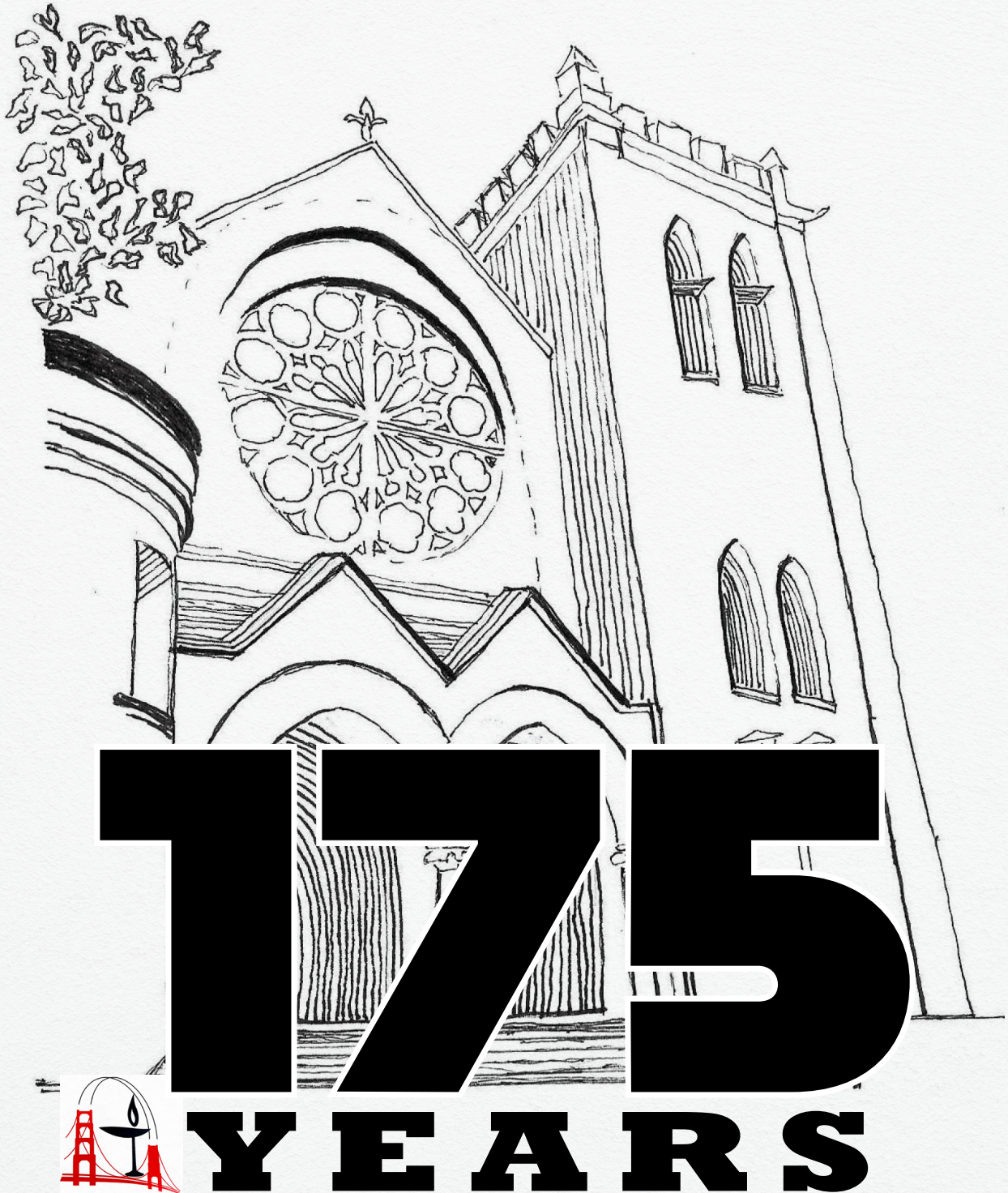


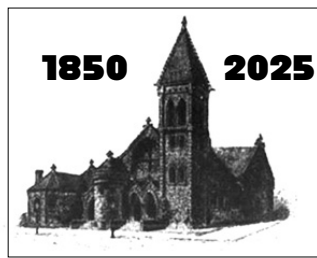
"Faith In Times of Crisis"

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



1850–2025 is 43,750 days, 1,530,000 hours, 91,800,000 minutes, and 5,508,000,000 seconds.



Order of Service
Sunday October 19, 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.

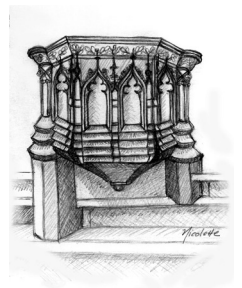
Please return items before you leave the sanctuary.

Prelude	Two Early American Hymn Tunes: <i>Amazing Grace - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i> Meditation from <i>Thais</i>	arr. Gilbert Martin Jules Massenet Emanuela Nikiforova, violinist; Reiko Oda Lane, organist
Opening Words and Welcome		Rev. John Buehrens
Introit	<i>Sovereign and Transforming Grace</i>	Frederic H. Hedge, 1829 Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS Mens Quartet, Emanuela Nikiforova, violin
Responsive Call to Worship 654		Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

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

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.



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

Brief Invitations

Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

Greeting One Another

Bell Anthem *Hymn to Joy*

Ludwig van Beethoven
UUSF Handbell Choir

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the UUSF Bell Choir. The occasion of the UUSF Sesquicentennial in 2000 resulted in a very quick and successful fundraising effort led by Carol Fleming for a three-octave set of bells.

Time for All Ages A Meeting with Emperor Norton

Rev. John Buehrens

*Unison Covenant

Dennis Adams

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.

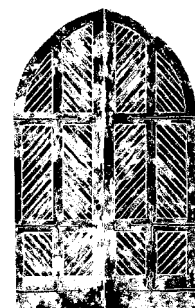
Meditation

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 to this loss.*

In Music



*Hymn

Sovereign and Transforming Grace

Tune: WOODLAND

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 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;
dawn 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. |
|--|---|--|

Reading

Music

Immortal Bach

Knut Nystedt
UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director

Sermon

“Faith In Times of Crisis”

Rev. John Buehrens

Offering

This morning's offering will benefit the work and ministries of **The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco (UUSF)**. Learn more at www.uusf.org/about. 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, 10-19-25.



Offertory Music

Hymn for These Times

Jay Rogers
UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director

*Hymn 404

What Gift Can We Bring?

Tune: ANNIVERSARY SONG

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 9 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Sung Benediction

Forman Benediction

Daniel Pinkham, 2001
UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director
Commissioned in honor of John Buehrens

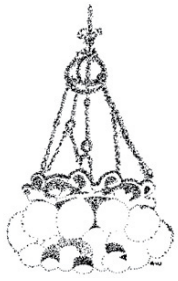
Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God, Op. 65

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

*Please rise in body or spirit.

PARTICIPANTS

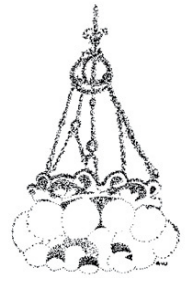


Worship Leaders

Rev. John Buehrens

Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees



Sunday Support

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

Jonathan Silk, Communications Director

Jose Matias Pineda; Francisco Castellanos, Sextons

Carrie Steere-Salazar, Flowers

Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

UUSF Bell Choir

UUSF Choir

Mark Sumner, director

Emanuela Nikiforova, violin

Wm. García Ganz, pianist



175th Anniversary Celebration Coffee Hour

Join us for a delightful coffee hour after the service to celebrate our 175th Anniversary! Enjoy the chance to purchase signed copies of John's captivating book, "A Religious Center with a Civic Circumference: Unitarians in San Francisco Since 1850." The book is also available online at <https://t.ly/UUSF-BOOK> or by scanning the QR code.

We can't wait to celebrate with you at UUSF!

About

Violinist **Emanuela Nikiforova** has a diverse musical background, influenced by prominent personalities in the Russian violin school and various esteemed institutions. She has performed as a soloist and in orchestras across three continents, is affiliated with multiple symphonies, including Santa Rosa and Marin, and also substitutes for notable organizations like the San Francisco Ballet. In addition to her performance career, Nikiforova is dedicated to teaching and promoting Bulgarian classical music as the music director of the Bay Area Bulgarian Festival Strings.

Offertory Update

On Oct. 12 we took the offering for **The Sogorea Te Land Trust**, and we raised a total of \$605.75.

IMPASSIONED CLAY

Deep in ourselves resides the religious impulse.

Out of the passions of our clay it rises.

We have religion when we stop deluding ourselves that we are self-sufficient, self-sustaining, or self-derived.

We have religion when we hold some hope beyond the present, some self-respect beyond our failures.

We have religion when our hearts are capable of leaping up at beauty, when our nerves are edged by some dream in the heart.

We have religion when we have an abiding gratitude for all that we have received.

We have religion when we look upon people with all their failings and still find in them good; when we look beyond people to the grandeur in nature and to the purpose in our own heart.

We have religion when we have done all that we can, and then in confidence entrust ourselves to the life that is larger than ourselves.

⊕ RALPH N. HELVERSON

287 Faith of the Larger Liberty

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. Faith of the larg - er lib - er - ty, source
 2. He - roes of faith in ev - ery age, far -
 3. Faith for the peo - ple ev - ery - where, what -

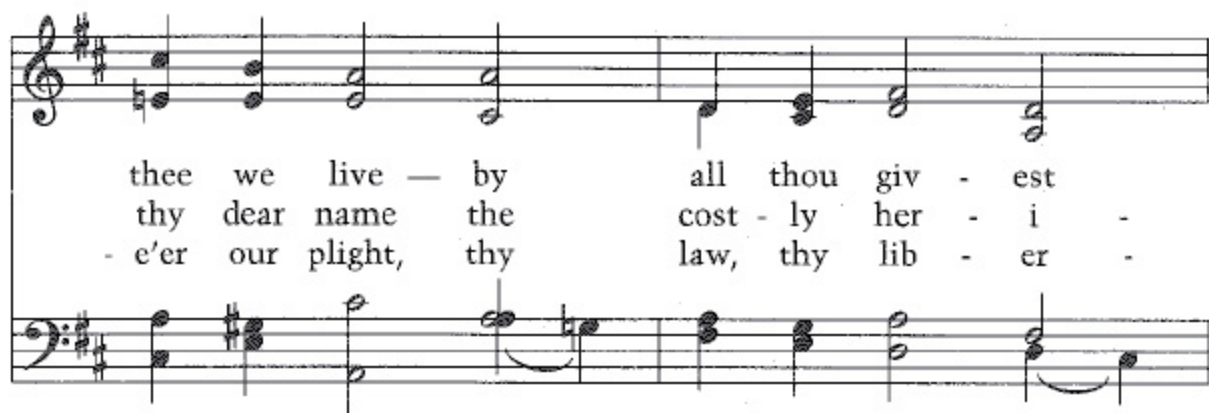
of the light ex - pand - ing, law of the church that
 see - ing, self - de - ny - ing, wrought an in - creas - ing
 ev - er their op - pres - sion, of all who make the

is to be, old bond - age not - with -
 her - i - tage, mon - arch and creed de -
 world more fair, liv - ing their faith's con -

stand - ing: faith of the free! By
 fy - ing. Faith of the free! In
 fes - sion: faith of the free! What -

⊕ Words: Vincent B. Silliman, 1894-1979
 Music: Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengesang*, 1566

MIT FREUDEN ZART
 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.



What Gift Can We Bring

404

♩ = 112 Unison

1. What gift can we bring, what pres - ent, what
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had
 3. This gift we now bring, this pres - ent, this

to-ken? What words can con - vey it, the joy of this
 vi-sion, who plant - ed and wa-tered so dreams could come
 to-ken, these words can con - vey it, the joy of this

day? When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re -
 true. Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for
 day! When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re -

joic - ing, what song can we of - fer in hon - or and praise?
 wor-ship, for mis-sion that bids us turn prayer in - to deed.
 joic - ing, this song we now of - fer in hon - or and praise!

Words & music: Jane Marshall, 1924- , © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

ANNIVERSARY SONG
 11.11.11.11.

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

TODAY!

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

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. Prior attendance at the play is not required for participation. More info and links to Zoom go to <https://www.uusf.org/forum>.

CELEBRATE 175 WITH US

Fund-a-Need: 175th Extravaganza - Glam Up for the Sanctuary

As we celebrate our 175th anniversary, we aim to enhance our cherished sanctuary, which has been the backdrop for countless significant moments in our community. To achieve this, we plan to raise \$135,000 to replace 96 cushions and install new carpeting, with initial estimates suggesting costs of \$100,000 for the cushions and \$35,000 for the carpet. Thanks to a generous \$75,000 donation from Stephen Gerard in honor of his wife, **Trudy Lionel**, we are well on our way to reaching our goal. Any funds raised beyond this amount will contribute to a future energy-efficient heat pump system for the sanctuary. Join us in making this vital investment in our worship space, ensuring it remains a beautiful and comfortable environment for all.

Exciting Silent Auction Now Open! - Website: <https://t.ly/175Auction>

Join our Silent Auction, featuring new items weekly, where you can bid on unique experiences and treasures! Highlights include a homemade wine tasting, season tickets to the San Francisco Playhouse, admission to the SF Museum of Modern Art, and a stunning antique wood chest. Bidding is open until October 26th, so don't miss your chance to outbid others for these fantastic items. Additionally, you can donate items to the auction, and if you need verification of our 501(c)(3) status, reach out to Cheryl today at the table in front of the 175 banner in the gallery. Remember, every dollar raised supports our vital programs, so get involved and bid today! Go to <https://t.ly/175Auction> to start bidding now.



AUCTION CATALOG

175th Anniversary Celebration Invitation

Join us as we commemorate 175 years of spirit, song, and solidarity on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 12:30 PM in the King Rooms. This festive luncheon will feature lively entertainment, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a live auction. Whether you are a longtime member or new to our community, this event is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our shared faith story. To ensure everyone has a seat, please **RSVP by Sunday, October 19**, to help us with catering count. Go to <https://t.ly/175Invite>.



LUNCH RSVP

UPCOMING EVENTS

Make a Difference: Volunteer at the UUSF Food Pantry!

Join us on Saturday, October 25, from 8:15 am to 11:15 am at Old First Presbyterian Church to support families in need through the UUSF Food Pantry. Families with children aged 5 and older are welcome, and parking vouchers are available; sign up at <https://www.uusf.org/foodpantry>. For more details, contact coordinator Hanna Hart at info@uusf.org with "Food Pantry" in the subject line.

Celebrate Diversity at the Immigrant Recognition Festival - Saturday, October 25, 1:00 pm, St. Mark's Square

Join us on Saturday, October 25th, from 11 am to 5 pm at St. Mark's Square for the Immigrant Recognition Festival, a vibrant celebration of the invaluable contributions of our immigrant community. Enjoy a day filled with music, local food, crafts, workshops, children's activities, and storytelling. This event is co-sponsored by several organizations, including St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the Latino Task Force,

COMING SOON IN NOVEMBER

Join us for the **MLIFE Foundation Annual Gala** on **November 1st from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the TSK Room** to celebrate 15 local disadvantaged youth who graduated from MLIFE's programs, showcasing their journeys and the impact of the Afrocentric 4Cs curriculum.

Media literacy educator **Riki Panganiban** will lead a talk on **November 2 at 1:00 pm in the Chapel**, connecting media literacy to Unitarian Universalist values and discussing their application in today's media-saturated society.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco and San Francisco Friends will screen the documentary "**No Other Land**" on **November 8 from noon to 3:00 pm**, followed by a discussion on apartheid in Masafer Yatta and ways for U.S. citizens to help, with

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROGRAMING

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 Nov. 12

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/uuconnections2024>.

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 19):

- 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.