

The St. Louis Unitarian

August 2017 Vol. 48 No. 3

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

AUGUST 2017 WORSHIP INFORMATION

August 6 Young Adult

Join us to explore what it means to be welcome. Who is welcome in our country right now? Who is welcome in our church community? How does this measure up to our UU seven principles, and how can we do better?

August 13 “Building an Ark” Carole Watson

Stormy weather ahead. What if you had to build an ark? What would you build it out of? How large would you make it? Most importantly, who would you invite inside and how would you all get along?

August 20 Claire Weichselbaum and friends

This special intergenerational service will reflect on Unitarian Universalism as a practice of lifelong learning. There will be something for everyone, whether you are 5 or 95!

August 27 “Sharing Our Gifts” (Hope Chapel) Chris and Diane Fawcett & Emily and Jeremy Colton

This is First UU’s 7th annual Sharing Our Gifts service-in-the-round ceremony. We’ll come together and celebrate our lives of generosity and community, receiving the gifts of others—friendship, music, teaching, freethinking, inspiration—and treasure. Whether you are a first-time visitor or long time member, we all have gifts that we share with the church, and we all receive benefits from those gifts. Come, help celebrate what you give to the church and what this church gives to you.

**Thank You
Page 7**

*Thank
you* 

**Designated
Collections
Page 10**



**Spot Light on
Members
Page 10**



**FAIR
TRADE
COFFEE
SALES**

AUGUST 6 & 20

From the President August 2017

Because I am on vacation, this will be a short column. As we enter our second year of transition, I want to share information about the work going on and the critical role that **EVERYONE** in the congregation will play.

The Policy Board exists in a special and challenging space during ministerial transition. First, the selection of the interim minister falls to the Board, rather than a search committee. This allows for expediency and gives the Board a deeper involvement with the transition process. However, it can leave the larger congregation feeling less involved--more on that below. As reported elsewhere, the Board elected to continue our relationship with Rev. Gary James, and set a target of culminating a search in 2019.

The Policy Board also bears the responsibility for leading the congregation's preparations for our ministerial search. The Board is working with the Transition Team to develop a "punch list" of things that need to be in tip-top shape, so that ministerial candidates will see a church actively engaging with its challenges and directing energy toward needed change. Of course, we will also work on ways to enjoy and emphasize our strengths. Carole Watson pointed out the office project in her column; this was one of the to-do items. At our retreat August 26, the Policy Board and Council will work with the Transition Team and Rev. James to fine-tune our goals and the list of things that need attention and energy.

Our transition time does not reflect our next settled state, but allows us to discern how it might look. It is a chance to look in the mirror and do some critical evaluation of what's great and what's not about how we do church. How will candidates see us? As we move quickly toward our target date for a search, we encourage everyone to look for chances to help with both the thinking part and the working part of this process. Participating is the best way to create the church you want.

Kathy Wire



Church Council Chair Notes

Carole Watson, Church Council Chair

It's steamy midsummer, actually a little past, and we've just begun a new church year. Summer Services are underway. Having given myself last month off, I have many thoughts to share with you, and, as always, I am looking for your feedback.

Many public and private schools will open their doors to a new school year before long. This is the ideal time to think about our RE program and the terrific Sunday school that Lynn Hunt so ably manages. Are your children coming? Do you have friends or neighbors who are looking for an open religious education for their own children? Talk to them about the RE program at First UU; it could be a perfect match.

The Church Council meets every fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. As we start a new church year, some of the topics on our agenda are re-thinking how we use our outdoor spaces; shifting membership tasks from **Dan Livengood**, whose official term was up at the end of June, to volunteers (this means YOU); finding ways to maintain and improve our facilities and grounds on a very limited budget; connecting effectively to our larger community; and addressing a host of other church-related issues as they arise. It will be a challenging and rewarding year, of that I have no doubt. I promise to do my best to keep you informed throughout the year and to offer ways that YOU can engage more fully in the life of First UU.

Speaking of ways to help out, each of us can be aware of changes that are coming to the office and to our church communications. **Jim Wire**, spouse of **Kathy Wire**, our Board president, is working with office staff and a small support team to ensure that the staff's work flows more smoothly and that their time is used more effectively. **Please remember that the staff has been asked to do the same work load on fewer hours and with less support for the past two years or more.** This past year has been especially brutal for **Yvette Clemons**, our church administrator, who has experienced critical health issues and family crises. She could use a reassuring hug from each of us. We hope to begin the new church year in September with better technology and scheduling, but YOU can help by making all requests to the office in a timely manner, by making detailed and clear requests, and by considering ways to make each request more readily accomplishable. For example, if you are requesting that someone be notified, make sure to give Yvette all current contact information. Yvette knows a lot, but don't assume that she knows ALL.

Finally, our church needs to grow. We need young families and good-hearted people of all ages and from all backgrounds. Talk up our church to any and everyone! We need to be mindful of welcoming and including visitors and newcomers into this beloved community. And we need to appreciate the roles that each of us plays in continuing and expanding the long and storied life of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. Thanks for taking the time to read this! See you at church.



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES

August 6 & 20

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

Women's Alliance will meet Tuesday, August 8, at Missouri Botanical Garden. Gather in the atrium at 11:20 am so that members can offer a guest admissions to non-members. Lunch at 11:30 am in Sassafras. Those who are interested can tour the Garden after lunch. Contact Pam Gempel 314-646-7918 with any questions.

—Pam Gempel

Op Shop

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

Toward Justice and *Clean* Missouri Amendment Petitions Sunday, August 27th

The Toward Justice Anti-Racism Group is supporting and collecting signatures for Metropolitan Congregations United initiative called Clean Missouri. The proposal would create redistricting reforms, limit campaign contributions, and generate aggressive ethics reforms in the Missouri State General Assembly. Members of Toward Justice will be collecting signatures for this proposed amendment in Fellowship Hall on August 27th (the goal is to have enough signatures to have it on the 2018 Missouri ballot). You can also stop by the Toward Justice Information table in Fellowship Hall any Sunday and let someone know you would like to sign the petition. Thanks for signing the petition. If you want more info please contact Lynn Hunt, Credentialed Religious Educator (314-361-0595 ext. 25 or lyhunt56@aol.com)

Toward Justice meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm. Join Us!

Lynn Hunt, Religious Educator

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LYNN HUNT,
CREDENTIALLED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

Summer Religious Education continues with weekly wisdom tales and visits to the gardens (weather permitting). In August we will concentrate on Native American myths. Plan to join the classes at 10:00am every Sunday and be sure to go outside and enjoy the gardens yourself.

Plans are now being made for the Fall Adult, Youth and Children's Religious Education classes and programs. **Teachers are still needed for the Sunday morning children's classes – especially the lower elementary grades.** This is a great opportunity to further your understanding of Unitarian Universalism and to get to know the families of the church. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall or contact Lynn Hunt if you are interested.

Registration Materials for Fall Children's & Youth Religious Education classes will be mailed at the end of August. If you do not receive materials by August 31st please contact the office.

Dates:

Saturday, August 20th – Teacher Orientation (11:30 – 1:30 – lunch provided)

Sunday, August 27th – Last Session of Summer RE

Sunday, September 3rd – Child Care Only

Sunday, September 10th – Ingathering, Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Boston Trip Group

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. Some groups have specific themes and others are general in nature. This is a wonderful way to further your connections with others in the congregation. If you would like more information about joining a group you can: sign up in Fellowship Hall, contact the Covenant Group Coordinator, at covenant-groups@firstuustlouis.org or call the Faith Development Office (314-361-0595 ext 25).

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM JULY 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.

—**Congratulations to member Jane Hoelkeman** on the birth of her first grandchild. Wyatt David Cartensen was born on 6/12/17 in San Francisco.

—**Rhonda Buerger**, children's Religious Education Assistant, welcomed her first grandchild, Lucy, into the world on Tuesday, June 27. Congrats!

—Members **James and Mary Bosnick** are new parents. Their first child, James, was born on June 23rd.

Donald Jeffries who is mending after having kidney stones.

—Condolences to **Jeanette Myers** whose husband, **Allen Myers**, passed away Friday, July 7th, after an extended illness. Allen was a long-time member and will be missed by all. A memorial service will be on August 5th.

—Our healing thoughts and prayers to **Grace Munie** who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and recovering from surgery.

—Please Keep **Cathy Reszinski** in your thoughts Cathy has been diagnosed with a rare form of breast cancer, Pagets Disease.

—**Yvette Clemons**, our church administrator, extends a very sincere thank you to everyone for your sympathy cards and prayers. Her family is deeply touched by your words of condolence and are thankful you are thinking about them during this difficult time.



Be a Reading Buddy this school year!

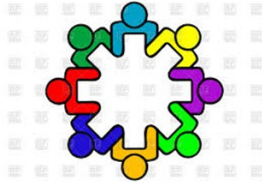
For several years now members of First Church have joined with members of CRC to form our own branch of Karen Kalish's Reading Buddies Program. For one hour each week, reading buddies work with a child who is struggling with reading in the St Louis Public School system. You can make a difference in the life of a child in our community. Can you think of a better use of your time? Contact Carole Watson at cw63130@gmail.com, or call me at (314) 721-4579. You can do this!



Interim Minister/ Transition Update

We are pleased to announce the board's approval of Rev. Gary James' contract renewal for a 2-year period effective August 2017. By providing Interim Ministerial stability over the next two years, the board believes that this best positions us to continue the transition process with the goal of calling a settled minister by April 2019. The work started by the Transition Team in conjunction with Gary's presence will also allow us to move forward with preparing our church for our future.

New Policy Board/ Council Members and Assignments:



Kathy Wire, Policy Church Board President

David Whiteman, Policy Church Board Vice President

Carolyn Toft, Policy Board member

Alicia Claire Lloyd, Policy Board member

Carole Watson, Church Council Chairperson -2nd term

Victoria Bonvento, Church Council Member, Membership Cluster

We welcome them to their new assignments!



To everyone who pledged this year. To date we have raised \$360,000 in pledges. To the Lorraine Wallis estate for a bequest of \$100,000 to the endowment fund and \$50,000 to the Lewis Intern Fund. To the Dr. Eli and Renni Shuter estate for a bequest of \$25,000 to the First Church Community Fund (formerly known as CAEF). To Rob Harding for his gift of \$25,000 over the next two years, for use to improve our Information Technology Environment.

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.

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.

OUR NEW MEMBERS: MEET ROY TAYLOR

Roy has been attending FUU for 40 years after he and his wife, Lori Calcaterra, were married in the Dodson Room by Earl Holt. Roy describes himself as being a bit commitment averse. However, he felt that the right time had arrived to become a member and signed the Membership Book in May of this year.

Roy grew up in a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and became weary of the repetitious nature of sermons and Scripture readings – over and over. He was drawn to the Unitarian Church for its freedom and expression of belief. Roy particularly appreciates the history of the Unitarian Universalist religion.

Roy is a native of St. Louis, growing up in North City. He's a veteran of the Army and Marine Reserves, and served our country during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His career has been focused on computers, everything except graphics! He's retired from the federal government. Roy has a son from a previous marriage, who lives in North Carolina, and two grandchildren - one in California and the other in Florida.

– *penned by Erin Milligan, Spotlight Team*

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. August's designated collection is Saint Martha's Hall on August 13, 2017.

Saint Martha's Hall provides emergency shelter services for women and children as well as education and counseling to break the cycle of abuse. Many church members have volunteered at the shelter over the years. This designated collection was nominated by Kimberly Perry

THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE. WE HAVE NEW OFFICE EMAILS:



Yvette Clemons:

yclemons@firstuustlouis.com

Augie Underwood:

aunderwood@firstuustlouis.com

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, August 2

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

Wednesday, August 3

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, August 5

2:00 pm—Memorial Service (S)

Sunday, August 6

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

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

Tuesday, August 8

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

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

Wednesday, August 9

6:30 p.m. - Library Committee (L)

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, August 12

9:30 am—Moppet Swap (FH)

Sunday, August 13

Newsletter Deadline

Fair Trade Coffee Sales

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

Tuesday, August 15

11:00 a.m. - Women's Alliance

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

6:30 p.m. - Policy Board (CLK)

6:30 p.m. - Library Committee (L)

Wednesday, August 16

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 18

6:00 p.m. - LGBTQIA and Potluck (FH)

Saturday, August 19

2:00 pm — Rental (S)

Sunday, August 20

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

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

Tuesday, August 22

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

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

Wednesday, August 23

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 27

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

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

12:30 p.m. - Great Books Discussion

Tuesday, August 29

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

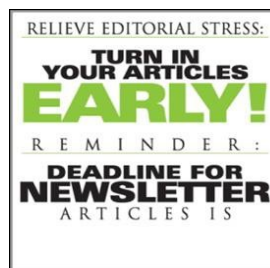
Wednesday, August 30

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

For updates to the church calendar visit
firstuustlouis.org

**Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday,
August 13, 2017**

**Newsletter
Folding
Tuesday, August 22, 2017**



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, August 23, 2017



www.UUSTL.org

Member, Unitarian Universalist Association

**The St. Louis Unitarian
Volume 48, Number 2
August 2017**

September newsletter deadline: August 13

Fold: August 22 @ 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, 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.com

Membership

Mary Thompson, Sunday Sexton

Elliott Smith,/Custodian

Donald Jeffries, **Carole Watson**,

Larry Dusenbery, Newsletter Proofreaders

Office Hours

Mon — Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Closed