



Sustain the Flame with Rev. Kim Mason
March 5th, 2023
Order of Service

Ringing of the Bowl

Tom Finan

Welcome and Announcements

Tom Finan

Prelude *O Mensch, beweine* by J. S. Bach

Earl Naylor, Organist

Call into Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #323 Break Not the Circle

*Break not the circle of enabling love
where people grow, forgiven and forgiving;
break not that circle, make it wider still,
till it includes, embraces all the living.*

*Come, wonder at this love that comes to life,
where words of freedom are with humor spoken,
and people keep no score of wrong and guilt,
but will that human bonds remain unbroken.*

*Join then the movement of the love that frees,
till people of whatever race or nation
will truly be themselves, stand on their feet,
see eye to eye with laughter and elation.*

Lighting the Chalice

Tom Finan

Sung Response

*There is always a light
When we are ready to see it
There is always a light
When we are ready to be it
To see the light, to be the light*

*To raise our eyes in the dark of night
To climb this hill
Together, we will*
Words by Amanda Gorman, Music by Lea Morris

Canvass Affirmation

Canvass Update

Sarah Francois and Emily Jaycox

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Kim Mason

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

Nurture This Precious Light by Naomi King

Tom Finan

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

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

Offertory Music

First Unitarian Choir

Reading

When Giving Is All We Have by Alberto Rios

Tom Finan

Sermon

Sustain the Flame

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #1028 The Fire of Commitment

*From the light of days remembered burns a beacon bright and clear
Guiding hands and hearts and spirits Into faith set free from fear.*

Chorus:

*When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.*

From the stories of our living rings a song both brave and free,

Calling pilgrims still to witness to the life of liberty.

Chorus

From the dreams of youthful vision comes a new, prophetic voice,

Which demands a deeper justice built by our courageous choice

Chorus

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Extinguish the Chalice

Tom Finan

Postlude *Praeludium in C Minor by Andre Raison*

Earl Naylor, organist

Serving Us This Morning

Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Hunter Hart

Greeters: Steve Wilke

AV Assistant: Greg Cotter

This morning's flowers are given by Tom Finan and Pam Geppert and are dedicated to the promising young lives lost in last weekend's hit and run accident at South Grand and Forest Park Parkway.

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MUSIC NOTES

André Raison (c. 1640 – 1719) was a French Baroque composer and organist. During his lifetime he was one of the most famous French organists and an important influence on French organ music. He published two collections of organ works, in 1688 and 1714. The first contains liturgical music intended for monasteries and a preface with information on contemporary performance practice. The second contains mostly noëls (variations on Christmas carols).

**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

Weekly News from First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Sunday March 5th 2023

Sunday March 5th 2023 10am

Sustain the Flame with Rev. Kim Mason

Lewis Henry Lapham said "Money is like fire, an element as little troubled by moralizing as earth, air, and water. [We] can employ it as a tool, or...dance around it as if it were the incarnation of a god." As we kick off our annual pledge canvass, we consider how are we sustaining the flame of our community.

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

Watch this service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/1-aZIQQcUZE?feature=share>)

"This morning's flowers are given by Tom Finan and Pam Geppert and are dedicated to the promising young lives lost in last weekend's hit and run accident at South Grand and Forest Park Parkway."

Virtual Coffee Hour

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 818 4258 2434

Passcode: Coffee

Upcoming Services

March Theme - Trust

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

Sunday March 19th 10am - Made for Joy with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday March 26th 10am - The Ministry of Both/And Redux with Rev. Kim Mason

Read the March 2023 Touchstones Project Journal

(<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/Touchstones%20Journal%20March%202023%20Trust%20nf%20%281%29.pdf>)

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Congratulations! Roy Cole signed the membership book on Feb. 19th -- Welcome!

Concerns

We send healing thoughts to Jane Hoeckelman, as she recovers from a recent surgery

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?subject=Joy%20and%20Concern>)

Canvass 2023- Sustain the Flame

Our canvass theme for 2023 is 'Sustain the Flame' and the canvas officially begins on March 5, 2023. In the spirit of good stewardship, we are all asked to make a responsible annual pledge to keep our church open and thriving. Pledges are essential in operating and maintaining our building in good repair, fairly compensating staff, and maintaining and providing quality worship experiences and programming.

Pledge Now! (<https://lyhunt56.wufoo.com/forms/z10ghj1r05ra81k/>)

Church Events

Welcoming Congregation (LGBTQ+) Meeting

Sunday 3/5 11:30am

For 25 years many UU Churches have worked hard to make sure LGBTQ+ people are full members of our faith communities. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences. First Unitarian STL is rebooting our Welcoming Congregation Committee and we need your help! Please join us on the first Sunday of each month after service.

Unfish Fry - Friday March 10th

Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship hall after the service or at the door. Adults \$10 / Children \$6. Everyone is highly encouraged to attend and invite friends, relatives, or co-workers!

Volunteer for the Unfish Fry!

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

Saturday March 18th 9am - Gardening Day

The Landscaping Committee needs your help! Spring is here! Please bring a water bottle and tools if you have them. There is always plenty of gardening tasks and many hands make a difference!

SAVE the Date! - Spring Equinox Celebration sponsored by ERDE

Sunday March 19th 11:30am in Hope Chapel

Saturday April 15th 6pm: Trivia Thru the Decades!

First UU of St. Louis 2023 Trivia Night

Test your knowledge and have fun with your friends, all while supporting our religious education program. All proceeds will go to our Boston Trip Fund. A table of 8 is \$200 or individual tickets are \$25. Click the button below to register and pay for a table or individual ticket.

Register for Trivia Night 2023! (<https://first-unitarian-church-of-st-louis.square.site/>)

Please send photos, event details, announcements, etc. for this newsletter to dkozem@firstuustlouis.org (<mailto:dkozem@firstuustlouis.org?subject=Enews%20Content>)

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 March 12th, 2023

Our Little Food Pantry

The Little Pantry resides on the parking lot of First Unitarian Church. It serves the surrounding community in all seasons of the year. People share what they can afford or and take what they need. A cash donation helps supplement the material donation via the designated collection allows the church to supplement material donations. Nominated by Grace Munie.

Religious Education this Sunday...

This Sunday March 5th, 10am -

The Nursery will be open for childcare. There will not be a Story For All Ages.

9:30am 7th-12th - Youth Group Brunch at FirstWatch

10am Preschoolers - Chalice Children

10am K-6th - Children's Chapel (Hope Chapel)

All 7-12th Graders are invited to a Celebratory Breakfast!

This Sunday March 5th 9:30am

There will not be OWL Class or a Youth Group Meeting this Sunday. Instead all youth 7th-12th will meet this Sunday at FirstWatch CWE (39 N. Euclid Avenue St. Louis, MO 63108) at 9:30am. Please RSVP by emailing danikozem@firstuustlouis.org (<mailto:danikozem@firstuustlouis.org>)

Check out RE This Week! (https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday-03_05_23)

Announcements

UUs in Missouri News

More than a dozen faith leaders, including two Unitarian Universalist ministers, have filed a lawsuit against the Missouri abortion ban on the basis of freedom of religion. The case argues that legislators enshrined religious beliefs into state law when they passed the law banning abortion in Missouri. The Rev. Krista Taves of Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood and the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia are two of the litigants.

Read more about this lawsuit here:

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/religious-leaders-sue-to-overturn-missouri-s-abortion-ban/article_2f8f2e78-6673-55c9-b5e8-f6a8261a30f6.html

or listen to an interview on STLPR with the litigants:

<https://news.stlpublicradio.org/government-politics-issues/2023-01-19/coalition-of-religious-leaders-sue-to-overturn-missouris-ban-on-abortion>

ARREST III: Economic Justice

April 20th, 27th, May 4th and 11th 7-9pm

In this workshop series we will examine the structure of our current economic systems and unpack some of the underlying assumptions that create or widen the economic disparities. Understanding the causes of the economic disparity along racial, ethnic, and sexual lines can help us address these disparities in more productive ways. All sessions are currently scheduled to be held via Zoom.

Register for ARREST III: Economic Justice

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgvqY_RC2kv8Wo2OAAM3-PtzjLxeHCr25YpJolznXBxwNAsw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

The Active Hope Project needs your input! If you have not had a chance to participate in one of our individual conversations or listening circles, please complete our brief, five question survey so you can contribute to shaping our mission to advance justice.

Active Hope Project Survey (<https://forms.gle/AkLzE8nhBkMroT9e8>)

UUA News

New UUA Values Proposal to Revise Principles and Purposes

In 2020 a six-person commission was charged with revising Article II of the UUA Bylaws which contains our 7 Principles and 6 Sources. The proposed changes were published in January and reads as follows:

Bylaws and Rules Article II Purposes and Covenant Section C-2.1. Purposes. The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant. As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

Interdependence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

Section C-2.3. Inspirations. As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings that help us to live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts and cultures in which they were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

Section C-2.4. Inclusion. Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to being an association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief. Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.

To learn more:

* Read a summary of the full report here

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wXQ_45rjNqxOM47xqio2dO9bmy2gAIrRL-1RTxarF48/edit?usp=sharing

* Read the full 26 pg report here: Article II Study Report to the Board of Trustees (uua.org)

(<https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>)

* Learn about the commission members here:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/members>

* Get more information about the process, charge and history: Article II Study Commission | UUA.or
(<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>) g

An open letter to the UUA & its member congregations in support of our trans families

March 1st, 2023

We, the Board and Undersigned Members of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) are deeply troubled by the wave of hate sweeping the United States, targeted at our queer families, most especially families with trans, nonbinary and/or gender exploring children and youth. We express our unequivocal support and love for the trans people in our lives: our families, our colleagues, and the children, youth, and adults we serve.

We call on congregations to mobilize. We call on congregations to offer the course Transgender Inclusion in Congregations from the Transforming Heart Collective, and continue the work of moving towards inclusion of all those with targeted identities. We call on congregations to support our families with gender exploring children by investing in religious education resources specifically for them - including books, trainings, and pastoral support. We call on congregations to offer tangible support to Unitarian Universalist families who are fleeing states attacking their children's right to exist. We call on congregations to not only offer Our Whole Lives to their church community, but to their wider community as well.

We call on the UUA to mobilize. We call on the UUA to mobilize all staff groups to identify what is in their staff group's purview to implement that will support our trans families. We call on the UUA to use its prophetic pedestal and champion trans families in a publicity campaign - our progressive religious voice must be used to counteract the conservative religious voices driving these campaigns. We call on the UUA to make financial resources available for Unitarian Universalist families forced to move to another state to protect their children from hate. We call on the UUA to make trainings freely available, led by trans, nonbinary, and/or genderqueer educators, for volunteers and staff in local congregations to support their work with trans and/or nonbinary youth and supporting trans families.

We call on ourselves, LREDA members, including religious educators, those serving music ministry, administrators and ministers, to mobilize. We call on ourselves to recognize the important relationships we have with those most directly impacted by these dehumanizing actions. Now is a time to center these voices, to listen, and to ask what is most needed. We call on you, colleagues, to expand the diversity of our congregational libraries and to incorporate more stories featuring trans, nonbinary, and genderqueer characters in our Times for All Ages.

We call on all of us to lift up the experiences and needs of our trans, nonbinary and genderqueer colleagues and to ensure our professional organizations are offering pastoral support to trans colleagues.

How are you responding to the call?

It takes a village to raise a child. It takes every Unitarian Universalist to protect our trans families. We all can do more and we all have a part to play. Let's mobilize.

-Signed,

Aisha Hauser, LREDA President, Co-Lead on the Ministry Team, Church of the Larger Fellowship

Mx. Katharine Childs, LREDA President Elect, DRE, Unitarian Church of Montreal

Lauren Wyeth, LREDA Vice President, Director of Spiritual Growth for All Ages, First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

Tuli Patel, LREDA Treasurer, Executive Director, Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, NJ

Tim Atkins, LREDA Secretary, DLRE, First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City

Kirsten Hunter, LREDA Leadership Development, Director of Lifespan Ministries, South Church UU, Portsmouth, NH

Lauren Strauss, LREDA Professional Support, DRE, First Parish in Framingham UU, Framingham MA

Courtney McKenny, LREDA Continental Events, DLFD, Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham & Unitarian Universalist Church of Tuscaloosa

Juliet Donaldson, LREDA Executive Director, Franklin, MA

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