



**The Great and General Interests of Peace
with Rev Kim Mason
May 12th, 2024
Order of Service**

Ringing of the Bowl

Adam Lunter

Welcome and Announcements

Adam Lunter

Prelude

Aria by Paul Manz

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

Adam Lunter

Sung Response #362 Rise Up, O Flame

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

Story For All Ages

A Celebration of Mother's Day
by Womyn Peace Collective and Stefani Pacheco González

Danielle Kozemczak

Children's Recessional #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.

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

Mother's Day Proclamation by Julia Ward Howe

Adam Lunter with
Sarah Dashner & Pam Geppert

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

The Best Day by Taylor Swift

Erica Perlow

Reflection

The Great and General Interests of Peace

Rev. Kim Mason

Responsive Reading

Arise, All Who Have Hearts
by Becky Brooks and Erika Hewitt, amended by Kim Mason

Adam Lunter with
Sarah Dashner &
Pam Geppert

Response: *May this be our resolution, in heart and in practice.*

Closing Hymn #159 This is My Song

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

*but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Extinguish Chalice

Adam Lunter

Postlude

Lobe den Herrn by Johann Walther

Earl Naylor, organ

This morning's flowers honor every Mother - no exceptions.

**Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Susan Lammert
Greeters: Kathy Wire and Kathy Wilke
A/V Assistant: Margaret Weck**

Music Notes

Paul Manz (1919 –2009) was an American composer for choir and organ. His most famous choral work is the Advent motet "*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*", which has been performed at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge. His most famous organ works are his volumes of neo-Baroque chorale preludes and partitas.

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684 –1748) was a German music theorist, organist, composer, and lexicographer of the Baroque era. Not only was his life almost exactly contemporaneous to that of Johann Sebastian Bach, he was the famous composer's cousin.

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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 12th 2024

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.

Online Order of Service (<https://tinyurl.com/325aapyw>)

Watch this Service on YouTube! (https://youtube.com/live/Iou_mA2sRaE)

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842582434?pwd=dThVUXR1clhTMVBFbmRYa0l3OVlKZz09>)

This Sunday's flowers honor every Mother - no exceptions.

Designated Collection

Sunday 5/12/2024 All Among Us

The Mission Statement of All Among Us Inc. is to offer secure transformative housing and supportive wraparound services to women who are struggling to achieve and maintain stable housing independence. They do this by offering 2 years of safe housing, mental health support, recovery support, safety, and community. Our focus is to offer love, care and dignity to a hurting population. Nominated by Scott Sinclair.

**** This Sunday After Service**

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

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

Monday May 13, 2024

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Policy Board Meeting (online)

Tuesday May 14, 2024

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Alliance Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall & online)

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Women's Alliance Lunch & Program (Fellowship Hall & online)

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Personnel (online)

Wednesday May 15, 2024

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday May 16, 2024

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Siegrist/Milligan Covenant Group (online)

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Social Responsibility Committee - Lessons in Volunteering (online)

Friday May 18, 2024

9:00 am to 1:00 pm Facilities and Garden Work Day 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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

Sunday May 19, 2024

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

11:00 am to 11:30 am Earl Farewell Party (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Annual Meeting (Sanctuary and online)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Young Adult Group (Clark Room)

Upcoming Services

May 2024

Theme: Pluralism

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

Concerns

*Sending healing thoughts to **Colleen Cuntz**, who is undergoing treatment for cancer*

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_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." *|END:IF|*

Religious Education This Sunday

Children and teens are encouraged to attend service with their families. After the Story for All Ages, children and teens can head to Fellowship Hall for activities and snacks. The nursery will be open for childcare.

Story for All Ages: A Celebration of Mother's Day For Peace

Written by Womyn Peace Collective

Illustrated by Stefani Pacheo

A family sees that people of all ages can be peacemakers when they learn about Julia Ward Howe, a peace activist, abolitionist, and Unitarian who wrote the Mothers Day Proclamation. They are inspired to infuse a celebration of peace into the Mothers Day Celebration at school.

For More RE News Click Here (<https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday05122024>)

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

We invite you to join us in a discussion led by volunteers with combined experience in direct service, program planning, and advocacy that will explore:

- * What qualities or traits make for an effective volunteer?
- * What information/knowledge sets the groundwork for a positive experience? What helps us do our best?
- * Setting realistic expectations
- * Maintaining commitment over time and avoiding burnout
- * How to reset if and when the reality of volunteering does not match expectations

Save the Date! Saturday, May 18th (9:00am - 1:00pm)

Facilities Work Day

Projects will include painting, deep cleaning, general repairs. Wear cloths 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
- * To consider for election the persons presented by the Nominating Committee.

Candidates for Elected Offices 2024-25

Policy Board Candidates (year in parentheses indicates end of term)

Board President – Chuck Eby (2025)

Vice President – Larry Dusenbery (2025)

Secretary – Sidney Watson (2025)

Treasurer – Kathy Wilke (2025)

Member – Betty Neill (2yr term 2026)

Church Council Candidates (year in parentheses indicates end of term)

Council Chair – Sherry Bassi (2025)

Cluster Coordinator, Growth and Engagement – Erin Milligan (2027)

Cluster Coordinator, Outreach and Social Action - Lisa Ross (one-year extension to 2025)

Full Agenda can be read here.

(<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/Annual%20Meeting%20Agenda%202024.pdf>)

Full Nominating Committee Report with Candidate Bios can be read here.

(<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/2023-24%20final%20slate%20with%20Bios.pdf>)

To assign a proxy to represent and vote for you at the meeting, click here for the form,

(https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/First%20Unitarian%20Church%20of%20St.%20Louis%20Proxy%20Form.docx_0.pdf) and return it to Lynn Hunt, Administrator by May 17th.

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

Dear Friends at First UU,

After ten years as your organist and music director, I am leaving to take a position at Holy Communion Episcopal Church in University City. As many of you know, I am an Episcopalian and my wife is an Episcopal deacon. This was a chance to go back to my own denomination that I could not pass up.

I have worked for several churches in the area, and no place has ever been as friendly and welcoming as First UU. You have a fine pipe organ, a top rate choir and choir director, and one of the best ministers I have worked with in my career.

I give thanks for all the times we have had together over the last ten years. I wish you all the best in the future.

Sincerely,
Earl Naylor

Earl's last day at the church will be May 31st and we will have a special recognition to thank him for his time with us on Sunday, May 19th before the annual meeting. There are two ways to contribute towards Earl's going away gift if you choose to do so. Checks can be sent to the office with "Earl" in the memo line. For card payments click the button below and use the Vanco form. Please put the amount under Other Donations and type Earl in the text box to the right.

Contribute to Earl's Gift

(<https://firstuustlouis.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cdf84e5e2cbb0b58a7359d85&id=6968e3bd74&e=4cf491783>)

John Learned Bookstore Closing

With sadness, we are announcing the permanent closure of the Learned Bookstore in Fellowship Hall. When the church closed during the COVID-19 quarantine, the bookstore was not well maintained. Efforts were made to clean and organize the store, and progress was made; however a realistic evaluation concluded that there is insufficient volunteer capacity at this time to operate the bookstore. Rather than just allowing the bookstore to fall into further disorganization, the bookstore will be liquidated. For the remaining Sundays in May the bookstore will be open during coffee hour for people to come and take whatever books they wish. NO additional books will be accepted, but please take whatever you can carry! Whatever remains in June will be donated to a literacy charity. For those who might feel uncomfortable just taking books, free-will offerings for the Left Bank Books Foundation <https://www.lbbfound.org/> will be collected. NOTE: the John Learned Library is not affected in any way by the closure of the bookstore.

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

** 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