



**Love Can Be at the Center
with Rev Kim Mason
February 12th, 2023
Order of Service**

Ringing of the Bowl

Adam Lunter

Welcome and Announcements

Adam Lunter

Prelude *Prelude on Nun bitten Wir* by Dietrich Buxtehude

Earl Naylor, Organist

Call into Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #34 Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

Lighting the Chalice

Adam Lunter

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

Story Time for All Ages *Love Is the Golden Rule*, by Ilene Cooper

Danielle Kozemczak

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

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

The Way It Is by William Stafford

Adam Lunter

Call for the Offering

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

Offertory

Answering the Call of Love, by Jason Shelton

First Unitarian Choir

Reading

from *Which Way*, by Lewis Fischer

Adam Lunter

Sermon

Love Can Be at the Center

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #131 Love Will Guide Us

*Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.*

*If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.*

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,

*hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude *Jig Fugue* by Dietrich Buxtehude

Earl Naylor, Organist

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Hunter Hart and Roy Cole
Greeters: Clint Cruse and Kevin Kellogg
AV Assistant: Greg Cotter

Flowers are given in gratitude for the Rev. Kim Mason and our wonderful church staff and volunteers. Donated by Kimberly Peerry.

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MUSIC NOTES

Dietrich Buxtehude's Fugue in C Major is commonly referred to as the "Jig Fugue" because of the lilting 12/8 time signature. This work is thought to be the inspiration for J.S. Bach's Fugue in G major (Fugue a la Gigue), composed a few years afterwards.

**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 12th, 2023

Worship Service

Sunday February 5th 2023 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.

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

Watch this service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/LGSRQc186PU?feature=share>)

This morning's flowers are dedicated to that which we never get enough of, and never give enough of - Love.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 818 4258 2434

Passcode: Coffee

Upcoming Services

February Theme - Resilience

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

There are no mistakes in improvised theater. Rev. Kim reflects on a year and half of improv training and how improv as a practice for life can make us more resilient

Wednesday February 22nd 6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Service (Dodson Room)

Sunday February 26th 10am - Things We Learn Outside of School with Youth Group Members

March Theme - Trust

Sunday March 5th 10am - Sustain the Flame with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday March 12th 10am - The Facts of Life and Dementia with Lay Leader Norma Vogelweid

Read the February 2023 Touchstones Project Journal

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

Wednesday February 22nd 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday Service (Dodson Room)

Join us for a contemplative start to the Lenten season. From the liberal Christian tradition, this service includes an optional imposition of ashes to invite you into a UU practice for the 40 days of Lent.

Joys and Concerns

Joys

We welcome new member Sarah Vaughn, who signed the book on February 5th

Concerns

We send condolences to the family of Jackie Carpenter, a longtime member who passed away on on January 24, 2023

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>)

Meet New Member: Fran Hoffmann

Fran joined First Unitarian Church of St. Louis on January 23, 2023. Her familiarity with Unitarianism began during her high school years in the early 1960s when her parents became founding members of the Newark (DE) Unitarian Fellowship, a thriving congregation to this day. Fran soon left for college and multiple moves thereafter as she embarked on a 35 year teaching and administrative career, including a stint at UMSL in the 1990s. Her lifelong academic focus on sociology and women's studies was forged in the social movements of the '60s and the campus activism of the time.

Fran's involvement with Unitarianism was limited to visits to the Newark Fellowship with her parents, but she sustained an appreciation for its social justice focus and commitment to forging a welcoming community for all. She engaged more fully with Unitarianism in the more recent past, becoming a member of the All Souls UU Congregation of New London, CT (2000-2010) and, subsequently, the All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, DC (2010-2020).

While in DC Fran volunteered with the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) efforts to bring progressive religious voices to Congress, a role she especially appreciated because it enabled her to speak with Congressional staff and members directly on behalf of participating congregations -- access otherwise closed to her as a DC resident without a direct voice in Congress (she supports statehood for DC!).

The latest chapter in Fran's life involved moves in 2021 to both upstate NY and St. Louis where she will divide her time enjoying grandchildren in both places, having more time with her grown sons and their wives, and involving herself in the two very different communities of rural Clinton, NY and relatively urban STL!

Welcome Fran!

Church Events

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

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 Hardcover 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>)

Upcoming Volunteer Activity

Sunday March 5th - Trinity Hot Lunch

Our Central West End neighbor, Trinity Episcopal Church, operates an ongoing food ministry that includes both a food pantry and a Sunday hot lunch program. On Sunday, March 5th, First Church members and friends can support the Trinity Hot Lunch program by preparing a meal in our Fellowship Hall kitchen and then transporting and serving it at Trinity. This is a multi-generational activity open to all. Preparations usually begin at 11 am with the actual food service concluding by 2pm. If you plan on volunteering please RSVP by clicking the button below or sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

Sign Up to Help with Trinity Hot Lunch!

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMS3H13X70Od9-S8crMWyaOzfptyduIH331Xrx2tG9erBpQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Unfish Fry - Friday March 10th

Volunteers needed!

The Unfish Fry is back and we need your help! We will be offering another all-vegetarian dinner this year. If you are interested in helping in any way: from cooking or baking to selling desserts or helping wash dishes and cleaning up, please join us! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or click the button below to sign up online!

Volunteer for the Unfish Fry!

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecGQ30avVGMk0-4l250rfdXGF8zzDh8dmVVTM1nerEnMMtBg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Save the Date!

Saturday April 15th 6pm

Boston Trip Trivia Night Fundraiser

Join us for a fun night of Trivia through the decades! Tickets are \$25 or a table of eight for \$200.

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>)

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...

Check out RE This Week! (https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday-02_12_23)

This Sunday February 12th

Love Can Be at the Center with Rev Kim Mason

Children and Youth are encouraged to attend service with their family. The Nursery will be open for childcare. After the story for all ages, they will proceed to their classrooms.

Time For All Ages: Love Is the Golden Rule By Ilene Cooper

Maya is eight years old and has rules to follow all day long! One day, Maya decides they are sick of all the rules and they want just one rule to follow. So Maya talks to their family and friends from different faiths to figure out the most important rule - a rule to take the place of all other rules.

Above: A visual representation of the Values proposed in the Article II Study Report

(https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf) .

RE Classes This Sunday!

Preschoolers: Chalice Children: Celebrate Love for Valentine's Day

All K-6th graders: RE Bake Sale Prep in Fellowship Hall

7/8/9th Grade: Our Whole Lives: Sexuality, Social Media, and the Internet

10/11/12th Graders: Youth Group Meeting - planning their upcoming Worship Service on 2/26/23.

Announcements

Update on Building Projects

By Clint Cruse, Facilities Cluster Chair

One definition of February's First U theme "Resilience" is the ability to survive and rise above adverse situations. We have several "resiliency" issues that must be addressed on our historic First U building complex if it is to continue to serve our congregation as it has for over a century. Facilities would like to update the congregation regarding a few building projects that are currently being evaluated. Our tongue-in-cheek motto of the Facilities Cluster is, "Keeping the Roof Up and the Weeds Down". So, it's perhaps fitting that our number one priority – across the complex – is issues with roofing.

The roofing surface on both the Religious Education (RE) building's roof and the West flat roof (off Fellowship Hall) are well past their intended lifespan and are failing. In addition, it has been determined by roofing and plumbing professionals that the original design for the RE roof lacked adequate capacity. The existing drains cannot affordably be modified to accommodate the increased rainfalls we are seeing in recent times. The result has been water intrusion into the building.

Stopgap repairs have been made in the past by volunteer groups but will not permanently correct the issues as extreme rainfall events in the last year have proven. Facilities considers the RE roof to be the most urgent project, and places top priority on this project in its triage of building issues.

Deteriorated guttering, as well as damaged elements of the slate roof on the sanctuary and at the roofline of the Hosmer room bay window, are also being assessed and cost estimates being prepared.

Water is entering our building complex at ground level as well. Intrusion of water through the library wall (the Southern façade of the sanctuary building) is ongoing and needs to be addressed.

The drain/grease trap servicing the kitchen is currently blocked. The blockage is being addressed by a cleanout service. It has yet to be determined if simply cleaning out the trap will address the situation or if the trap must be excavated and replaced, which is another significant project.

Bringing the buildings back to an acceptable level of maintenance and physical appearance impacts not only the health, safety, and worship and event experience of our congregation, but also our ability to make the complex available to community organizations and private individuals. Rentals have been a source of income to First U in the past.

The facilities cluster is working with outside experts/contractors to find the best and most economical solutions to offer to the Council and Policy Board for consideration. With congregational support, we are confident that the First U building complex will be fully restored to faithfully serve our congregation and community immediately, and for the next century.

The Facilities Cluster focuses on maintenance of the church building and grounds with the intent to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the church congregation, visitors and any who may wish to rent/utilize the space for other activities. Cluster members include Clint Cruse (Cluster Captain/Facilities Chair), Karen Siegrist

and Lisa Cary (Landscaping Co-Chairs), John Cuntz, Tom Finan, Hunter Hart, Stan Birge, Jane Hoekelman, Alison Beehr, Rebecca Bolen, Luke Steffen in close partnership with staff liaison Lynn Hunt.

The Opp Shop

Stop by the OP Shop to pick up something special for your Valentine.
Free gift wrapping will be available!

Auction Success!

Our Rekindle the Flame auction was a huge success! Final figures are still being tabulated, but the amount raised will be well over the \$15,000 goal and will go a long way to support the budget and operations of the church.

Many thanks to co-chairs Kathy Wire and Emily Jaycox, and food and decorations coordinator, Jane Hoekelman. Many others helped as well – thank you to: Margaret Weck, Karen Albin, Sarah Vaughn, Nan Hoffman, Clint Cruse, Andrea Berin, Joel Minor, Jim Wire, Joan Kindleberger, Lonnie Jaycox, Christian Cox, Robert Hunt, Sam Hunt, Judy Crouch, Cathy Rauch, Sam Rezanoff, Becca McBride, Lori Calcaterra, Hunter Hart, the Women’s Alliance and others.

This was our first experience with a combination live and online auction. Online participants were active bidders and Karen Siegrist (online) won the raffle! It was a great evening for all!

If you were unable to participate or missed bidding on an event or item there is still time! Watch for the After Auction Sale on Sunday, Feb. 26th after the service.

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

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