



**The Language of Trees with Rev. Kim Mason**  
**April 23rd, 2023**  
**Order of Service**

**Ringing of the Bowl** Tom Finan

**Welcome and Announcements** Tom Finan

**Prelude** *Toccata in C major* by Johann Pachelbel Earl Naylor, Organist

**Call to Worship** Rev. Kim Mason

**Hymn #175 We Celebrate the Web of Life**

*We celebrate the web of life, its magnitude we sing;  
for we can see divinity in every living thing.  
A fragment of the perfect whole in cactus and in quail,  
as much in tiny barnacle as in the great blue whale.*

*Of ancient dreams we are the sum; our bones link stone to star;  
and bind our future worlds to come with worlds that were and are.  
Respect the water, land, and air which gave all creatures birth;  
protect the lives of all that share the glory of the earth.*

**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 - Be the light*  
Words by Amanda Gorman, Music by Lea Morris

**Story Time for All Ages** *Gaura Devi Saves the Trees* 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 #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**

*Seven of Pentacles* by Marge Piercy

Tom Finan

### **Call for the Offering**

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

Rev. Kim Mason

**Offertory Music** *Why do they shut me out of Heaven?* Aaron Copeland

Judy Meyer, soprano  
Carolyn Toft, piano

### **Sermon**

The Language of Trees

Rev. Kim Mason

### **Closing Hymn #1064 Blue Boat Home**

*Though below me, I feel no motion standing on these mountains and plains.  
Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say:  
I've been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel and the earth is my blue boat home.*

*Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea,  
leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep.  
Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls,  
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.*

*I give thanks to the waves up holding me, hail the great winds urging me on,  
greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song:*

*I was born up on the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.*

**Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Extinguish the Chalice**

Tom Finan

**Postlude** *Toccata in e minor* Johann Pachelbel

Earl Naylor, Organist

**Serving Us This Morning**

**Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Stephany Kniep**

**Greeters: Susan Lammert and Sue Herzberg**

**AV Assistant: Mitch Herzog**

*This morning's flowers are given by Pam Geppert and Tom Finan in celebration of Earth Day, and were sourced from a local florist which practices sustainable floristry.*

**Music Notes**

European-trained as a Modernist, New Yorker Aaron Copland (1900-1990) is often referred to as the "Dean of American Composers" thanks to his deliberately accessible work from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. *Billy the Kid*, *Appalachian Spring*, *Rodeo*, *Lincoln Portrait* and *Fanfare for the Common Man* were all attempts to create American Art which reflected the ideals of American Democracy. But not all of Copland's work from this period can be easily hummed as one leaves the concert hall. Examples include *The Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*, a song cycle composed between March 1949 and March 1950. "Why do they shut me out of Heaven?" requires a soprano with remarkable pitch, a wide range and the requisite volume to do justice to the poem.

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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**

**Weekly News from First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, Sunday April 23rd, 2023**

## **Worship Service**

**This Sunday April 23rd, 2023**

**The Language of Trees with Rev. Kim Mason**

On this Earth Day weekend we combat climate grief with lessons from trees on how to build connections that foster the mutual thriving of all.

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

Watch This Service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/zD2y3qghNwk?feature=share>)

"Sunday's flowers are given by Pam Geppert and Tom Finan in celebration of Earth Day, and were sourced from a local florist which practices sustainable floristry."

## **This Sunday's Designated Collection**

**Sunday April 23rd Seed STL**

Formerly Gateway Greening (they changed their name last year), Seed St. Louis supports a network of over 250 community gardens, school gardens, and urban orchards in neighborhoods throughout the St. Louis Region.

They describe their purpose as to provide communities with the tools, education, and empowerment to grow their own food. Nominated by Lisa Ross

## **Events After Service**

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday April 23rd, 11:30 am (in person and online)

Notice is hereby given that a Special Congregational Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis will take place on Sunday April 23, 2023 at 5007 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 11:30 am.

The Special Meeting shall be conducted in person and using the electronic meeting platform Zoom which will be hosted within the boundaries of the City of St. Louis.

Business before the congregation will be:

Whether to withdraw from the Endowment funds to address water management repairs and refinements to the property at 5007 Waterman Blvd. Projects include:

- \* Replacement and modification of the Religious Education Roof
- \* Replacement or repair of the West Flat Roof
- \* Library Wall (exterior) repair
- \* Gutter Replacement
- \* Fellowship Hall Window Well Repair
- \* Hosmer Room Bay repairs

Join this Meeting on Zoom

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

## **Religious Education This Sunday**

### **Story for All Ages: Gaura Devi Saves the Trees**

This Earth Day we will tell the true story of Gaura Devi and the original tree huggers, who led the way in forest conservation in their home country of India.

### **RE Classes This Sunday!**

The Nursery will be open for childcare.

Preschoolers - Chalice Children- Teddy Bear Month, Friendship

K-2nd - Wonderful Welcome - The Gift of Spirit

3rd-6th - History of Religion - Jesus and his Teachings

7th-9th - Our Whole Lives - Unintended Pregnancy Options and Contraceptives

10th-12th Graders - Youth Group Meeting - Anansi Video

### **RE Gardening Days!**

Saturday May 6th 8:30am-10am

Thursday May 11th 4:30pm - 6pm

Saturday May 20th 8:30am-10am

Thursday May 25th 4:30pm - 6pm

I need help with RE Gardening Tasks! We will be transplanting plants, weeding, etc. I am trying to avoid the hot parts of the day. Our Summer RE Classes will be in the garden so this is curriculum planning! Please bring a water bottle. May be postponed due to inclement weather. Thanks! -Danielle

Check out RE This Week! ([https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday-04\\_23\\_23](https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday-04_23_23))

## **This Week at First UU STL**

### **Sunday April 23rd**

10:00 am Worship Service - In Person & Online

11:30 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

11:30 am Makers Ministry (C7)

Monday April 24th

6:30 pm Church Council (online)

### **Tuesday April 25th**

11:30am Women's Alliance (Fellowship Hall & online)

### **Wednesday April 26th**

6:00 pm Worship Committee (Fellowship Hall)

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### **Thursday April 27th**

6:30 pm Fighting for Freedom: Panel Discussion on Religious Freedom & Abortion Access (Sanctuary)

### **Saturday April 29th**

10:00 am Black Lives Matter Social Witness

1:30 pm Mary Broida Memorial Service (Chapel)

## **Sunday April 30th**

10am Worship Service in-person and online

11:15 am Newcomer Chat (Dodson Room)

11:30 am First Church Community Fund Fundraiser - Goodies for the Good (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am Membership Committee (library)

11:45 am Beltane Celebration (ERDE) (Chapel)

11:45 am Partner Church Committee (C1)

## **Upcoming Worship Services**

### **April Theme - Grief**

Sunday April 30th 10am Perspectives on Grief with Lay Leader Adam

## **Joys and Concerns**

### Joys

*We welcome four new members! Roz Cook, Thomas Begush, Mitch Kraus and Bethany Miscannon all signed the membership book on April 13th. Welcome!*

### Concerns

*We send healing thoughts to Robert Hunt, as he recovers from a recent hospital stay*

*We send condolences to Joel Knapp and family, as they grieve the death of his mother-in-law*

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) (mailto:careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org ) (mailto:careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org )

Share a Joy or Concern (<https://forms.gle/c4VnpozjVLhQoJff7>)

## **Upcoming Church Events**

### **Women's Alliance Lunch and Program**

#### **Tuesday April 25th 11:30am**

Join us for Lunch at 11:30am with dessert provided by Lori Calcaterra. At 12:30pm we will depart for our program- Notable Women Tour at Bellefontaine Cemetery. This will be a caravan tour, so all will stay in their cars and follow the guide. At each stop you will have the option of walking a short distance or remaining in the car. Please fill out the Questionnaire if you plan on coming so we can plan carpooling.

RSVP for Bellefontaine Cemetery Tour!

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aOo3HLxoXzfw7-OXIIKH5UMV0q6MsDH8x2S-sKD1O8A/edit?usp=drive\\_web](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aOo3HLxoXzfw7-OXIIKH5UMV0q6MsDH8x2S-sKD1O8A/edit?usp=drive_web))

## **Fighting for Freedom**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27 6:30pm**

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Join us for an evening with several local clergy who are plaintiffs in Rev. Blackmon v. Missouri. Panelists include Rabbi Susan Talve & Rev. Krista Taves, among others; and Denise Lieberman, local counsel involved in this lawsuit. Panelists will explore why Missouri's new abortion access lawsuit is different than the others and discuss the history of religious freedom and church-state separation in Missouri. Hosted by Central Reform Congregation, Ashrei Foundations, and First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. Please register if you plan on attending.

Register for This Event (<https://bit.ly/419YKOe>)

## **Memorial Service for Mary Broida**

**Saturday, April 29th 1:30pm Hope Chapel**

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

## **First Church Community Fund Bake Sale**

**Goodies for the Good (Fellowship Hall)**

**Sunday April 30th 11:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Proceeds from the event benefit a church endowment which for almost 40 years has ensured annual microgrants to community nonprofits serving the poor, marginalized and underserved.

We are pleased this year to have as sponsor Brits Bakery which has graciously donated a gluten-free cake and other goodies. Brits joins our First Church star bakers in offering a selection of pies, cakes, scones and other special treats. Purchase items to enjoy during the Coffee Hour or to take home and savor another day. We are pleased to also offer some great raffle options including home baked pies and MUNY tickets.

Your purchases will continue a tradition of First Church support of small community nonprofits working hard to make our St. Louis community stronger and more equitable.

## **Beltane Celebration - Sunday April 30th 11:45 a.m.**

Come and join ERDE (Earth Reverence Dedicants Extraordinaire) on and celebrate Spring in community!

Beltane is midway between the spring equinox and summer solstice and celebrates the life force within and without. Activities will include a Maypole, honeycomb communion, meditation, & short ceremony appropriate for all ages! Join us in the Hope Chapel for this lively celebration!

## **Annual Fellowship Dinner**

**Saturday, May 13, 2023 - 5:30pm to 8:30pm**

**(Gather - 5:30, Dinner - 6:00, Program - 7:00)**

\$15 per person - \$7 children 12 and younger - \$5 discount for volunteers

This special all-church, intergenerational dinner, recognizes church leaders and longtime members. We need everyone to be there - old members and new, adults aging gracefully and young adults alike - to celebrate and get to know each other better! Childcare will be provided. You can also sign up during coffee in Fellowship Hall or by clicking the button below.



## Sign-Up to Attend Fellowship Dinner

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJhQH1e2PVo6I9eVf1mQdsM5gW9\\_MZIB6yNCudmOuXHOHWew/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJhQH1e2PVo6I9eVf1mQdsM5gW9_MZIB6yNCudmOuXHOHWew/viewform?usp=sf_link))

## Save the Date!

### Flower Communion Sunday June 4th

On June 4th, 1923, worshippers at the Unitarian Church in Prague, held the first Flower Communion ritual. To celebrate this 100th Anniversary, our usual Flower Communion Worship Service will be held on Sunday June 4th, 2023 instead of our usual Mother's Day Service

## Church News

### FLOWERS NEEDED FOR SPRING SERVICES

There are open dates to donate flowers for Sunday services on April 30, May 28, and June 11. If you are interested in helping to beautify the sanctuary for Sunday services on one of these dates, please contact Dottie Kinscherf by e-mail at [flowers@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:flowers@firstuustlouis.org) (mailto:flowers@firstuustlouis.org) or in Fellowship Hall after services to learn more.

## Membership & Attendance

In March we had two new members: Mike Bray and Scott Sinclair.

There was one member resignation: Linda Fiehler (requested to be a Friend)

Total membership at this time is: 200

Worship: In Person Attendance average in March was 61 people with about an additional 19 on the livestream.

## UUA News

### Provide Feedback on Proposed Changes to Principles

There's still time to submit your suggestions online by April 30 for public discussion for revisions to the Article II Study Commission's proposal. UUA GA delegates can learn how to submit amendments online at [UUA.org/a2sc](http://UUA.org/a2sc). Stay tuned for details on amendment discussion workshops to come in May.

Learn More! (<http://uua.org/a2sc>)

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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## **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