



**Conflagration
with Rev. Kim Mason
February 18th, 2024
Order of Service**

Ringing of the Bowl

Bethany Miscannon

Welcome and Announcements

Bethany Miscannon

Prelude

O Mensch, bewein by J. S. Bach

Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #124 Be That Guide

Be that guide whom love sustains.

Rise above the daily strife:

lift on high the good you find.

Help to heal the hurts of life.

Be that helper nothing daunts —

doubt of friend or taunt of foe.

Ever strive for liberty.

Show the path that life should go.

Be that builder trusting good,

bitter though the test may be:

through all ages they are right,

though they build in agony.

Be that teacher faith directs.

Move beyond the old frontier:

though the frightened fear that faith,

be tomorrow's pioneer!

Chalice Lighting

Bethany Miscannon

Sung Response #1058 Be Ours a Religion

Be ours a religion which like sunshine goes

*Everywhere, its temple all space, its shrine the good heart,
Its creed all truth, its ritual works of love*

Story For All Ages *Henry Climbs a Mountain* by D.B. Johnson Danielle Kozenczak

Joys and Concerns Rev. Kim Mason
<https://forms.gle/15M1BsWzbuoy62FE9>

Prayer Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #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 *It Starts With a Spark* by Lindasusan Ulrich Bethany Miscannon

Call for the Offering Rev. Kim Mason
Use the Online Giving QR Code on your pew QR codes card to make an online offering

Offertory *Walk a Mile In My Shoes* by Joe South First Unitarian Choir
Arranged by Greg Hoeltzel

Gratitude Rev. Kim Mason

Sermon Conflagration, or How to Start a Fire Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #121 We'll Build a Land
*We'll build a land where we bind up the broken.
We'll build a land where the captives go free,
where the oil of gladness dissolves all mourning.
Oh, we'll build a promised land that can be.*

(Chorus)
*Come build a land where sisters and brothers,
anointed by God, may then create peace:
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an ever flowing stream.*

*We'll build a land where we bring the good tidings
to all the afflicted and all those who mourn.
And we'll give them garlands instead of ashes.
Oh, we'll build a land where peace is born.
(Chorus)*

*We'll be a land building up ancient cities,
raising up devastations from old;
restoring ruins of generations.
Oh, we'll build a land of people so bold.
(Chorus)*

*Come, build a land where the mantles of praises
resound from spirits once faint and once weak;
where like oaks of righteousness stand her people.
Oh, come build the land, my people we seek.
(Chorus)*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Extinguish Chalice

Bethany Miscannon

Postlude

Praeludium in C Minor by Andre Raison

Earl Naylor, organ

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Susan Herzberg & Cathy Rauch
Greeters: Lisa Ross & Kathy Wire
A/V Assistant: Mitch Kraus

Music Notes

André Raison (c. 1640 – 1719) was a French Baroque composer and organist. During his lifetime he was one of the most famous French organists and an important influence on French organ music. He published two collections of organ works, in 1688 and 1714. The first contains liturgical music intended for monasteries and a preface with information on contemporary performance practice. The second contains mostly noëls (variations on Christmas carols).

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Dietrich Buxtehude's Fugue in C Major is commonly referred to as the "Jig Fugue" because of the lilting 12/8 time signature. This work is thought to be the inspiration for J.S. Bach's Fugue in G major (Fugue a la Gigue), composed a few years afterwards.

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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 January 28th, 2024

Worship Service

Sunday February 4th, 2024

Breath of Fire with Rev Kim Mason

Imbolc happens at the mid-point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox as the days begin to lengthen. Also known as St. Brigid's Day, this holiday celebrates home and hearth, and the blessings of the feminine divine. What seeds are you planting as the sun returns?

Watch this Service on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/live/7bW5PEjI6o8>)

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

Sunday's flowers are given by Claire and Stan Birge to acknowledge and thank our members whose volunteer efforts make this a functional and joyful church.

**** This Sunday After Service**

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

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

11:30 am to 1:00 pm Membership Committee (C1)

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

Monday February 5th

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Toward Justice (C1 & online)

Tuesday February 6th

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Alliance (online)

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

Wednesday February 7th

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

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Love at the Center UUA Article II Class (C1 & online)

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday February 8th

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Gimme Shelter sponsored by Toward Justice (online)

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Finance Committee (online)

Sunday February 11th

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 1:00 pm Young Adult Covenant Group (Youth Group Room)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm MCU Air Quality Presentation (Sanctuary)

Joys and Concerns

Concerns

Healing thoughts for Joel Knapp's wife Deanna who had surgery this week

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfD14K3Xr81F17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform)

Religious Education This Sunday

RE Classes Meeting this Sunday.

Children and teens are encouraged to start in service with their families. After the Time for All Ages, they can go to their classes. The Nursery will be open for childcare.

2/4/24 Time for All Ages:

How Brigit Got Lands for the Poor by Erica Helm Meade

In this Celtic pagan story about the goddess Brigit we will learn about her magical cloak and how she brought justice to the poor people of Ireland.

Sunday February 11th 2024

Education For All Worship Service and SECC Art Supply Drive Kick-Off

On Sunday February 11th Religious Education will lead a worship service on the importance of education for all people. This service will also serve as a kick-off for our Southside Early Childcare Center Art Supply Drive! Click the button below for a list of needed items. Art Supplies can be brought to church on Sunday 2/11 or 2/18.

List of Needed Art Supplies

(<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/Art%20Supply%20Flyer.pdf>)

Upcoming Services

February Theme: Justice and Equity

Sunday February 11th Education for All with Danielle Kozemczak

Religious Education will lead a worship service on the importance of education for all people. This service will also serve as a kick-off for our Southside Early Childcare Center Art Supply Drive!

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 at 7:00

All are invited to join us for a celebration of Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7:00, in the Dodson room or on Zoom (link). This non-creedal service will mark the beginning of lent with reading, songs and Sharing of our thoughts on our commitment to the practice of faith in challenging times.

Sunday February 18th Conflagration with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday February 25th Football is Life with Rev. Kim Mason

Church Events

ERDE Imbolc Gathering

Saturday February 3rd 6pm

Fellowship Hall

Erde will be hosting an Imbolc cross quarter gathering to “welcome back the light” this Saturday at 6pm. We will light candles and share a potluck meal. Bring your own candle or I will have some on hand. No formal ritual is planned at this time, this gathering is more of a fellowship opportunity. All are welcome!

Gimme Shelter: Understanding and Addressing Housing Insecurity in St. Louis and Beyond Thursdays (February 8, 15, 29 and March 14) 6:30-8:00 PM

Join us for a series of four discussion sessions (February 8, 15, 29 and March 14) to understand more deeply the scope of housing insecurity in our region, including its intersections with gender, race, and class; the barriers to change, from individual to system-level; and avenues for change, from policy to direct service. The first three sessions will be facilitated by speakers from a variety of the agencies in the St. Louis region addressing housing issues, with suggested reading and short videos made available to participants. All session will be virtual. For more information check out this Session Outline (<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/GimmeShelterSessionOutline.docx.pdf>) .

Register for Gimme Shelter (<https://forms.gle/ErQkdNZqqmwcsJeUA>)

Love @ the Center - Spring Session

Wednesdays February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20

6:30 - 8 pm 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 Wednesday, February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20, 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.

Register for Love @ the Center (<https://forms.gle/aZ8eH8S6RW6PTs9h8>)

The Unfish Fry

Friday February 23rd 5:30pm-7pm

The Unfish Fry Crew will be serving an all vegetarian meal that will be open to the public and we need your help! If you are interested in helping in any way: from cooking at church or baking at home to selling tickets or helping wash dishes and cleaning up, please join us! Being part of the Unfish Fry crew is a great way for new or long-term members to have fun getting to know people. Please click the button below to sign-up as a volunteer.

Volunteer for Unfish!

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjrTCmG8TEfqmmC0rceIWYgV3MPHLTpiT6cJ2zTkZOdTXiAQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Mid-Winter Meeting

Sunday, February 25th 11:30 am

Sanctuary

Plan to stay after the church service on the 25th in order to participate in the Mid-Winter meeting. There will be updates from the Board, from Facilities and about the Community Engagement Project. We will also take a vote to endorse the ordination of member George Grimm-Howell! See you there.

Myers Briggs Class

Thursdays, March 7 thru April 4 (skipping 3/28)

(from 6:30 to 8pm)

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) The Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator is a self-report inventory designed to identify a person's personality type, strengths, and preferences. Class begins Thursdays, March 7 (from 6:30 to 8pm) thru April 4 (skipping 3/28) taught by Kimberly Perry and Hunter Hart. Each class will focus on one of the categories that make up the four-letter combinations. This is a powerful tool in understanding how we process information according to each typology. Please take, before class, the free MBTI online at <https://www.truity.com/test/type-finder-personality-test-new-split>. Read instructions carefully and bring

results with you. Sign-up online by clicking the button below or in Fellowship Hall. For more info contact Hunter Hart or Kimberly Perry.

Register for Myers-Brigg Class

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkSevkUD4g_wJgbYpzFBijwhHV5GH1Bon0FSYcAAZIbyM3KA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Church News

Library Volunteer Update

To date only three individuals have come forward expressing an interest in helping run the John Learned Bookstore. This is not a large enough group of people, so we are extending the search for volunteers until Feb. 10th. If you would like to help and haven't already indicated your interest, here is the link to do so <https://forms.gle/2xcSKjXj97hTyNDn8> .

Submitted by Margaret Weck for the Learned Bookstore Task Force.

Democracy and Church Governance

Church governance at First Unitarian Church of St. Louis depends on your participation and involvement. One of the principles/values of Unitarian Universalism (stated in the Fifth Principle and in the Justice Value statement) is the use of (small “d”) democratic processes in congregational governance. As we enter the US Presidential Election year it may be helpful to remember that the exercise of democracy occurs at all levels of civic life including this church, and one of the necessary elements of robust democratic governance is participation.

The congregation votes on the leadership of our church and all of the candidates are required to come from the congregation. People have to be members in good standing for at least one year to serve on the Board and at least three years to serve as President. We have leadership opportunities at all levels, from volunteering to be an usher, through being a committee chair or cluster coordinator, to serving as a Board Member or Officer.

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is in the process of identifying those who are willing to take their turns at leadership for the coming church year. Different offices have different terms of service. This year’s slate is looking for individuals to fill one three-year terms for Outreach and Social Action Cluster Chair, several Policy Board positions and candidates to serve one year terms for Church Council Chair, Treasurer, President, and Vice-President.

Please seriously consider your ability to participate in our congregational governance. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Margaret Weck, chair of the NLDC. If you don’t volunteer, you may still be approached by the NLDC and we hope you will seriously consider that ask when it is made. WE are the church.

Community News

Just Songs: a Concert of Susan Marting’s Original Music

Sunday, February 11th 1:00 pm -3:00 pm

St Cronan Church, 1202 S. Boyle, 63110

Susan Marting, a St. Cronan parishioner, has been writing songs for the past decade or so. Going by the stage name Meramec Valley Girl, she plays her Americana songs on guitar or banjo. Lately, she has been accompanied by fiddler Sarah Heuermann, who adds beautiful emotion to each piece. And Susan's husband, Andrew Marting picked up the bass in his retirement and now fills out each song with deep bass notes. Together, they're playing Sunday, February 11 from 1:00-3:00 in the sanctuary at St Cronan Church, 1202 S. Boyle, 63110. Highlighting social justice songs influenced by Susan's years as a Catholic Social Teaching instructor. A love offering will be accepted for St. Vincent de Paul, as both works of charity and justice are necessary for change. A reception will follow in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!

Emerson UU Chapel Open Mic Night

Friday, February 16th 6:30pm

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel will be hosting an Open Mic Night on Friday, February 16th. Bring poetry to read, music to play or sing, or any talent you'd like to share, G rated, of course. We will begin arriving at 6:30 and start at 7:00 pm. We'll end around 9:00 pm. This will be "coffee house" style, so bring a snack or beverage to share if you'd like and we'll put the coffee and tea on. Bring your friends too! All ages are welcome. Emerson is located at 122 N. Fifth Street, St. Charles, MO 63301.

Virtual Create Your Own Theology

March 18 and 25 6-7:30 pm

Create your own theology: this two part class will meet Monday nights from 6-7:30 pm on March 18 and 25. Using material from "A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century" by Revs. John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker, this class will help you walk through what you believe, why you believe it, and how all the parts of your beliefs come together to create a system of values and meaning for your life. Email Pastor Claudia (<mailto:dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com>) at for the Zoom link.

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
Interim Treasurer - Kathy Wilke
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