

The St. Louis Unitarian

October 2017 Vol. 48 No. 4

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

OCTOBER 2017 WORSHIP INFORMATION

October 1: Tikkun Olam: The Healing and Transformation of the World

Rev. Gary James

Tikkun Olam is Hebrew and for the Jews it is the understanding that Jews bear responsibility not only for their own moral, spiritual, and material welfare, but also the welfare for society at large. Like the Jews, we too would take the time for introspection and transformation and become healers in our congregation and our community

October 8: Certainty vs. Uncertainty

Rev. Gary James

Martin Luther was wrong when he said: "Nothing in the world causes so much misery as uncertainty." "There is nothing certain, but the uncertainty.": -Proverbs. Humans crave certainty in areas where there can never be certainty. That's when we start in with crazy stuff. There will always be things we can't explain. In fact, our explanations are always provisional. This isn't a problem unless we start to confuse the explanation with reality. If you understand why explanations are always limited, you can use explanations in a practical way.

October 15: Worship Arts Committee

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 covenant (UU seven principles), and how can we do better?

October 22: Art Redeems the World

Rev. Gary James

"You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul."
Bernard Shaw

October 29: Dancing With Our Darkness

Rev. Gary James

Everyone possesses a shadow. When sunlight hits the body, the body turns bright, but it throws a shadow, which is dark. The brighter the light, the darker the shadow. Similarly, psychologically speaking, each of us has some part of our personality that is hidden from us, the dark shadow cast by the light of our ego ideals.

**Partner
Church**

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**This is
the last
issue of
The
St. Louis
Unitarian!!!**



**FAIR
TRADE
COFFEE
SALES**

OCTOBER 1 & 15

Minister's Muse

Beyond Categorical Religious Thinking: Affirming and Celebrating Our Unity in Diversity

**“The Truth is one and I am many.”
“God is one and I am legion.”**

These two statements mirror one another, the first is stated in secular or humanistic language, the latter in theological terms. There is truth in both and this is why I am a Unitarian Universalist. When I stop long enough to look at myself inquiringly, I become startlingly aware of the diversity present in my own person. I am multiform in my believing. It is this condition that attracted me to the free church and why Unitarian Universalism is my spiritual and religious home. I am not one thing, neither humanist or theist, and could never remain in a religious community that would exclude from its circle of faith these multiple aspects that define who I am. I have found some congruency not just with UUs, but with many others: Catholics and Jews; Protestants and Buddhists; devout atheists and Sufi mystics; neo-Marxists and neo-conservatives; evangelical Baptists and new age healers. I suspect one of the reasons I love diversity is because I love a good theological and ideological debate, the pleasure derived from a good argument. I consider open mindedness and critical inquiry an intellectual and spiritual discipline that sustain both my integrity, which includes my respect for the *other*, as well as, the integrity of our religious tradition as a free church. I recognize in all my antagonists (yes, even you) an expression of need and desire that is also in me. Each adversary assists in revealing a valuable insight. This is not chaos and confusion, or if so, only to the degree that chaos and confusion are en-

demic to life. There is a consistency in the appearance of inconsistency. In the midst of this ecumenical zoo I experience an abiding and embracing integrity.

The novelist, Margaret Drabble, describes my experience of myself in the company of others. “We are all part of a whole which has its own, its distinct, its other meaning; we are not ourselves, we are crossroads, meeting places, points on a curve, we cannot exist independently for we are nothing but signs, conjunctions, aggregations.”

If we are to be creatively present in a world of diversity we must find joy in being engaged in the constant reconstructing of the horizon of our expectations and the unnerving formation and alteration of our perceptions. A religious practice that clings to the illusion of fixed phrases and forms, be it humanist or theist, Christianity or Judaism, embracing only those beliefs and expressions that mirror one's own is antithetical to creative freedom and the free church. The *other*, whose beliefs differ from our own, who in our encounter with them, can help lead us through our lies and half-truths into community and integrity.

This is the reason I endeavor to create a liturgy in our church that is inclusive, such as “Prayer and Meditation,” “God and Spirit of Life,” welcoming everyone who would assume the *discipline of freedom*: respect for the *other*, including the *other* within oneself inviting us to grow and change. This not polite tolerance, but an engaged and active appreciation, the aim of which, in the words of the great Unitarian theologian, James Luther Adams, “is to find unity in diversity under the promptings of the spirit “that bloweth where it listeth . . . and maketh all things new.”

-Rev. Gary James

Designated Collections 2017-2018

September 10	Trinity Hot Meals Program	Donald Jeffries
September 24	Gateway 180 Homeless Services	Rosemary Lawton
October 8	Robert Ford Haitian Orphanage and School	Lisa Ross
October 22	First Church Community Fund	Margaret Weck
November 5	Peace Economy Project	Charlie Kindleberger
November 19	First Church Sandwich Project	Rosemary Lawton
December 10	Voices for Children	Stephany Kniep
December 24	100 Neediest Cases Southside Early Childhood Center	Kimberly Perry Sarah Dashner
January 14	Metropolitan Congregations United	Lisa Ross
January 21	First Church Partner Church Committee	Tom Crouch
February 11	Arch City Defenders	Lynn Hunt & Toward Justice
February 25	Places for People	Danny Milam
March 18	First Church Sandwich Project	Rosemary Lawton
April 1	First Church Partner Church Committee	Tom Crouch
April 15	Legal Services of Eastern Missouri	Charles Merrill
May 6	Lighting the Path	Clint Cruse
May 20	Payback, Inc.	Sue Ashwell
June 10	Pathways to Independence	Joan Oliver
June 24	Metro Trans Umbrella Group	Megan Garvey
July 8	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	Kimberly Perry
July 22	St. Martha's Hall	Kimberly Perry
August 12	Sherwood Forest Camp	Emily Jaycox
August 26	Hootie's Rescue Haven	Claire Birge



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES

October 1 & 15

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, October 12 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 Committee

Peggy Feinberg Reflections on my Csokfalva host family in the 2016 UU Pilgrimage to Transylvania.

I had the privilege of staying with our second scholarship student Etelka Szombatfalvie and her family. Etelka is studying to be a minister at the Unitarian boarding school in Cluj and hopes to complete her program in four more years. She and her mother both go by the name Babett making it easier for we non Hungarian speaking visitors to connect with them. Members of the household also included her sister Sofia, her father Istvan, and her 88 year old paternal grandmother Anna.

After ten days of museums, churches, and other historical sites in Budapest and Transylvania, it felt strange to finally be in a home with a family. At the same time, it was good to connect faces and real people with our partner church.

My host family was warm and gracious. They made sure I had enough to eat, plum wine to drink, and a private place to sleep in their living room. They explained how no one had to walk through that room to get to the bathroom!

Almost immediately after being introduced to Anna she started telling me how the communists had flooded her village when she was a young woman and Babett's father was only 18. She spoke very little English, but told her story with hand signs and the help of family. She lost her house and property in the flood and came to Csokfalva with her son to live. The family explained how six religious groups: Jews, Catholics, Calvinists, Unitarians, Orthodox, and Southern German Reformists had lived together peacefully in this village; and the communists were trying to wipe them out by damming the river. The family believed that many people died of grief or committed suicide after the flood. The Southern German Reformists sect died off completely and the Jews may have sent to concentration camps.

-continued on page 10 -see Partner Church -

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LYNN HUNT,
CREDENTIALLED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

Fall Religious Education classes have begun for children, youth and adults! Many thanks to all of you who are leading classes in our Sunday morning program – be sure to thank these people when you see them: **Karen Siegrist, Anna Goss, Claire Weichselbaum, Michelle Green, Tara Perry, Sue Herzberg, Sue Fazio, Molly Koebbe, Kathy Wilke, Dan Wilke, Joel Minor, Laurel Heddens, Noah Durham, Sarah Francois, Josh Peck, Vicky Bonvento, and Sara Park!** Thanks to all of you for creating our Sunday Morning Community for children and youth. Also, special thanks to our Religious Education support staff – **Augustine Underwood and Rhonda Buergler** who support the program in a myriad of ways. Our year is off to a wonderful start – be sure to plan ahead so you and your family can participate fully!

Religious Education Dates

October 1st – Family Chapel – 10:00am – Children will gather for their first Chapel of the year (this program replaces the Sunday morning classes for PreSchool – 4th Grade).

October 8th -- Card Board Creations (after church and RE) Start saving cardboard! The Young Adults Group is organizing an Intergenerational Cardboard Play Day inspired by the Imagination Foundation's global Cardboard Challenge. Details to come soon, but in the meantime start saving cardboard and any other creative building supplies

October 29th – **Halloween Party and UNICEF Collection** – 10:00am

Adult & Family Faith Development in October

Our program strives to provide opportunities for members and friends to deepen their connection with other members, explore Unitarian Universalist theology, history, spirituality and values; to understand our connection to other faith traditions and the expression of religious and ethical values through the arts; develop leadership skills; and discover our connection and responsibility to the world around us.

You can sign-up for these sessions in Fellowship Hall or call Lynn Hunt in the Faith Development office (314-361-0595 ext 25)

Covenant Groups

The Covenant Group program invites you to find out more! An information session and sample program will be held on October 22nd at 11:30 in the Hope Chapel. 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. **This is your chance to find out more and share in the Covenant Group experience.** Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship or contact Religious Educator, Lynn Hunt (314-361-0595 ext. 25 or lyhunt56@aol.com)

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 Group

Toward Justice (Anti-Racism) Group

The Toward Justice Group, formed in the wake of the Ferguson events, meets monthly to discuss Racial Justice actions in which we can participate and reform issues for which we will advocate. The group partners with other community groups which promote racial justice and reform to our governmental system. Projects have included supporting the 'Break the School to Prison Pipeline' with Metropolitan Congregations United and lobbying for police reform and anti-bias training legislation with ACLU.

In addition, the group prepares and presents education events for the congregation such as a continuing book discussion group (See Adult Education for more info) and White Supremacy Teach-Ins. The group will often gather on Sundays immediately after church for public witness in support of Black Lives Matter and/or Rights of Immigrants on the corner of Kingshighway and Waterman.

The next Toward Justice meeting is Thursday October 12th at 7:00pm at the church. Please join us! For more information, contact Lynn Hunt, Religious Educator:

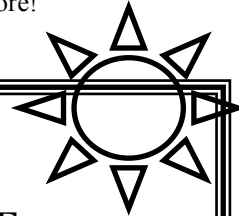
Greetings from the First U Young Adults Group!

For those who may not know us well, we are a bunch of 20- and 30-somethings (officially defined as 18-35 by the UUA, but we're flexible!) who gather to connect, reflect, serve, and have fun! As the church year draws to a close, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with the rest of the congregation what we've been up to and where we are going. A few highlights from the past year:

- Last summer, we worked with the Welcoming Congregations Committee to create a colorful Pride Parade float, and enjoyed a pool party graciously hosted by Tony and Melanie Fathman
- We organized several hikes and camping trips, complete with canoeing, stargazing, and the (world's first?) Chalice Pancake!
- In November, we held our annual "Friendsgiving" potluck with a record attendance of 20+ young adults
- We collected holiday gifts for a family of 11 through the 100 Neediest Cases program, including four beds, a computer, clothing, and of course books and toys for each child (thanks again to everyone who contributed!)
- Attendance at our monthly vespers services tripled over the past year, with themes ranging from immigration to "the interdependent web"; we also began holding planning meetings on the first Sunday of each month
- We joined the Eliot Chapel young adults group for a Disney movie night (with lots of fun UU commentary!) and hope to co-organize another event soon
- Young adults were well-represented at the Women's March, and several also attended the March for Science; many of us were active in other social justice initiatives ranging from witnessing in support of our immigrant neighbors to attending the Black Lives of UU Webinar this April

- In May, we enjoyed meeting with Rev. Gary and his wife Julie over brunch. Most recently, we organized a "retirement party" for our beloved leader of two years, Victoria Bonvento, and elected Claire Weichselbaum as our next leader

Young adults also taught in the RE program, sang in the choir, served on several church committees, performed music during services, volunteered at numerous dinners and events, helped serve Trinity Hot Lunch, performed at the Feel the Love Coffeehouse, baked pumpkin bread for the Care & Concerns Committee, and more!



**THIS IS THE
LAST
ISSUE OF
ST. LOUIS UNTARIAN
NEWSLETTER**

**FOR FURTHER
QUESTIONS OR
CONCERNS CONTACT:
OFFICE: 314-361-0595
EXT. 23
OR
EMAIL**

Yvette Clemons
yclemons@firstuustlouis.com

or

Lynn Hunt
lhunt@firstuustlouis.org

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.

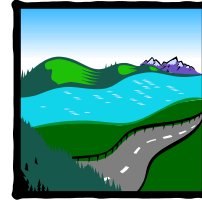
It's a free and easy way to raise money for our church and get some of your shopping finished.

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 (ycelemons@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 SEPTEMBER 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 **Meghan Garvey** who moved to Rochester, NY for a new job. Meghan has been very active in the Toward Justice Group, a Covenant Group facilitator and has graced us with wonderful singing talents. All the best on this journey.

—More good wishes to **Julie Oyen-Keller** who moved in October to the Cincinnati area to be near a brother. Julie has long been a member of the choir and has supported children's music as well. We are grateful for all the gifts she has brought to this congregation.

—**Grace Munie** continues to recuperate from surgery for breast cancer.

—We extend our sympathy to **Sherri Bassi** whose mother passed away.

—Our deep sympathy to **Shannon Lawton O'Boyle** whose father recently passed away. We also extend our sympathy to the rest of the O'Boyle family, including the children who lost their grandfather.

-continued from page 4 (Partner Church)-

During the following days the minister took us to see the lake that was created by the flood. We also saw the ruins of the old Unitarian Church that had been a part of the village. It was a quiet, sad experience. We also went to the Memorial Garden that honors the destroyed village. Pathways through the memorial mimic the layout of village streets and each house is represented by a totem pole with the family's name and unique symbols representing them. Each year remaining family members gather on the first Saturday in August for a memorial service. Several days after these visits, we attended a Sunday Communion service at our partner church. We were proudly shown all the renovations our monies had made possible, and identified other repairs that needed to-be made.

I found myself thinking about the flooded village and was moved by the fact that these people didn't lose faith during all the oppression. I asked myself if I really appreciated what I have; and realized how important it is to help these people who are working so hard to rebuild their churches and regain their religious freedom. P.S: Please don't think my whole was serious and sad. We laughed, ate, drank, and danced and had a wonderful time sharing with each other and the village of Csokfalva.

**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, October 1

Fair Trade Coffee Sales

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:30 a.m. - Young Adult Planning Meeting (DR)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, October 3

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

Wednesday, October 4

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 8

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:30 a.m. - Knitting Ministry (C7)

Tuesday, October 10

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

Wednesday, October 11

6:30 p.m. - Yokota/Franklin Covenant Group (L)
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 14

9:30 a.m. - LGBTQIA (L)

Sunday, October 15

Newsletter Deadline

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
11:30 a.m. - RE Committee (C1)
6:00 p.m. - LGBTQIA (FH)
7:00 p.m. - Toastmasters (CLK)

Tuesday, October 17

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

Wednesday, October 18

Newsletter Proofing

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 22

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

Tuesday, October 24

Newsletter Folding

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

Wednesday, October 25

7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 26

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

Friday, October 27

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

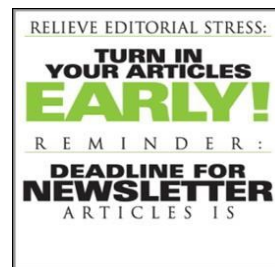
Sunday, October 29

RE Halloween Party—UNICEF Collection

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

For updates to the church calendar visit
firstuustlouis.org

**Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday,
October 15, 2017**



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

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Dated Mailed: Please Deliver Promptly

Date Mailed: Tuesday, October 25, 2017



www.UUSTL.org

Member, Unitarian Universalist Association

**The St. Louis Unitarian
Volume 48, Number 4
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November newsletter deadline: Oct. 15

Fold: Oct. 24 @ 10:00 a.m.

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

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Rev. Gary James

☎ ext. 27

gjames@firstuustlouis.org

Minister Emeritus

Earl Holt

Religious Education Team

Lynn Hunt, Credentialed Religious Educator

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Rhonda Buergler, Sunday Assistant

Augustine Underwood, RE, Admin. Assistant

☎ ext. 21

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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. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Closed