



**Wider Circles with Rev Kim Mason
November 12th, 2023**

Ringing of Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Sue Fazio

Prelude

Prelude from Homage a Frescobaldi by Jean Langlais

Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

STLT #404 What Gift Can We Bring

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?

What words can convey it, the joy of this day?

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,

what song can we offer in honor and praise?

*Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.*

*Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.*

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!*

Chalice Lighting

Sue Fazio

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 for All Ages

Stone Soup, told by Marcia Brown

Danielle Kozemczak

Children's Recessional #118 This Little Light of Mine

Earl Naylor, organ

Joys and Concerns

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

Rev. Kim Mason

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.

Reading

More Than a Cup of Soup by Kathleen McTigue

Sue Fazio

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

Bridge Over Troubled Water by Simon & Garfunkel

Alice Montgomery

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Sermon

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #402 From You I Receive

From you I receive,

to you I give,

together we share,

and from this we live.

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

Psalm 18 by Marcello

Earl Naylor, organ

*Today's flowers are offered by the family of **Rachel Webb** in honor of the first anniversary of the death of her father, Ronald Webb.*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Rosemary Lawton & Stan Lawton
Greeters: Alison Lamothe & Kathy Wire
AV Assistant: Kurt Johnson

Music Notes

Benedetto Giacomo Marcello (1686–1739) was an Italian composer, writer, advocate, magistrate, and teacher. Marcello composed a variety of music including considerable church music, [oratorios](#), hundreds of solo [cantatas](#), [duets](#), [sonatas](#), [concertos](#) and [sinfonias](#). This piece is a transcription of a work for choir, instruments, and organ.

One License reprint and podcasting license #731812-A
WORSHIPcast License 12857

**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 Sunday November 12th, 2023

Sunday November 12th 10am

Wider Circles with Rev Kim Mason

Mutual thriving is about the well-being and flourishing of all. We begin our exploration of the proposed UU values with a month on the value of Generosity.

Watch this Service on YouTube

(https://www.youtube.com/live/z2kjmLKLqyM?si=cxgwI4zzFM8sE_31)

"Sunday's flowers are offered by the family of Rachel Webb in honor of the first anniversary of the death of her father, Ronald Webb."

**** This Sunday After Service**

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Book Sale & Fair Trade (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am to 12:15 pm Newcomer Chat (Dodson Room)

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

Tuesday November 14th

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Alliance Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Women's Alliance Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday November 15th

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday November 16th

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Siegrist/Milligan Covenant Group (online)

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Policy Board Meeting (online)

Saturday November 18th

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm Cornbread Baking Potluck - RE (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday November 12th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship Service - Cornbread Communion (Sanctuary)

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Book Sale & Fair Trade Sale (Fellowship Hall)

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

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Lisa Ross and Chuck Eby are thrilled to welcome their first grandchild, Alessandro Eby-Vannucci, born 10/22. All are well and bonding in Seattle.

Mike Nolan recently welcomed a new grandson - Michael Joseph Nolan on October 27th

Concerns

We send healing thoughts to Fran Hoffman, who recently broke her ankle

We send condolences to the family of Julie Oyen Keller, who recently passed away. More information on her services will be sent out soon

We send condolences to Augie Underwood, who recently lost a beloved Aunt- Blanche Anderson

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

Submit Joy or Concern Online

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform)

Religious Education This Sunday

All RE Classes Meet This Sunday!

Children are encouraged to start in service with their families.

8th-12th Graders can go straight to Fellowship Hall upon arriving at church

Story for All Ages: Stone Soup by Marcia Brown

This Sunday we will be hearing an old tale about generosity- Stone Soup. Three soldiers, hungry and tired, pass through a war-torn village. Embittered and suspicious from hard times, the people hide their food and close their windows tight. That is, until the clever strangers suggest making a soup from stones. We will be making Stone Soup this Sunday and we need your help! We have three stones and that will generally make a good soup, but it would be much better if we had...

- * Salt and Pepper
- * Bag of Carrots
- * Cabbage
- * Bag of Potatoes
- * Dry or shelf stable milk
- * Pre-cooked Rice, Flour, Noodles
- * Canned Beans

Do you have anything to spare? If so please bring it to Worship Service this Sunday 11/12!

(All donations will be delivered to Trinity Food Pantry after service wink, wink)

Church Events

First UU Holiday Gift Sale!

Sundays 11/12 & 11/19 11am-12:30pm

Shop early for UU books and fair trade goodies! We will be set up in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Peruse a wide selection of new titles from the inSpirit UU Bookstore! Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, and more will also be available. All proceeds will benefit the Boston Trip Fund!

Cornbread Baking Dinner

Saturday November 18th 5pm

At First Unitarian Church of St. Louis we celebrate Cornbread Communion on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Traditionally, the cornbread is made the night before by church members and friends. This year, our bakers will gather at 5pm on Saturday evening to eat dinner together before rolling up their sleeves to make the cornbread for our Sunday Service. All are welcomed to join! Many hands make light work, so the more the merrier! Please RSVP by clicking the button below.

RSVP for Cornbread Dinner! (<https://forms.gle/okcxG9cEhR9WBbsN8>)

Toxic Charity Book Discussion.

November 30, 6:30-8:30 PM on Zoom

As we continue to work on developing our Congregational Outreach and Community Engagement program, Rev. Kim and members of the Policy Board and Program Council invite you to join in a discussion of the book Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It). Please join us!

Sign Up to join the Book Discussion (<https://forms.gle/pGEwo6wYZ6UaubZQ6>)

Buy Toxic Charity on Amazon

(<https://www.amazon.com/Toxic-Charity-Churches-Charities-Reverse/dp/0062076213>)

Church News

Last BLM Vigil of the year this Saturday November 11th

This Saturday will be the last BLM vigil this year. We will continue in the Spring.

Minister's Column

Make Channels for the Streams of Love

By Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn 299 begins, "Make channels for the streams of love where they may broadly run; and love has overflowing streams to fill them everyone." There are many hymns in Singing the Living Tradition and Singing the Journey, our current hymnal and supplement, that contain the word love, but this one never fully resonated with me until I heard it during the pandemic. Then it clicked. If we provide opportunities for the expression of love, then it becomes real.

The hymn continues, “But if at any time we cease such channels to provide, the very founts of love for us will soon be parched and dried.” As a process theologian, I find LOVE to be the closest articulation of what I understand of the holy, that making way, that enacting and embodying, of LOVE is at the heart of theology. LOVE exists because we bring it into the world, and the more ways we make it real, the more love there is. Conversely, if we make no effort to act on LOVE’s behalf, if we deny its expression in the world, then LOVE does not exist for us.

The final verse of the hymn is, “For we must share, if we would keep this gift all else above; we cease to give, we cease to have—such is the law of love.” This is the simplest and most poetic explanation of Process Theology I have ever heard and it was written by an Anglican priest who died almost 50 years before process theology was even a thing.

Over the past month and a half I’ve been leading a small group process with folks from First Unitarian and Eliot Chapel to explore the proposed revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws and I am coming to think that it too, might just be a simple, poetic, description of process theology.

Some Background: 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. As a congregation we have already begun a multi-pronged approach to this significant moment in our denominational history. I mentioned the 4-session small group I lead this fall. I’ll offer it again in the spring. We will also focus on this in our Mid-Winter Meeting in January. And starting this month, each month the theme of the month will correspond to one of the values in the proposed Article II revision. November’s theme is Generosity.

Want to learn more? Interested in being a 2024 GA delegate? Wrestling with how this will shape the future of our faith communities? All these questions, feelings and more are part of this process. I encourage you to begin with the new display in Fellowship Hall (many thank to Danielle Kozemczak!), watch my sermon from last spring and then check out the UUA’s Article II Study Commission webpage for more information: [Article II Study Commission | UUA.org](https://www.uua.org/article-ii-study-commission). This is your invitation to join the conversation about how we as Unitarian Universalists make LOVE real in the world!

Religious Education November Food Drive!

Sunday November 12th - The worship service on 11/12 will focus on generosity and we will enjoy the classic tale of Stone Soup. We encourage everyone to bring a food donation that day to put in our Big Soup Pot during the story!

Sunday November 19th - We will celebrate with our traditional Cornbread Communion Worship Service. Everyone is encouraged to bring in fresh food donations to place in our cornucopia during service.

Upcoming Worship Services

November Theme: Generosity

Sunday November 19th Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday November 26th Question Box with Rev. Kim Mason

Pastoral Appointments

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, Outreach & Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster