



**Sunday November 6th 10am
Remembrance Sunday with Rev Kim Mason
November 6th, 2022
Order of Service**

Welcome and Announcements

Pam Geppert

Prelude Prelude, from *Homage a Frescobaldi* Jean Langlais

Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Opening Hymn #324 Where My Free Spirit Onward Leads

*Where my free spirit onward leads, well, there shall be my way;
by my own light illumined I've journeyed night and day;
my age, a time-worn cloak I wear as once I wore my youth;
I celebrate life's mystery; I celebrate death's truth.*

*My family is not confined to mother, mate, and child;
but it includes all creatures be they tame or be they wild;
my family upon this earth includes all living things
on land, or in the ocean deep, or borne aloft on wings.*

*The ever spinning universe, well, there shall be my home;
I sing and spin within it as through this life I roam;
eternity is hard to ken and harder still is this:
a human life when truly seen is briefer than a kiss.*

Chalice Lighting

Pam Geppert

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

Special Music *Epitaph* by Merrit Malloy, composed by Chris Kocher First Unitarian Choir

Joys & Concerns

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

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

All Souls by May Sarton

Pam Geppert

First Church Community Fund Grant Presentation

Rosemary Johnston Lawton

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

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

Offertory

Hearth and Fire arr. Willi Zwozdesky

First Unitarian Choir

Reading

from *Lost & Found* by Kathryn Schulz

Pam Geppert

Homily

Bittersweet

Rev. Kim Mason

Ritual of Remembrance

Hymn #336 All My Memories of Love

All my memories of love hang upon high stars.

All the souls I've lost to tears now the autumn jars;

and the air around me here thickens with their song;

sing again their nameless tunes, sing again, and strong.

Willows in September touch the water clear,

set among the rushes tall of the flowing year.

Rising up from sunlit past comes the shadowed sigh

running toward me silently, love to fortify.

*Many are the graceful hearts hung upon this tree.
And it seems there's room for mine on these branches free;
and the sky above the tree, whether wet or bright,
is my ease and comforting, my good news and light.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude *Improvisation on Sine Nomine*

Earl Naylor, organ

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Paula Hanssen
Greeters: Susan Herzberg and Kevin Kellogg
AV Assistant: Adam Lunter

Music Notes

Jean Langlais (1907 –1991) was a French composer of modern classical music, organist, and improviser. His works are mostly masses and organ music, some based on Gregorian themes, enhanced by polymodal harmonies. Langlais became blind due to glaucoma when he was only two years old, and was sent to the National Institute for Blind Children in Paris, where he began to study the organ, with André Marchal. From there, he progressed to the Paris Conservatoire. After graduating, he returned to the National Institute for Blind Children to teach, and also taught at the Schola Cantorum in Paris from 1961 to 1976. It was as an organist, however, that Langlais made his name, following in the footsteps of César Franck and Tournemire as *organiste titulaire* at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris in 1945, a post in which he remained until 1988. He was much in demand as a concert organist, and toured widely across Europe and the United States.

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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

At Church This Week!

Sunday November 6th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship Service (in-person and online)

10:00 am to 2:00 pm Trinity Hot Lunch (Kitchen)

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm Making Meaning after Disaster (Dodson Room)

Monday November 7th

What Moves Us (in person & online)

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Tuesday November 8th

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Alliance (online)

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Women's Alliance Friendsgiving (Fellowship Hall)

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Executive Committee (online)

Wednesday November 9th

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday November 12th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Black Lives Matter Social Witnessing

Sunday November 13th

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

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Active Hope Project (Chapel)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Worship Assistant Training (Sanctuary)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Membership Committee (Library)

Please check the Church Calendar on the website for more information about gatherings

Deadline for announcements: Wednesday, noon

Send items to dkozem@firstuustlouis.org

Our Mission

We strive to be a welcoming congregation, inspiring lives of loving kindness and integrity by nurturing spirituality, building community, and advancing justice

Upcoming Services

November Theme - Remembrance

Sunday, November 13th - The Land Has Memory with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday, November 20th - Cornbread Communion with Rev. Kim Mason

Joys and Concerns

Concerns

We send healing thoughts to the CVPA and CSMB school communities as they recover from the recent school shootings

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. Contact the Care and Concerns team by calling or emailing careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org

Memorial for Bob Pierce
Saturday November 19th, 2022 2pm
Service in the Sanctuary
Reception will follow in Fellowship Hall

Today's Designated Collection

Sunday November 6th, 2022
First Church Community Fund

The First Church Community Fund (FCCF) is an endowment established by the late Rennie Shuter, a FUSTL member and community activist, to support the involvement of church Members and Friends in addressing important issues in our community. The Fund does this through annual microgrants to smaller nonprofits and by highlighting their work to the congregation to encourage both volunteerism and financial support.

Nominated by Rosemary Lawton

As a way of putting our faith into action, our church periodically dedicates Sunday collections to worthy non-profits or church programs.

Church Events

This Sunday, November 6th
First Church Community Fund (FCCF) Awards (in service)
Special "Meet and Greet" - 11am Fellowship Hall

Many of us are dedicated to important causes and involved in volunteer work in our St. Louis community. So too was one of our First Church members who sought, almost forty years ago, to encourage our church's

involvement in addressing community challenges by providing the seeds of what became the First Church Community Fund. This endowment fund supports the work of smaller St. Louis nonprofits through a program of microgrants. The income from the endowment is used to support direct service and social action projects in our community with a focus on the underserved.

The First Church Community Fund committee annually reviews grant requests to the FCCF and is pleased to announce on Sunday this year's microgrants recipients. The selected grants vary widely in focus and targeted populations; however, all address important needs and are anticipated to have a demonstrated impact on individuals and the nonprofits that serve them.

We are excited to have representatives from this year's grant recipients on hand for a "Meet and Greet" immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. We hope that you will introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. They are eager to meet you and tell you about their work.

You also have the opportunity this Sunday, through our Designated Collection, to add to the endowment principle and ensure our microgrants continue to grow. We appreciate your past support and ask that you continue to give generously!

With thanks!

The FCCF Committee: Rosemary Lawton (Chair), Kay Dusenbery, Julia Hart Donald Jeffries, Lynn Shuter, Margaret Weck, Laura Zacher.

**Women's Alliance Friendsgiving
Tuesday November 8th 12:00 pm**

This coming Tuesday, November 8 the Women's Alliance happily returns to its annual Friendsgiving Lunch at Noon in Fellowship Hall. The Alliance provides turkey and fixins and members have signed up to bring other dishes to complete the meal. If you haven't signed up to bring a dish or dessert bring what you'd like (the basics are covered) OR you can contribute toward the cost of the turkey. As always, guests are welcome.

Due to the Friendsgiving preparations AND Election Day (Remember to Vote!), the usual 11AM Business meeting is being rescheduled for the following Tuesday - November 15 at 11AM on ZOOM.

**Cornbread Communion Dinner
Saturday November 19th 5pm**

All are welcome to this dinner! We will provide pasta dishes and salad. After we eat we will work together in the kitchen to make the cornbread for the Sunday Service Thanksgiving inspired Communion. Please complete the RSVP form or email Danielle at dkozem@firstuustlouis.org so I can order the right amount of food.

Thanks!

**Save the Date!
Seven Spaces Play Area Dedication**

Sunday, November 20, 2022 - 11:30am to 12:00pm

Minister's Column November 2022

One week ago I went into a minister's Facebook group and typed "gun violence vigil." After last Monday's school shooting at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, I was looking for advice and resources. What I found was heartbroken ministers struggling to find something new to say in the face of recurring tragedy. I had come to the group looking for wisdom because my own grief and anger was overwhelming. I found instead that my colleagues were also struggling. What made me think I was any different from any other minister? Or any of you for that matter? We are sitting with fear and frustration, anguish and impotence. I hear the heartache in the questions: what can I do? What can we do? How do we change this?

I hear the hopelessness in statements like, "Thoughts and prayers are not enough." I too want more. I was in college when Columbine happened. How is this even still a thing that happens in our country?? When did we become accustomed to active shooter drills and kevlar backpacks? No one disagrees that mass shootings are a horrific trauma that needs to stop, and that within the category of mass shootings, school shootings are particularly tragic. And I just wrote a sentence containing the words "Within the category of mass shootings..." I too want more...

I was recently reminded of the power of prayer. The power, not to move an omnipotent being into action, but to move ourselves into action. The Danish philosopher and theologian Soren Kierkegaard said, "Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays." So I have been praying. I have prayed for the children of CVPA. I prayed for their teachers and the staff. I prayed for the people protecting the children and caring for the children. I prayed for their parents and families. I prayed for our city. I prayed for their safety and well-being, and ours too. I prayed for their healing and the healing of our city.

By praying, I let myself be present with my sorrow and my rage. I could feel it in my body. I cried. By praying, I let myself feel. When we are constantly bombarded by tragedy, it is a struggle not to let yourself despair, to be desensitized. In this way prayer changes our relationship to the events and the people. Every parent who raced to CVPA on Monday, every parent who kicked off their shoes and ran to find their child, has been changed by the shooting. We too should be changed, changed enough that we are not OK with this ever happening again. One term for such a change is maladjustment. Martin Luther King Jr. said "there are certain things in our nation and in the world (about) which I am proud to be maladjusted and which I hope all men of good-will will be maladjusted until the good societies realize." It is time for us to be maladjusted and stay maladjusted.

Prayer can open you up to your own maladjustment. When I sit in prayer, when I allow myself to be present with my emotions, when I reject despair and desensitization, I am maladjusted to the horror of gun violence and I remember that I can act. There are things I can do. I can support organizations working to end gun

violence. I can vote for politicians working to end gun violence. I can talk to local and national officials about ending gun violence. I can talk to my friends and neighbors about ending gun violence. I can show up to events advocating the end of gun violence. Let prayer be a practice that keeps you feeling, that keeps you maladjusted, that keeps you motivated - and then follow up on it.

As we look ahead to recovery, as we hope for healing, I pray that like the students and staff at CVPA, you too are changed by the events that Monday. I hope that in praying to end gun violence, you are reminded everyday that you too have a role to play. In the words of Edward Everett Hale, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." When I pray that "thoughts and prayers" become action and policy to end gun violence, what I am really praying is that I remain maladjusted and that you too remain maladjusted. We do not have to stay mad, or sad, we simply have to stay maladjusted. I do not have solutions, but I am here to partner with others working to end gun violence. To crib from L.R. Knost, do not be dismayed by the immensity of the task. All things can be changed - not with time, but with intention. If enough of us remain maladjusted, then we can do something about it. May our shared maladjustment inspire action that transforms our community and ends gun violence.

Rev. Kim Mason

Religious Education This Week

This Sunday November 6th, 2022

- There will not be a story for all ages
- The Nursery will be open for childcare
- Preschoolers ages 3&4 will have class in the nursery
- All children K-6th will go to Chapel at 10am
- Youth 7th-9th will have OWL class 10am - 12 noon
- Youth 10th-12th will be in the kitchen cooking for Trinity Hot Lunch

Announcements

Active Hope Project

We are beginning the process of reaching out to congregants to get your input on the idea of congregational social action, and what that might look like, as we explore what we mean by "advancing social justice" in our mission statement. There are 2 ways you can participate, and we encourage you to take part in both.

The first is a series of facilitated listening circles which will be held on

Sunday November 13th 11:30am

Sunday December 11th 11:30am

Sunday January 15th 11:30am

The second is an individual conversation with one of us. We are hoping to talk to as many of you as possible, and will be reaching out by phone to schedule a time. This will be an opportunity to have a more in-depth conversation, in order to get to know you better, learn what you really care about, and find what interests our members have in common.

We hope you will join us on this journey of discovery as we explore what justice and social action mean to us as individuals and as a congregation.

Social Responsibility

Black Lives Matter Social Witnessing

Join us every Saturday at 10am

The weekly Black Lives Matter Social Witnessing will restart on Saturday March 12th. Gather on Kingshighway alongside our church building. Bring signs, water and sunscreen. Masks and social distancing required. Kevin Kellogg is the on-site coordinator. This event is coordinated by the Toward Justice Group.

The Little Free Pantry Needs You!

We need people who can check on the pantry and make sure it's stocked! Please consider grabbing something for the pantry when you do your shopping. Pop top cans are preferred. Plastic utensils, bottled water, and personal care items like deodorant, sunscreen, and soap are needed. Remember that you or a group you are in can support our parking lot pantry. Visiting once during the week is fine - including on a Sunday. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort to feed our neighbors!

You can schedule pastoral appointments with Rev. Kim at your convenience. Click on this link <https://calendly.com/kmason-7> and choose the date that works best for you - no account necessary.

UUA News

General Assembly 2023

Faithfully Becoming

Pittsburgh, PA

June 21st - 23rd, 2023

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

314-361-0595

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister (kmason@firstuustlouis.org)

Danielle Kozemczak, Director of Religious Education & Communications (dkozem@firstuustlouis.org)

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)

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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

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Church Council

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