



IOU, or Redeeming the Heart of America

Rev. Kim Mason

October 11th, 2026

Ringling of the Bowl

Nita Penfold

Welcome

Nita Penfold

Prelude

“Weaving,” from *Scenes from Dinétah*, by Connor Chee

Jade Kastel

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #1017 Building a New Way

We are building a new way.

We are building a new way.

*We are building a new way,
feeling stronger ev’ry day,*

We are building a new way.

We are working to be free.

We are working to be free.

*We are working to be free,
hate and greed and jealousy.*

We are working to be free.

We can feed our every need.

We can feed our ev’ry need.

*We can feed our ev’ry need,
Start with love, that is the seed.*

We can feed our every need.

Peace and freedom is our cry.

Peace and freedom is our cry.

*Peace and freedom is our cry,
Without these this world will die.*

Peace and freedom is our cry.

Sung Response: The Source Enters Here

The source of wisdom enters here.

The source of love,

The source of hope and justice

Enters here, enters here.

Words and Music by Chris Kocher

Connection Moment *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom

Children's Recessional #118 This Little Light

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Kim Mason

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kim Mason

Sung Response: #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 *For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet*

Nita Penfold

By Joy Harjo

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

Wedding Song

First Unitarian Choir

Joel Knapp, Director

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Sermon

IOU, or Redeeming the Heart of America

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn: We Will Carry Each Other

I am looking for shelter in a friend.

We can build a beginning but I do not know the end

I am scared of breaking when I bend.

We will carry each other on the way:

Chorus:

My courage is your courage

*when the journey is only getting longer.
My strength is your strength:
we will carry each other on the way.*

*There are prayers I don't know how to say.
But I still find solace when I close my eyes to pray
What I've lost and what I hope can stay
We will carry each other on the way:*

*Chorus:
My courage is your courage
when the journey is only getting longer.
My strength is your strength:
we will carry each other on the way.*

*I am full and I am running out,
I'm a flooding river and I'm living through the drought,
I have firm conviction and my heart is full of doubt.
We will carry each other on the way:*

*Chorus
My courage is your courage
when the journey is only getting longer.
My strength is your strength:
we will carry each other on the way.*

*There are people I have never met,
There is something special, and I haven't found it yet,
There's abundance, given freely, taken with no debt!
We will carry each other on the way:*

*Chorus:
My courage is your courage
when the journey is only getting longer.
My strength is your strength:
we will carry each other on the way.*

*Chorus:
My courage is your courage
when the journey is only getting longer.
My strength is your strength:
we will carry each other on the way.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

We Emerged from Night in Clothes of Sunrise by Joy Harjo

Jade Kastel

Serving Us This Morning
Song Leader: Jama Dodson
Greeters: Grace & Tony Munie
Ushers: Lisa Ross & Chuck Eby
A/V: Margaret Weck

[Watch On YouTube Here](#)

**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

Happening this Week

Sunday, October 11, 2026

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

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Newcomer Chat (Dodson Room)

11:30 am - 12:30pm - Greeter Training (C1)

Monday, October 12th, 2026

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Policy Board meeting (online)

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Herzog Covenant Group (offsite)

Tuesday, October 13th, 2026

11:45 am - 2:00 pm - Women's Alliance (MO Botanical Garden)

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

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Personnel Committee meeting (online)

Sunday, October 18th, 2026

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

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Sandwich-making (kitchen)

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Covenant Group (library or online)

Upcoming Services

October Theme: Living the Questions/Courage

Sunday, October 18, 2026 - Meeting the Moment w/ Rev Kim

In August the Policy Board and Church Council met to set priorities for the year. They began by examining this time and location and asking, How Do We Meet the Moment. This board-led service shares some of their answers.

Sunday, October 25, 2026 - Engaging the Question of Pluralism with Rev. Sabrina Trupia

November Theme: Covenant/Healing

Sunday, November 1, 2026 - We Begin Again In Love with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday, November 8, 2026 - Partner Church Sunday

Joys and Concerns

Joys

My joy is in my vibrant church community who share my burdens as well as my joys. -Mindy Allen

Joshua Newsome is grateful for fantastic friends who really care.

Concerns

I've had two friends lose beloved pets in the last couple of weeks. I'd like Derby and Miso to be remembered.

-Tara Perry

We hold all the young adults navigating mental health issues with care and send loving support to them and their parents.

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

For the 2026-27 Program year, we will guide the spiritual development of the children with Spirit Play, a Montessori-based curriculum developed by First Unitarian's Member the Rev. Dr. Nita Penfold as well as Revs. Roberts and Bruce. This program uses storytelling and reflection as well as play to help children navigate their spirituality and formulate their own answers to the existential questions we all struggle with as human beings. The Fall schedule is below. If you can help with Doorkeeper Duties for the dates with the check-mark, let Rev. Sabrina know. For More information about our offerings, check out the [RE webpage](#) and then [register for the 2026-27 program](#).

Church News & Events

Save the Date for MO JUUSTICE: January 23, 2027, UUC Columbia, MO!

Join UUs from across Missouri to ignite solidarity and reimagine democracy! Part of the UUA's Solidarity Summit movement, this gathering invites us to deepen our UU connections across the state and use our collective resources, relationships, and moral imagination to build a more just Missouri for everyone. Gather for networking, skill building and inspiring worship! Want to help plan? Contact Rev. Kim or Rev. Sabrina.

Join Social Justice and the Policy Board this Sunday in Fellowship Hall after the service for a learning and postcard writing activity regarding the November Ballot issues. All supplies will be provided; donations for stamps will be welcomed.
Your vote is your voice; let's put democracy and our UU values into action!

Sponsor Flowers on Sunday Morning

Do you enjoy having fresh flowers for Sunday services? If so, please consider signing up to provide them for one (or more) Sunday this year. Donating is easy – Dottie Kinscherf can take care of the logistics.

People often choose to donate in memory of someone important to them or in honor of a special occasion or person. If you are interested in learning more, talk to Dottie after services or contact her at flowers@firstuustlouis.org

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

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** 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:

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(314) 361-0595

Staff

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister (kmason@firstuustlouis.org)

Rev. Sabrina Trupia, Minister of Congregational Life (strupia@firstuustlouis.org)

Michelle Edwards, Church Administrator (medwards@firstuustlouis.org)

Dr. Jade Kastel, Music Director (jkastel@firstuustlouis.org)

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Augustine Underwood, Sunday Sexton

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

Steve Wilke, Chair

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