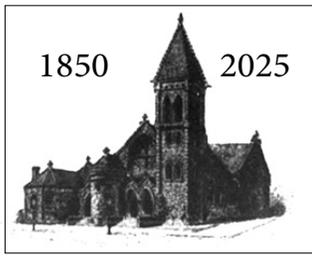


"The Art of Waiting"

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





Order of Service
Sunday December 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/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	Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel Pastorale In Dulci Jubilo	12th C. Plain-song, Camil Van Hulse Arcangelo Corelli 14th C. Lied, Wilbur Held Reiko Oda Lane, organist
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Opening Words and Welcome	Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
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Unison Chalice Lighting	Carmen Barsody, Worship Associate
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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 347

Gather the Spirit

GATHER THE SPIRIT

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 6-8 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Greeting One Another

Time for All Ages

*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.

Reflection

Carmen Barsody

Offering

The offering today will be taken to support the work Planned Parenthood (plannedparenthoodaction.org). Planned Parenthood offers frontline health support to those who often fall outside of our healthcare system—care that puts central to its mission the respect for the worth and dignity of its clients and their right to informed choices. Learn more about them on page 5. 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, 12-07-25.



Offertory Music

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Mack Wilberg

UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director; Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Responsive Reading “Advent” by Vanessa Rush Southern from This Piece of Eden
(Skinner House Books, 2001)

I couldn't hear myself think above the din of my surroundings
and when I finally did, I was surprised by what I heard.

I'd lived my life in restless banter,
but with a pause I met what had eluded me --

the part of me (and Her) that waited to be born.
In a flash the voices of my friends, abandoned, AND my children
AND my spouse could once again be heard.

And I knew then the price of racing, harried, through my life:
child, friend, lover, parent, Destiny, God made mute by my deaf ears.

No better argument for staying still was ever made to me,
nor happiness, in my entire life, more easily found and held

than learning to be watchful – listening, waiting, looking – for what watches,
waits and listens to be born.

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

Music *Lullay myn lyking* Traditional Old English
Maggie McGrann; Ben Rudiak-Gould; Laurel Sprigg; Phil Browne, soloists; UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director

Sermon "The Art of Waiting" Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 226 *People Look East* BESANÇON
([CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 9 TO VIEW HYMN](#))

Brief Invitations Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Postlude *Bring A Torch, Jeannette, Isabella.* A French Carol /Sharon Elery Rogers
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Carmen Barsody, Worship Associate
Galen Workman, Moderator, 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

Reiko Oda Lane, organist
Mark Sumner, Director
UUSF Choir
Maggie McGrann; Ben Rudiak-Gould; Laurel Sprigg; Phil Browne, soloists
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood offers frontline health support to those who often fall outside of our healthcare system—care that puts central to its mission the respect for the worth and dignity of its clients and their right to informed choices. Considering having a child? Find out more? Struggling with infertility? Also come for information and help. Want to get responsible birth control and protect your reproductive health? Great questions. How about how to have a healthy pregnancy? Please come! And if you need to explore what pregnancy will mean for you and what your options are, **Planned Parenthood** will give you information and trust you are making the best decision for your life and abilities. This and so much more is what **Planned Parenthood** offers. When the world exaggerates for outrage, see beyond the noise to what love and common sense ask us to offer one another. For this our offering will be given and gratefully received this morning.

plannedparenthoodaction.org

Offertory Update

Last Sunday we raised \$897.28 for the **SF-Marin Food Bank**. The mission of the SF-Marin Food Bank is to end hunger in San Francisco and Marin. Before the pandemic, one in five neighbors was at risk of hunger. Those who desire to join other UUSF members and friends in working at our local Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturdays can do so by visiting <https://www.uusf.org/foodpantry> for monthly updates.

Gather the Spirit

347

$\text{♩} = 108$

F Gm7 F7/A Bb Bb7 Eb/Bb

1. Gath - er the spir - it, har - vest the power.
 2. Gath - er the spir - it of heart and mind.
 3. Gath - er the spir - it grow - ing in all,

Cm7 Bb/D Gm7 G7 Cm7

Our sep - 'rate fires will kin - dle one flame.
 Seeds for the sow - ing are laid in store.
 drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.

F Gm7 F7/A Bb D7 Gm Gm7

Wit - ness the mys - ter - y of this hour. Our
 Nur - tured in love, and con - science re - fined, with
 Win - ter to spring, and sum - mer to fall, the

⊕ Words & music: Jim Scott, 1945- , © 1990 Jim Scott

GATHER THE SPIRIT
 9.9.9.10. with refrain

H O P E

C7 Bb/F Bb/F Cm/F Bb F/A

trials in this light ap - pear all the same.
 bod - y and spir - it u - nit - ed once more.
 cho - rus of life re - sound - ing as one.

Gm Cm7 F Bbm9/D D7

Gath - er in peace, gath - er in thanks.

Gm Dm/F Cm/Eb Bb/D Gm7 G7 Cm7

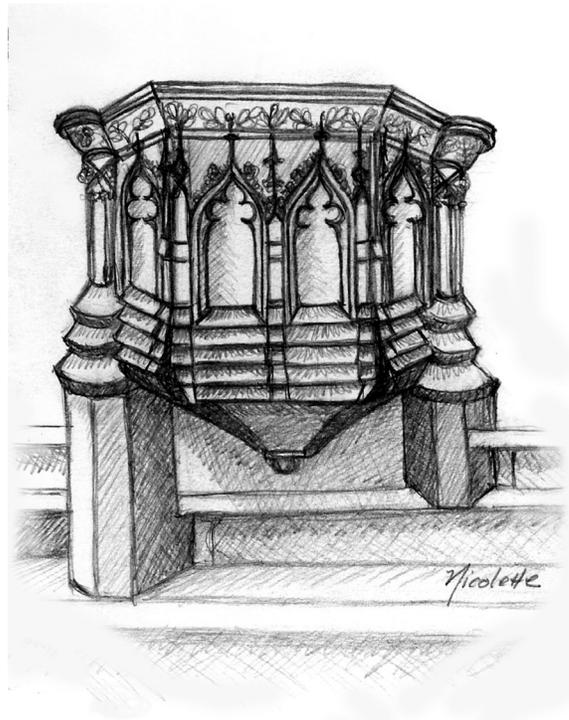
Gath - er in sym - pa - thy now and then.

D7 Gm Gm7 Dm7

Gath-er in hope, com - pas - sion and strength.

Bb7 Eb/Bb Cm7 F7 Bb

Gath - er to cel - e - brate once a - gain.



People, Look East

$\text{♩} = 54$

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y

Peo - ple, look
 a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.

east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965, used by perm. of David Higham Assoc. Ltd.
 Music: Traditional French carol, harmony by Martin Shaw, 1875–1958, used by
 perm. of Oxford University Press

BESANÇON
 8.7.9.8.8.7.

A D V E N T

TODAY



The "Festivals of Light" Holiday Faire will take place today, Sunday, December 7th, in the King Rooms, celebrating winter light traditions from various cultures. Attendees can enjoy a multicultural feast with vegetarian options and Christmas ham, along with a Victorian Tea Room for desserts hosted by children. The event features a Holiday Bar with drinks, 20 vendors for holiday shopping, and activities like a Poker Raffle and costume contests. Guests are encouraged to bring cash, meet new people, and have fun while supporting UUSF. There is also an opportunity to volunteer. See Cheryl at the Holiday Faire to find out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the UUSF Board Meeting on the **2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**, either in person in the Fireside Room or via Zoom. Members can share their thoughts or concerns at the beginning of the meeting; for Zoom access, email the Secretary of the Board at secretary@uusf.org.

The Elder Wisdom Group meets on the **second Wednesday of each month from 12pm to 2pm**, with the next meeting scheduled for December 10, where senior citizens can discuss important topics over a light lunch.

Join us for Human Rights Day on **Wednesday, December 10, from 12-1:00 pm** at the East Steps of City Hall in San Francisco. This event commemorates the 1948 Proclamation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and will feature readings of this historic statement by members of our Human Rights Working Group alongside other organizations. With human rights facing significant challenges in the U.S., activists will share their strategies for fighting back and how attendees can get

A dinner meeting with UUSC President Rev. Morn is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10, at 6:00 PM** in the TSK Room. The event will feature appetizers and a light dinner while discussing UUSC's recent activities related to Environmental Justice and Human Rights. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP to Marty Vanderlaan (sfmist@sbcglobal.net) or Linda Harris (linda.p.harris@gmail.com) for food preparation purposes.

Join the Environmental Justice Working Group for a Make Polluters Pay workshop on **December 11 at 7:00 PM on Zoom**, aimed at mobilizing faith communities to support climate justice legislation in 2026. Co-sponsored by GreenFaith, California Interfaith Power & Light, and the UU Justice Ministry of California, the event will explore the importance of accountability and ecological repair. RSVP at <https://t.ly/greenfaith>

UPCOMING EVENTS

New to this community? New to Unitarian Universalism? - Sunday, December 14, 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 us for Young Adults Festive Crafting on **Wednesday, December 17, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM in the TSK Room**, where you can create festive crafts like orange peel garlands and Waldorf stars while enjoying hot chocolate and snacks. Feel free to bring your own craft ideas, and contact Emma Wakeling at ewakeling@uusf.org with any questions.

Join us for the Blue Holiday Service on **December 18 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel**, a gathering dedicated to reflection and solidarity during a season that can be challenging for many. Led by Ministerial Intern Mark Caswell and Worship Associates, this evening will feature rituals and songs to honor those we have lost and acknowledge the stress that the holidays can bring. Come together in a supportive environment to share in grief and find comfort in community.

Join the Pagan Interest Circle (PICT) for a Yule celebration and potluck on Winter Solstice, **December 20th at 6:45 P.M.** in the Chapel, as we honor the return of the sun and the spirit of renewal. Everyone is invited to bring a dish or non-alcoholic beverage to share in this communal celebration of Love and Life.

Join us for the Young Adult Winter Solstice Soup Potluck on **Sunday, December 21 at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room**, where we will enjoy a nourishing meal with friends and celebrate the season. Emma will provide a vegan, gluten-free soup, and attendees are encouraged to bring sides like bread, salads, or desserts, with no registration required.

Join us for a magical Christmas Eve celebration on **December 24th at 4:45 pm**, featuring a heartwarming service led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, with candles and carols creating a festive atmosphere. To dedicate a poinsettia for the service, please email jsilk@uusf.org by Sunday, December 21, at 5:00 PM.

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>.

COMING SOON!

“Hanging of the Greens”

The service will take place on Sunday, December 14, at 10:50 am, in the Sanctuary and will also be livestreamed.

“Blue Holiday Service”

Thursday, December 18, 7:00 pm, Chapel/Livestream

“Holiday Pageant”

The service will take place on Sunday, December 21, at 10:50 am, in the Sanctuary and will also be livestreamed.

Caroling for a Cause Concert

Monday, December 22, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

“Christmas Eve”

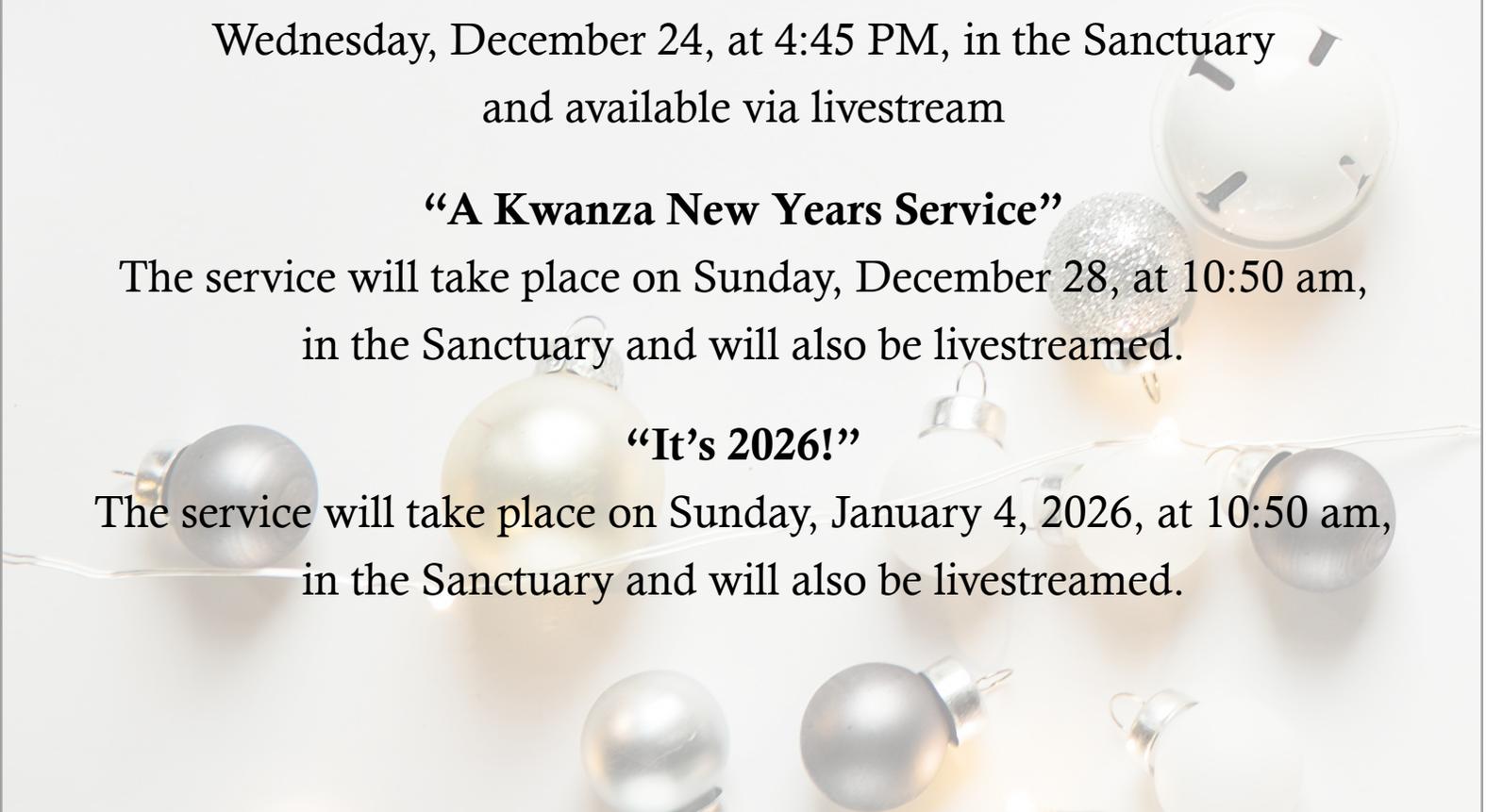
Wednesday, December 24, at 4:45 PM, in the Sanctuary and available via livestream

“A Kwanza New Years Service”

The service will take place on Sunday, December 28, at 10:50 am, in the Sanctuary and will also be livestreamed.

“It’s 2026!”

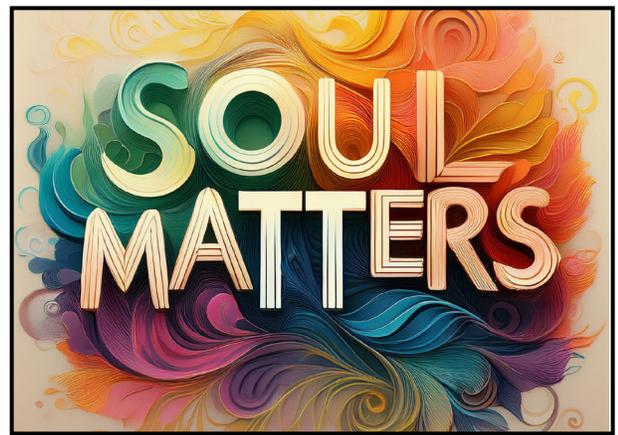
The service will take place on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 10:50 am, in the Sanctuary and will also be livestreamed.



SOUL MATTERS uusf.org/soulmatters

December: Choosing Hope

For December our question of the month is “What is a hope you’re taking into the new year?”



Our photo is one of the June 2025 No Kings protest in Dolores Park.

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

On June 14, 2025, Dolores Park hosted the inspiring “No Kings” protest, where tens of thousands of individuals came together in a peaceful demonstration advocating for democracy and freedom. This event was part of a nationwide “Day of Defiance,” showcasing the power of collective voices with over 2,000 related protests across the country. The gathering symbolized hope.

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/202512VisioDivina>

Poem of the Month

Hope by Rosemerry
Wahtola Trommer



Hope has holes
in its pockets.
It leaves little
crumb trails
so that we,
when anxious,
can follow it.

Hope’s secret:
it doesn’t know
the destination—
it knows only
that all roads
begin with one
foot in front
of the other.

Caroling for a Cause Concert Monday, December 22, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join us for “Caroling for a Cause” on December 22nd at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, where your ticket purchase supports local charities. Enjoy festive performances by the Golden Gate Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, the UUSF Choir, and Mistletoe Carolers, culminating in a lively singalong with an 80-piece orchestra. Tickets are priced at \$20 and \$50, with all proceeds going directly to charity, so don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate the holidays while giving back! Tickets: <https://t.ly/CarolingConcert>

Website:

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

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.

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 (December 7):

- 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.