



Christmas in July: Spirited

Rev. Kim Mason

July 19th, 2026

Ringling of the Bowl

Annette Peterson

Welcome

Annette Peterson

Prelude

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

By Johann Schop, harmonized by JS Bach

Linda Batterson, piano

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Opening Hymn #254 Sing We Now of Christmas (verses 1-3)

Linda Batterson, piano

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

(Refrain)

Sing we Noel, the child is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

*Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethl'hem, find the child so blest."*

(Refrain)

Sing we Noel, the child is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

*In the town they found him, Joseph, and Mary mild,
seated by the manger, watching the holy child.*

(Refrain)

Sing we Noel, the child is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Chalice Lighting

Annette Peterson

Sung Response *There Is Always a Light*

Linda Batterson, piano

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

Connection Moment *Muddy Children* by Janeen K Grohsmeyer Sabrina Trupia

Joys and Concerns Rev. Kim Mason

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Kim Mason

Sung Response: #123 *Spirit of Life* Linda Batterson, piano

*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 *Our Whole Life Is a Series of Signs* by Jake Morrill Annette Peterson

Call for the Offering Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory *Unredeemable* by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul Tom Finan

Gratitude Rev. Kim Mason

Sermon *Spirited, Or Universalism Unchained* Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #18 What Wondrous Love Linda Batterson, piano

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that brings my heart such bliss,
and takes away the pain of my soul, of my soul,
and takes away the pain of my soul.*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath my sorrows ground,
friends to me gather'd round, O my soul, O my soul,
friends to me gather'd round, O my soul.*

*To love and to all friends I will sing, I will sing,
to love and to all friends I will sing.
To love and to all friends who pain and sorrow mend,
with thanks unto the end I will sing, I will sing,
with thanks unto the end I will sing.*

Closing Words Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude *Joy to the World!* Linda Batterson, piano
By George Frederick Handel

*This morning's flowers are from the **Church Staff** to celebrate the marriage of **Rev. Kim Mason and Jen Whitaker***

Serving Us This Morning
Greeters: Lisa Ross
Ushers: Emily Jaycox and Gary Parks
A/V: Betty Neill

Music Notes

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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 grounds.

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

Worship Service

Sunday, July 19th, 2026

Christmas in July: Spirited with Rev. Kim Mason

In this two part series we explore some of the theological questions posed in Christmas movies. This week we discuss Spirited, an updated version of the Scrooge story, which asks "Are we the worst thing we've ever done? Or can we be redeemed?"

Watch on YouTube Here

<https://youtube.com/live/xtpLHjX1-OM>

This Week at First UU STL

Sunday, July 19th, 2026

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service (in person and online)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Reception (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, July 21st, 2026

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

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Human Rights Social Witnessing (Kingshighway & Waterman)

Thursday, July 23rd, 2026

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Worship Committee (off site and online)

Sunday, July 26th, 2026

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service (in person and online)

10:30 am - 1:00 pm - Trinity Hot Lunch Prep (Kitchen)

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Makers Ministry (C7)

Upcoming Services

July 26th, 2026 - Christmas in July: The Hogfather with Rev. Kim Mason

Joys and Concerns

Joys

*Congratulations to **Rev. Kim Mason and Jen Whitaker** who were recently married! You can give them Best Wishes in person at their reception on July 19th in Fellowship Hall after the church service.*

Concerns

We hold in our hearts those who are experiencing difficulties at this time.

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://forms.gle/PwiiwMGuMuvUB6g2A>

Religious Education for Children

Summer RE will be held Jun 14, July 12 and Aug 9th. On these Sundays, children will go directly to the RE room.

On the other Sundays in the summer, children over 5 stay with their parents in the Sanctuary.

The Nursery will be open for children 0-5 years old.

Church News & Events

Gardening Day!

July 18th - 8:30 am (or when you can make it)

Bring sunscreen, sun hat, tools and water.

Thanks for tending to our grounds!

First U FUUn

Newsies @ The Muny - FREE SEATS

Friday, July 17 6:30 pm

Bring a blanket and your picnic dinner and find Rev. Kim and Rev. Sabrina in line. Gates open at 7 pm, show starts at 8:15. If arriving after 7 pm, text 314-384-6867 to find us.

Upcoming First Church Volunteer Activity-Sunday, July 26th

Trinity Hot Lunch

Our Central West End neighbor, Trinity Episcopal Church, operates an ongoing food ministry that includes a food pantry and a Sunday Hot Lunch program. Both have operated for more than 30 years with assistance from area churches and the community. You may have noticed our collection baskets for Trinity food donations in Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, July 26th, First Church members and friends can support the Hot Lunch program by preparing a meal for approximately 100 in our Fellowship Hall kitchen and transporting and serving it at Trinity. This is a great multi-generational volunteer activity that benefits our neighbors in need. Food prep begins at about 10 am and concludes at Trinity at 3 pm with clean up. Volunteer shifts are available throughout the morning and afternoon, permitting helpers to participate in preferred ways and shifts. You can also support our effort by donating home-baked cookies.

Volunteers may sign up by accessing our [online volunteer form](#) or in Fellowship Hall. Let us know who we can expect to see on the 26th as well as when and how you will help. Please keep us posted regarding any changes in your availability.

For questions, email Administrator Lynn Hunt (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)

Hope to see you!

The Social Justice Committee

Love at the Center Book Club

The book club will not have a meeting in July, members can enjoy a free read month. Our next meeting will be Sunday, August 2, 7PM by Zoom and we will discuss *Vigil* by George Saunders.

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.



Our Mission

We strive to be a welcoming congregation, inspiring lives of loving kindness and integrity by nurturing spirituality, building community, and advancing justice

** Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitarianSTL>)

** https://www.instagram.com/first_unitarian_stl/ (https://www.instagram.com/first_unitarian_stl/)**

Website (<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/>)

** YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstUnitarianSTL>)

** TikTok (<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT84oXuQM/>)

Our mailing address is:

5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63108

(314) 361-0595

Staff

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister

Rev. Sabrina Trupia, Minister of Congregational Life

Lynn Hunt, Administration

Augustine Underwood, Sunday Sexton

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician

Policy Board

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