



## The Meaning of Everything

Rev. Kim Mason

August 25th, 2024

Order of Service

**Ringing of the Bowl**

Mike Lunter

**Welcome and Announcements**

Mike Lunter

**Prelude**     *Andante in D Major* by Felix Mendelssohn

Robert Chamberlin, organ

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Hymn #360 Here We Have Gathered**

*Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;  
circle of kinship, come and step inside!  
May all who seek here find a kindly word;  
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.  
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Here we have gathered, called to celebrate  
days of our lifetime, matters small and great:  
we of all ages, women, children, men,  
infants and sages, sharing what we can.  
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:  
but in the shadows, let us not forget:  
we who now gather know each other's pain;  
kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.  
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.*

**Lighting the Chalice**

Mike Lunter

**Sung Response #362 Rise Up, O Flame"**

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



**Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Postlude** *Passacaglia in g minor* by Gordon Young

Robert Chamberlin, organ

**Serving Us This Morning**  
**Ushers: Layne Simpson and Gary Parks**  
**Greeters: Lisa Ross & Chuck Eby**  
**A/V Assistant: Adam Lunter**

**Music Notes**

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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 grounds.

# **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

## **Worship Service**

**Sunday August 25th, 2024**

### **The Meaning of Everything - Rev. Kim Mason**

Lois Lowry's classic young adult novel *The Giver*, invites us to consider what we lose when we allow story and experience to be censored. As a new school year begins, we explore the very real threat of book banning and what we learn from books that expand and challenge our knowledge. This service includes a Backpack Blessing.

Watch this Service on YouTube! ()

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

## **\*\* This Week at First UU STL**

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### **Sunday August 25th, 2024**

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

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Maker's Ministry (C7)

### **Monday August 26th, 2024**

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Church Council (online)

### **Tuesday August 27th, 2024**

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Outreach and Social Action Cluster Reorganization (C1 & online)

### **Saturday August 31st, 2024**

9:00 am to 10:00 am - Black Lives Matter Social Witnessing (Kingshighway & Waterman)

### **Sunday September 1st, 2024**

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

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

## **Upcoming Services**

### **September 2024 Theme - Invitation**

- **September 1st - Reflections on Labor - Worship Committee**
- **September 8th - Water Communion - Rev. Kim Mason**
- **September 15th - Powered by Love - Rev. Kim Mason**
- **September 22nd - Balance - Rev. Kim Mason**

## **Water Communion**

**Join us Sunday, September 8th at 10 am** for our annual Ingathering and Water Communion. Bring your own water from the literal and figurative journeys you've been on this summer, whether or not you ever left home. It can be from any source - mundane or extraordinary, near or far. Please let us know the source of the water you bring this year by using this form: <https://forms.gle/rfMv7ohuH21MOrRh7>.

Entries will be used in the worship service on Sunday, September 8th. **Please submit your sources by Friday, September 6th.**

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Joys**

Congratulations to **Carl and Sherry Bassi** who just celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary!

### **Concerns**

Healing thoughts and prayers to **Stephany Kniep** who is recovering from spine surgery she had on August 12th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Alvin Vlietstra**, husband of **Nadine Vlietstra**, who has been moved into hospice care.

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](mailto:careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org)

Submit Joy or Concern Online

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrfikA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8IF17IBeY9tZgdzU\\_bjkTVw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrfikA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8IF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform))

## **Religious Education This Sunday**

### **Summer Play Area/ Chapel Activities**

### **for Children 1st-5th Grade**

### **This Sunday 8/25 10am-11am**

Children will remain in the worship service for the morning. Nursery is open for younger children.

Interested in supporting our wonderful youth as an adviser this year?? Contact RE Committee chair, Caitlin Hill, at [re@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:re@firstuustlouis.org) – thanks!

## Church News

### Flowers for Sunday Services

If you enjoy having fresh flowers for Sunday services, please consider signing up to provide them one Sunday (or more) this year. People often choose to donate in memory of loved ones or in honor of a special person or occasion. Donating is easy – Dottie Kinscherf can take care of ordering and arranging for delivery. If you are interested in learning more or signing up for a specific Sunday, talk to Dottie after services or contact her at [flowers@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:flowers@firstuustlouis.org)

### 2024/2025 Designated Collections

Each month, as a way of putting our faith into action, First Church donates the proceeds of its Designated Collections to worthy organizations or social action projects of the congregation. We encourage all Sunday service attendees, and all our members and friends, to give generously. Donation checks should be made payable to First Church with a notation of "Designated Collection" on the memo line or you can use the Vanco options and cash. The organizations we support are chosen by the Social Responsibility Committee in August.

[Click Here to See the List of the 2024/2025 Designated Collection Recipients.](#)

### Online Giving is Easier than Ever Before!

Our online giving platform, Vanco, is now easier to use than ever before. You can easily set up regular pledge payments, donate to specific funds or purchase tickets to church events on our new web based site (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCVK/home>) or you can install the app on your phone (this is ideal for Sunday morning offering). Use the QR code below to download the app. Any questions – contact Administrator, Lynn Hunt.



## **Partner Church Committee**

First Church's Partner Church is in Csókfalva, Romania. Our committee coordinates our churches' interactions and support. The Partner Church Committee will hold its next meeting on Saturday September 14 at 6:00 pm. Please contact Kimberly Perry if you are interested in attending the meeting and joining the committee.

## **Social Responsibility Opportunities**

Interested in helping with the North City ID Clinic & Supporting Tabernacle CDC at the same time? Help out with Evening Application Support hours!

**Evening Application Support Volunteers** Needed

*Tuesday, September 10th*

*4:00-7:00 pm at the Hub*

Visit the Ashrei Foundation website to learn more about becoming a photo ID clinic volunteer or to pick up a shift this summer. <https://www.ashreifoundation.org/photoid-volunteer>

## **Unitarian Universalist Association**

Email Scams Are a Growing Concern for Congregations. Here's How to Stay Safe.

Read this article that recently appeared in the UU World on protecting yourself from scams that are commonly directed at churches.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/gift-card-qr-code-scams-how-to-avoid-tips-it-experts>

## **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/) ([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:

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**Staff**

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister ([kmason@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:kmason@firstuustlouis.org))

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs ([lhunt@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org))

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Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician ([mhurst@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:mhurst@firstuustlouis.org))

**Policy Board**

Board President – Chuck Eby

Vice President – Larry Dusenbery

Secretary – Sidney Watson

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