



**Mission Resilience
with Rev Kim Mason
February 5th, 2023
Order of Service**

Ringing of the Bowl

Norma Vogelweid

Welcome and Announcements

Norma Vogelweid

Prelude *Sonata 6, Fugue, by Felix Mendelssohn*

Earl Naylor, Organist

Call into Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #288 All Are Architects of Faith

*All are architects of fate,
working in these walls of time;
some with massive deeds and great,
some with ornaments of rhyme.*

*For the structure that we raise
time is with materials filled;
our todays and yesterdays
are the blocks with which we build.*

*Build today, then, strong and sure,
with a firm and ample base;
and ascending and secure
shall tomorrow find its place.*

Lighting the Chalice

Norma Vogelweid

Sung Response

*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

Reading

Choosing to Connect by Priscilla Shumway

Norma Vogelweid

Joys & Concerns

Submit Joys and Concerns online at <https://forms.gle/WiHevqVTkCc3dWmC7>

Prayer

Rev. Kim Mason

Sung Response #86 Blessed Spirit of My Life

*Blessed Spirit of my life, give me strength through stress and strife;
help me live with dignity; let me know serenity.*

Fill me with a vision, clear my mind of fear and confusion.

When my thoughts flow restlessly, let peace find a home in me.

Spirit of great mystery, hear the still, small voice in me.

Help me live my wordless creed as I comfort those in need.

Fill me with compassion, be the source of my intuition.

Then, when life is done for me, let love be my legacy.

Reading

Where Is Life Sending You? by Theresa Ninan Soto

Norma Vogelweid

Call for the Offering

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

Offertory

Light, From Next to Normal, by Tom Kitt

Caitlin Hill, soprano

Sermon

Mission Resilience

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #113 Where Is Our Holy Church

Where is our holy church?

Where race and class unite

as equal persons in the search

for beauty, truth, and right.

Where is our holy writ?

Where'er a human heart

a sacred torch of truth has lit,

by inspiration taught.

Where is our holy One?

A mighty host respond;

the people rise in every land

to break the captive's bond.

*Where is our holy land?
Within the human soul,
wherever free minds truly seek
with character the goal.*

*Where is our paradise?
In aspiration's sight,
wherein we hope to see
arise ten thousand years of right.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

Psalm 19, by Benedetto Marcello

Earl Naylor, Organist

Serving Us This Morning

Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Roy Cole

Greeters: Jeremy Colton and Steve Wilke

AV Assistant: Margaret Weck

This morning's flowers are given by John and Carole Watson, in celebration of granddaughters everywhere.

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MUSIC NOTES

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847) played the organ and composed for it from the age of 11 to his death. His primary organ works are the Six Sonatas, Op. 65 (1845), and the Three Preludes and Fugues, Op. 37 (1837).

Benedetto Giacomo Marcello (1686 – 1739) was an Italian composer, writer, advocate, magistrate, and teacher. Marcello composed a variety of music including considerable church music, oratorios, hundreds of solo cantatas, duets, sonatas, concertos and sinfonias. This piece is a transcription of a work for choir, instruments, and organ.

**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

Sunday, February 5th, 2023

At Church This Week!

Worship Service

Sunday February 5th 2023 10am

Mission Resilience with Rev Kim Mason

Resilience is the ability to recover from difficulties or challenges. How does our congregational mission statement build resilience for this faith community?

Read this Sunday's Order of Service (<https://tinyurl.com/325aapyw>)

Watch this service on YouTube! (<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstUnitarianSTL>)

This Sunday's flowers are given by John and Carole Watson, in celebration of granddaughters everywhere.

Upcoming Services

February Theme - Resilience

Sunday February 12th 10am - Love Can Be at the Center with Rev Kim Mason

Our Seven UU Principles have been a guiding force since 1985. Former UUA Moderator Elandria Wililams mentioned that our UU Principles are great but they don't include LOVE. So what would our UU Principles look like if LOVE were at the center? This service will discuss the process to revise the UU Principles.

Sunday February 19th 10am - Yes, And... with Rev. Kim Mason

Read the February 2023 Touchstones Project Journal

(<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/Touchstones%20Journal%20February%202023%20Resilience%20nf.pdf>)

2023 Auction - Rekindle the Flame

Saturday February 4th 5:30pm

2023 First Unitarian Auction: Rekindle the Flame

Saturday February 4th 5:30pm

1920's Attire Encouraged!

The Church auction is TOMORROW! Come for the amazing auction items! Come to hobnob with friends old and new! But most of all come for the FOOD!

Appetizer Menu

Grilled Veggie Wraps

Straub's Chicken Salad on Hawaiian Rolls

Tomato Basil Bruschetta

Shrimp Cocktail

Mini Veggie Spring Rolls

AND MORE!

Plus Specialty Cocktails!

Mary Pickford - Rum, pineapple juice, and grenadine

Gin Rickey - from The Great Gatsby!

Wine, beer, and non alcoholic drinks available!

Get Your Tickets Now!

Minister's Column

On Saturday, January 21st, we held our annual Mid-Winter Meeting. This was both a fun evening to gather with your church friends and enjoy a potluck meal (we have some great cooks!) as well as a chance to participate in the governance of our congregation.

Our congregation uses a governance system called Policy Governance. In this system the congregation creates a mission statement, vision statement and list of values that we then use to guide the development of a set of congregational goals.

In policy governance these goals are called “Ends” and they are really big, ambitious goals that we work together on achieving. Because they are so broad, you should have six, max. Here is a fictional example of what a set of “Ends” might look like:

The people of Mystery UU Church, Anytown, USA seek to:

Create community through care and connections

Achieve greater spiritual maturity

Foster leadership and generosity

Be a source of love and justice in Anytown, USA

Transform ourselves and the world

The beauty of these broad goals is that all the committees, staff and volunteers can discern together how to best achieve these goals - and are then empowered to put those ideas into action. As situations in the congregation, community, or world change, how they go about achieving them can also change. Each year, the board is responsible for evaluating how well we’re all doing to achieve these goals. The purpose of this structure is to allow flexibility and responsiveness as well as an understanding of how each aspect of the church contributes to the larger whole. It also releases the board from micromanaging (that’s a good thing).

You’ve gotten this far and hopefully this makes sense. However, you still can’t figure out why it’s called policy governance, right? It’s called policy governance because while the committees, staff and volunteers are empowered to put ideas into action, they are bound or, in policy governance language, “limited” by the policies that the board puts in place (such as our safe congregations policy which outline the rules we follow to keep children and adults safe). Here at First Unitarian we have a mission statement and we have policies. We don’t have ends and thus the board can’t evaluate how well we’re doing on achieving them. The values identification process will help us in crafting our vision statement and our ends.

We spent the Midwinter meeting in a process to articulate our values. What I appreciate about the values identified that evening is that they naturally ended up paired with verbs:

Community/ Connection

Open Mindedness/ Welcoming

Compassion/ Service

Knowledge/ Learning

OR... in another format:

The First Unitarian Church of St. Louis values Community, Open Mindedness, Compassion and Knowledge. We promote these values by building connections, welcoming all, serving others and learning together.

Can you see how the values and the mission statement build towards a vision statement? Can you see how those pieces will inform the ends/goals? Here's the mission statement:

The First Unitarian Church of St. Louis strives to be a welcoming congregation inspiring lives of loving kindness and integrity by building community, nurturing spirituality and advancing justice.

If things sound similar, that's ok. It would be more problematic if they diverged widely, meaning that something had changed in the congregation or in the participation. What I like about a process like this is that it requires the participation of the congregation. You all are responsible for creating these statements and, ultimately, for crafting a vision and goals for the congregation. This is a ground up process designed to reflect the congregation. The board's job is not to impose some plan upon the congregation, but to guide the congregation in achieving its highest intentions as articulated in this process.

I hope this has given you a better understanding of our governance and why we've been having some of the conversations we've been having. If you're curious about what our governance documents look like, including our bylaws and policies, all those things can be accessed on the church website here (<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/first-church-online-forms/file-cabinet#overlay-context=users/yvette>).

Your Wonky Minister,
Rev. Kim

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>)

Church Events

New Member Orientation

February 9, March 9, April 13 (in person & online - 6:30 - 8:00 pm)

Facilitated by Rev. Kim Mason and Members of the Membership Committee

Are you interested in becoming a member of First U? Want to learn more about the congregation and how to get involved? Want to get to know other people in the congregation? Then this 3 session orientation is for you!

Sign up online here or on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Registration encouraged but not required.

Hope you can join in!

Sign-Up For New Member Orientation (<https://forms.gle/ZuDmwhbXT2L4gX58>)

Active Hope Project Virtual Listening Circle

An online listening circle will be happening on *Thursday February 9th at 6:30pm* to gather information to determine a social action issue that our congregation can focus on together. Please consider attending if you

have not been interviewed or had the opportunity to attend a previous listening circle. Please click the button below to RSVP for this session and the zoom link will be sent to you. We hope you can join us!

RSVP For 2/9/23 Virtual Session

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdST04PURkowHi0MyL_cIwECdSn_8u6lhSjMKLCx0Q3B2DRHA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Sunday, February 12 at 11:30 am

Social Responsibility Coffee Hour

Veterans Community Project

We are excited to have a representative of the Veterans Community Project join us to discuss their work. The mission of the Veterans Community Project (VCP) is to support homeless Veterans, a task accomplished by the community for the community. In St. Louis, the VCP's Outreach center on Grand Avenue serves as a one-stop shop for any veteran, regardless of service status. The VCP Village in the Jeff Vander Lou neighborhood consists of a village of small homes for Veterans experiencing homelessness. Please join us to learn more about the Veterans Community Project. You can attend in-person in the sanctuary or virtually in the coffee hour zoom meeting.

UUA Common Read Book Discussion:

Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism

(<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx>)

Tuesdays in March, 7 pm (in person & online March 7, 14, 21, 28)

Rev. Kim Mason and members of the Toward Justice Committee

In this book, co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explore five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community and share the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found. Join us for a discussion of some of the lessons learned and how they can inspire First Unitarian's journey toward Beloved Community.

Order the Hardcopy Book (<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx>)

Purchase an Electronic Version

(https://www.amazon.com/Mistakes-Miracles-Congregations-Road-Multiculturalism-ebook/dp/B07Y5PF47L/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2RY6KHYWXV5CH&keywords=mistakes+and+miracles&qid=1675208371&srefix=mistakes+and+miracles%2Caps%2C85&sr=8-1.)

Listen to the Audio Version (<https://www.uua.org/read/mistakes-and-miracles-audio-book>)

Sign Up for Discussion Group (<https://forms.gle/NM71ePNyUvF1Zuim7>)

Please send photos, event details, announcements, etc. for this newsletter to dkozem@firstuustlouis.org

Deadline for Enews announcements: Thursday, noon

To view our regularly held events, including those sponsored by the church and other organizations please visit our calendar.

View our Calendar of Events! (<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/calendar/month>)

Joys and Concerns

Joys

We welcome new member Frances Hoffmann, who signed the membership book recently

As a church community, each of us is an integral part of the care and concerns network. Not only do we show up and care for one another, we can make sure people get care by sharing with the care and concerns team when health and other concerns arise. SHARE a Joy or Concern with us by clicking the button below or email your joy or concern to careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org

Joys and Concerns? (<https://forms.gle/YvVrdTYzdDuasJvo8>)

New Member Spotlight

Kurt Johnson became a member of First UU Church on January 15, 2023. He recently moved to St. Louis from Evansville, Indiana, with his partner, Liz, who is a P. A. (Physician Assistant). He studied journalism and English while in college and for awhile pursued a career in journalism, then did corporate work, but realized he preferred volunteering as a soccer coach to his corporate job. When Liz had a job offer in St. Louis, Kurt decided this was the perfect opportunity to change his career; he now teaches English to juniors at Kipp STL High School, a life choice that is very important to him and gives him a sense of personal fulfillment, while also contributing to society. He says that teaching, in fact, is a “revelation to me: this is what I’m meant to do.”

Kurt’s religious background was Presbyterian and Church of Christ, but neither was a good fit: he has a nuanced take on religion and is not great with labels. Unitarian Universalism, as a community of social justice and spiritual freedom, is a much better fit. Universalism is especially important to him, and he has spent some time practicing Buddhist meditation. Here at First UU, Kurt particularly likes the sense of community and is looking forward to meeting new people.

Kurt’s interests include running (he’s done two marathons), cycling, swimming, music (he was in a punk rock band growing up), and reading (everything)!

Welcome Kurt!

Upcoming Designated Collection

Sunday, February 12th

Veterans Community Project (<https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/vcp-stlouis>)

The mission of the Veterans Community Project (VCP) is to support homeless Veterans, a task accomplished by the community for the community. In St. Louis, the VCP’s Outreach center on Grand Avenue serves as a one-stop shop for any veteran, regardless of service status. The VCP Village in the Jeff Vander Lou neighborhood consists of a village of small homes for Veterans experiencing homelessness. **Nominated by Teresa Jay.**

Religious Education this Sunday...

This Sunday February 5th 10am

There will not Story for All Ages This Sunday

Children's Chapel- Why do we go to Church? (Hope Chapel)

Children K-6th can go straight to Hope Chapel at 10am

Youth Group Meeting 7th-12th Graders (Clark Room)

Youth 7th-12th grade will meet in the Clark Room for a Youth Group Meeting at 10am

The Nursery will be open for childcare

Sign-Up to Donate Baked Goods!

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18AtCh515yJSqIHHi_ujYV_HZ5EblVXcq9U9Q_Pek9oM/edit?usp=sparing)

SAVE the DATE! Sunday 2/26/23

Youth Sunday Worship Service:

What We Learn Outside of School

Check out RE This Week! (https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday-02_05_23)

Announcements

Article II Study Commission Report

Two years ago, the UUA Board appointed a commission of Unitarian Universalists to integrate changes to the Principles and lead a process to review Article II of our Bylaws. From presentations and input at General Assembly to more than 10,000 survey responses, to over 4,600 participants in their feedback sessions, the Article II Study Commission listened and shaped an Article II that has the potential to lead us farther along the path of living our aspirations faithfully within and beyond our UU community. We are so grateful for all that UUs do to move our living tradition forward. Please watch and share the video below for more information.

<https://youtu.be/zPQmvlMBUOg>

The Opp Shop

Stop by the OP Shop to pick up something special for your Valentine.

Free gift wrapping will be available!

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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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 – Erin Milligan

Secretary – Alison Lamothe

Treasurer – Jeremy Colton

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Norma Vogelweid

Member – Joel Hickman

Member – Susan Lammert

Church Council

Cathy Rauch, Chair

Clint Cruse, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Sue Herzberg, Programming Cluster