



**Question Box
with Rev. Kim Mason
November 26th, 2023**

Ringing of Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Sue Fazio

Prelude

Prelude on "Herr Jesu Christ" by Paul Manz

Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #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

The Three Questions by Jon Muth

Rev. Kim Mason

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

from *The Beauty of Questions* by Karen Horneffer-Ginter

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

Crowded Table by Hemby, McKenna, and Carlile

Pam Geppert, Tom Finan, duet

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Sermon

Reflections from The Question Box

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #349 We Gather Together

We gather together in joyful thanksgiving,

acclaiming creation, whose bounty we share;

both sorrow and gladness we find now in our living,

we sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.

We gather together to join in the journey,

confirming, committing our passage to be

a true affirmation, in joy and tribulation,

when bound to human care and hope — then we are free.

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

Rondeau, from Sinfonies de Fanfares by Jean Joseph Mouret

Earl Naylor, organ

*This morning's floral display was created by **Karen Albin**.*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Cathy Rauch & Gary Parks
Greeters: Susan Lammert & Sidney Watson
AV Assistant: Adam Lunter

Music Notes

Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738) was a French composer whose dramatic works made him one of the leading exponents of Baroque music in his country. Even though most of his works are no longer performed, Mouret's name survives today thanks to the popularity of the Fanfare-Rondeau from his first Suite de symphonies, which has been adopted as the signature tune of the PBS program Masterpiece and is a popular musical choice in many modern weddings.

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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 Sunday November 26th, 2023

Sunday November 26th 10am

Question Box with Rev. Kim Mason

On the Sunday after Thanksgiving we participate in a UU tradition: the Question Box Service. Got a question about Unitarian Universalism? About church? About God or nature or belief? Life, death or the afterlife? Submit your burning questions to Rev. Kim who will answer them during the service! Submit questions online: <https://forms.gle/6kstc7u1WxrFUKJo8>

Watch this Service on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/live/i4TjfEGjuWc?feature=share>)

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

Monday November 27th

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Church Council (online)

Tuesday November 28

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Women's Alliance (Fellowship Hall & online)

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Personnel Committee (Clark Room)

Wednesday November 29

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday November 30

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm "Toxic Charity" Book Discussion (online)

Saturday December 2nd

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Young Adult Group (Kitchen)

Sunday December 3rd

10:00 am to 11:00 am Music Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:15 am to 12:00 pm Partner Church Bake Sale (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Welcoming Congregations (Clark Room)

11:30 am to 1:00 pm Young Adult Covenant Group (Youth Group Room)

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

Submit Joy or Concern Online

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

Religious Education This Sunday

No RE Classes This Sunday! Children and Youth are encouraged to attend the service with their families. The Nursery will be open for childcare.

Sunday December 17th

2023 First UU Christmas Pageant

We are preparing for another Christmas Pageant! This year the Christmas Pageant Service will be on Sunday December 17th at 10am. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday December 16th

10am-noon. In order to cast parts we are asking parents to let us know whether their child will be available and willing to participate. Please click the button below to access the RSVP Form.

RSVP for 2023 Pageant (<https://forms.gle/PQ2JFKop4WYyRSc59>)

Church Events

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>)

Young Adults 20/30s Group Bread Baking

Saturday December 2nd 1pm

Hello Friends! It's time again for the Young Adult Group (20s - 30s Group) to bake bread for our staff & homebound members. On December 2, 2023, between 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m., we will be in the Fellowship Hall kitchen baking up loaves for delivery by the Care & Concern Committee. You are invited to help mix, bake & package. All ingredients & supplies will be provided. You are also invited to bring some light snacks & drinks to enjoy why we bake. Board games will be available to play while we wait. We invite you to check out the event post on the Young Adult Discord page & note your interest so we can get a head count to ensure there are enough snacks for everyone. If Discord isn't your jam, reach out to Danielle by replying to this email. We look forward to seeing you there!

Celebrate the Winter Holidays with First Unitarian STL

Sunday, December 3rd - 10 am Music Sunday!

Sunday, December 10th - 10 am Blue Holidays Service

Sunday, December 17th - 10 am Children's Pageant

5pm Solstice Singing Bowls

Sunday, December 24th - 10 am Caroling at Bethesda Dilworth

4:30 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

6:30 pm Contemplative Christmas Eve Service

Church News

Maker's Ministry Meeting Time Change

Maker's Ministry will not be meeting on the fourth Sunday in November or December. Instead, there will be a combined meeting on Sunday December 10th. The group will return to its usual day and time in January.

IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!

Help decorate the sanctuary for the holidays by ordering one or more holiday poinsettias. Talk to Dottie Kinscherf either by e-mail (flowers@firstuustlouis.org (mailto:flowers@firstuustlouis.org)) or in person in Fellowship Hall after services on Nov. 19, Nov. 26, or Dec. 3. The deadline for orders is December 4. Cost is \$10 per 6" pot, payable at signup. You may take your poinsettias home with you after Christmas Eve services.

2023 Guest at Your Table Campaign Kick-Off

We kicked off the Guest at Your Table Campaign this past Sunday. Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals—the "guests" in Guest at Your Table.

<https://vimeo.com/866150869/3c90f29b78>

Learn more about UUSC partner organization, Foundation for Justice and the Democratic Rule of Law.

UUA News

WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience

Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by 4 Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 30 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience! Details:

www.WhaleCoastAK.org Questions: whalecoastak@gmail.com (mailto:whalecoastak@gmail.com)

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