



**Reflections: A Conversation on Religious Education**  
**Rev. Kim Mason & Michele Grove, Interim Director of Religious Education**  
**October 20th, 2024**  
**Order of Service**

**Ringling of the Bowl**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Welcome**

Michele Grove, CRE-LL

**Prelude**

*From a Wandering Iceberg* by Edward Mac Dowell

Carolyn Toft, piano

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Hymn #112 Do You Hear?**

*Do you hear, oh my friend, in the place where you stand,  
through the sky, through the land, do you hear, do you hear?  
In the heights, on the plain, in the vale, on the main,  
in the sun, in the rain, do you hear, do you hear?*

*Through the roar, through the rush, through the throng,  
through the crush, do you hear in the hush of your soul, of your soul?  
Hear the cry fear won't still, hear the heart's call to will,  
hear a sigh's startling trill in your soul, in your soul?*

*From the place where you stand to the outermost strand,  
do you hear, oh my friend, do you hear, do you hear?  
All the dreams, all the dares, all the sighs, all the prayers —  
they are yours, mine, and theirs — do you hear, do you hear?*

**Lighting the Chalice**

Michele Grove, Michele Grove, CRE-LL

**Sung Response : Come Into the Flame**

*Come as we light this candle of memory.  
Come as we light this candle of hope.  
Come as we light this candle of reverence.  
Come into the flame. Come into the flame.  
Words and music by Tony Fathman*

**Story for All Ages**

*Conversation with Children & Youth*

Michele Grove, CRE-LL

**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 & Concerns**

Rev. Kim Mason

**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**

*Acornology* by Cynthia Bourgeault

Rev. Kim Mason &  
Michele Grove, CRE-LL

**First Church Community Fund Grant Awards 2024**

Rosemary Lawton Johnston

**Call for the Offering**

Rev. Kim Mason

Text the dollar amount you wish to give to this number: 833-649-0088

**Offertory**

*If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Talli

First Unitarian Church Choir

**Gratitude**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Reading**

*Your Children* by Khalil Gibran

Michele Grove, CRE-LL

**Sermon**

REflections: A Conversation

Rev. Kim Mason &  
Michele Grove, CRE-LL

**Hymn #301 Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky**

*Touch the earth, reach the sky!*

*Walk on shores while spirits fly*

*over the ocean, over the land,*

*our faith a quest to understand.*

*Touch the earth, reach the sky!*

*Children ask the reasons why.*

*In our lives the answers show,*

*and by our love they learn and grow.*

*Touch the earth, reach the sky!*

*All are born and all shall die;*

*life's the time left in between,*

*to follow a star, to build a dream.*

*Touch the earth, reach the sky!  
Hug the laughter, feel the cry.  
May we see where we can give,  
for this is what it means to live.*

*Touch the earth, reach the sky!  
Soar with courage ever high;  
spirits joining as we fly,  
to touch the earth, to reach the sky.*

**Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Postlude**

*Song from the Mur Island* by Marko Tajcevic

Carolyn Toft, piano

*This morning's flowers are given by **Margaret Weck and Jamie Laing** in loving memory of Renni Shuter, the founder of the Community Action Endowment Fund (now First Church Community Fund).*

**Serving Us This Morning**  
**Ushers: Layne Simpson and Gary Parks**  
**Greeters: Kathy and Dan Wilke**  
**A/V Assistant: Margaret Weck**

**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 October 20th, 2024**

**REflections: A Conversation on Religious Education- Rev. Kim Mason & Interim**

**Director of Religious Education Michele Grove**

We're spending a year together re-imagining our Religious Education program for children and youth. This morning our Interim DRE Michele Grove joins us in person for a conversation between herself, Rev. Kim and YOU about the future of RE.

[Watch this Service on YouTube!](#)

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842582434?pwd=dThVUXR1clhTMVBFBmRYa0l3OVlKZz09>

**Worship Service starts at 10 AM.** We've said that for years - yet we begin with announcements and announcements aren't worship! In recognition of this distinction, announcements will start before the service and end by 10 am when the service begins.

## **Sunday October 20th Designated Collection-The First Church Community Fund**

Our Designated Collection this Sunday benefits the First Church Community Fund (FCCF), a church endowment established almost forty years ago to encourage our congregation's involvement in social action in our community. Income from the Fund supports microgrants to nonprofits addressing issues of homelessness, poverty, and marginalized populations in St. Louis. During Sunday's service, our 2024 grant recipients will be announced; they are a diverse group, but all share a common goal of making our community stronger and more equitable. Following our church service, representatives from this year's grant recipients will be on hand for an informal "Meet and Greet" opportunity beginning at 11 am in Fellowship Hall.

FCCF grants are one of several ways in which we as a congregation live our mission and values in our community. They supplement nonprofits' operating budgets by enabling special projects or programs, filling emergency needs, or leveraging additional donations.

All donations in Sunday's plate collection (cash & checks) will go to the Fund, as well as donations made via "Text to Give", or by using the QR code for online giving (found on the pew card for giving in the Sanctuary). Donations to the Fund are also gratefully received at any time throughout the year.

They can be a great way to celebrate achievements and milestones in a meaningful way for that person who has everything!

The FCCF Committee thanks you for your continuing support this Sunday and throughout the year.

First Church Community Fund Committee: Rosemary Lawton, Chair and members: Lori Calcaterra, Kay Dusenbery, Julia Hart, Donald Jeffries, Lynn Shuter, Debbie Van Ryn, Margaret Weck and Laura Zacher.

## **Newcomer Chat -- October 20th -- 11:15am (Dodson Room)**

Are you new to the church? Want to learn more? Plan to attend this informal gathering and meet with Rev. Kim and other members of the congregation. Hope you can make it.

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

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**Sunday, October 20th, 2024**

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service (In person and online)  
11:15 am - 12:00 pm - Newcomer Chat  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm - New Member Class (C1)  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Young Adult Group (Clark Room)

**Monday, October 21st, 2024**

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm - Crouch/Feinberg Covenant Group (Dodson Room)

**Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024**

11:00 am - 2:00 pm - Women's Alliance (in person and online)  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Siegrist/Milligan Covenant Group (Hosmer Room)

**Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024**

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Choir (Choir Room)

**Thursday, October 24th, 2024**

6:30 - 8:00 - A Call to Connection Adult Ed Class (C1 & online)

**Saturday, October 26th, 2024**

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

**Sunday, October 27th, 2024**

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service (In person and online)  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Makers Ministry (Youth Group Room)  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Partner Church Committee (C1 & online)

**Upcoming Services**

**October 2024 Theme - Deep Listening**

**October 27th** - Only a Fool Would say That - Pamela Geppert, Worship Committee Chair

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**Joys and Concerns**

**Joys**

Welcome new members **Lisa Richter and Bob Mai** who signed the membership book on Oct. 13th.

**Karen Siegrist** is happy to be home after her second hospitalization for cellulitis.

**Concerns**

Our deep sympathy to **Pamela Geppert** whose brother Stuart Willig recently passed away. He lived in Miami, FL and was 75 years old.

We are saddened to learn of the death of **Elliott Smith, Jr.** the son of the late **Elliott Smith** (former church custodian). Services were held at the William C. Harris Funeral Home on October 15th at 11:00am.

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDl4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU\\_bjKTVw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDl4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjKTVw/viewform))

## **Religious Education This Sunday for Children**

**This Sunday 10/20th 10am-11am**

**Religious Education classes in Session this Sunday. Children begin in church and then will proceed to classes.**

**Nursery is open for younger children.**

## **Church News & Events**

### **Please join us for a litter pick-up on Saturday, October 26 at 9:30 AM.**

For liability reasons, this activity is limited to adults only.

As you can see from the sign, First U. is the adopter of this segment of Forest Parkway. Pursuant to our "adoption," we are obligated to have four pickups annually to keep it as litter free as possible! The location is significant to us since the street is in the shadow of Washington University, which was founded by our Unitarian "ancestor," William G. Eliot.

We will gather in the parking lot north of Snarf's (360 N. Skinker Blvd.), where the sign specifies parking for Grace Methodist Church and Snarf's.

Those interested can enjoy lunch together after our work is complete. Snarf's has delicious sandwiches, soups, etc. available!

Please let Tom Crouch know by Friday, October 25, if you can help.

### **A monthly grief circle is starting Monday, October 21st and meeting on the third Monday at First Unitarian. Contact Rev. Kim for more information.**

"Every one of us must do this. We must learn how to work with the grief in our lives. Begin with a friend or two and speak honestly to the heartaches you carry. These may be very personal sorrows, or they may extend to the daily losses that we witness in the news. If you feel comfortable doing so, begin with a moment where you and your friends together focus your intention on your purpose. Otherwise, simply gather the courage to speak from your heart, and let the others know that you are feeling sad and carrying grief in your body. What I have discovered in grief rituals over many years is that we feel relief when we finally are able to acknowledge our pain with one another." ~ Francis Weller, *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred Work of Grief*

### **TRUUNK OR TREAT - November 2nd**

We had a great time last year, so we're repeating the event! Get on your costumes, decorate your vehicle, fill the trunk with goodies and head over to the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis for our **second annual ALL Congregations TrUunk or Treat!** 5007 Waterman Blvd. St. Louis MO 63108. **Set up starts at 3pm. Trick or Treating starts at 4:30 pm.**

[RSVP](#) if you will have a decorated trunk for our event. No need to sign-up if you are just Trick or Treating. Saturday, November 2nd, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

## **Samhain/Honoring the Ancestors**

**Join ERDE (Earth Reverence Dedicants Extraordinaire) Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 5:30 PM (after Trunk or Treat)** as we celebrate Samhain and honor loved ones who have gone before us. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for a family friendly craft and vegetarian potluck. Those who would like to are welcome to join us afterwards for ritual as we share memories and reflections of a loved one who is no longer with us.

Bring food to share and a photo or artifact connected to your loved one.

We hope to see you there!

## **Save the Date – Post Election Check-In - November 6th (6:00 pm - Chapel)**

### **Reimagine Together: A Climate Justice Revival**

**Sunday, November 10, 2024 (2 – 5pm)**

Join congregations from across the St. Louis region to collaboratively create a representation of the challenges of climate change -- and the possibilities for liberation within our communities. Together we will identify a vision for a flourishing future and actions we can take to make that vision a reality.

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/vzcEKpP9oxm1dgoCA>

### **Upcoming Women's Alliance Programming**

Oct 22 –12:00 -- Brown bag lunch

1:00 -- Kimberly Perry – “Recital of Kimberly Perry’s Favorite Songs”

Nov 12 - 12:00 - Thanksgiving Potluck

Nov 26 - 12:00 – Brown Bag lunch

1:00 -- All -Share Reflections on grandmothers or older women mentors

### **First Unitarian Church of St. Louis**

#### **Policy Board Meeting Summary**

**September 16, 2024 Virtual**

The Board spent most of this meeting discussing and agreeing that First U should begin developing a vision statement that incorporates our mission and values. A vision statement is aspirational, looking to the future, and grows out of our mission statement.

Board members agreed that developing a First U vision statement would be healthy and positive, generate enthusiasm, and help members envision a future church. We need to visualize what is next for us as a church and what we are working towards. We have already adopted the phrase "inspire, imagine, invest" to describe this church year, and that phrase also describes the goals of a visioning process.

Please read the minutes to learn more about a vision statement. They include Rev. Kim’s PowerPoint that she shared with the Board:

- What is vision?
- How are vision, mission, values, and covenant separate but interrelated?
- What are the criteria for a good vision statement?
- What processes might a church use to create a vision?

Full copy of the minutes will be posted on the website once they are approved by the Policy Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sidney Watson, Secretary

## Ushers Needed!

With a new church season upon us, we are in need of people to help with Sunday morning ushering. This is a great way to meet fellow members of the church and helps to create a welcoming atmosphere for our worship services. Please consider being a part of the usher team! Contact Lynn Hunt (Administrator) at [lhunt@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org) or sign-up in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!

*Many Thanks to the Great Team who Currently Serve as Ushers*

## 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.



## 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:

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



**Staff**

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

Michele Grove, Interim Remote Director of Religious Education ([mgrove@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:mgrove@firstuustlouis.org))

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

Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. ([aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org))

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