

The St. Louis Unitarian

April 2017 Vol. 47 No. 10

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

APRIL 2017 WORSHIP INFORMATION

April 2—The War Against Nature: Awakening Our Slumbering Souls to the Beauty and Travail of the World—Rev. Gary James

Yes, there is an endless amount of attention paid to our global ecological crisis and a great deal of it is useful. But where is the serious, systematic reflection of the brutal truth – that humanity is in the hands of what we can legitimately describe as a *suicidal regime*, which scarcely anyone thinks it either possible or desirable to fundamentally change? Where is the rational dissection of this system's assault on nature, and the beginning of a plan to really change it – not to regulate this or that, but actually to address the cancer that has invaded our world and lay out the lineaments of a cure?

April 9—"Palm Sunday"- Rev. Gary James

Learning the painful discipline of listening for the truth: All the innocent victims of history call to us in pain and indignation.

That is what you have done to us!

Their accusation is our final hope.

May they be comforted.

We have heard you,

Ghosts of our indifference,

We hear your cry, we understand your warnings.

We, too, shall refuse to accept our fate!

Haunt us with the truth of our betrayal.

April 13—"Maundy Thursday"—Sarah Dashner

Please join us in continuing our tradition of a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 7:00 pm. This "shadow service" tells the story of the Last Supper as candles are extinguished. There will be opportunities to sign up for participation in and planning of this morning service.

April 16—"Easter"- Rev. Gary James

An Intergenerational Easter Service for Children and Adults.

Homily-Threatened with Resurrection—Rev. Gary James

A Unitarian-Universalist-Christian-Humanist-Naturalistic-Theist

Easter Communion Service for All Souls

April 30—"The Saving Grace of Poetry"— Michael Castro

The poetry and reflections of St. Louis' Poet Laureate, Dr. Michael Castro, will celebrate National Poetry month.

**Designated
Collections
See page 11**



**Canvass
Page
4**



**Fellowship
Dinner** 

April 8



**FAIR
TRADE
COFFEE
SALES**

**APRIL 9
& APRIL 23**

Minister's Muse

MINISTER, REV. GARY JAMES

We have reached the mid-year of my first year as Interim Minister to the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. This is an appropriate time to assess where we are in our transition ministry.

The Transition Team, made up of Margaret Weck, Jeff Cary, Brian Blosser, Charles Eby, Todd O'Boyle and Judy Meyer, has been meeting since October. Those first meetings were devoted to getting to know one another and establishing our transition team. Team members introduced me to the church - educating me regarding the history of First Unitarian, identifying some of the present challenges and familiarizing me with the many different constituencies within the congregation. Since early this year the Transition Team has been busy designing an interview questionnaire. Over the last two months they have been interviewing a representative sampling of those many constituencies, for example: young adults; LGBTQ; older members; parents with children in the RE program; children in the RE program; the choir; long term members; recent members; the Women's Alliance; the Elected Leadership; etc. The Transition Team hopes to make a preliminary report to the Board in April.

Based on the results of those interviews and other assessments of the congregation, the staff, and the church leadership, the Transition Team will make a comprehensive proposal to the Board

outlining the goals of the transition ministry and the anticipated timeline within which to accomplish them. The purpose of the transition ministry will be to prepare the congregation for a successful search process and a long-term settled ministry mutually rewarding for both the called minister and the congregation. I will continue to assess our progress and ongoing needs, as the church defines its path to the selection of a settled minister.

Let me offer my assessment of where we are in the process at this time. We have come a long way since July of last year when I was hired by the Board.

Though the church is in a less stressed state than it has experienced in other transitions, there are still issues that require attention:

1. There has been a loss in membership, both in real terms and in numbers on paper, as Dan Livengood works to make sure the membership rolls are accurate.
2. There was a decline in financial support, due largely to the death or relocation of some significant donors. This is also a side effect of the membership loss.
3. The staff was in need of stronger leadership.

—continued on page 18-

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

TIFFANY SEWELL, POLICY BOARD PRESIDENT

It's April once again, which means a number of things, including our annual Fellowship Dinner, scheduled for April 8th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. This special all-church, intergenerational dinner recognizes church leaders and longtime members, and is an opportunity for us to gather over a good meal and share stories and memories of the previous year. I am grateful to the Church Council for spearheading the effort to pull off this dinner, and hope to see you there.

Fellowship is an interesting word that, prior to visiting our church, I had only heard in the context of Tolkien's tales of wizards and hobbits. It has many meanings, such as "a community of interest . . . communion . . . friendly relationship" (Dictionary.com) and is a vital part of what we at First U strive for each and every time we interact with each other.

As with any other relationship of meaning, to remain in fellowship with each other here at church takes work. We do not – cannot, will not – always agree on things, but our commitment to fellowship and our covenant with one another to "foster a vibrant spiritual community to nourish one another, and return our energy to the world as we work for justice and peace" (Covenant of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis) provides us with ways of voicing our disagreement in a healthy, non-accusatory way.

When we speak of being in fellowship with each other, we are speaking of a deeper meaning than simply being together. Fellowship is about community, about joining with each other in spite of our differences and making a conscious decision to come together to work toward the betterment of our church and of each other. Our annual dinner celebrates this decision and reminds us that, even in times of disagreement, our covenant to remain in fellowship with each other strengthens each of us, while at the same time strengthening our community. As James Luther Adams wrote,

"I call that church free which in covenant with that divine community-forming power brings the individual, even the unacceptable, into a caring, trusting fellowship that protects and nourishes his or her integrity and spiritual freedom."

Truly, our covenant to remain in fellowship with one another and to welcome others to join us in this "caring, trusting fellowship," is one of the hallmarks of our free church, for which I am eternally grateful.

Canvass: the Annual Budget Drive

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who has already submitted their pledge cards! Our goal is to have all pledge cards returned by April 16th, with opportunities to return them via the Canvass Sessions we're hosting over the next month.

If you are interested in attending one of our Canvass Sessions and haven't signed up for one yet (or don't remember if you did), please email Dan Livengood at dan.livengood@gmail.com or call him at (314) 610-5140 with your preference of the dates below.

The upcoming sessions are all in the Chapel, and will be held on:
Sunday March 26th from 11:30-1:00pm
Wednesday March 29th from 6:00-7:30pm
Sunday April 9th from 11:30-1:00pm

For extra incentive to sign up, we'll have heavy appetizers, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks. And, with thanks to Augie and Rhonda, child care will be available during each of these sessions.

We thank you for all you do as a part of this congregation, and we hope to see you at one of these Sessions!

-Your Canvass Team





Church Council Chair Notes Carole Watson, Church Council Chair

“There’s a river flowing in my soul. There’s a river flowing in my soul! And it’s telling me that I’m *Somebody*; there’s a river flowing in my soul.” Ever since I started thinking about this month’s column, this blessed hymn has been rolling through my mind.

This church generates the current of the river that is flowing in my soul, this current that moves me on even when I long to grab an overhanging branch and just hang back. This church encourages me to look into my own heart and embrace the shadows that dance there with the light. As often as I trip over my own feet or say to myself, “I can’t,” this river lifts and floats my spirit, pushing me gently forward. Even church friends who are no longer with us inspire me to try harder, to care more deeply. Knowing how our times cry out for a worship community steeped in freedom and welcome to all urges me to help grow and strengthen this beloved community.

I am only one person, ill-equipped in many ways to negotiate the twists and turns in the river. On occasion, roiling water threatens to swamp my boat, but once the rapids are run, the satisfaction of contributing to a job – an important job – remains and inspires anew.

Every spring our church calls for talented leaders to guide us through another year. As Church Council chair, I have learned so very much this year. One of the first things I learned was that even if I doubted my ability to do the job, I had made the right decision. The need was there; I had to step in. I have also learned that if you can listen sincerely, organize a flexible agenda (any given agenda may be turned on its ear by extenuating circumstances), and keep an open mind, you can be a leader. There is no one way to lead a meeting; there are lots of good people to support and guide you; and what better institution could there be to give your time and positive energy to?

Like me, you are only one person, but you are also *Somebody*. And perhaps you are the right person and this is the right time. I urge you to put yourself forward this spring and volunteer for a leadership position. This river is flowing through *your* soul.



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES

April 9 & 23

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, April 11 the Women's Alliance will hold a business meeting at 11:00 am, followed by lunch at noon. Bring your meal; dessert and coffee or tea will be provided. Following lunch, Scott Boulton will speak on "Avoiding Pitfalls in Estate Planning." All women in the church are welcome.

On Tuesday April 25, the Women's Alliance will meet for lunch at noon. All women of the church are invited to bring a sandwich and join us. Dessert and coffee or tea will be provided. Following lunch, Judi Crouch will share pictures and stories from her recent trip to Transylvania and our partner church.

—Deborah Richie

Op Shop

Be sure to stop by the Op Shop in Fellowship Hall to check out their bargains.



The Auction Continues!

Sign up today for "Cellarbration in May" Broaden your pallet. Come taste different wine varietals that retail for less than \$20 per bottle with appetizer pairings. Donors: Wilke and Fathman Families. Where: Fathman home in the Central West End. Date: Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 3:00 pm. Suggested donation: \$35

Garden Days

Please come out and join us to get the grounds ready and beautiful for spring for more information contact Karen Siegrist at 314-210-5652 or email karensiegrist@gmail.com





Community Action Endowment Fund - Help Small Community Efforts Grow on May 6th!

Please join us in Fellowship Hall on May 6th for “The People’s Party” fundraiser to help grow First Church’s Community Action Endowment Fund.

What started in 1985 as \$1,000 in seed money has, with careful cultivation over the years, grown to over \$75,000 of principal. Interest on the fund is used each year by First Church to help support worthwhile community non-profits, funding modest projects which enhance our greater St. Louis community. This year’s fundraiser, as in the past, seeks to replace the money given out in the last cycle of grants.



We have a very entertaining Saturday evening planned for May 6th with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. for drinks and fellowship, followed by “small plates” of soul- food inspired food served at 7:00 p.m. and a short program about the past, present, and future of First Church’s Community Action Endowment Fund and its community impact. The evening concludes with an old-fashioned cake walk in which all, young and old, are invited to participate!

Suggested donation for the evening is \$25 per person, and, for an additional \$10, guests have the opportunity to participate in the cake walk and take home some awesome home -baked desserts. Cake walk tickets may also be purchased the evening of the event. Admission includes infant and child care.

Event tickets will be sold in Fellowship Hall Sundays starting April 2nd or by contacting Margaret Weck, via e-mail, at: jglmaw@sbcglobal.net.

Volunteers are welcome for help with set-up, decoration and clean-up. To sweeten the deal, volunteers receive one free cake walk ticket! Mark your calendars now for this fun evening.

-The Community Action Endowment Fund committee

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

ANDREA BERIN
ACTING RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

HELLO and GOODBYE!! In February, Lynn began a three month sabbatical which is generously offered by this congregation to the Religious Educator position every seven years. She will be back next month in May. A few projects we have accomplished in her absence are the Boston Trip Trivia Night, Youth Sunday, and the Unfish Fry, and the Easter egg hunt on 4/16). For Easter, children will start and remain in the service. If your family is interested in participating in the Easter service, please contact me at arrberin@gmail.com or speak with Rev. James. For the Easter egg hunt, children may find 3 eggs and then they need to wait until everyone else has found some before they will be sent out for more.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of the youth and the advisors that helped create and lead the service for Youth Sunday.

A BIG THANK YOU, also, to Unfish Fry crew members!!!! Sue Petsche Herzberg, our fearless leader, has done it again. What a success!! Thank you to all of the prep crew that came out on Thursday night and the prep crew that worked all day on Friday. Thank you especially to the kitchen crew that served all of the happy customers, of which

about 75% were non-church members. Your hard work and efforts paid off, thanks again.

Come dressed for a mess!!

The Chapel for this month (4/2) will be about Waking Up the Gardens. Most of the chapel time will be spent planting in the garden beds in the side yard. With many activities in the garden needing to be tended to, there will be plenty of work for all (and there may be bubbles!!).

We are starting something new with the 2nd-5th graders for April. We'd like to pilot the theme based rotation (activity) model with this group and we are doing it in April. We are looking for a few volunteers to help look after a group with their already established teachers and sometimes as a sub. The days we would need you are 4/9, 4/23, and 4/30. If you are interested in helping or finding out more, please email me. We will base our rotations on a Nature/earth theme. April's chapel will be about awakening the gardens and we will continue that theme in our activities. The children will rotate each week to a new activity. Music and instrument making, gardening how-to and know-how, and cooking a veggie soup and salad.

As always, **Augustine Underwood** and **Rhonda Buergler** will continue with their excellent support of religious education.

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>).

GREENLEAF GARDEN

The Greenleaf Garden and Landscape committees need your help!!! Are you able to give a week of your time to help tend to the gardens? Can you follow written instructions? Then this is a perfect job for you and your friends and family. Donate a week of your time to help maintain the garden and landscape of the church.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall on the week that you are available. Leave your name, email, and phone number on that week and we will contact you with the written instructions.

Plan on trying to attend at least one Garden Work Day on 3/26 or 4/30. Contact Andrea Berin arrberin@gmail.com for more information.

SUFI MUSIC MEDITATION

**APRIL 2nd, 11:45am-1pm
in Hope Chapel**

We are a small Sufi music group named Ahl-e Qulub, meaning "People of the Heart." Our performances are intended to be both pleasing to the ear and nourishing for the spirit, much like yoga is an exercise for both the body and the spirit. We use only vocals and a few small drums, so the only accommodation we would need is a place to sit! The music is a blend of traditional, eastern Sufi music (Indian, Middle-Eastern) and more modern arrangements made by ourselves and our teacher (murshid). In addition to the music, we also teach a simple meditation technique that anyone can practice to preserve or further the peace they find in the music.

We first teach a simple meditation technique and discuss the purpose, benefit, and ultimate goal of spiritual practice from an all-encompassing and universal Sufi perspective. Following this, we spend the rest of the time performing our music, meant to deepen the peace and tranquility of the meditation, along with teaching an advanced technique of chanting called Zikr. Performing under the principle of baymaksad (unconditional) service, the Ahl-e Qulub neither asks for compensation nor accepts donations. If attendees wish to donate, please do so toward the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis for their generosity in hosting the group.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE UU REGIONAL ASSEMBLY!

Join the wider UU circle and explore "Finding Our Partners, Faith in Action." Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of every significant social change in our nation's history in spite of our small numbers in the national religious scene. Now, more than ever, we need to work with partners to have an impact in our cities, states and country. This year's MidAmerica Regional Assembly will explore what that means.

Three keynote presenters will share their thoughts on how Unitarian Universalism could be exactly what current religious explorers want from faith communities. There will be many great workshops and outstanding worship services led by ministers from across the region.

If you are interested in attending this year's assembly held in Chicago, April 28, we encourage you to talk with those who have attended recently to learn more about the benefits and experience of attending: Kathy Wire, Larry Dusenbery, Brittany Hagedorn, or Dan Livengood.

Location and Registration

The Chicago Oak Brook Marriott, in Oak Brook, Illinois, April 28-30. Register before April 5, 2017, and receive the early bird rate.

For complete information and a link to register, please visit the MidAmerica website:

<https://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>

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. April's designated collections are **Gateway Greening** (April 2nd) and **Prison Performing Arts** (April 16th)

Gateway Greening was nominated by our late Connie Goss, an avid, energetic leader of Greenleaf Sanctuary who encouraged all -plants and people- to grow strong and well.

Gateway Greening educates and empowers people to strengthen their communities through gardening and urban agriculture. It is an organization that actually partners with people living in poverty. Gateway Greening serves the St. Louis metropolitan area with an emphasis on underserved populations in food deserts. The organization currently supports over 200 youth and community gardens as well as an urban farm project in partnership with the St. Patrick Center in the city of St. Louis. One of Gateway Greening's 200 + gardens, First Unitarian's raised bed vegetable garden helps to support the Trinity Food Pantry.

Members of First Unitarian have volunteered at other community gardens and this past year, Connie Goss helped CRC start its vegetable garden. She also presented a program with Arthur Cuthbert at the Schlafly Branch of the St. Louis Library. Also, First Unitarian gardeners attend garden workshops at Gateway Greening.

Prison Performing Arts is a literacy and performing arts program serving incarcerated adults and children, both at Missouri prisons and at the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center. The program aims to inspire curiosity and development and also nurture discipline, teamwork, and communication skills necessary for successful reentry into society. Recidivism in those participating prisons has dropped consistently. This organization was nominated by church member Paula Hanssen.

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.

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.

CONNECTIONS OF THE HEART IN TRANSYLVANIA

People meeting for the first time may connect over unexpected shared interests, whether they are crossing cultural lines or right at home. When we met the Bartha family, our hosts in Csokfalva, Romania, we were disarmed immediately by their easy welcome and warmth. It just got better from there. First, my husband, Stan, learned that Sandor, the father of the family, is a bee keeper, with about 75 hives. Stan is a bee keeper with 1 hive. Soon they were engrossed in bee talk, literally. With no common language, they communicated with wiggles and wags much as bees do to inform hive-mates of nearby nectar troves. It was pretty hilarious.



Sandor's bee-keeping, however, is very serious. In fact, he has a grant from the EU to develop and

distribute as many new hives as possible. Honey is not his important end product; new queens-with-attendants are. Stan's important end product is honey, but they both want happy bees who pollinate fruit trees, Sandor on a commercial Romanian-wide scale and Stan on a U. City scale.

Sandor's hives are a rainbow of colors, so his bees can find their way home. Stan's hive is a tidy white, no other hive being within miles. They suspected their bees were of different varieties. When we got home, Stan sent Sandor a little cotton-lined box containing one of our deceased bees, like a jewel, for comparison. They're different.



The box also contained some other "bugs". We learned that Sandor was an avid fisherman, but didn't know about fly

fishing. Stan thought he should give it a try, so sent him some starter flies.

Gyorgyi Bartha and I connected on many levels, too, besides laughing at our husbands' wiggles and wags. The tomatoes she served us, from her garden, were superb. Every year I grow tomatoes, heirloom, etc, but



hers were better. Before we left, she scraped seeds from two varieties onto paper towels, dried and wrapped them up for us. I was touched at the kindness and happy to have these delicious tomatoes-to-be. I expected and dreaded to lose them to the customs agent, but they came through safely. I've planted them indoors and they

—continued on page 15—

—continued from page 14 connections—

sprang out of the dirt, obviously with vigorous and delicious intentions to thrive in my garden.



Another wonder that Gyorgyi shared with us was a tea, or more properly, a tisane, made of herbs. It was a delight and has become a staple for us since she sent us home with a bagfull that also escaped the customs grab.

The Bartha's daughter, Noemi, speaks English and spent a lot of time with us. She is a talented interior designer and showed me some of her finished projects on the web. Her children were important parts of our stay, being ever so winsome, talented and kind to us and to each other - Agnes, Levi and Istvan. Agnes, in her Transylvanian dress, helped to serve one evening at our supper/wine tasting/dance spectacular.

These are just a few memories, the more personal, of our stay in Transylvania. I wish I could sit down this minute for a chat with Gyorgyi and Sandor. They are wise people. Do go there yourself and meet memorable folk like these.

—Claire and Stan Birge,
March 1, 2017



Thank you for your patience during the church office transition to the domain hosting by Charter. Please continue to send emails to office@firstuustlouis.org, the church administrator, Yvette Clemons is aware of the issues and she receives the bounces on each email. If you feel more comfortable until this matter is resolved, please send your emails to Yvette Clemons at diva4lifeyc@gmail.com.

Spring Bike Ride. The first of 4 bike rides that were offered at last fall's Church Auction will be held on **Saturday, April 1st**. This will be a moderately strenuous ride (around 20 miles) that starts at the Church at 10am, and proceeds to Ferguson for lunch, traveling through St. Vincent County Park, UMSL and the Ted Jones trail. From Ferguson we will ride east to the North Riverfront trail, adjacent to the Mississippi, and then towards downtown, with a stop at Crown Candy, and back to the Church. Return to the Central West End via Metro link is an option.



If you might be interested in the ride, but didn't get a chance to sign up before, please contact one of us. The cost is \$25 for persons over age 18, and \$5 for accompanied children between 14 and 18, all of it donated to the Church.

Larry Dusenbery – [314/962-0277](tel:3149620277); larrydusenbery@msn.com

Charlie Kindleberger – [314/367-6868](tel:3143676868); kindlebergerc@yahoo.com

*You're
Invited*

Everyone is invited to Brian Mason's Ordination at First Unitarian Church. The event will take place in the sanctuary on April 23, at 3pm. An RSVP is requested before April 1. Hope to see many of you there.

—Joan Kindleberger
Intern Committee

Greenleaf Garden Challenge

Can you help with the garden? Want to help us plan, plant, and maintain the gardens. Contact Carole Watson or Andrea Berin. Donate your time and talent to the Greenleaf Garden by signing up to help "Adopt" the garden for a week or month. Calling all Covenant Groups looking for a service project.

**Saturday, April 8 is Fellowship Dinner:
How does our garden grow?**

Sign up in Fellowship Hall for this special all-church, intergenerational dinner, which **recognizes church leaders and longtime members**. Highlighted by a celebration of ourselves and honoring anniversary members, this **delicious dinner** will include **musical entertainment** we can all join in on. We need everyone to be there – old members and new, adults aging gracefully and young adults alike – to celebrate and get to know each other better. Dinner starts at 5:30 and will be over by 8. **Cost is a mere \$15/adult**. Honorees eat free, volunteers at reduced cost.



JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM APRIL 2017

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.

—**Tony Munie**, is home now recovering from orthopedic surgery our thoughts and prayers goes out to him and family, we wish him a speedy recovery calls and cards are welcome.

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.

Baskets for these donations are located on the shelves outside Fellowship Hall.

—*continued from page 2: Minister's Muse*—

4. The church leadership is addressing the challenges of a new governance structure.

5. The church was in need of an annual assessment process of staff and elected leadership with the goal of making the ministry of the church more effective. Church leadership has endeavored over the last ten years to move from a “minister-centric” culture to an empowered congregational leadership and shared ministry.

6. First Unitarian has historically enjoyed both the experience and the reputation of strong Sunday sermons. The Board wants to continue this focus.

These are challenging goals. However, significant steps can be taken to help secure a longer term success. I do believe we have managed to begin identifying a number of critical needs which can be effectively addressed in a reasonable time period. Transitional ministry offers the minister an opportunity to approach challenges more directly than a settled minister; since we know we are leaving, it is easier to push for change. I hope that during our partnership over the next – (yet to be determined) – number of years we will embrace the creative freedom interim ministry allows for, a freedom to speak plainly and embrace the conflicts that real change always requires.

Faithfully Yours,

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.

Sunday, April 2

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:45 a.m. - Sufi Music Presentation (CH)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, April 4

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

Wednesday, April 5

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 6

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

Saturday, April 8

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Dinner

Sunday, April 9

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, April 11

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)
6:30 p.m. - Policy Board Meeting (C1)

Wednesday, April 12

6:30 p.m. - Library Committee
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 16

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:15 a.m. - Fire Side Chat (DR)
11:30 a.m. - Kelley/Veyjl Covenant Group (C8)
11:30 a.m. - Colton Covenant Group (C7)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, April 18

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)
7:00 p.m. - MWM Men's Group
7:00 p.m. - Library Committee

Wednesday, April 19

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 23

9:00 a.m. - Sandwich Making for the Homeless
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:15 a.m. - Care and Concern Meeting (CLK)
11:30 a.m. - RE Committee (C1)
4:00 p.m. - Brian Mason Ordination (S, FH)

Tuesday, April 25

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

Thursday, April 27

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

For updates to the church calendar visit
firstuustlouis.org

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday,
April 9, 2016**

**Newsletter Folding
Tuesday, April 18**

The St. Louis Unitarian
First Unitarian Church
5007 Waterman Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63108

Address Service Requested

Dated Mailed: Please Deliver Promptly
Date Mailed: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit #1484



www.UUSTL.org

Member, Unitarian Universalist Association

**The St. Louis Unitarian
Volume 47, Number 10
April 2017**

May newsletter deadline: April 9

Fold: April 18 @ 10:00 a.m.

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

Minister

Rev. Gary James

☎ ext. 27

gjames@firstuustlouis.org

Minister Emeritus

Earl Holt

Religious Education Team

Lynn Hunt, Credentialed Religious Educator

☎ ext. 25

lhunt@firstuustlouis.org

Rhonda Buergler, Sunday Assistant

Augustine Underwood, ☎ ext. 21

RE, Admin. Assistant

Music Team

Joel Knapp, Choir/Music Director

music.director@firstuustlouis.org

Earl Naylor, Organist/Accompanist

Administrative Team

Yvette Clemons, Church Administrator

☎ ext. 23

yclemons@firstuustlouis.org

Membership

Dan Livengood, Membership Coordinator

Mary Thompson, Sunday Sexton

Elliott Smith, Custodian

Donald Jeffries, Newsletter Proofreader

Office Hours

Mon — Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Closed