

The St. Louis Unitarian

February 2017 Vol. 47 No. 8

Worship, RE and Nursery 10:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 2017 WORSHIP INFORMATION

February 5

“To Inhabit a Place

Rev. Gary James

Carole Watson, Dwight Homer and Sarah Dashner

“Wherever you are is home and the earth is paradise. Wherever you set your feet is holy land . . . You don’t have to live off it like a parasite. You live in it, and it in you, or you don’t survive. And that is the only worship of God there is.”

February 12

Valentine’s Day Sunday

“The Greatest of These Is Love”

Rev. Gary James

Reflections on the challenges of love, marriage and long enduring relationships. Love begins as a sonnet, but it eventually turns into a grocery list. Therefore you need someone with whom you can go to the supermarket. The big things you thought were so important, like a shared aesthetic, like all that intellectual compatibility, decline in insignificance. The relationship becomes a series of little things. On little things does a marriage rise and fall. . . . Like a mutual interest in drinking coffee and reading the paper at a leisurely pace. .

February 19

“Wild Thing, You Make My Heart Sing”

Rev. Gary James

February 26

“Money and the Meaning of Life”

Rev. Gary James

The annual canvass is a powerful teaching moment, providing us with the opportunity to help us think through and contemplate what is worthy of our devotions, what we truly value and how close we are to living our values. A wise man once said “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**Designated
Collections
See page 4**



**Midwinter
Meeting
& Potluck
February 11**



**New Member
Profiles**



New Members Are Joining

Page 5 & 10



**FAIR
TRADE
COFFEE
SALES**

**FEBRUARY 12
& FEBRUARY 26**

Minister's Muse

MINISTER, REV. GARY JAMES

After last Sunday's *Fireside Chat* following the service I have chosen to devote the minister's newsletter column this month to a statement I have written for my Ministerial Record, which is on file with the UUA, addressing my personal theological orientation. The question I was asked to address for the record was the following: *Theological orientation: What is your dominant theology, and how do you deal with other Unitarian Universalist theologies with which you may not be in sympathy?* I offer my response to this question as a way of bringing greater clarity to questions and concerns raised during our robust conversation. Yes, it is longer than the usual newsletter column because the question calls for a comprehensive response if I am to dispel many of the misguided presumptions regarding my "theological orientation."

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.
Frederick Buechner

I recently had a conversation with a newer member of my congregation. She had come to the church after years of infatuation with new age spirituality. She shared with me her strong sense of another reality. "I know there is something outside of me," she said. "I can feel it. I know it is there. But what is it?" I responded, "It may not be a mystery. Perhaps it is the world calling you."

That startled her. She had meant something more magical than that, more exotic and grand, something "above" rather than all around her. It had never occurred to her that what might be calling her from beyond the self were the worlds of community and value, the worlds of history and action – all of them waiting to be entered not as a saint or a mystic, but in a way more difficult still: as a moral woman or man among other persons, with a person's real and complex nature and needs. Those

worlds had been closed to her, had receded from consciousness as she had ceased to inhabit them fully or responsibly or lovingly, and so she felt their ghostly presence as something distant and mysterious, as a kind of dream in which she had little real and actual existence. The meaning of religion is oftentimes hidden from religious people. They dream, but do not understand their dream. That is to say, the incarnation of their dream and vision of the divine in the material world, and thus religion is preserved as a dream.

To make a home in history and flesh – that is the phrase that sings itself in and out of my mind these days, meaning the struggle we all must make not only to feel at home in the world but to remake the world so that it becomes a proper home for us. This is divine living! It is the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and mystical vision! The great Western dreams of justice and fraternity, of a community of equals, of a freedom that brings in its wake a generosity of spirit towards all other creatures – these, though they may be unobtainable in any permanent way, must somehow be kept alive, both in the private ways by which each of us determines right and wrong and in what we find we should do in the world. It is here that the promptings of the heart, guided by thought, open out into the ambiguous realms for which too many have learned such an unfortunate disdain: history, politics, morality – those realms in which we mix fact with value hoping to come as close as we can to what in our human fallibility we judge to be best or just.

Whatever one's *theology or a-theology*, be it centered in the teachings of Jesus, the Buddha, Robert Ingersoll, earth-centered spirituality, feminist theology, process theology, liberation theology, etc. - I respect and revere all of them - what creation demands of us is a kind of attentiveness, a wakefulness, and an open receptivity through which the world and others can be taken in and made a part of our own inner lives. My criteria for judgment is a simple one. Does this theology or religious school of thought enhance the quality of a person's life?

(continued on page 14)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

TIFFANY SEWELL, POLICY BOARD PRESIDENT

Why I Still Love First UU

It's February – among other things, the month of Valentine's Day. Last year, I wrote my February column about "Why I Love First U," giving my top three reasons I belong, I am valued and I make a difference. This year I wanted to resurrect the theme but with a more "we-centric" focus. Here are three reasons why I **still** love First UU:

We belong together.

This community of freedom, justice and peace provides a home for all who seek to understand what it means to be a citizen of our world. Take this month for example: whether we are together at the Feel the Love Coffee House (Feb. 10) enjoying a Trivia Night to benefit the Boston Trip group (Feb. 18) or volunteering at one of the many other opportunities presented to us, we do it so that we can live in community with each other. Additionally, our congregation has many opportunities to make your voice heard – from Fireside Chats with Rev. Gary (Feb. 19), to Policy Board (Feb. 14) and Church Council (Feb. 28) meetings, to joining and participating in one of the many available covenant groups. Ours is a congregation of people with complementary opinions on faith, spirituality and social justice – if you call this church home, work to make sure that your opinion is heard.

We value each other.

As Policy Board President, I have many opportunities to see how the members of this congregation value each other. I know that meetings of the Policy Board and the Church Council don't sound fun to everyone, but to me they provide a great example of the respect and value we have for one another. As with any other group of people, the folks at these meetings are rarely in 100% agreement about everything – wouldn't that be boring? Instead, our covenant encourages us to, "discuss, debate and disagree openly in meetings," which is much more exciting. I see these two groups as a microcosm of our congregation, full of people with differing opinions, working together to do what's best for our church. Whatever group(s) you participate in at First UU, I encourage you to live your covenant, value your peers and learn from each other.

We make a difference together.

I love feeling that I belong to a community of people who successfully join together to effect change in our world. As we move into a year (or two, or four) fraught with uncertainty, it can be difficult to believe that our voices are being heard. Most of us didn't get what we wanted in November, and many of us are apprehensive about what the future holds. I take solace in knowing that this church provides me with numerous opportunities to practice activism and work for the common good. Whether it's learning about how to challenge racial inequality via our Towards Justice group, gaining understanding from a presentation by our LGBTQIA+ covenant group, or making sandwiches to feed our city's homeless, we accept the daily challenge to make a difference in our world – one person, event or opportunity at a time.

As with my column last year, these are my personal reasons. This February I again ask you to consider: **why do you love First U?**

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

DESIGNATED COLLECTIONS: As a way of putting our faith into action, we as a church periodically dedicate one of our collections to a worthy non-profit or church program. 2017's designated collections are as follow:

January

Voices for Children
Partner Church Committee

February

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
St. Louis Artworks

March

Youth Group
Sandwich Making

April

Gateway Greening
Prison Performing Arts

May

Payback, Inc.
Pathways to Independence

June

Project Mathematics Education for Gifted
Secondary School Students
Hootie's Rescue Haven

July

Lighting the Path
Sandwich Making if needed

August

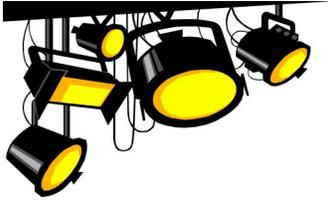
St. Martha's Hall.



UUSC (February 5th) has been supporting human rights and social justice projects all around the world for over seventy years. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crises.



St. Louis Artworks provides artistic instruction, life skills and job training for teenagers, most of whom come from a disadvantaged background. During the summer, between 75 and 100 apprentices participate in an intensive six week program. In the fall and spring, programs are offered to 30 to 50 apprentices on an after school and Saturday basis. As the teenagers collaborate with professional artists, and the businesses and organizations that often commission their work, they learn communication and teamwork skills that will be extremely important in later life.



New Member Spotlight:

Pamela Geppert

Music brought Pam Geppert into our church! She has loved music all of her life. The opportunity to join our choir was magical for her, but it was the depth and underpinnings of belief that brought her into First Church.

A ginger-haired woman in her sixties, Pam is friendly and talkative. She is a high school library media specialist in Ferguson, where teaching information literacy and encouraging life-long readers are her primary responsibilities. After a long enjoyable career, she will be retiring in June. She's looking forward to spending time with her family, traveling and being active in St. Louis area theatre community.

Pam grew up in the Catholic church and attended Catholic schools. She feels these gave her the basis for a good and moral life. Ironically they also led her to search for a more open, welcoming faith.

Pam has three grown children. Her oldest daughter, Maggie, teaches physics at a college in the Chicago area. She and her husband, Nathan, have two children: Miles, 6, and Ivy, almost 2. Her daughter Katy, is a chemist. She lives in the Tower Grove area with her husband, Tyler, and her 7-month-old daughter, Willa. Pam's youngest is James. He has a degree in oboe performance and works for a mortgage company in the Chicago area.

Pam has a large extended family. She was the oldest of 5 sisters, all still living. Two are in Chicago, two in New York. Her older brother lives in Miami. Her younger brother lives within a few miles of her. She shares her home with an adorable puggle named Chibi Buta and is seriously thinking about getting a cat again.

Although Pam is still learning about Unitarianism, she loves choir, coffee hour, and our friendly congregation. Welcome her warmly when you see her!

– penned by Susan Mueller, Spotlight Team



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES

February 12 & 26

Remember that we now accept *credit and debit cards* as payment through PayPal, in addition to cash and checks. All Fair Trade products sold at First Church support small-scale farmers and their local cooperatives in the authentic Fair Trade model. Thank you for being a part of this. It matters.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



On Tuesday Feb 14 the Women's Alliance will conduct a business meeting at 11:00 AM, followed by lunch at noon. Bring your own lunch; dessert along with coffee and tea will be provided. At 1:00 PM, Dan Livengood will speak on the topic "UU I Didn't Know I Was Looking For You....and Now That I'm a UU, What Shall I Do?" All women of the church are invited to join us for this fun meeting.

On Feb 28, the Women's Alliance will meet for lunch at noon. At 1:00 PM, Pam Gempel will lead us in relaxing with Coloring for Adults. All women of the church are invited to join us; bring your own lunch; dessert along with coffee and tea will be provided.

Deborah Richie

Op Shop

Be sure to stop by the Op Shop in Fellowship Hall to check out their bargains including lots of holiday decorations.



We also have two beautiful solid oak, "pressback" chairs \$30/each.

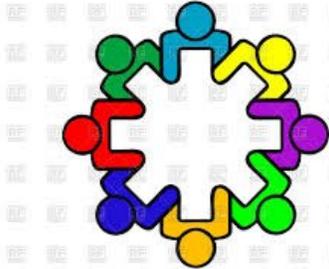
Come Feel the Love

On Friday, February 10, join the Welcoming Congregation Committee for this heart-warming event for allies and the LGBTQ community, featuring music, poetry and more. Come share a reading, a song, a dessert, and any other expression that celebrates the joy of human love in all its forms. You may also feel free to just bring yourself!

This free event is at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. You may also order a "Pronoun" coffee mug to enjoy your coffee while expressing your unique identity. Follow the link below to register for the event and/or order a mug, or look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fee-the-love-coffeehouse-music-poetry-and-more-tickets-30804529176>.

To sign up for a reading or a song, please contact George at g.grimhowell@gmail.com or 314-799-8585. To order a mug, contact Brittany at Brittany.hagedorn@gmail.com.



Board Notes – Policy Board meeting January 11

Church Money Collection. Kathy Wilke, Treasurer, presented policy and procedure recommendations for improving current money collection processes such as Sunday plate collections, memorial donations, fundraisers, reserve funds, gifts, etc. This includes procedures for acknowledging receipt of monies and providing donation and pledge contribution statements on a regular basis. Based upon further board recommendations these policy/procedure recommendations will be presented to Rev. Gary James and Yvette Clemons for further review.

Board Member Job Description – Talent Engagement & Development (TED). The board is currently reviewing and updating all Policy Board Job Descriptions. The TED committee (chaired by Joan Kindleberger) description was reviewed and approved with minor changes. Additional discussion was held on ideas to further obtain additional committee members and develop talent and leadership skills.

Settled Minister Process. The Board reviewed the UUA's Checklist recommendations for the planning and process for selecting a settled minister. It was agreed to follow the checklist with appropriate modifications as we proceed through the planning stage. Further details and recommendations will be presented with congregational feedback at the Mid-Winter Meeting, Saturday, February 11. Further details will be provided to the congregation on a regular basis.

Canvass Update. Dan Livengood, Canvass Chair for this year, provided an update on current planning. The Canvass will kick off at the end of February and run through April. Further details will be presented at the Mid-Winter Meeting.

Welcoming Congregation. Brittany Hagedorn, Church Council Membership Cluster Chair, gave an update on the committee's plans for the *Feel the Love Coffeehouse* to have logo coffee mugs available for sale.

Mid-Winter Meeting. Tiffany Sewell, Board President, provided an update on plans and various topics to be included: Minister Search Plans, finances, Canvass, Long Range Planning, and Interim Minister Transition Team.

—Larry Dusenbery on behalf of the Policy Board

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LYNN HUNT,

CREDENTIALLED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

Starting this month, I will be taking a three month sabbatical which is generously offered by this congregation to the Religious Education position every seven years. During this time I will not be involved in the day to day operations of the Religious Education program or general church functions. Rather, I will be concentrating in several areas of study:

Rewriting and updating our History of Religion curriculum. This is usually taught in the 4th or 5th grade and is a compilation of several older curricula. I plan to look at newer resources and update the lesson plans with fresh materials and background information for the teachers.

Review Anti-Racism Materials for Children and Youth. Much has changed in the last few years in this area and given the urgency of action that was required during and after Ferguson I have not had adequate time to study and review current literature and best teaching methods in this area.

Sunday School Models/Faith Development Structure. This is an area in which many people have been trying new and innovative programs and structures. With the daily demands of our current program it is difficult to thoroughly investigate other models and changes. After collecting data and having conversations with our families, this sabbati-

cal will allow me some time to conscientiously look at our current program and make recommendations for our future. The Religious Education Committee hired Sunday School parent **Andrea (Andi) Berin** as the half-time sabbatical sub. Andi will oversee the week to week needs of the program, communications and work with the committee on our monthly Chapels for children. In addition, **Augustine Underwood** and **Rhonda Buerger**, will continue with their excellent support of religious education. I am very grateful for this extended study time and looking forward to this occasion of study and rejuvenation. *Lynn Hunt, Credentialed Religious Educator*

For All

Trivia Night

Boston Trip Fundraiser

February 18th, 2017

Come test your knowledge of the obscure and have a great time while you support the Coming of Age Class trip to Boston. After completing the Coming of Age year, the class takes a trip to Boston to visit sites important to the development of American Unitarianism. The trip is funded through parent contributions, the operating budget of the church and fundraising by the parents and youth. This fundraiser is a great way to have a good time with friends and support this integral program of the Religious Education program. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall beginning January 15th (\$120 for a table of 8 or \$15 for an individual ticket).

A good time will be had by all!

Chili Cook-Off All Church Event

Join us for a congregation wide **chili cook-off on 19 February 2017** right after church services. Win braggin' rights for a whole year by bringing your favorite chili. Chili will be judged by the congregation with prizes going to first, second, and third place.

This event will include our annual puppet show.

Macaroni and cheese and fruit will be available for \$3 per serving.

What: Chili Cook Off and Puppet Show

When: 19 February 2017, 11:30 AM

Cost: \$5 per person gets you 5 samples, cornbread, and a drink

Why: Meet people throughout the congregation while having lunch, all proceeds go to the RE program

Where: Chapel

How: Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall by 12 February 2017

Questions: Todd O'Boyle at oboyle.todd@gmail.com

Unfish Fry is Coming!

The Unfish Fry needs you! Friday

March 10th from 5:00pm-

7pm the Unfish Fry Crew will be serving our annual all vegetarian meal that will be open to the public and we need your help.

Fun, good times and good food are promised for all. If you are interested in helping in any way: from cooking or baking to selling tickets or helping wash dishes and cleaning up, please join us! Being part of the Unfish Fry crew is a great way for new or long-term members to have

fun getting to know people. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall, the Unfish Fry Crew needs you! **Tickets will be on sale Sunday February 19th** in Fellowship hall after the service, at the church office, or at the door. **Adult tickets are \$8 and children's tickets are \$5.** This event is sponsored by the Religious Education Committee. Everyone is highly encouraged to attend and invite friends, relatives, or co-workers! This is a great opportunity to enjoy good food, music and fellowship and introduce people to Unitarian Universalism. The Unfish Fry Crew will see you there!

Unfish volunteers - There will be a meeting for volunteers after service on January 29th at 11:45AM in the Clark Room. Please come by to discuss our plan for this year!

For Adults and Youth Covenant Groups

In Covenant Groups people come together in a circle of trust, in covenant, to be in right relation with one another with respect and care. We cultivate deep listening as each person takes a turn in a kind of sacred space to express what stirs in them about the topic of the session. The careful listening enriches the lively back and forth interchange that follows. If you would like more information about joining a group you can: sign up in Fellowship Hall, call the Faith Development Office (314-361-0595 ext 25) or send a message through the website (<http://www.firstuustlouis.org/engaging/covenant-groups>). **Save the date for the next Toward Justice book discussion – *White Rage* – March 30, 2017.**

OUR NEW MEMBERS: MEET MIKE LUNTER



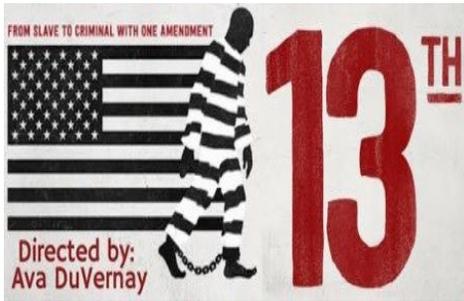
Earlier this year, Mike Lunter signed the First UU Membership book. Mike has always questioned dogma, and finds the most happiness in love and service. The loss of Mike's first love in the 1980s to AIDS inspired him to co-found Food Outreach here in St. Louis, which now supplies over 535,000 meals annually to people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and cancer. Mike's work in service to others inspired him to change his career path from retail to social work. After a year committing to self-care, he is opening his practice doors again next month!

Within the last 2 years, Mike left a marriage of 25 years, and he battled depression and addiction issues that almost took his life. He woke up one day to a second chance, and has marched forward to this point with strength and openness that displays louder than the beloved peacock tattoo on his arm. Mike's new partner, a UU, introduced him to the church in his home state, KY. After that visit, Mike decided to try out First Church. On his first day here, he remembers how Jeremy and Emily Colton made him feel right at home. As I sat outside of church with Mike, almost every person who exited had a hug or friendly hello for him, so it seems he has been here 100 years already.

Mike looks forward to a new adventure as his partner finally joins him here in St. Louis. It seems Mike has finally settled into the joy of questioning, and is working hard to surround himself with a community of people who value the journey. He is happy to be a member of First UU of St. Louis, and I look forward to getting to know him better, and his partner too. --
penned by Shannon Lawton-O'Boyle, Spotlight Team

**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**

Joy of Cooking Potluck and Midwinter Meeting—an evening for ALL church members and friends, **Saturday, February 11, starting at 5:30 pm.** Celebrating 100 years in our building *and* Irma Rombauer's classic cookbook *The Joy of Cooking*, many of whose recipes were tested and tasted in our church kitchen!! We begin with a potluck dinner of recipes from that great Cookbook at 5:30, then ease into a meeting to update all of us on the State of the Church midyear. Lots to eat! Lots to Learn! Everyone welcome! **Sign up in Fellowship Hall after each Sunday service.** No cookbook? That's okay—we can supply the recipes. See you there.



The Towards Justice
Committee Presents:
**“13th” Film Screening and
Discussion**

Join us for a screening of award-winning director Ava DuVernay's latest documentary, 13th. This film provides an in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how this system reveals the nation's history of racial inequality.

**This is not a documentary
to be missed!**

We will come together for a pizza dinner, watch the film and stay afterwards for covenant-guided small group discussion.

Saturday, February 25th
from 5pm-8pm in
Fellowship Hall

**SIGN-UP BY
FEBRUARY 18th
IS REQUIRED!**

Sign-up by contacting
Meghan at:
mgarvey11@gmail.com

OR

on the sign-up sheet in
Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a side dish
or dessert to share as
you are able!

RECYCLING



Don't forget....the church belongs to a recycling

program with **Quill**, our office supply company. The church receives rebates for recycling inkjet cartridges. Recycle bins are found in the copy area of the church office.



**DON'T FORGET
TO LIKE US,
FOLLOW US
AND CHECK-IN
ON
FACEBOOK**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FITNESS: BODY, MIND AND SOUL....

QIGONG OFFERED AT FIRST UU

- **Qigong** combines mindful, gentle, physical postures and movements with meditation, breath-work, sounds (mantras) and self-massage techniques to revitalize your Vital Life Force energies and to enhance physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual healing.
- **Qigong** techniques help to dissolve accumulated stress and fatigue, increase energy, and strengthen the immune system.
- Accumulated daily practice of **Qigong** movements and meditation build up a storehouse of Qi energy and also lead to enhanced concentration, improved mental focus, and greater intuitive functioning.



*Hour long Qigong classes on Tuesdays
at 2pm in Hope Chapel.*

These are pay-as-you-can classes.



TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Join us each first and third Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Clark Room. For information contact Stan Veyhl at (314) 863-3229 or sveyhl@earthlink.net.

DO YOU SHOP ON-LINE?



When making your on-line purchases be sure to log on to GoodSearch.com. Search for your items through Good Search, each search earns money for First Unitarian Church. The potential is SO MUCH higher...cost to you...ZERO!

Simply go to the GoodSearch website, log-on and input "First Unitarian Church of St. Louis" into the field that asks for what group you want to support. It's that easy.

It's a free and easy way to raise money for our church and get some of your shopping finished.

Each month, GoodSearch sends the church a check!



Don't forget to use your eScrip card when shopping at Schnucks. The church receives a percentage each time you shop. Don't have an eScrip Card? Stop by the sign-up table in Fellowship Hall and pick up one this Sunday. Simply register on-line and you are ready to earn money for First Unitarian Church.

ROAD TO MEMBERSHIP



Anyone who wishes to join our church as members should email Dan Livengood, our Membership and Involvement Coordinator, at dlivengood@firstuustlouis.org.

We will periodically set up a membership book signing session based on the schedules of those interested.

We warmly welcome you to our religious community.

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM JANUARY 2016

Let us keep in our minds all who live with grief or joy this day, those who are healing from illness or surgery and those who have family members who are ill.

—**Karen Siegrist** is at home recovering from surgery for a broken wrist. We send her our healing thoughts and prayers.

—It is with sadness that we inform you that the father of member and former Religious Educator for the congregation, **Gabrielle Farrell**, passed away on December 28th.

— We extend our sympathy to the **Herzog Family (Mitch, Jan and daughter Sarah)**. Mitch's father passed away on December 28th.

—We send our best wishes to **Mike Nolan** who had a fall last week and is now recovering in a rehab center.

First Church Food Project

Your donation of canned meats, fish and stews as well as jars of peanut butter and boxes of powdered milk can help individuals in need feed themselves and their loved ones. Donations of personal care products: soaps, body washes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, as well as deodorant and shampoos, are also welcome.

(*minister's column from page 2*). My experience has been that out of our open embrace of people – people of many different beliefs and religious sentiments - will arise a feeling of connectedness, out of which, in turn, the beginnings of a deepening more embracing conscience will make itself felt. Many of our congregations may need to be more welcoming of peoples of differing religious beliefs. Many may need to be more hospitable toward the theologies that speak deeply to people who have suffered, offering hope to those who have been historically oppressed. This may mean for some a reexamination and reclaiming of the biblical stories that have been a source of sustaining strength for African Americans and many others. But our tolerance and inclusion of multiple theologies, as well as our compassion for others, is not sufficient in itself. The experience of compassion and conscience needs to be acted outward and into the world: not spontaneously but with the rigorous thought and care and even cunning demanded of us by the complexities of the realities around us, the complex realms we call history and politics.

The only answer that can come to us will come from what we *do*, in how we learn to act as moral creatures, individually and communally, while making a future that does justice to the heart. The question we must answer is whether our *theologies* and *spiritualities* enliven our experience and give us strength to persevere, or do they mislead us into mystical realms, cloistered communities, abstract intellectual speculations and encourage a retreat from the actual world. The world, beautiful and treacherous, beckons all of us. Despite our reluctance to enter the world awake and responsive, where else does it make sense to go? Of what use is any enlightenment filtered through one's preferred theological and spiritual lens that does not restore a just and fully human world? If we listen, *all of us* will hear the World calling. It is insistent, calling us to heal and transform our lives and communities and begin the loving re-enchancement of the World itself. The free church - the church of all souls – welcomes anyone and everyone to join together in this great task.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Please keep in mind that the calendar is updated daily and does not show outside rentals. Refer to the Web Site calendar for up-to-date information.

Wednesday, February 1

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 2

5:00 p.m. - Facilities Meeting (C1)

6:30 p.m. - Toward Justice, (C1)

Sunday, February 5

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)

11:30 a.m. - RE Parent Meeting (CH)

Tuesday, February 7

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)

Wednesday, February 8

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 10

7:00 p.m. - "Feel the Love" Coffeehouse

Saturday, February 11

5:30 p.m. - *Joy of Cooking* Potluck Dinner

6:30 p.m. - Midwinter Meeting

Sunday, February 12

Newsletter Deadline/Fair Trade Coffee

9:00 a.m. - Sandwich Making for the Homeless

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)

11:15 a.m. - Visitor Orientation (DR)

11:30 a.m. - Knitting Ministry (C7)

Tuesday, February 14

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)

6:30 p.m. - Policy Board Meeting (C1)

Wednesday, February 15

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 18

9:30 a.m. - Moppet Swap (CH)

4:00 p.m. - Trivia Night Boston Trip Fundraiser (FH)

Sunday, February 19

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)

11:15 a.m. - Fire Side Chat (DR)

11:30 a.m. - Colton Covenant Group (C7)

7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, February 21

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)

10:00 a.m. - Newsletter Folding

Wednesday, February 22

6:00 p.m. - Long Range Planning Meeting (C1)

7:00 p.m. - MWM Men's Group

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 24

7:00 pm. - Young Adult Vespers & Fellowship (CH)

Saturday, February 25

5:00 pm - Toward Justice Screening of "13th" film

Sunday, February 26

9:00 a.m. - Sandwich Making for the Homeless

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)

11:30 a.m. - RE Parent Meeting (CH)

1:00 p.m. - Susan Knoll Covenant Group (L)

Tuesday, February 28

6:30 p.m. - Church Council Meeting (C1)

For updates to the church calendar visit
firstuustlouis.org

**Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday,
February 12**

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**Newsletter Folding
Tuesday, February 21**

The St. Louis Unitarian
First Unitarian Church
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St. Louis MO 63108

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**The St. Louis Unitarian
Volume 47, Number 8
February 2017**

March newsletter deadline: Feb. 12

Fold: February 21 @ 10:00 a.m.

Submit news to office@firstuustlouis.org
(314) 361-0595/96 • fax: (314) 361-0712

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☎ ext. 27

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Minister Emeritus

Earl Holt

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Lynn Hunt, Credentialed Religious Educator

☎ ext. 25

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Augustine Underwood, RE, Admin. Assistant

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music.director@firstuustlouis.org

Earl Naylor, Organist/Accompanist

Administrative Team

Yvette Clemons, Church Administrator

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Dan Livengood, Membership Coordinator

Mary Thompson, Sunday Sexton

Elliott Smith, /Darrius Salisbury Custodian

Donald Jeffries, Newsletter Proofreader

Office Hours

Mon — Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Closed