

# Arts in Ministry and Shared Life

## Events for September

We raised almost \$30,000 at last year's auction for our "Arts in Worship and Shared Life" initiative. The impetus for raising this money was hearing in our strategic planning process of the desire for greater use of the arts in our life together. There was a desire to hear and see expressed, to celebrate and understand and be more embracing of one another's cultural histories and traditions. You also saw the arts as a way to bridge different generations and life experiences. And we all wanted to bring vibrancy and depth to our understanding of the arts and cultural traditions that are important to people in our city, important to people in our own community, and to invite all of us to reflect, as the arts so often do, on the biggest questions of the search for truth and meaning. These explorations would, we hoped, would add another layer to the extravaganza of joy in our life together, and build deeper connections among us. Thanks to the generous donations at last year's auction, we have some funds (and an excuse) to lean into this experiment together! Below is some of what is happening with that this month. Please join in with your ideas and participation!



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### Group Art Show & Reception!

Sunday, September 8, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, King Rooms

You're invited to the Friends and Family Group Artists' Reception. Look at the wonderful art in the TSK and MLK rooms. There will be refreshments and food to enjoy while you admire the wonderful artworks and speak with the artists who created them. This event is open to everyone, and it is free! We hope to see you there to celebrate the creativity and talent of our Friends and Family Group artists. Don't miss this opportunity to support local artists and enjoy a lovely afternoon surrounded by beautiful artwork. What are your outlets of creative expression?

### Starr King Way Performance Series (SKWPS)

#### Wagner and Joanne in Concert

Sunday, September 22, 1:30 pm, Sanctuary

Your new Starr King Way Performance Series (SKWPS) will soon feature the award-winning duo, Christoph Wagner and Joanne Kong, sharing some words to breathe UU life into some outstanding musical masterworks for cello and piano. Up On Top will provide lunch for those arriving early or staying after church. We will ask a suggested donation of \$20 for entry to the 80-minute concert. Keep an eye out for special news about how you can further support ARTS at UUSF! Website: <https://www.uusf.org/skwps> Questions? Email us at [skwps@uusf.org](mailto:skwps@uusf.org).

### UU of S.F. Writers and UUSF Arts in Ministry & Shared Life Initiative presents:

#### We Don't Need No Stinkin' Fascism! Writers' Hopes for Humanity.

Sunday, September 29, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, TSK Room/Zoom (<https://t.ly/9-29-24-uusfwriters>)

On September 29, a literary festival will take place at UUSF, featuring readings, theater, and music to protest against patriarchy, racism, militarism, and genocide, with readers and performers including Dennis Adams, Susan Anthony, Michael Bossier, Robin Larsen, Mari Magaloni Ramos, Kathleen McClung, Bruce Neuburger, Gregory Stevens, Tyson Casey, Starr King School of Ministry, and special guest reader James Tracy. Bruce Clement provides an introduction, while Senior Minister Vanessa Rush Southern will guide the discussion. RSVP: <https://t.ly/9-29-24-rsvp>

### Your ideas?

If you have an idea for a concert we might host please email Mark Sumner ([sngwtme@gmail.com](mailto:sngwtme@gmail.com)) and he will provide you with a link to an application to complete.

If you have an idea for any arts related event we might host that you would be willing to be a leader in making happen, please email Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern ([vrsouthern@uusf.org](mailto:vrsouthern@uusf.org)) and she will provide you with a link to an application to complete.



# September

## The practice of Invitation

What is in an invitation? It looks so simple—the envelope or virtual envelope we get with the invitation to join in some moment or adventure? A movie, a party? Or the hand extended from someone on bended knee and the larger invitation to join in a life together: Will you marry me? Seems so simple. Just an invitation. Want to join this church? Be my friend? Go climb a mountain? Get an ice cream? What is written and tucked in an invitation if it is real and with the potential to welcome the fullness of everyone invited to be in an authentic relationship? What does the practice of invitation, the spiritual practice of it, say about what we believe invitation requires of us?

## Poem of the Month

### September Is An Invitation

By Robert Lavett Smith

Think of September as an invitation.  
Along the Northern California coast  
Summer refuses to give up the ghost:  
Abundant leaves go golden with persuasion.  
The scrub pines have a sense of the occasion.  
They knelt before hard turbulence, supposed  
Tenacity could bear what wind imposed,  
And now have hunkered down for the duration.  
Golden October, waiting in the wings,  
Reminds us of kind seasons in the East  
That seemed to promise, oh, so many things.  
We have the ravens' word on this, at least—  
September is a month for offerings,  
That sees the year's munificence increased.



To engage in ancient practice of meditating on a piece of writing as a spiritual practice.

- Written instructions at <https://t.ly/VisioDivina-Instructions>
- Participate in our August 4th service and guided meditation go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaAugust>
- Or watch this video recording and have Ministerial Intern, Kate Steinberg, guide you through the process go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaSeptember>

Welcome to these invitations to go deeper. Website: <https://uusf.org/#soul-matters>