin by Diane Miller, March 18, 1979

Music *Largo* from Sonata in g minor, Op. 65
Frédéric Chopin
Christoph Wagner, cellist; Joanne Kong, pianist

Sermon “The Rest of The Story”
Rev. Diane Miller

*Hymn 309 *Earth is Our Homeland* SYMPHONY

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

Brief Invitations Lucy Smith, Secretary, Board of Trustees

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice Rev. Diane Miller

Postlude Concerto, V. Finale alla Marcia
Gulda
Christoph Wagner, cellist; Joanne Kong, pianist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



175th Anniversary Celebration Coffee Hour

Join us for a special coffee hour following our service as we kick off the celebration of our 175th anniversary! Enjoy delicious birthday cake and the chance to connect with fellow congregants while welcoming a surprise guest. This gathering follows today's memorable visit from Diane Miller, our first woman minister, who will share unique insights from her time with us. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our history and community!

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Diane Miller, Guest Preacher
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Lucy Smith, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Sunday Support

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

Musicians

Joanne Kong, pianist
Christoph Wagner, cellist
Phil Browne, songleader
Mark Sumner, pianist

About

Diane Miller is a Minnesotan who went to Macalester College and then Harvard Divinity School, with a year out for anti-war activities. She began with an Interim Ministry at the Follen Church (yes, the women's group was Follen Women) in Lexington, MA (1975-76), before coming to UUSF, where she was Assistant Minister, Interim Senior Minister, then Associate Minister over the span of five years. She was called to Belmont, MA, in 1981, where she and Michael Durall raised two sons. She went on to serve as UUA Director of Ministry from 1993 to 2001, followed by several interim ministries, including Walnut Creek, CA. A final settled ministry followed before she retired in 2016 after 40 years of service. Drawn by grandchildren, she has settled in Salina, Kansas.

Christoph Wagner, a prize-winning German cellist and Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico, and **Joanne Kong**, a critically acclaimed pianist and harpsichordist from the University of Richmond and a prominent vegan advocate, form the renowned Wagner & Kong Duo, celebrated for their sensitive and passionate artistry. They will perform at the REFLECTIONS event on October 12th at 6 pm, featuring classical music, ethical food by Chef Kenny, and a community discussion on compassionate living. The event, located at 223 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco, has a suggested donation of \$50.

Offertory Update

On Oct. 5 we took the offering for San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC), and we raised a total of \$665.00.

Pod and Country Ep.6 Deja Coup

In this season finale, we speak with Bruce Neuburger, author of "Lettuce Wars" and "Postcards to Hitler," about confronting hatred and injustice. The episode features a satirical sketch and a musical segment, along with reflections from the podcast creators on their favorite moments. We invite listeners to share their thoughts at podandcountry@uusf.org. Listen now at <https://t.ly/podncountrye6>

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Earth Is Our Homeland

$\text{♩} = 112$ *Unison*

1. Earth is our home-land: a song of stars, a grace
 2. Word is our glo - ry, our breath of air, our cry!
 3. Mu - sic is won - der, an al - che - my of art,
 4. Hope is our high star, the cer - ti - tude love brings;

wrought of the a - ges, an o - pal spun in
 Par - a - bles, let - ters, or star - names in the
 love's pure en - chant - ment, com - mu - nion for the
 si - lence our cen - ter, our liv - ing wa - ter's

space! Dawn's far blue hill, soft night - time still, dark
 sky, or myths that play as po - ets pray bring
 heart! From chants to Psalms, from jazz to Brahms, no
 spring. Though ach - ing heart know self a - part from

⊕ Words: Mark L. Belletini, 1949- , and

⊕ Helen R. Pickett, 1929- , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association

Music: Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897, arr. by Fred Bock, 1939- ,
 adapt. © 1976 Fred Bock Music Co.

SYMPHONY

11.11.8.6.8.9.

HUMANITY: WOMEN AND MEN

o - cean depth, smooth stone — for gifts sub - lime that
 mean - ing to our lives. For ev - 'ry praise that
 soul may stay at rest. For star - ry choir in
 Whole and Mys - ter - y, for gath - er - ings of

hal - low time we'll sing, mak - ing deep thanks-giv-ing known.
 hones our days we'll sing, till the fi - nal day ar - rives.
 sky a - fire we'll sing, joined with them in an-them blessed.
 strength-en - ing we'll sing, through-out hu - man his - to - ry.



Events, Meetings & Volunteer Opportunities (www.uusf.org/news)

TODAY!

Physicians for Patient-Centered Care - Sunday Forum, October 12 at 9:30 am in the TSK Room and on Zoom.
A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 am.

The Physicians Organizing Committee (POC) is a volunteer group advocating for a patient-centered healthcare system and addressing issues like insurance denials. They will host a Sunday Forum on October 12 to discuss healthcare challenges and successes, including efforts to prevent department closures at East San Jose Hospital. More info and links to Zoom can be found at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>.

Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 12, 1:00 pm, Chapel

This service affirms respect for all life, reminding us that we are a part of the interdependent web of all existence. This ritual is in the tradition of Saint Francis of Assisi, namesake of our city and patron of animals and the environment. Our ministers and Kati Schmidt of Muttville SF Shelter Dogs will preside. The theme this year is "Recognizing the Worth of All Sentient Beings." Join us in this celebration with music, songs, and speakers! Bring your animal companions (or a photograph of them), and participate in this recognition of all the creatures of this earth! uusf.org/animalministry

The Silent Auction is officially open! Start placing your bids today and join us in celebrating 175 years of community!

The Silent Auction at UUSF.org/auction is now live until October 26, coinciding with the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco's 175 Anniversary Celebration and Live Auction. Participants can bid on various items and experiences, including parties, hikes, and wine tastings, with all proceeds supporting the church's mission to serve the community. Bidders are encouraged to participate generously, and anyone can contribute by donating unique items or experiences to enhance the auction's success. Join us in celebrating this milestone and supporting a compassionate, just, and sustainable future for all. To guarantee everyone has a seat for the party on Sunday, October 26, RSVP to assist us in providing an accurate catering count. The deadline for responses is **Sunday, October 19**. Thank you! (<https://www.uusf.org/175>)



AUCTION CATALOG

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

Preparatory Gathering for No Kings March - Friday, October 17 at 6:30 pm, Fahs Room

Let's get ready for the next No Kings March! The Unitarian Universalist EcoSocialist Network (UUESN) invites you to a preparatory gathering on October 17th at 6:30pm in the Fahs Room. We'll ground ourselves spiritually, have a facilitated dialogue, and make signs for the march happening on October 18th at 2pm. RSVP by emailing Gregory: gregory@interfaithpower.org.

Fall Hike in Pacifica - Saturday, October 18 at 1 pm

Join us for a fall hike in San Pedro Valley Park, Pacifica on Saturday, October 18 at 1 PM, where you can choose from various trails ranging from easy to advanced, all showcasing the area's beautiful wildlife and stunning coastal views. Meeting outside the Visitor Center, participants can access the park via public transit or arranged carpools, and are encouraged to bring their own lunch and snacks. For more details and to register at <https://t.ly/oct18hike>, contact Emma Wakeling at ewakeling@uusf.org.

Hansel & Gretel Reimagined: A Journey Through Memory and Childhood - Saturday, October 18, 7:00 pm, TSK Room

"Hansel vs. Gretel" will be performed on October 18th at 7pm in the TSK room, exploring the differing memories of the titular characters, now in their 80s, regarding their childhood trauma. The play raises questions about how our early experiences shape our identities and the complexities of embracing our past. Following the performance, a discussion will take place at the UU Forum, moderated by **Bruce Clements and Dr. Athena Papadakos**, focusing on the impact of childhood on our present lives. The event is part of the **SKWPS-Starr King Way Performance Series**, with a small donation requested and tickets available, email Mark Sumner at sngwtme@gmail.com.

Bruce Clements & Athena Papadakos: Post-Mortem on Elements - Sunday, October 19, 9:30 Forum

On October 19, Bruce Clements and Athena Papadakos will host a post-mortem discussion on the UUSF performance of Clements' play "Hansel vs. Gretel," focusing on adult perceptions of guilt and innocence from childhood. The event, featuring a light breakfast and a Q&A session with psychologist Dr. Papadakos, will take place at 9:30 am in the TSK Room and on Zoom, and prior attendance at the play is not required for participation.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROGRAMING uusf.org/are

Craft the Theme Small Group - Second Sundays, October 2025 to May 2026, 12:30 to 2:00 pm in the Art Room

Come engage in a small group process with craft materials and express what the monthly "Soul Matters" theme means to you. You need not be an artist to participate, just have a willingness to explore your creative side. This small group does not require a full-year commitment, but RSVP so we can plan accordingly. You are welcome to bring your own art supplies, and supplies will be provided. If you have additional questions, contact Debbie Wu at debbiestuff@icloud.com. Register here: <http://bit.ly/48Ke7n3>

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>.

Elder Wisdom Group - Second Wednesdays from 12pm to 2pm in the Fireside Room - Next Meeting Oct 8

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. There is no need to register. For more information, contact Minister of Congregational Life Rev. Laura at lsheenum@uusf.org.

Minister's Book Group - *Imagination: A Manifesto* by Ruha Benjamin - Wednesday, October 29, 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom)

Ruha Benjamin, a Professor at Princeton University and founder of the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab, explores the social implications of science and technology. Her latest book challenges readers to envision a world free from prisons and inequality, urging them to embrace the power of dreaming as a precursor to critical thinking. More info and to register: <https://uusf.org/are#mbg>

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/uconnections2024>.

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

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 (October 12):

- 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.