



**Decoration Day with Rev. Kim Mason
May 26th, 2024
Order of Service**

Ringing of the Bowl Pam Geppert

Welcome and Announcements Pam Geppert

Prelude *Andante Sostenuto, from Symphonie Gothique, by Widor* Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship *We Gather to Remember* by Nicole McKay 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 Pam Geppert

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 *Cellist of Sarajevo* by Jessica York Rev. Kim Mason

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

Remembering Well by Paul Sawyer

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

Schoenster Herr Jesu, by Schroeder

Earl Naylor, organ

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Reading

The Gift of Remembrance by George Tyger

Pam Geppert

Sermon

Decoration Day

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #117 O Light of Life

*O light of life that lives in us,
help us to turn away from war,
reveal the hate that lives in us,
help us to live no more in fear.
Save us, save our children.*

*O light of love, rain down on us,
help us to heal our wounded world,
our dying forests, gutted plains,
smoldering cities, wasted fields.
Save us, save our children.*

*O love of life that lives in me,
help me to lift my head and sing,
let me know joy as well as pain,*

*see beauty in the rain and wind.
Save me, save my children.*

*O light and life and love in us,
help us to open eyes and ears,
reach out and listen, touch and love,
that we may stand in strength and peace.
Save us, save our children.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Extinguish Chalice

Pam Geppert

Postlude

Fugue in E Flat Major, by Bach

Earl Naylor, organ

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Susan Lammert & Lisa Ross
Greeters: Chuck Eby & Alison Lamothe
A/V Assistant: Sarah Dashner

Music Notes

The prelude and postlude today were played by Earl Naylor for his audition at First UU ten years ago.

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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 26th 2024

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.

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

Watch this Service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/hU6OFU8AOdo>)

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

**** This Sunday After Service**

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Makers Ministry (C7)

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

Monday May 27, 2024

Office Closed

Tuesday May 28, 2024

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

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

Friday May 31, 2024

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm Kimberley Parks Memorial Service Reception (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday June 1st, 2024

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

Sunday June 2, 2024

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

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Welcoming Congregations (Clark Room)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm New Member Luncheon (Chapel)

11:30 am to 1:00 pm Partner Church Committee (C1 and online)

Upcoming Services

June 2024 Theme: RENEWAL

Sunday June 2nd Worship Service with Rev Kim Mason

Sunday June 9th Worship Service with Rev Kim Mason

Sunday June 16th Worship Service with Rev Kim Mason

Ordination of George Grimm-Howell

Saturday June 8th 2pm

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 8 to attend a joint ordination service offered by the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis and the UU Church of Columbia. The service will be at 2 p.m. at First Unitarian in St. Louis and may be attended either in person or online. George is a long-time member of First Unitarian, a former intern minister at UUCC, and currently serves the UU Fellowship of Jefferson City one Sunday a month.

Watch this Service Online! (<https://youtube.com/live/WB4ozshDyAY>)

Joys and Concerns

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrfikA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8IF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform)

Religious Education This Sunday

RE programming for children and teens is not available over the summer. Children and teens are encouraged to attend service with their families. The nursery will be open for childcare. RE Programming will resume in the fall.

Story for All Ages: The Cellist Of Sarajevo

Part of Toolbox of Faith, by Jessica York

This story is about Vedran Smailovic, the Principle cellist in the Sarajevo Opera. During a time of civil war, the bakery he visited everyday was bombed and 22 people were killed. Vedran wanted to help, and so he played his cello in the wreckage as a way to honor those who had died. This act inspired a boy far away to write about the cellist's actions and inspire others to fight for peace.

Church Events

May. 31, 2024 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Kimberly Parks Memorial Service Reception (Fellowship Hall)

A memorial service will be held at at 10:00am at the Alexander-White-Mullen Funeral Home and Mt Lebanon Cemetery. The reception will be held in Fellowship Hall 12pm-3pm You can view the obituary here: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/st-ann-mo/kimberley-parks-11683576>

New Member Luncheon (Chapel)

Sunday June 2nd 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Hosted by the membership committee, this is a chance to celebrate members who signed the book this past programming year. Invites were sent directly to new members.

All UU Picnic!

Tower Grove Park, Turkish Pavilion

Sunday, June 9th, 11:30 am

Join us for a gathering of all metro area UUs! There will be a Potluck lunch with games for all ages. If your last name starts with A-F please bring a side dish. G-L a salad dish. M-Q a main dish or casserole. R-Z a dessert. PLEASE LABEL INGREDIENTS FOR ALLERGENS

Cups, plates, silverware, ice and water provided.

If you have lawn games or chairs please bring them!

Church News

UUA General Assembly

June 20-23 ONLINE ONLY

INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A VOTING DELEGATE?

General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of members of the congregations that comprise the UUA. GA is a combination of workshops, worship services, informal gatherings and business sessions. This year, the entire assembly will be online!

Our congregation is entitled to five delegates who must be approved by the Policy Board. One of the main orders of business this year will be whether or not to ratify the proposed changes to Article II of the bylaws. If you are interested in being a delegate for our church please contact administrator Lynn Hunt (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org (<mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org>)) by June 6th.

* More information about GA can be found [HERE](https://www.uua.org/ga) (<https://www.uua.org/ga>)

* Check out the Program Highlights (<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights>)

* This year attending just the business sessions (as a voting delegate) you simply pay a donation General Assembly Registration (<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>)

* The Business Agenda this year includes voting on the revised Article II. See the full business agenda here: [2024 Final Agenda.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2024-05/2024%20Final%20Agenda.pdf) ([uua.org](https://www.uua.org/files/2024-05/2024%20Final%20Agenda.pdf))

(<https://www.uua.org/files/2024-05/2024%20Final%20Agenda.pdf>)

* See the full conference schedule here: [Whova Agenda Webpage](https://whova.com/embedded/event/IxK5T9Wj%40Gnb4JliyjDwcmw6owCMgHZRIm5IcsozQRc%3D/?refer=undefined&day=0)

(<https://whova.com/embedded/event/IxK5T9Wj%40Gnb4JliyjDwcmw6owCMgHZRIm5IcsozQRc%3D/?refer=undefined&day=0>)

Women's Alliance Scholarship

The Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Announces its Scholarship Competition for the academic year 2024-2025

Initiated by a generous bequest from the estate of Edna Landzettel, a lifelong teacher and proponent of the importance of education in a woman's life, the scholarship will be given to a woman who is 21 years or older, responsible financially for continuing her education, a member or active friend of a Unitarian Universalist church or fellowship in the region and a registered student.

The award of \$3,000 will be made on the basis of scholarship, character and need. Materials due by Jul 31, 2024

To apply you can download a full packet of information

(<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/2024-2025%20WA%20Annual%20Scholarship%20packet.docx.pdf>) (including printable application and reference form).

Or Apply Online

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeltVq1lhRxak11jhqKoLnqEWRqWcjUvkzBJQ9qW_bDzBvLYw/viewform?usp=sf_link) and submit the Online Reference Form

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJeNWtsq3gpV-g7xgIDCQ8WpEtdJuq44DqBI dh_xZ5NpVzwQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Policy Board Meeting Summary

May 13, 2024 Virtual

This month's Board meeting included two action items that required votes,

First, the Board unanimously approved the church's 2024-2025 budget as presented by Kathy Wire on behalf of the Finance Committee. The budget is balanced, requires no painful decisions, and includes a two percent increase for staff. Income totals \$417,000, \$415,000 in pledges from this year's Canvass (yes, we reached and exceeded our goal), and \$2,000 in prior year pledges that will be paid during 2024-2025.

Second, the Board passed a motion, again unanimously, to create a Sabbatical Minister Search Committee to find a sabbatical minister to serve during Rev. Kim's upcoming sabbatical from January to April 2024. The sabbatical minister will be part-time, focusing on Sunday services and pastoral care. The motion suggests that the search committee include representatives from Worship, Personnel, Care and Concerns, and possibly the Board.

Please join the Board for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19, after church. Items of business include electing new Board members and officers and recognizing two members for their service to the church through the Ross Award, which recognizes a lifetime of service, and the Fathman Award to this year's most valuable player. We will also take several congregational votes, including one on our Active Hope Project and one on the proposed revision to Article II of the UUA bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,
Sidney Watson, Secretary

2024-25 Year Designated Collection Nominations Now Accepted

First Church has historically offered a Designated Collection Program as one way of evidencing our UU values in the community and supporting social justice. The program enables Members and Pledging Friends to nominate qualifying nonprofits and church committees or projects to receive all the proceeds of a Sunday plate collection. Nominations are reviewed by the Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) with consideration given to the fit between the nominee and First Church's mission and values, as well as the nonprofit's core focus, impact, and connection to our First Church community.

Selections are announced to the congregation in our Fall E-News and highlighted during service announcements throughout the year.

Nomination forms are easily completed on-line by clicking on the button below. If you need a paper copy of the form, please contact administrator, Lynn Hunt.

For consideration, all 2024-25 Year nominations must meet program criteria listed on the nomination form and be received by Sunday, July 14th.

Church policy for the Designated Collection Program is listed on the church's website under "Online Forms and Documents/File Cabinet." Questions about the program may be forwarded to:

src@firstuustlouis.org or addressed to our church administrator, Lynn Hunt, at lhunt@firstuustlouis.org.

Designated Collection Nomination Form

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBNLjgmEsusJ1woGxf_oKyMwRU2MGR1ljz7ro79yPGPQ0Vvw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Community News

Tabernacle Community Development Corporation

June 22nd 9am - 11am Beautification Day

The mission of Tabernacle Community Development Corporation is to assist communities by building people. The objective is to help eliminate poverty as well as social exclusion by improving the social, educational and economic infrastructure which will lead to self-sufficiency.

Established in 2014, TCDC was created with the vision to “Assist Communities by Building People”. We are engaging in community revitalization in the Jeff-Vander-Lou, Fairgrounds, O’Fallon and Greater Ville neighborhoods. TCDC assists people in transforming their lives by providing proper housing options, employment resources and opportunities that will improve and enhance their quality of life. Sign-Up to Volunteer (<https://tabdev.org/volunteer/>)

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 – Chuck Eby

Vice President – Larry Dusenberry

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Interim Treasurer - Kathy Wilke

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Chris Kocher

Member – Betty Neill

Church Council

Sherry Bassi, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Outreach & Social Responsibility

Erin Milligan, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster