



**Flower Communion
May 5th, 2024
Order of Service**

Ringling of the Bowl

Annette Peterson

Welcome and Announcements

Annette Peterson

Prelude

Canon by George Chadwick

Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #323 Break Not the Circle

*Break not the circle of enabling love
where people grow, forgiven and forgiving;
break not that circle, make it wider still,
till it includes, embraces all the living.*

*Come, wonder at this love that comes to life,
where words of freedom are with humor spoken,
and people keep no score of wrong and guilt,
but will that human bonds remain unbroken.*

*Join then the movement of the love that frees,
till people of whatever race or nation
will truly be themselves, stand on their feet,
see eye to eye with laughter and elation.*

Chalice Lighting

Annette Peterson

Sung Response #362 Rise Up, O Flame

*Rise up, O flame,
by thy light glowing,
show to us beauty,
vision, and joy.*

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Kim Mason

<https://forms.gle/3rz3tdj8eR8dqEbN7>

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kim Mason

Sung Response #123 Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free;

Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Reading

from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Annette Peterson

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Use the Online Giving QR Code on your pew QR codes card to make an online offering

Offertory

Gracias a la Vida by Violeta Parra

First Unitarian Choir

Sermon

Companion Planting, or The Beauty of Pluralism

Rev. Kim Mason

Children's Procession #118 This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Story For All Ages

Petula and the Brindleberry Flower by Kristin Maier

Danielle Kozemczak

Blessing of the Flowers

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #78 Color and Fragrance

*Color and fragrance, magical rhythm,
sweet changing music will change us with them:
life within life, inner light gently glowing,
surely you seem to be God's vision growing.*

*O starry heavens, worlds of all splendor,
suns without number, new life engender:
wheel in a wheel with the light brightly glowing,
moving in harmony, God's vision growing.*

*Hand full of pebbles, high mountain passes,
depths of the ocean, dew on the grasses:
great things and small, with the light gently glowing,
word of the wordless song, God's vision growing.*

*Delicate beings, lacewing and sparrow
in field and forest, clover and yarrow:
life greeting life with the light brightly glowing,
none are too small to be God's vision growing.*

*In human eyes burns the soul of living,
illumines altars of loving giving:
greeting, we meet, seeing light brightly glowing,
share in a greater life, God's vision growing.*

*Shaper of all things, to us you've given
our chance to keep here on earth, a heaven.
Moving in harmony, light gently glowing,
may we be, gratefully, God's vision growing.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Extinguish Chalice

Annette Peterson

Postlude

Prelude on Cwm Rhondda by Paul Manz

Earl Naylor, organ

*This morning's flowers are given by **Melanie and Tony Fathman** in appreciation for their loving family.*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Sheryl Coulter and Gary Parks
Greeters: Grace Munie and Steve Wilke
A/V Assistant: Tom Finan

Music Notes

Gracias a la Vida by Violeta Parra - English Translation

[Verse 1]

Thank you to life, that has given me so much
It has given me two bright stars that when they are shown
I can perfectly distinguish black from white
And on the sky, their big starry sky
And in the crowd, the man that I love

[Verse 2]

Thank you to life, that has given me so much
It has given me the ear that in all its width
Every night and day
Crickets and canaries, hammers, turbines
Barks, rain
And the very sweet voice of my good lover

[Verse 3]

Thank you to life, that has given me so much
It has given me sound and the alphabet
Which came with words that I think and proclaim
A mother, a friend, a brother, and a shining light
The route to the soul of the one that I love

[Verse 4]

Thank you to life, that has given me so much
It has given me the stride of my tired feet
With which I walked through cities and puddles
Beaches and deserts, mountains and plains
And the house of yours, your street and your backyard

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**Welcome to this religious community
where we affirm the dignity, worth, and freedom
of all who enter our doors.**

Here we seek to live together in relationship and respect so that we may embrace and celebrate our differences. Understanding that we need not think alike to love alike, our religious values invite us to a shared journey of truth and meaning. Sincerity and connection guide our religious community, and call us into deeper association with ourselves and our world.

We welcome people of all ages, races, classes, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. First Unitarian Church of St. Louis is a *Welcoming Congregation* committed to the inclusion of LGBTQIAA+ individuals, families and communities in the life of our congregation. We are a *Green*

Sanctuary Church, committed to sustainable practices and ethical consumption on our building and ground.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Yellow Pages

(314) 361-0595 5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63108 <https://www.firstuustlouis.org/>

Weekly E-News from First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Sunday, April 28th 2024

Worship Service

Sunday, May 5th 2024

Flower Communion: Companion Planting, or the Beauty of Pluralism with Rev Kim Mason

Our annual flower communion service celebrates the beauty of diversity in our community. This month's theme of Pluralism explores how our different beliefs enrich our connections and add meaning to our shared worship. Don't forget to bring a flower with you to church!

- Online Order of Service (<https://tinyurl.com/325aapyw>)
- Watch this Service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/3sNJ0Ag04VM>)
- Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842582434?pwd=dThVUXR1clhTMVBFbmRYa0l3OVlKZz09>)

This morning's flowers are given by Melanie and Tony Fathman in appreciation for their loving family.

**** This Sunday After Service**

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Membership Committee (C1)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Beltane Celebration hosted by ERDE

All are welcome to this family friendly event

Beltane, also called May Day, is a pagan holiday that marks the halfway point between the spring equinox and the coming summer solstice. It represents the peak of spring and is associated with fertility, bonfires, and of course the May pole dance. We will be dancing around our own May pole! Activities will also include a honeycomb communion and meditation. Join us in the Hope Chapel for this lively celebration! Everyone is welcome.

**** This Week at First UU STL**

Monday May. 6, 2024

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Toward Justice (C1 & online)

Tuesday May. 7, 2024

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Alliance (online only)

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Executive Committee (online)

6:00pm to 7:30 pm Welcoming Congregations (online)

Wednesday May. 8, 2024

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Saturday May. 11, 2024

10:00 am to 11:00 am Black Lives Matter Social Witnessing (Kingshighway & Waterman)

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday May. 12, 2024

10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship Service - In Person & Online

11:30 am to 1:00 pm Young Adult Covenant Group (Youth Group Room)

Check Out the May Newsletter

<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/May%202024%20News.pdf>

Upcoming Services

May 2024

Theme: Pluralism

Sunday May 12th The Great and General Interests of Peace with Rev Kim Mason

The first Mother's Day Proclamation was a call for peace. We'll read Julia Ward Howe's original text and look at where its message is needed today.

Sunday May 19th RE Sunday with Danielle Kozemczak

Let's celebrate all things religious education! Children and youth from our congregation will share what they have learned this year. We will also recognize our volunteer teachers and RE committee members who made the program possible.

Sunday May 26th Decoration Day with Rev Kim Mason

What are the origins of Memorial Day? How does the history of Memorial Day inform its modern traditions? Join us for this Memorial Day Sunday as bring deeper meaning to this annual observation

Joys and Concerns

Joys

We celebrate with...

George Grimm-Howell, who was called by the UU Fellowship of Hendersonville. He will start his work on August 1st.

Sue Fazio, who will retire from the Special School District on May 8th.

Our Choir Director **Joel Knapp**, who retired from his position as Director of Choral Activities at SIUE recently

Sarah Vaughn, who was recently engaged to be married!

Concerns

Sending healing thoughts to **Sue Fazio**, who is undergoing knee replacement surgery soon

As a church community, each of us is an integral part of the care and concerns network. SHARE a Joy or Concern with us by clicking the button below or email your joy or concern to careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org

Submit Joy or Concern Online

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8IF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjKTVw/viewform)

New Member Bio: Mindy Allen

Mindy Allen (she, her) was looking for a home and family. She found both at First Unitarian. Mindy landed at 5007 Waterman Ave. by a circuitous route, but it's one that reflects who she is.

She identifies as “neurospicy”. That’s a term which is replacing “neurodivergent” to express different ways of thinking or experiencing the world from what is considered “typical”. The neurospicy concept has become increasingly important as people begin to realize that those who are neurodiverse don't need to be "fixed" or "cured"— they just need support and understanding.

After providing end-of-life care for her elderly father in Salt Lake City, UT, Mindy was doing the same for her Mom. “My mother has historically had a hard time appreciating my efforts,” Mindy stated.

Finally, the situation became untenable, and she agreed to leave her Mother’s home.

Some friends in Centralia, IL, who she’d met years ago on the Internet and developed a bond with, suggested that she come live with them. So, she moved to Illinois in October.

“It sounded too good to be true, and it was,” she said.

Things were great until they weren’t. Mold was found in the new home, and once again Mindy needed a place to rest for herself and her cats Pearl and Nyx. (The latter cat came by his moniker because she thought she was adopting a black kitten, who she was naming Onyx. But he grew into a Siamese and lost half his name in the process.)

Following her intuition while home hunting, Mindy remembered the experience of Unitarian friends and decided to give First Unitarian a try. I’m kind of a witchy, pagan type,” she said. The First Unitarian choir also drew her, and she joined. “I love to sing. I’m made of music,” she said.

She’s settled in the Collinsville area, was recently approved for disability income, and loves her First Unitarian Church home.

Mindy has embraced Unitarian values. The proposed language of UUA’s Article 2 states: “Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.”

Asked what people should know about her, Mindy’s immediate response was, “(They should know) that I love them. I’m working really hard to love people right where they are.”

Putting that love into practice, she noted that, “By moving here, I got the perspective to heal my relationship with my mom, and that makes every hardship worth it.”

Religious Education This Sunday

Children K-5th will go to the Hope Chapel at 10am for crafts, play, and snacks. The nursery will be open for childcare for birth - K. Children will rejoin the service at approximately 10:30 am for the Story for All Ages and to carry the flowers into the service. Youth 6th-12th are encouraged to attend service.

Story for All Ages: Petula and the Brindleberry Flower, by Kristin Maier

In preparation for the King's visit, a Royal Inspector named Crambe visits the village market to ensure only the best is being displayed. When he sees a young girl named Petula selling blue brindleberry flowers he is shocked. They look like weeds! The inspector outlaws all flowers except his favorite, the Bella Bella flower. The Royal Weed Removers get to work and pull up all the other flowers. When the day of the King's visit arrives, Inspector Crambe learns the importance of diversity.

For More RE News Click Here (<https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday05052024>)

Church Events

Annual Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 5:30pm to 8:30pm

(Gather - 5:30, Dinner - 6:00, Program - 7:00)

\$15 per person - \$7 children 12 and younger - \$5 discount for volunteers

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT provided by Greg Hoeltzel and members of the choir

AWARDS for outstanding volunteers

RECOGNITION of longtime members

PLUS, an evening to catch up with dear friends and make new ones!

CHILDCARE will be provided!

RSVP by clicking on the button below or in Fellowship Hall this Sunday, May 5.

Fellowship Dinner Sign Up

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvjYtE-coghlfi9ryi6-O9cHaNC-b-7E8fkd-2MG3KVOw4bQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

May. 16, 2024 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Lessons in Volunteering (online)

Social Responsibility Committee

Saturday, May 18th (9:00am - 1:00pm)

Facilities Work Day

Projects will include painting, deep cleaning, and general repairs. Wear clothes that can get dirty. For more info contact coordinator Jane Hoekelman. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall or online here.

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScBaspV-loREqbkNeTtnT3sJx-Xh9Mb3ZfmTcxswWZirazpGA/viewform?usp=sf_link) Thanks!

Notice of Annual Meeting

Sunday May 19, 2024 11:30am

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis will take place on Sunday May 19, 2024 at 5007 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 11:30 am.

The Annual Meeting shall be conducted in person and using the electronic meeting platform Zoom which will be hosted within the boundaries of the City of St. Louis.

General Business before the congregation will include:

- * To receive and consider the Annual Report, current financial & budget reports, and to consider for election the persons presented by the Nominating Committee.
- * Presentation of the William W. Ross Award and the Melanie and Anthony Fathman Award.

Final agenda and Nominating Committee report will be published no later than May 10, 2024.

A voting member of the congregation (as defined in the By-laws Article III, Section 5) is a: . . . Member who is present at a Congregational Meeting at the time of any vote and who has been a Voting Member for thirty days prior to that Meeting is eligible to vote, except as provided in Section 2 of Article VIII of these Bylaws..

Church News

Part Time Nursery Worker Needed

We are looking for a second childcare provider to work in our nursery this summer and beyond! The hours are Sundays 9:30am-12:30pm and the starting pay is \$15/HR Please view the Job Description (<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/Nursery%20and%20Child%20Care%20Provider%20022.docx.pdf>) for more details. To apply please send a resume to dkozem@firstuustlouis.org

Pastoral Appointments

You can schedule pastoral appointments with Rev. Kim at your convenience. Click the button below and choose the date that works best for you - no account necessary.

Schedule an Appointment with Rev. Kim Mason (<https://calendly.com/kmason-7>)

Our Mission

We strive to be a welcoming congregation, inspiring lives of loving kindness and integrity by nurturing spirituality, building community, and advancing justice

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- ** Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitarianSTL>)
 - ** https://www.instagram.com/first_unitarian_stl/ (https://www.instagram.com/first_unitarian_stl/)
 - ** Website (<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/>)
 - ** YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstUnitarianSTL>)
 - ** TikTok (<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT84oXuQM/>)

Our mailing address is:

5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63108
(314) 361-0595

Staff

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister (kmason@firstuustlouis.org)

Danielle Kozemczak, Director of Religious Education & Communications (dkozem@firstuustlouis.org)

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)

Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. (aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org)

Earl Naylor, Music Director/Organist (enaylor@firstuustlouis.org)

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician (mhurst@firstuustlouis.org)

Policy Board

Board President – Steve Wilke

Vice President – Alison Lamothe

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Interim Treasurer - Kathy Wilke

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Chris Kocher

Member – Susan Lammert

Church Council

Sherry Bassi, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Outreach & Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster