



**Answering the Call of Love
with Rev. Kim Mason
September 17th, 2023**

Ringing of the Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Dwight Homer

Prelude *Offertoire* by Cesar Franck

Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #360 Here We Have Gathered

*Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;
circle of kinship, come and step inside!
May all who seek here find a kindly word;
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
days of our lifetime, matters small and great:
we of all ages, women, children, men,
infants and sages, sharing what we can.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:
but in the shadows, let us not forget:
we who now gather know each other's pain;
kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.*

Chalice Lighting

Dwight Homer

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

Readings

Mark 4:35-41
Maybe by Mary Oliver

Dwight Homer

Joys and Concerns

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

Rev. Kim Mason

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

Rock the Boat by Elizabeth Acevedo

Dwight Homer

Call for the Offering

Use the Online Giving QR Code on your pew QR codes card to make an online offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Walters

Kimberly Perry, soprano

Sermon

Answering the Call of Love

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #1014 Answering the Call of Love

*The promise of the Spirit:
faith, hope and love abide.
And so ev'ry soul
is blessed and made whole;
the truth in our hearts is our guide.*

Chorus:

*We are answering the call of love:
hands joined together as hearts beat as one.
Emboldened by faith, we dare to proclaim
we are answering the call of love.*

*Sometimes we build a barrier
to keep love tightly bound.
Corrupted by fear,
unwilling to hear,
denying the beauty we've found.*

Chorus

*A bright new day is dawning
when love will not divide.
Reflections of grace
in ev'ry embrace,
fulfilling the vision divine.*

Chorus

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude *Sortie* by Cesar Franck

Earl Naylor, organ

*This morning's flowers are given by **Sarah Dashner** in appreciation for last winter's auction volunteers
and for **Rev. Kim's** donation of this morning's sermon.*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Sheryll Coulter & Nadine Vlietstra
Greeters: Kevin Kellogg and Grace Munie
AV Assistant: Kurt Johnson

Music Notes

Although probably best known for his violin sonata and symphony in D Minor, Cesar Franck (1822-1890) was primarily an organist and composer for the organ. His large works for organ are considered an important part of the repertoire. These pieces today are taken from a collection written for smaller churches which either had small pipe organs or reed organs.

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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 ground.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Yellow Pages

(314) 361-0595 5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63108 <https://www.firstuustlouis.org/>
Weekly E-News from First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

This Sunday September 17th, 2023

10am Answering the Call of Love with Rev. Kim Mason

"Advancing Justice" is part of First Unitarian STL's mission statement, but what does that mean? This Sunday we'll explore five ways we engage with issues in our community and beyond.

Watch This Service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/hf5AWFR-LQw>)

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

Sunday's flowers are given by Sarah Dashner in appreciation for last winter's auction volunteers and for Rev. Kim's donation of this morning's sermon.

Religious Education This Sunday

23/24 RE Registration is Now Open! (<https://form.jotform.com/232215110204131>)

This Sunday September 17th, 2023

RE Programming Begins

10am RE Kick Off Party! (Pre-K - 7th graders)

10am Coming of Age Orientation Part 1 (8-10th)

10am Youth Group Meet Up

The Nursery will be Open for Childcare

Check out RE This Week! (<https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-8255501>)

This Week at First UU STL

Sunday September 17th

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

10:00 am to 11:15 am Religious Education Kick Off Party!

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Young Adult Group (Clark Room)

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

Monday September 18th

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Crouch/Feinberg Covenant Group (Dodson Room)

Wednesday September 20th

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Saturday September 23rd

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

Sunday September 24th

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

11:15 am to 12:15 pm Pancake Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Makers Ministry (C7)

Upcoming Worship Services

September Theme: Welcome

Sunday September 24th Repair Work with Rev. Kim Mason

October Theme: Heritage

Sunday October 1st Gradarius Firmus Victoria with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday October 8th Where do we come from? Where are we going? with Sabrina Trupia

Sunday October 15th Pray Without Ceasing with Rev. Kim Mason

Joys and Concerns

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)

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

Minister's Column

Action - Reflection - Action

During the 2021-22 church year, the board started talking about what it would mean for First Unitarian to be more engaged in social activism. Conversations included perspectives on the role of the church, the power of community and how we put faith into action. It also highlighted that the word “activist” has some specific connotations in the church. That conversation was the impetus for the Active Hope Project last year, where we spent a whole year listening to people’s thoughts on social action and what issue in our STL community that they are particularly passionate about. Through the Active Hope Project, we learned that the majority of people think the church has a role to play in advocating and working for change in our community and whether it was a clearinghouse or a coordinator, folks want the congregation to engage in social action. And it highlighted again that the words social action/social justice have one particular connotation: marching in the streets. With that knowledge, I thought it might be useful to share what I have come to understand as the Social Action, or Social Justice, Spectrum.

At any given point in time, there are issues of concern in the local, national and international community. Concerns can be about human rights or the environment or humanitarian needs. Frequently issues can fall into multiple intersecting categories. For example, issues of racial injustice are a human

rights concern. Issues of climate change are an environmental concern. Environmental issues that impact specific populations of people and cause crisis situations cross all those areas. Hurricane Katrina would be one such example, where the worsening hurricane seasons led to a massive storm with subsequent flooding that disproportionately impacted people of color in New Orleans and created a humanitarian crisis.

The social justice spectrum is a model that says there are multiple ways to engage with an issue:

Service - meet the needs of people in distress

Education - learn about a social issue. Interpret the issue within the context of our UU values

Witness - make public by word or deed the convictions of an individual or organization regarding a particular issue

Advocacy - work through the legislative process to impact public policy

Community Organizing - participate in the process by which decisions are made in places of power.

Collaborate with groups who know how to organize and influence power.

In the case of Hurricane Katrina you personally might have done one or more of these actions:

- (a) learned about the racial history of New Orleans and why communities of color predominantly lived in the lower elevation areas of the city
- (b) learned about the causes of climate change that are leading to stronger storm cycles
- (c) sent financial aid to humanitarian organizations serving people displaced by the hurricane
- (d) gone on a service trip to New Orleans to help with demolition and reconstruction
- (e) signed a petition urging the US Army Corps of Engineers to change the levee system in New Orleans
- (f) contacted your Senator or Representative about changing FEMA policies and procedures

All of these things (and more) were part of a social action lead response to Hurricane Katrina. For a lot of people, learning about the racial history of New Orleans was an important action. For others, giving to people surviving a disaster was a tangible action. And for others still, engaging in one of these actions led to participation in multiple other actions.

What I appreciate about the social action spectrum is that people can engage at any point along the spectrum and also move back and forth along the spectrum as new events occur, as new information is discovered, as new issues arise, and as new connections are uncovered. What the social action spectrum allows is a process of action/reflection/action, where learning leads to engagement which leads to action which leads to learning which leads to action... and you get the picture. In this model, we're discussing a practice, one of action and reflection, that when rooted in our UU faith and values, becomes a spiritual practice.

Informed by the results of the Active Hope Project, we're hosting a Community Outreach & Engagement Summit on October 1st. The Active Hope Project found that our congregation was inspired to engage on two issues: Racism and Housing/Homelessness. At the Summit, we'll explore what would it mean to engage with a spiritual practice of social action - of acting and thinking and acting - of

learning and serving and advocating, of witnessing and collaborating - on the topic of Housing and Homelessness. We'll look at what we already do in this area, where we have connections and what aspects of this broad topic we want to work on. And we'll ask the question, how will this process transform us?

I hope you can join us for this exciting gathering about how we engage with ourselves and our larger STL community.

In Faith
Kim

Church News

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!

Sunday September 24th 11am - noon

in Fellowship Hall

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the annual First Unitarian Church pancake breakfast on September 24, right after the Sunday service! The breakfast will include all-you-can-eat pancakes courtesy of Chris Cakes, sausage (regular and vegan), fruit and other pancake toppings, coffee, tea and Tang! Tickets are \$6 - Kids 10 and Under, \$9 for Adults with a \$30 max for families.

Buy Tickets for 9/24 Pancake Breakfast (<https://first-unitarian-church-of-st-louis.square.site/>)

Save the Date! Sunday October 1st, 11:15 AM-2:30 PM

Congregational Outreach and Community Engagement Summit

Let your voice be heard on Sunday October 1 in our first ever Congregational Outreach and Community Engagement Summit! During the shutdown, we looked inward to focus on who we are today as a church and what we value. Next on our spiritual journey is evidencing our values in our St. Louis community.

Reverend Mason invites all church members to share lunch and conversation as we begin to plan the next steps in our mission of "advancing justice." We will meet after services in Hope Chapel, from 11:15 AM-2:30PM. Childcare will be provided. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

RSVP for this Congregational Summit (<https://forms.gle/LjgxnNGj7rU4Lsqb8>)

Online Giving is Easier than Ever Before!

Our online giving platform, Vanco, is now easier to use than ever before. You can easily set up regular pledge payments, donate to specific funds or purchase tickets to church events on our new web based site (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCVK/home>) or you can install the app on your phone (this is ideal for Sunday morning offering). Use the QR code below to download the app. Any questions – contact Administrator, Lynn Hunt.

Hindsight, Humor & Hope

1st Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, October - March

In-Person at First Unitarian STL & Online

For some people, retirement from the workforce means that their adult identity and day-to-day life appear to vanish as familiar habits and connections are no longer there. For some, a lessening of family or work commitments opens time and energy for trying new roles and experiences. Hindsight, Humor, and Hope journeys with people as they begin to redesign their later years into a time of reflection, discernment, soul stretching, and new life possibilities. This gift of extended years finds many people becoming elders with deep personal questions such as, Who am I now? and What will I do that is meaningful? In six two-hour sessions, this program invites participants to develop deeper understanding and appreciation of their elder stage of life and the path they traveled to reach it.

Sign-Up for Hindsight, Humor & Hope (<https://forms.gle/KPoZ43g8pJjG8g92A>)

Love @ the Center

6:30pm every other Thursday

September 28, October 12 & 26, November 9,

Online AND in-person

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. Most remember Article II as our 7 Principles and 6 Sources, which articulate our denominational agreements and name our spiritual and religious foundations. UUA Bylaws require that we revise Article II on a regular schedule. The 2023 proposed revision of Article II is a radical re-visioning that invites us into dialogue with one another about the values of our shared faith community.

We are in a one year discernment period, after which delegates to General Assembly 2024 will vote to accept or reject the proposed Article II revision. Want to learn more? Interested in being a 2024 GA delegate? Wrestling with how this will shape the future of our faith communities? Join Rev. Kim for a four-session small group exploration of the proposed Article II.

This four-session program engages you in the Purposes, Values and Covenant, Inspiration, Inclusion and Freedom of belief of the proposed Article II which will be voted on at General Assembly 2024. Sessions are 90-minutes, every other Thursday, September 28, October 12 & 26, November 9, online AND in-person. This is a covenant-based program that requires participants attend all four sessions. The Zoom link for the sessions will be emailed the week before Session 1.

RSVP for Love @ the Center Here (<https://forms.gle/cvU3mWt3jbEYy69p7>)

Metro STL UU Booth at Tower Grove Pride

Saturday 9/23 and Sunday 9/24!

The Metro STL UUs are collaborating on a booth at Tower Grove Pride! We have slots to sign up for staffing the booth as well as helping out with set up and take down. If you're planning to attend, it would be easy to tack a 2 hour shift on before or after you enjoy the festivities!

Sign up for a Shift! (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AADAA29A7FAC52-tower>)

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 – Alison Lamothe

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Treasurer – Jeremy Colton

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Chris Kocher

Member – Susan Lammert

Church Council

Sherry Bassi, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster