UUSF: What to Expect During Worship
A Guide for Newcomers

When are services?
- Service is every Sunday from 11am to 12:15pm. After service, we have time for coffee, tea, and socializing in our courtyard in good weather or indoors otherwise.

Where are services?
- UUSF is located at 1187 Franklin St, San Francisco, CA 94109. On Sundays the big wooden doors are open but during the week or if you arrive early for a program, come through the glass doors to the left of the main church building.
- If arriving by bus: the center is half a block from the 38/38R buses and a block from the 49 and Golden Gate Transit. We are about a mile’s walk from Civic Center BART or Van Ness MUNI station, but the walk is mostly uphill.
- If arriving by bike: we have space in our courtyard for you to park and lock your bike.
- If arriving by car: street parking is available near the center. As of January 2024, parking meters don’t operate on Sunday mornings. Please bring valuables into church with you to avoid car break-ins. We also have a garage (entrance on Starr King Way) with limited parking. Priority for garage parking is given to staff, the worship team, and those with mobility challenges.
- If you wish to attend our service over livestream, visit uusf.org/livestream for a link.

Do I need to sign up to attend service?
- No pre-registration is required; just arrive and enter the sanctuary!

What should I wear?
- There is no dress code for service, and head coverings are not required. Most attendees wear casual or business casual attire. Jeans are perfectly acceptable.

Can I get there early?
Yes! You’re welcome to arrive early to attend special events or just socialize.
- Most Sundays we have a Forum at 9:30am. During these events, a speaker presents on topics including (but not limited to) politics, environmentalism, and social justice. You can attend Forum online or in person; if attending in person, a light breakfast is provided at 9am. For more information, visit uusf.org/forum.
- Many members arrive between 10am and 11am to socialize or volunteer for committees. Starting at 10am, coffee and tea are available in our courtyard or inside if the weather is not cooperative. You are invited (but not required) to arrive early!
Can I bring my kids?
- Yes! Children and youth are welcome in the service or in Sunday School. For more information about Sunday School, visit uusf.org/cre.

Is the building accessible?
- There is elevator access into the building from the garage. For street-level entry, three doors are wheelchair-accessible but may require staff to unlock them during the week. These doors should be open on Sundays. The entrance to the ramp is on Geary, just around the corner from Franklin Street.
- The sanctuary, meeting rooms, social hall, and garage are all wheelchair accessible, as are one of two floors of our staff offices. In addition, the Church has recently done some accessibility upgrades, remodeling accessible bathrooms and adding two larger gender-neutral bathrooms. As of January 2024, we have two members who are in wheelchairs and regularly participate in the life of the congregation.
- In the sanctuary and two of our meeting rooms, large screens and quality sound systems make services and meetings more accessible to the hearing impaired. In addition, there are hearing-assist devices for worship. Just ask the ushers who greet you for one of those devices if you would like to use one.

Where in the sanctuary should I sit?
- Seating is not assigned, but some sections are reserved for certain groups:
  - The first two rows are reserved for children, youth, and adults attending with them during the Sunday School season.
  - There is designated seating on the left of the sanctuary for those attending with pets.
  - On the right side of the sanctuary, there is a fragrance-free section and a mask-only section.

What is your COVID policy? Are masks required?
- Generally, masks and vaccinations are no longer required at UUSF. There is a mask-only section of the sanctuary; if you sit there during worship, please wear a mask.
- Anyone who wishes is invited to wear a mask. Masks are available at the welcome table in the foyer or in the front office.
- If you are feeling unwell, have tested positive for COVID, or have been exposed to COVID recently, please enjoy the service remotely.

Do I need to bring anything?
- We don’t require that you bring any physical items.
- Please do not bring any open food or drink into the sanctuary. If your food or drink is in a closed container, you may carry it with you.
• We invite you to bring optional items to share, such as bread or flowers, for some special services. Check our weekly newsletter or our website for announcements about these occasions.
• We do take an “offering” each week during service. It’s voluntary. Three-fourths of the time it is for an outside organization or a special effort that serves some larger need in the world. One-fourth of the time it goes to the church. Baskets are passed for people to put money in if they wish to and there is a way to give online too. And, again, the giving is always optional.

What are those candles at the foot of the chancel, and why are congregants lighting them?
• 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 during service. You do not have to be a member of the church to do so, and you do not have to share why you’re lighting the candle.

What can I expect to see or do during worship?
A typical service includes:
• **A chalice lighting**
• Time to enjoy music performed by our organist, our choir, and/or guest musicians
• A sermon presented by a minister and a short reflection often by a member or friend of the congregation
• Times when the congregation is invited to read text in unison, either alone or in call-and-response with a worship leader
• A story for all ages
• At least one hymn sung by all attendees and accompanied by musician(s)
• Moments of silent meditation
• An opportunity to mingle and greet other congregants
• An offering, either for the church or for an external organization
• Announcements about opportunities to get involved at UUSF
• Our beliefs are diverse and inclusive which is reflected in our worship services. We have no shared creed. Our shared principles support “the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” For more about our beliefs, please see [www.uusf.org/beliefs](http://www.uusf.org/beliefs).

If anything else about your upcoming visit or after it is a mystery or raises a question for you, please reach out. We would love to add to this list for future folks and hope you feel welcome and prepared for your time at UUSF! Send your questions/wonderings to [info@uusf.org](mailto:info@uusf.org) or call (415) 776-4580.