

# The St. Louis Unitarian

May 2017 Vol. 47 No. 11

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

## MAY 2017 WORSHIP INFORMATION

**May 7—"Rejoice in the Lamb"**  
Rev. Gary James

**May 14—Mother's Day Service**  
Mother's Day & Flower Communion  
Reflections on the Mothers in Our Lives  
Rev. Gary James

**May 21-Celebrating the Historic Past and the Future**  
Possibilities of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis  
Rev. Gary James  
Annual Meeting 11:00 AM  
following the worship service

**May 28- Memorial Day Sunday**  
Rev. Gary James



**Designated  
Collections**  
See page 11



**Canvass  
Page**  
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**Annual  
Meeting**  
*(After worship  
service)*



 FAIR  
TRADE  
COFFEE  
SALES  
FAIRLY TRADED

**MAY 7 & 21**

### *Minister's Muse*

**MINISTER, REV. GARY JAMES**

It is Spring and everything is green, the limbs of the trees, the blades of grass and the ferns outside my office window. The Memorial Garden containing the ashen remains of our beloved dead is once again alive with new life; the Ash tree in the garden's center is green with new leaves; the green feathery fronds of the ferns have unfurled as if the garden were growing wings. For what purpose I ask? To give flight to new life - *wings set me free* - life embarks on a new beginning. Death is the instrument of eternal renewal.

Gazing out my window I recall the names of those who died this last year, the names spoken in the *Roll Call of the Dead* in our Maundy Thursday Vesper Service: Marietta Hunsche, Robert Murphy, Patricia Davis, Shirley Bassett, Mimi Hubert, Brian Leander, Lorraine Wallis, Carolyn Grimm Nolan, Charles Manley, Warren Keller, Connie Goss, Donald Stahl, Vera Falk.

In the words of the great religious humanist, Robert Ingersoll: *We are the ever-living dead, for the dead are ever-living in those to whom they have passed on their lives, dreams and labors. We have not only our lives to live, but theirs also. If we do not fail them, the dead live on. They live forever if their causes and dreams live on in us and the world we build. Will they die a second time? Only we can answer. We hold their death or their everlasting life.*

To be of the earth is to know – the restlessness of the seed – the darkness of being planted – the struggle toward the light – the pain of growth into the light – the joy of bursting and

bearing fruit – the love of being food for someone – the scattering of your seeds – the decay of the seasons – the mystery of death – the miracle of birth. (John Soos)

We are a community of memory and hope living our brief lives between the twin mysteries of birth and death on this beautiful blue green planet earth celebrating the miracle of creation and the wondrous gift of life. In the midst of this divine reality and our increasing awareness of it we discover to what it is we are being called. Yes, there is a holiness to which we belong and this sacred community is made holy by the ever deepening consciousness evolving in our hearts and minds and made manifest through our good works and the beautiful temple we are forever rebuilding, singing as we do so . . . *Come, come whoever you are, wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving. Ours is no caravan of despair. Come, yet again come.*

Alleluia!

Faithfully Yours,

*Gary*

P.S. I hope all of you who have experienced what I am attempting to describe in this *Little Love Letter* have made a generous contribution to our annual canvass. We need your support, that is to say, the generosity of your heart. Make the songs of renewal - Alleluia! - come true.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

TIFFANY SEWELL, POLICY BOARD PRESIDENT

**First things first** – where are you going to be on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>? That’s the date of our congregation’s Annual Meeting, which will be held at 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Last year’s meeting did not have enough attendees to call a quorum, and I’m hoping this year’s meeting will be better attended. The meeting will provide an opportunity to learn about the state of our church through reports from the Minister, the Treasurer, and myself. The documentation provided at the meeting will include reports from various church committees, as well as the Interim Minister’s Transition Team.

April was a busy month for the Board, and our monthly meeting was extended by an hour to allow us to cover all the topics that needed attention. Among these was a vote to allow me to perform the Act of Ordination for Brian Mason, which occurred on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a pleasure having Brian as our Lewis Intern, and a very special experience for me to participate in his Ordination ceremony. The ceremony was well attended by members of our congregation, who came out to support Brian in this next step in his ministerial life.

Our April Board meeting also included a report from the Transition Team that was established to assist Rev. James during his Interim Ministry with us. This team has been working very hard to survey a number of different constituencies within our congregation to help discern what issues are currently facing us, and to make recommendations to address these issues and move forward. The Team will be using an upcoming Fireside Chat to discuss the transition with the congregation.

The Board meeting also included updates on three related topics: the Canvass (Annual Budget Drive), our finances and the first draft of a budget for next year. Dan Livengood has been hard at work on the Canvass, but we’re still missing a number of pledge cards: **have you turned your pledge card in?** As in previous years, we are currently looking to address a shortfall in our budget, which is something that we as a congregation will need to be cognizant of. Are we spending within our means? What do we do when our “means” has been decreasing while our costs have not? This is an important discussion that every member of our congregation needs to be aware of. The Treasurer and Finance Committee work hard to give us a valid budget each year, but they can only work with the funds the congregation provides.

Returning to the topic of the Annual Meeting: I hope to see you there. In addition to the topics mentioned above, we’ll also be electing new Officers, Board and Council members to lead our congregation. None of these are easy roles to take on, and each member of the nomination slate should be thanked for their willingness to serve. Personally, it’s been a pleasure and an honor to serve as Policy Board President these past two years, and I wish the next President much success.

**CONNECT,  
ENGAGE,  
and SUPPORT**



Remember . . .

**“You are not generous based upon how much you give  
You are generous based on how much what you give  
means to you”**

**Already Pledged?**

We thank you for your support and generosity.

And so far, you have been generous!

Over 63% of you who have pledged so far have increased your pledge.

Our Canvass campaign so far has reached 64% or \$257,000 of our \$400,000 budget goal for Fiscal 2018.

We have received 81 pledges from our members and friends.

**Haven’t pledged yet? WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

**If you don’t have your pledge card, stop by and pick one up in fellowship hall. We have also mailed one to your home. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

Your Canvass Team



## Church Council Chair Notes

### Carole Watson, Church Council Chair

Remember Indiana Jones and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*? What a movie! It turned out the lost ark was nothing less than the Ark of the Covenant. Wait a minute; what “covenant”? If memory serves me, the covenant between God and Noah, a covenant to let the human race continue, sealed by the shimmering colors of the rainbow.

Our rainbow church is based on a covenant among all of us, young and old, straight and gay, earth loving, humanist, atheist, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, etc., (please don’t be offended if you fall into the “ETC”; my space here is limited, but I am including you). Our beloved community would not, could not, exist and persist without this covenant. What does this mean for each of us, especially during this time of transition? **It means we hang together even more strongly. It means we communicate even more clearly. It means we care enough about each other to listen patiently when we have concerns. We share our concerns and respect our differences. And we understand that we are in an interim ministry, heading toward a new settled minister – a process that seems to move agonizingly slowly at times, requiring our collective patience and participation.**

We covenant to support one another and the church, with our time, energy, and money, as we are able. We covenant to join together in worship; in social dinners, outings and events; and at key meetings: **our Annual Meeting requires each of us to attend, participate, and vote for our future leadership. Our Annual Meeting will take place, Sunday, May 21, after church in the sanctuary. This means you, there in living covenant, sitting in the pews.** And to have a vote, you must pledge; everyone’s support, no matter how large or small, counts.

The joys and responsibilities of living in covenant are many. We are refreshed and energized by our life together, but we also depend on each other deeply. **Have you pledged this year?** It is critical to our life as a congregation, so if you are hesitating because we are in a transition time, please don’t delay a minute more. Pledge as you are able, but **PLEDGE – then come to the Annual Meeting and vote!**

The Policy Board and Church Council, all committee heads and members, the Transition Team, *all* your church leaders have worked long and diligently this year. Talk to any of us at any time, in person or via email or phone. Much has been accomplished during this first year of our life with Rev. James; much more will happen in the exciting years ahead. I look forward to sharing the journey with each of you.



## FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES

**May 7 & 21**

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.

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## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

On Tuesday, May 9 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, Federal Judge Catherine Perry will speak on the role of the Federal Courts. All women in the church are welcome.

On Tuesday May 23, 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, Credentialed Religious Educator, Lynn Hunt will have a presentation.

—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 karenlsiegrist@gmail.com



## **Community Action Endowment Fund - Help Small Community Efforts Grow on May 6<sup>th</sup>!**



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



We have a very entertaining Saturday evening planned for May 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> or by contacting Margaret Weck, via e-mail, at: [jglmaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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

WELCOME BACK LYNN!!!! I want to give a big THANK YOU to all of the congregants that I had the privilege of working with during my time as the Religious Education Director. From everyone who volunteered to help in RE classes, the church council members, the Boston Trip parents and kiddos, the Youth Group advisors and kiddos, to the office staff who made my job so very delightful. I am in awe at how this place ticks and grateful to the many members that make things happen. Thanks to **Yvette Clemons** and **Augie Underwood** for helping me giggle through the tough days. Thank you, **Carole Watson**, for a wonderful Fellowship Dinner. Thank you to all of the folks who helped prep and serve lunch at Trinity Church. Thanks to **Todd O'Boyle** for taking the lead on that project. Thank you to **Judy Meyer** for helping with the music class. **Lisa Ross**, you are truly an amazing woman, thank you for all your expertise without which our gardens would be no more. Thanks to **Danielle Kozemczak** for jumping in while Lisa was out and thanks to **Sue Herzberg** for helping out in Chapel during the Easter service. Again, thank you to all of the teachers who volunteered their time and talents and thank you everyone for facilitating such a wonderful RE program.

We started something new with the 2nd-5th graders for April. We piloted a theme based rotation (activity) model with this group. We based our rotations on a Nature/earth theme. April's chapel was about awakening the gardens and we continued that theme in our activities. The children rotated each week to a new activity. Music and instrument making, gardening how-to and know-how, and cooking a veggie soup and salad. In Music, **Judy Meyer** led us in singing some wonderful songs and then the kids enjoyed making a "shaker" craft out of toilet paper rolls and paper plates. In the garden, Lisa walked the kids through planting, weeding, and general maintenance of the gardens as well as the importance of the earth's bounties. Finally, in the cooking class the kids discussed the importance of taking care of our earth and sources of energy for us and the plants. During the discussion, the kids prepared a veggie soup and then made and ate a salad while the soup cooked.

Thanks to **Dan Livengood!!!** After one of our weeks, Dan came and had a canvas session with our 2nd-5th graders. He brought pizza rolls and everyone was able to share their input.

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

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF  
THE VOLUNTEERS!!!**

### **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. All volunteers would need to do is mostly weed and harvest garden just ONE day in their week.

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 **5/21 and 6/25**. Contact Andrea Berin arrberin@gmail.com for more information.

### **RE BBQ**

The tentative date for the RE BBQ is June 4 the more details to come in weekly newsletter.

### **FLOWER COMMUNION**

#### **May 14th**

Remember to bring a flower to share with the congregation. Children will join the congregation at the end of the service for the Flower Communion.

### **LAST DAY OF REGULAR RE CLASSES & TEACHER BREAKFAST**

#### **May 21**

This is the last day of regular RE classes, activities will be available in the chapel on May 28th. Teacher appreciation breakfast will be in the Chapel following the service. Grab a bite to eat before heading to the Annual Meeting.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

#### **May 21**

Immediately following service will be the annual meeting in the sanctuary. Childcare will be available, no sign up necessary .



## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

### **OF THE MEMBERS OF FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual Meeting of the members of the Congregation of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis has been called by the Policy Board and will be held at 5007 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri on **Sunday, May 21, 2016 at 11:45 a.m.** in the main Sanctuary for the following purposes:

To inform the Congregation of the current state of our church  
To elect the church leadership for the coming year

In order to accomplish a vote of item 2 above, it is necessary to obtain a quorum of voting members to be present at the annual meeting. The Bylaws define a quorum as 25% of the voting members of the Congregation, Article III, Section 4. Voting will be by voice vote for all matters except as otherwise provided by the Governing Rules.

## 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. May's designated collections are

### **Payback Inc. and Pathways to Independence.**

**Payback, Inc.** works in partnership with area family courts and non-profit agencies to fund and administer restorative justice programs for juvenile offenders and their victims. Juvenile offenders repair the harm done to their victims to the extent possible by monetary restitution through competency building community service work. This program allows juveniles to learn job skills and to understand the impact of their actions. This recipient was nominated by church member Claire Birge.

**Pathways to Independence** supports, educates and empowers adults with learning disabilities and associated disorders to obtain the personal growth, enhanced social skills, and greater self-reliance needed for productive employment and meaningful personal relationships. Its services include employment preparation, recreational programs, community and volunteer activities and family support and are offered to a population that few other organizations serve. Refer to their website for more information

<http://www.pathways2independence.com>. This recipient was nominated by church member Joan Oliver.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

## **MEMORIES OF THE VILLAGE**

**By Elizabeth Oldham\***

Of course, the most vivid memory I have of Csokfalva is of the kindness and hospitality of everyone we met. Anna Kiss (aka Nuchi), my kind, sweet hostess, was the best example. Nuchi was a hairdresser, so one of the first things she did was cut and set my hair – even though it had been cut only two days before. She took great pains cutting my hair and glued it carefully into place. She would follow me around throughout the day and make delicate adjustments to her creation.

We didn't speak each other's languages, so we communicated through dictionaries if her son or grandson weren't handy. Thankfully, both of them were fluent in English; Hungarian, actually related to Tibetan, was as difficult for me as it is for most foreigners.

Nuchi's house was quite luxurious. My duvet cover was made of gold silk with a pattern of tulips, and the toilet paper was kept on the radiator so that it was always warm! Such Trumpian luxury. Like all the houses I visited in Transylvania, there were no corridors; you simply went through each room until you reached the one you wanted. Corridors were invented in England in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but the idea must not have been introduced into Transylvania.

Nuchi was a widow. I gladly climbed the hill behind our church to visit her husband's grave, marked by a traditional

carved wooden pole. It was a very touching moment.

Csokfalva is a tiny village, most of whose houses are strung along the main road. Everyone knows everyone else, and I enjoyed meeting many of the village residents. The Unitarian church is small, charming, and filled with light and color. At one time, men and women entered the church through separate doors: a taller doorway for men and a lower door for women, forcing them to bow as they entered. This custom has been done away with, which I was glad to see.

There were only two things that upset me in the village. First, with few exceptions, all dogs are kept chained up at all times. Nuchi's dog Chocolat was one of the lucky ones; he was on a line that allowed him to run in circles with his favorite stick in his mouth. Second, I found it very disconcerting to be stared at intently by the gypsy women that we encountered. They did not speak or ask for money; they just stared at us. I suppose we were a novelty, but I didn't care for it.

All in all, it was such a pleasure to be in Csokfalva among people who made us feel so welcome. They went to great lengths to ensure that our stay was both informative and pleasurable.

\* Elizabeth Oldham, good friend to Peggy Feinberg of our congregation, accompanied Peggy on First UU's most recent trip to our partner village in Transylvania.

## **OUR NEW MEMBERS: MEET TIM AND LINDSEY BASTEDO**

Lindsey's family is from Alton, IL and Tim is originally from Hanover, PA. The two of them met in Philadelphia through a volunteer and Christian discipleship program. They spent three years in North Philadelphia, where they worked at a small neighborhood school. Tim and Lindsey moved to Alton, IL in 2011, where they lived for two years while Lindsey studied to become a licensed massage therapist.

After Lindsey's graduation, they moved to Connecticut for two years, where Tim attended Yale Divinity School and Lindsey worked and continued her studies. Tim graduated with a master's degree in religious ethics, after which he and Lindsey moved to the Southwest Garden neighborhood of St. Louis. Lindsey now has her own massage practice and is studying to become a licensed acupuncturist, while Tim has spent time doing research for nonprofits in the area, teaching philosophy at a local college, and is now working as a chaplain at St. Alexius hospital.



Lindsey and Tim started coming to First Church in 2015. Tim was raised as a Southern Baptist, Lindsey was brought up in the Evangelical tradition, and they immediately liked the welcoming feel of the services. They were sure they wanted to establish a connection with the church within a few weeks, but couldn't attend on a regular basis for about a year and a half. Now that their schedules allow more regular attendance, they have formally signed the membership book in January of 2017. They are both excited about participating in the First Church community. Lindsey and Tim enjoy organizing and cleaning up after events, as well as having conversations about spirituality, ethics and science fiction.

-- penned by Margaret Weck,  
Spotlight Team

## **Spring Bike Ride. 2<sup>nd</sup> SPRING BIKE RIDE.**

The next bike ride, which was offered as part of last fall's Church Auction, will be a rural ride in St. Charles and Calhoun Counties. We are calling it the 3 Ferry Ride. It will begin at the Foundry Art Center on the St. Charles riverfront then out across the Portage des Sioux floodplain to the Golden Eagle Ferry, which takes us across the Mississippi River. This is the first of our nautical respites. Then we pedal across the bucolic rolling topography of Calhoun County to the Brussels Ferry. There, we cross the Illinois River and continue on the dedicated bike trail along the Great River Road for about 5 mi. to the charming river town of Grafton, IL, where we will have lunch. The last ferry, at Grafton takes us back across both rivers to the Portage des Sioux and a flat ride into St. Charles to our starting point. This is a moderately strenuous ride in excess of 30 mi. It takes place mostly on infrequently traveled rural roads through farmland, orchards and wildlife areas of Missouri and Illinois. The cost of the ride is \$25, which is donated to the church, plus \$8 for ferry fees. We are considering **two Saturdays in May** for the ride, either the **13<sup>th</sup>** or the **20<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to join us for this ride, please contact one of the following people and express your date preference.



Larry Dusenberry – 314/962-0277; [larrydusenberry@msn.com](mailto:larrydusenberry@msn.com)  
Charles Kindleberger – 314/367-6868; [kindleberger@yahoo.co](mailto:kindleberger@yahoo.co)  
John Watson – 314/721-4579; [cw63130@gmail.com](mailto:cw63130@gmail.com)

## **From Your Policy Board - April 11 meeting**

There is a lot going on at church, and the Policy Board has scheduled some extra meeting time to deal with that. The Board met with the Transition Team at its April 11 meeting to discuss the Team's assessment and recommendations. You will be hearing more about that soon from the Transition Team directly. Their recommendations will provide the framework for the collaborative work of the congregation, your governance team, and Rev. James over the next year.

The move to our new governance process started more than five years ago, and the new By-Laws were adopted three years ago. Like any new program, this one needs some tweaks, and much of the April 11 meeting was dedicated to a discussion of how to apply the new governance processes to current situations. Meanwhile the Board is working hard to ensure that there is a great slate of candidates for the election at the annual meeting.

The finance committee presented a draft budget and the Board reviewed Dan Livengood's written report on the results of the budget drive.

On more routine issues, the Board voted to:

Allow Tiffany Sewell to perform the act of ordination for Brian Mason at his ceremony on April 23

Appoint Larry Dusenberry as a delegate for the MidAmerica Regional Assembly.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM MAY 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** continues to recover from orthopedic surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

—**Karen Siegrist** is back home after shoulder surgery.

—**Jeanette Myers** is in a temporary home in the West End while recovering from knee surgery, while **Allen** remains in rehab at Mari de Ville.

—**Brian Mason** is now an official UU Minister. We wish him a long and successful ministry.

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### 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.

Invitation to Music Sunday, May 7  
The First U Choir, accompanied by Earl Naylor at the organ, will present a wonderful, unique piece of music on May 7: “Rejoice in the Lamb”---words by Christopher Smart and music by Benjamin Britten.

Christopher Smart, writer and composer, was born in 1722. In the 1750s Smart developed a form of religious mania that compelled him to continuous prayer. Samuel Johnson remarked, “My poor friend Smart showed the disturbance of his mind by falling upon his knees, and saying his prayers in the street, or in any other unusual place.” In 1756 Smart published *Hymn to the Supreme Being, on Recovery from a Dangerous Fit of Illness*. However, from that time onward, Smart was confined, with one brief Intermission, until 1763 in St. Luke’s Hospital and then in Mr. Potter’s Madhouse in Bethnal Green. While in confinement he wrote *Jubilate Agno*, which gives the reader a chance to share in his incarceration. He encounters a mouse and imagines the mouse as a creature of great personal valor. A cat shows an act of worship by turning his body seven times round. Flowers are great blessings. And Smart speaks of being mistreated: “For the officers of the peace are at variance with me, and the watchman smites me with his staff.”

Oscar Levant wrote: “There's a fine line between genius and insanity. I have erased this line.” I think the same could be said of Christopher Smart.

In 1943, Benjamin Britten took *Jubilate Agno* and set it to music for organ and choir. Please join us at 10:00 on May 7 to hear this delightful work.

—Joel Knapp, Director

# 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.

## Tuesday, May 2

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

## Wednesday, May 3

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 4

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

## Sunday, May 7

**Fair Trade Coffee Sales**  
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)  
11:30 a.m. - Fire Side Chat  
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

## Tuesday, May 9

11:00 a.m.—Women's Alliance  
2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)  
6:30 p.m.—Policy Board (C1)

## Wednesday, May 10

**6:30 p.m.—Library Committee (L)**  
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, May 14

**Newsletter Deadline**  
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, May 16

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)  
7:00 p.m. - Library Committee (L)

## Wednesday, May 17

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 18

7:00 p.m. - Toward Justice Book Discussion

## Sunday, May 21

**Annual Meeting/Fair Trade Coffee Sales**  
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)  
11:30 a.m.. - Colton Covenant Group (C7)  
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

## Tuesday, May 23

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)  
12:00 p.m.—Women's Alliance  
7:00 p.m. - MWM Men's Group

## Wednesday, May 24

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 25

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

## Saturday, May 26

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

## Sunday, May 28

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)

## Tuesday, May 30

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

## Wednesday, May 31

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

For updates to the church calendar visit  
[firstuustlouis.org](http://firstuustlouis.org)

Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**

**Newsletter  
Deadline:  
Sunday,  
May 14, 2017**

**Newsletter Folding  
Tuesday, May 23**

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Member, Unitarian Universalist Association

**The St. Louis Unitarian  
Volume 47, Number 11  
May 2017**

June newsletter deadline: May 14

Fold: May 23 @ 10:00 a.m.

Submit news to [office@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:office@firstuustlouis.org)

(314) 361-0595/96 • fax: (314) 361-0712

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**Rev. Gary James**

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**Earl Holt**

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**Augustine Underwood**, RE, Admin. Assistant

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**Earl Naylor**, Organist/Accompanist

**Administrative Team**

**Yvette Clemons**, Church Administrator

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**Membership**

**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