



**Music Sunday: We're Still Singing**  
**with Rev. Kim Mason & the First Unitarian Choir**  
**December 3rd, 2023**

**Ringling of Bowl**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Tom Finan

**Prelude**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* by J. S. Bach

Earl Naylor, organ

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Hymn #83 Winds Be Still**

*Winds be still.  
Storm clouds pass and silence come.  
Peace grace this time with harmony.  
Fly, bird of hope, and shine, light of love,  
and in calm let all find tranquility.*

*Bird fly high.  
Lift our gaze toward distant view.  
Help us to sense life's mystery.  
Fly high and far, and lead us each to see  
how we move through the winds of eternity.*

*Light shine in.  
Luminate our inward view.  
Help us to see with clarity.  
Shine bright and true so we may join our songs  
in new sounds that become full symphony.*

**Chalice Lighting**

Tom Finan

**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** *Over the River and Through the Woods*  
by Lydia Marie Child and illustrated by Christopher Manson

Danielle Kozemczak

**Children's Recessional #118 This Little Light of Mine**

**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.*

**Special Music**

*Mass in G* by Franz Schubert

First Unitarian Church Choir

Judy Meyer, Soprano; Esley Hamilton, Tenor; Ja'Quis Hardin, Bass  
Abby Meyers, Violin 1; Leanna Conrad, Violin 2; Erika Lord Castillo, Viola; Max Ludwig, Cello

**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**

**Gratitude**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Homily**

We're Still Singing

Rev. Kim Mason

**Hymn #326 Let All the Beauty We Have Known**

*Let all the beauty we have known illuminate our hearts and minds.  
Rejoice in wonders daily shown, in faith and joy, and love that binds.*

*We celebrate with singing hearts the loveliness of sky and earth,  
the inspiration of the arts, the miracle of ev'ry birth.*

*Life's music and its poetry surround and bless us through our days.  
For these we sing in harmony, together giving thanks and praise.*

**Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Postlude**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* by Paul Manz

Earl Naylor, organ

*This morning's flowers were donated by **Kimberly Perry** in celebration of our music program and choir.*

**Serving Us This Morning**  
**Ushers: Sheryll Coulter & Jan Herzog**  
**Greeters: Alison Lamothe & Kathy Wire**  
**AV Assistant: Adam Lunter**

### **Music Notes**

The setting by Bach presents the melody in a highly ornamented style, with each of the interludes based on the upcoming phrase of the melody. The setting by Manz presents the melody in the pedals and uses the melody as the inspiration for the toccata figure in the manuals.

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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 December 3rd 10am**

### **Music Sunday with Rev. Kim Mason**

Our annual Music Sunday service featuring the First Unitarian Choir performing Schubert's Mass in G  
"This Sunday's flowers are donated by Kimberly Perry in celebration of our music program and choir."  
Watch this Service on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstUnitarianSTL>)

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

### **100 Neediest Cases**

With roots that date back to the 1920's, the Neediest Cases today serves over 10,000 families each year. Administered by the United Way, and with administration costs funded by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and over 50 social service agencies, 100% of every dollar donated goes to needy families. **Nominated by Kimberly Perry.**

## **\*\* After Service this Sunday**

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

Be sure to stop by Fellowship Hall after Sunday's service to purchase some tasty holiday treats at the Partner Church Committee's annual bake sale.

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

Welcoming Congregations, our LGBTQ+ issues and support group, meets on the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM. On December 3rd bring a festive treat to share and join others for fellowship in the Dodson Room.

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

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

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Monday December 4th

Toward Justice (C1 & online)

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Tuesday December 5th

12:00 pm Women's Alliance (online)

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Executive Committee (online)

Wednesday December 6th

10:30 am to 12:00 pm Hindsight, Humor & Hope (room tbd)

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm New Member Class (C1)  
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice  
Thursday December 7th  
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Facilities Committee (C1 & online)  
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Covenant Group - Herzog  
Sunday December 10th  
10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship Service - In Person & Online  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm Fair Trade Sale (Fellowship Hall)  
11:30 am to 12:30 pm Makers Ministry (Offsite)  
11:30 am to 1:30 pm Pageant Scenery Set-Up (Sanctuary)  
11:30 am to 12:15 pm Newcomer Chat (Dodson)

### **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)

Submit Joy or Concern Online

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfD14K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU\\_bjkTVw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfD14K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform))

### **Welcome New Member Robert Kokenyesi**

Robert Kokenyesi came to First Unitarian Church of St. Louis from the Unitarian church in Alton, IL. He was particularly interested in our excellent, caring Partner Church Committee, which he joined even before he became a member of our church on August 27, 2023. It was Robert who gave a succinct and well-thought-out overview of Transylvanian Unitarian history during the Partner Church service on November 5, 2023.

Having grown up in Hungary under the Communist regime, Robert first heard the word "Unitarian" while in Boston doing research at Harvard Medical School. His family in Hungary had probably been Calvinist (Lutheran) at one time, but no one practiced any religion under Communism. As he grew up, Robert came to the realization that under Communism, there was no chance to advance without joining the Communist Party. To further investigate what Communism was like, he spent two summers in the Soviet Union; disenchanted, he started paying attention to all his relatives who had already immigrated to the United States, and he finally left Hungary in 1982 on a tourist passport. Although he did not make a "dangerous" escape, Robert had no intention of going back and was threatened with an automatic three-year jail sentence should he step foot in Hungary ever again. Fortunately, the fall of Communism in 1989 brought with

it amnesty for all who had escaped, so Robert can now visit his sister and her children in Hungary once or twice a year. On this summer's visit to Hungary, he also visited our partner church village of Csokfalva, in the Transylvanian region of Romania. There he met our recently-arrived new partner church minister, Noemi Tamasi. He describes her as an "unbelievably courageous young lady."

Robert became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in 2011. Fortunately, when he made his clandestine escape, he also smuggled out his transcripts, so he was able to continue his life in academia once he arrived in the U.S. by using his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology. In 1999 Robert came to the St. Louis area—he lives in Godfrey, IL and he currently teaches day and night classes at Lewis and Clark Community College.

In his spare time, Robert creates pottery-both functional and artistic-in his pottery studio. He also does translations (he translated Noemi's message and prayer for our congregation), and creates educational tools for the life sciences. What a journey! Robert, we're glad you're here. Welcome!

### **Religious Education This Sunday**

**RE Classes Meet This Sunday!** Children and Youth are encouraged to begin in service with their families. After the Story for All Ages ends, children and youth can exit the sanctuary to attend class. The Nursery will be open for childcare.

### **Story for All Ages:**

#### **Over the River and Through the Woods,**

by Lydia Marie Child and illustrated by Christopher Manson

Do you know the song "Over the River and Through the Woods"? Did you know the lyrics were written by a famous Unitarian? We will learn a little about Lydia Marie Child's life, her prolific writings, and her work to abolish slavery.

### **Church Events**

#### **Young Adults 20/30s Group Bread Baking**

##### **Saturday December 2nd 1pm**

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. 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.

Church News

#### **LAST CHANCE FOR POINSETTIAS!**

Help us decorate the sanctuary for the holidays by donating one or more holiday poinsettias. Talk to Dottie Kinscherf either by e-mail ([flowers@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:flowers@firstuustlouis.org) (mailto:flowers@firstuustlouis.org)) or in Fellowship Hall after services this Sunday, Dec. 3. The deadline for orders is Monday, Dec. 4. Cost is \$10 per 6" pot, payable at signup. If you wish, you may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the Christmas Eve service or donate them to the church.

Stop by the OP Shop and check out the GREAT deals on holiday decor and tableware. There will also be some ornaments made from antique quilts for sale.

## **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/866857254/73748a5519>

Learn more about UUSC partner organization, the National TPS Alliance.

## **Upcoming Services**

### **December Theme: Mystery**

Sunday December 10th The Mystery of Miracles with Rev Kim Mason

The winter holidays bring familiar stresses. When also dealing with loss or change, the holidays can feel more sad than festive. Together we acknowledge the challenges and seek solace in community.

Sunday December 17th - Children's Christmas Pageant with Rev Kim Mason

Join us for our traditional Christmas Pageant featuring participants in the First Unitarian religious education program. This is an all ages service.

Sunday December 24th Christmas Eve Services

4:30pm Christmas Eve: Traditional with Rev Kim Mason

A joyful Christmas Eve service featuring lessons and carols for all ages, followed by cider and cookies in the Fellowship Hall

6:30pm Christmas Eve: Contemplative with Rev Kim Mason

A reflective Christmas Eve observance inviting peace and presence this holiday season.

UUA News

## **Alabama Living Legacy Pilgrimage**

As 2023 draws to a close and you're thinking about your 2024 plans, we hope you'll consider participating in the April 2-6, 2024, Alabama Living Legacy Pilgrimage.

A series of events took place in Alabama and throughout the South in the 1950s and 60s that culminated in the ultimate passage of the 1964 National Civil Rights Act and the 1965 National Voting Rights Act.

On this five-day, four-night pilgrimage, you'll learn how each event moved the arc of the universe a little closer to justice.

Register ([https://www.livinglegacypilgrimage.org/2024\\_apr\\_al.html](https://www.livinglegacypilgrimage.org/2024_apr_al.html))

## **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

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### **Staff**

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister ([kmason@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:kmason@firstuustlouis.org))

Danielle Kozemczak, Director of Religious Education & Communications ([dkozem@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:dkozem@firstuustlouis.org))

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs ([lhunt@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org))

Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. ([aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org))

Earl Naylor, Music Director/Organist ([enaylor@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:enaylor@firstuustlouis.org))

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician ([mhurst@firstuustlouis.org](mailto: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