



Christmas in July: *The Hogfather*

Rev. Kim Mason

July 26th, 2026

Ringling of the Bowl

Pamela Geppert

Welcome

Pamela Geppert

Prelude

A Short Medley of Christmas Songs

Linda Batterson, piano

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Opening Hymn #235 Deck the Halls

Linda Batterson, piano

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la.

'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure, fa la la la la la, la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Sing we joyous all together, fa la la la la la, la la la.

Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Chalice Lighting

Pamela Geppert

Sung Response #362 Rise Up O Flame

Linda Batterson, piano

Rise up, O flame,

by thy light glowing,

show to us beauty,

vision, and joy.

Connection Moment

Hope is the Important Part

Sabrina Trupia

Joys and Concerns

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

The America I Believe In by Colin Powell

Pamela Geppert

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

I Believe by Carrie Newcomer

The MUUses

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Sermon

We Believe

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #248 O We Believe in Christmas

Linda Batterson, piano

*The morning hangs a signal upon the mountain crest,
while all the sleeping valleys in silent darkness rest.
From peak to peak it flashes, it laughs along the sky,
till glory of the sunlight on all the land shall lie.*

*Above the generations the lonely prophets rise,
while truth flares as the daystar within their glowing eyes;
and other eyes, beholding, are kindled from that flame;
and dawn becomes the morning, when prophets love proclaim.*

*The soul has lifted moments, above the drift of days,
when life's great meaning breaketh in sunrise on our ways.
Behold the radiant token of faith above all fear;
night shall release its splendor that morning shall appear.*

*Shine out ye lights of Christmas from hearth and tree and star!
And let the warmth of Christmas shed kindness near and far!
And clang, ye bells of Christmas, upon the frosty air!
And may the joy of Christmas spread gladness everywhere!*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

Earth and Heaven Now Rejoice
(Old Bohemian Christmas Carol)

Linda Batterson, piano

Serving Us This Morning
Greeters: Grace Munie and Kathy Wire
Ushers: Stan Birge & Sheryll Coulter
A/V:

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 26th, 2026

Christmas in July: *The Hogfather* with Rev. Kim Mason

In the conclusion of this two part series, we discuss *The Hogfather*, based on the Terry Pratchett book by the same name. We explore the nature of belief and what is worth saving.

Watch on YouTube Here

<https://youtube.com/live/mkv4LHqAJWM>

This Week at First UU STL

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)

Tuesday, July 28th, 2026

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

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

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Designated Collections (online)

Sunday, August 2nd, 2026

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

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Love at the Center Book Club (online)

Upcoming Services

August 2nd, 2026 - On Universalism with Dwight Homer, member

August 9th, 2026 - Labyrinth Walk with Rev. Nita Penfold, member (in person only)

August 16th, 2026 - Book Communion with Rev. Kim Mason

August 23rd, 2026 - There Are No Words with Rev. Kim Mason

August 30th, 2026 - I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends with Carl Serbel

Water Communion - September 13th, 2026

Each year we commemorate the end of summer with Water Communion. Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water from summer travels or from your own back yard. The water will be combined in one vessel thus representing our uniting as a community after summer and individual wanderings.

Joys and Concerns

Joys

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

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

Board President – Sidney Watson
Vice President – Carl Bassi
Secretary – Chris Tighe
Treasurer - Margaret Weck
Member - Stan Birge
Member - Mike Bray
Member - Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant
Member - Lisa Ross
Member - Chris Peterson

Church Council

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Tom Finan, Facilities Cluster
Kathy Wire, Stewardship Cluster
Fran Hoffman, Outreach and Social Action Cluster
Erin Milligan, Growth and Engagement Cluster
Grace Munie, Programming Cluster