

The St. Louis Unitarian

September 2017 Vol. 48 No. 3

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

SEPTEMBER 2017 WORSHIP INFORMATION

September 3

"American Protestantism and the Chautauqua Movement"

Mike Nolan

The Chautauqua movement of the 19th century, which continues today, reveals that learning, tolerance, science and the fight for social justice were and are at the very center of mainstream American Protestantism.

September 10 **Homecoming Sunday - Intergenerational** **Rev. Gary James**

What is the heart of the church? It is the good men, women and children who realize they are part of one another, part of generations past and those yet to come.

September 17 **Water Ceremony** **Rev. Gary James**

The annual water service, sometimes called a "water communion" or "Waters of the World," is beloved by Unitarian Universalists (UU). The water service is a UU ritual, usually conducted in the fall when friends and members return from their summer travels. They are invited to bring a sample of water from their travels or water that has other significance for them. All of the samples are poured into a common bowl or vase to signify coming together again. It's a way of symbolizing that many are one, and a way of getting reacquainted.

September 24 **"Faith, Hope, and Love"** **Dr. John Tamilio**

Faith, Hope, and Love are biblical themes, but they also appear in T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*. Dr. Tamilio's homily will reflect upon this theme in biblical and extra-canonical sources. John Tamil is the Pastor of the Congregational Church of Canton, MA and teaches Philosophy at Salem State University and Gordon College. He is a member of the T.S. Eliot Society.

Partner Church

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Toward Justice

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**Office
New
Email address**

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**FAIR
TRADE
COFFEE
SALES**

**SEPTEMBER
3 & 17**

From the President September 2017

Working Better Together by Kathy Wire

The Policy Board, Church Council and Transition Team have been hard at work readying the church for a new minister. We have identified “functional governance” -- from the top to the smallest committees -- as a prime target for work, with a special focus on accountability. When I saw a blog post from my favorite writing coach, Daphne Gray-Grant, about how to make editors love you, I realized that her advice is great for anyone who is talented yet accountable to others—including at church. Her 10 recommendations, with minor church-related commentary:

Make sure you really understand the assignment. Ask questions. The covenant signed by all your church leaders includes the admonition “assume ambiguity.”

Be calm and cheerful. We are all in this together, and it will be stressful sometimes.

Turn down work you’re ill-suited for. You will hate it and you won’t do it well. Conversely, step up for projects in your wheelhouse.

Ask for and follow the style guide. Publications have style guides that outline how to handle grammar and citations. Fixing deviations costs editors valuable time and makes life harder for everybody. Find out: What are the expectations for a task, including its scope and the anticipated outcomes. What are the ground rules? To whom are you accountable?

Report at least once, midway. At the start of any project, find out to whom you report. Let them know how it’s going, especially if you have encountered obstacles (they can probably help you) or need resources (they need to know this).

If you need help, ask for it early in the process. See number 5.

Use quotes judiciously. The non-writing equivalent of this advice: don’t just parrot others. Add your own creative spark.

Document your sources. Interim ministers work hard to identify and correct “known truths.” These are facts known by some, seldom known by all, and usually not exactly true. Check your information, go to original sources and share what you learn that way.

Be within 10 words of your assigned word count. Do what’s been asked, but nobody likes a show-off. If you stumble on an extra-important something, check in with your leadership for guidance. They will know if it’s already getting attention or would conflict with ongoing work. Sometimes various well-intentioned members of the congregation are at work on the same problem, while other projects don’t get the attention we thought they were getting.

Always meet your deadline. I struggle with this as much as anybody, but it is really just common courtesy. The church has many moving parts, whether it’s sending out an agenda, getting the newsletter out on time, completing the order of service, ordering flowers and donuts or showing up to greet or usher on time. Sometimes deadlines are unclear; if you don’t know, ask.

Your fellow members of the congregation will love you. Remember, we are all accountable to each other!



Church Council Chair Notes

Carole Watson, Church Council Chair

Rainbows, Covenants, and Transition

“Covenant” is one of my Top Ten words. It speaks of promise and trust. In this church, we don’t require anyone to recite a creed on Sunday morning, or give lip service to beliefs they have long outgrown. We live together in **covenant** in this church, in this beloved community. We have promised one another to work together for a better world. We have agreed to be kind, tolerant, respectful, and yes, even forgiving, in the midst of a world that is often rude, violent, derisive, and denigrating. When we sign the membership book, we pledge our trust to each other. We live and breathe together in covenant.

Coming out of the Christian tradition, I am today basically an agnostic: I just don’t know where we came from, why we are here, or where we are headed. I include the Bible in my many sources of wisdom, for the stories of both the Old and New Testaments resonate today. In the first book of the Old Testament, the book of Genesis, God taps a clean-living man named Noah, to build a huge ship – an ark. God’s experiment with humanity has not gone as He had hoped, and He has determined to end it all in a Great Flood. But despite all the violence and depravity, God spares Noah and his family and commands Noah to build a very large boat: 510 feet long by 85 feet wide by 51 feet high. It must have been a daunting task, but Noah’s faith was up to it. When the ordeal was over, God created the rainbow, a physical manifestation of his promise never again to destroy the world by flood waters, His covenant of life with humanity.

The rainbow has a magical hold on us. Everyone oohs and aahs at a rainbow; everyone smiles and feels somehow blessed just seeing one. The rainbow reminds us, at some deep level, that we have been granted the gift of life. Living in covenantal relationship is not a new idea. Nor is a world of mayhem and violence a new situation. What does it really mean for us to live under a rainbow – to live in covenant? I am convinced that you and I are both Noah, and this old church is our ark. We build and re-build it continuously by faith. Over the decades, this ark has welcomed thousands in its hold. It is fuelled by your caring and compassion; it sails on the side of love; and it proudly flies the flag of religious freedom.

Our ark is sailing through an exciting time of transition, with our interim minister Rev. Gary James, your church leaders, and YOU at the helm. We have the next two years to search for a settled minister who is a “good fit.” This works both ways. We also have the next two years to make ourselves and our ark ready to attract and welcome a new minister. This means, quite literally, ALL HANDS ON DECK! To keep this ark strong and seaworthy requires the talents, effort, time, and resources of each of us, and like Noah, we are up to the task. Our rainbow connection to one another is our covenant of faith. So let’s embrace the new church year wholeheartedly, knowing that together we can steer a course toward a future bright with hope and promise. ALL HANDS ON DECK – come see the rainbow.



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES

September 3 & 17

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 September 12 for a pot luck in Fellowship Hall. Please bring something to share. Please also bring your ideas about the future of the Alliance, and possible changes to the structure..

Op Shop

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

Partner Church News

This promises to be a momentous year for celebrating our Unitarian heritage, and the international, and our own, local "Partner Church" programs! Below, is a synopsis of the event we will be commemorating, along with our world-wide church (Source: UUPCC July, 2017 newsletter).

To kick off our own First Church celebration, we will have the distinct privilege of once again hosting Rev. Roger Bertschausen, Executive Director of the UUPCC (Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council) in our pulpit on Partner Church Sunday, January 21st, 2018, a week after his return from the anniversary celebration in Transylvania (Romania).

On January 13, 2018 one of the world's first statements of religious tolerance will have its 450th anniversary. In 1563, in the city of Torda, in what is now Romania, a religious gathering presided over by Unitarian King John Sigismund proclaimed: "In every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well. If not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve...no one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone... and it is not permitted that anyone should threaten anyone else by imprisonment... For faith is the gift of God...Unitarianism was officially recognized for the first time in the history of the world in the

Edict of Torda."And, that moment is the beginning of our legacy to be a spiritual tradition that resists hatred, oppression, and the narrow view that there is only one way to be faithful, to be religious, to be free.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LYNN HUNT,
CREDENTIALED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

In preparing for the beginning of our 2017/2018 Religious Education programming year amidst the continuing tumult of current events and flagrant displays of hate, I reviewed some materials that describe why we as Unitarian Universalists do Religious Education. Our historical roots in the liberal Christian theology of William Ellery Channing (1780-1842) is a cogent reminder of why education in our congregation is so important, not just for ourselves, but for our society as a whole. Channing defined Unitarianism as acknowledging that humans have free will and a multitude of capacities that are good – reason, empathy, affection, imagination. These abilities are faculties of our individual souls. In addition, the understanding of the liberal Christians was that we (or individuals) have a synergistic relationship with God rather than a dependent one. God is viewed as the source of goodness within a person. Channing moves in the direction of the soul being a reflection of our Godliness, therefore, we know God by knowing ourselves.

Education, for Channing, is defined as the activity through which all powers of the soul are called forward – are unfolded. We – the individual person – are the dwelling place of God in the world and our advancement as an individual brings God into the world.

In Channing's own words: *God is another name for human intelligence raised above all error and imperfection, and extended to all possible truth.*

Theologian Rebecca Parker has stated, through her understanding of Channing, that **education is the fundamental spiritual practice in our tradition – the development of the various capacities of the soul over any other traditional Christian practice such as prayer and sacrament. In this framework – The whole church is an educating institution.**

This understanding of an unfolding soul as the dwelling place of God also implies a social critique. Channing recognized that there are social structures and oppressions that suppress the soul – hinder it. Channing saw the results of the industrial revolution as oppressive – creating work that destroyed the soul. Destroying the soul would also be the ultimate sin of slavery. According to Rebecca Parker, our understanding of Channing's theology also requires an analysis of oppression. Again, because any oppression that hinders the individual is a suppression of God's presence.

Parker says – This all leads us to the understanding that Education is inherently spiritual and a practice of social transformation. Our work in education is to prevent violence in the world which is destruction of the soul.

Whether you spell God with one O or two Os, I think we can agree that our world, children, youth and adults need our life affirming message. Our nation is hurt and suffering. It is hungering for purveyors of hope and love. It is aching for education that is inherently spiritual and whose mission is social transformation. For a Religious Education that strives to prevent violence. This is why we do Religious Education. I hope you will join us this year in the important and holy task of Religious Education.

With hope -- Lynn

*—RE continued on page 6—
—RE continued on from page 5—*

Dates to Remember

August 27th – Last Day of Summer RE

September 3rd – Child Care Only (no RE classes)

September 10th – Ingathering – Multi-Generational Service and Pancake Breakfast – Children will take part in a multi-generational service celebrating the start of our new church programming year. (Watch the weekly Religious Education Announcement for more details). Plan to enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast after services and support the Boston Trip fundraising efforts of the 8th grade class.

September 17th – Religious Education Classes – All RE classes will meet on this morning at 10:00am. **Religious Education Committee** meets at 11:30 in C1. Please attend if you would like to be a part of the group that plans events and sets policy for the RE program

Registration materials for the Religious Education program will be mailed by August 30th. If you have not received materials, please contact Lynn Hunt.

Adult & Family Faith Development in September

Covenant Groups

What are Covenant Groups???? In Covenant Groups of 10-12 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. Small groups are great places to get to know other people on a deeper level in the Congregation and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred. Whether the topic is “good and evil,” “mindful living” or “letting go,” the conversation is respectful and caring and leads to greater understanding. In each session, facilitated by a member of the congregation, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. Many small groups also put their faith into action through service projects. (text adapted slightly from the UUA website).

See the Calendar for days and times for Covenant Group meeting.

Toward Justice Group Book Discussion

This year we are offering a discussion on Robin DiAngelo's *What Does It Mean To Be White? -- Developing White Racial Literacy.*

From the statement on the back cover "What does it mean to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless, yet is deeply divided by race? In the face of pervasive racial inequality and segregation, most white people cannot answer that question...Robin DiAngelo reveals the factors that make this question so difficult: mis-education about what racism is; ideologies such as individualism and colorblindness; segregation; and the belief that to be complicit in racism is to be an immoral person."

This material is demanding so we will discuss it throughout the year in parts on the 3rd Sunday after church service. You don't have to attend all sessions in order to participate. The first session we'll tackle the first 4 chapters.

Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you have any trouble finding the book please contact Lynn Hunt (lyhunt56@aol.com or 314-361-0595 ext. 25) or Cathy Rauch, facilitator, on Sunday mornings.

Session Schedule (Sundays at 11:30):
October 15, 2017; November 19, 2017;
January 21, 2018

Toward Justice

The Toward Justice Anti-Racism group meets monthly to discuss Racial Justice actions in which we can participate and reform issues for which we will advocate. Currently, we are collecting signatures in the Clean Missouri campaign. Clean Missouri is a proposed amendment for the Missouri Constitution that would initiate redistricting reforms, institute campaign contribution limits, create lobbying ethics improvements, and require more accountability and transparency in the Missouri General Assembly. Members of Toward Justice are working with Metropolitan Congregations United by collecting signatures to have this amendment placed on the November 2018 ballot. Please help support this effort that would reform and equalize influence in the legislature by signing one of the petitions! **Look for the Toward Justice table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays August 30th and September 17th in order to sign a petition.**

Toward Justice meets the First Thursday of the Month at 7:00pm. Join us for our next meeting on September 7th.

—Lynn Hunt, Religious Educator

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 or phone the office at 314-361-0595

Yvette (yclemons@firstuustlouis.com)
or
Augie (aunderwood@firstuustlouis.com),

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

We warmly welcome you to our religious community.

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM AUGUST 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.

—Best wishes to **Dwight Homer** who had knee surgery on August 8th.

—We send our deep sympathy to **Julie Martin and Rev. Gary James**. Julie's older brother, Joe, died suddenly but peacefully in his sleep recently.

—Good wishes and best of luck to member **Brian Blosser** who is relocating to the D.C. area. Brian was an active member of Toward Justice, Young Adults and the Transition Team. We thank him for all his efforts and for always having a smile!

—Long-time member (since 1980) **Mary Broida** bids a fond farewell to the congregation. Following a brief hospitalization, Mary is moving to a care facility in Cleveland, Ohio to be near her son Richard and family.

—Watch for Religious Education graduate **Eden Vitoff** An Inconvenient Sequel" movie. At the end of the movie before the credits, there's a montage of climate reality presenters/activists that are shown for 30 seconds or so. And one of them is EDEN! His part is a tiny bit of a video of when he spoke at a rally at the Illinois State Capitol a little over a year ago in support of a Clean Energy Bill.

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

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.

Sunday, September 3

Fair Trade Coffee Sales

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, September 5

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

Wednesday, September 6

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

Saturday, September 9

9:30 am—LGBTQIA (L)

Sunday, September 10

Newsletter Deadline
Homecoming Sunday
Ingathering Muti-general Service
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)

Tuesday, September 12

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, September 13

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 15

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

Sunday, September 17

Fair Trade Coffee Sales

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:15 a.m. - Chesla/Veyhl Covenant Group
11:30 a.m. - Colton Covenant Group
4:00 p.m. - Community Garden Party
6:00 p.m. - LGBTQIA (FH)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, September 19

2:00 p.m. -Qigong Class (CH)
6:30 p.m. - Library Committee (L)

Wednesday, September 20

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 24

T.S. Eliot Society

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:30 a.m. - ERDE (C1)
11:30 a.m. - Covenant Group Fac. (C8)

Tuesday, September 26

2:00 p.m. - Qigong Class (CH)
6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting (C-1)

Wednesday, September 27

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 28

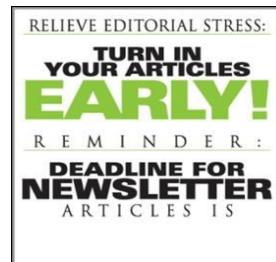
1:00 p.m. - Metaphysics Covenant Group (L)

Friday, September 29

7:00 p.m. - Young Adult Vespers and Fel. (CH)

For updates to the church calendar visit
firstuustlouis.org

**Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday,
September 10, 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, September 20, 2017



www.UUSTL.org

Member, Unitarian Universalist Association

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

September newsletter deadline: Sep. 10

Fold: Sep. 19 @ 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 Dusenberry, Newsletter Proofreaders

Office Hours

Mon — Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Closed