



Creating Home

Rev. Kim Mason

February 1st, 2026

Ringing of the Bell

Nita Penfold

Welcome

Nita Penfold

Prelude

Aria by Dale Wood

Allen Hoffman, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Opening Hymn #360 Here We Have Gathered

*Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;
circle of kinship, come and step inside!
May all who seek here find a kindly word;
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
days of our lifetime, matters small and great:
we of all ages, women, children, men,
infants and sages, sharing what we can.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:
but in the shadows, let us not forget:
we who now gather know each other's pain;
kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.*

Chalice Lighting

Nita Penfold

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*

Connection Moment

Rev. Sabrina Trupia

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

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Kim Mason

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kim Mason

Sung Response #123

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

Home is Where We Feel Connected by Marisol Caballero

Nita Penfold

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

Finding Home Lyrics by Tina Landau Music by Rick Ian Gordon

Judy Meyer, soprano

Carolyn Toft, piano

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Reading

The Writing on the Wall by Ric Masten

Nita Penfold

Sermon

Creating Home

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #323 Break Not the Circle

Break not the circle of enabling love

where people grow, forgiven and forgiving;

break not that circle, make it wider still,

till it includes, embraces all the living.

Come, wonder at this love that comes to life,

where words of freedom are with humor spoken,

and people keep no score of wrong and guilt,

but will that human bonds remain unbroken.

Join then the movement of the love that frees,

till people of whatever race or nation

will truly be themselves, stand on their feet,

see eye to eye with laughter and elation.

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

Introduction from Suite Gothique by Leon Boellmann

Allen Hoffman, organ

*.This morning's flowers are given by **Claire and Stan Birge** with these words adapted from last Sunday's closing hymn:*

*"And we'll give them garlands instead of ashes.
Oh, we'll build a land where justice is born."*

Serving Us This Morning
Greeters: Margaret Weck and Jaimie Laing
Ushers: Rosemary and Stan Lawton
A/V: Tom Finan

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, February 1st, 2026

Creating Home with Rev. Kim Mason

A church is a shared community where we gather to tell our stories, support one another and grow as people. Through learning our history and acting on our values we build a future together. We celebrate our congregation with a community mural process that kicks off this Sunday!

Watch on YouTube Here

https://youtube.com/live/ePAEn7zhl_w

This Week at First UU STL

Sunday, February 1st, 2026

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

10:30 am - 11:30 am - Sandwich Making (Fellowship Hall)

11:15 am - 12:15 pm - Sunday Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Imbolc (Clark Room)

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

Monday, February 2nd, 2026

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Social Justice (C1 and online)

Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026

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

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Human Rights Social Witnessing (Kingshighway & Waterman)

Check with Office to Make Sure Event is Happening - Please note time change

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Executive Committee (online)

Wednesday, February 4th 2026

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, February 5th, 2026

9:00 am - 10:00 am - Care and Concern (online)

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Facilities (Clark Room)

Friday, February 6th, 2026

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Young Adult Gathering (Fellowship Hall)

6:45 pm - 8:30 pm - Target STL Film & Discussion (Chapel)

Saturday, February 7th, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Worship Committee Retreat (Sanctuary)

5:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Field of Dreams Fundraiser (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, February 8th 2026

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

11:30 am - 12:15 pm - Newcomer Chat (Dodson Room)

Upcoming Services
February Worship Theme
Embodying Resilience

February 8th, 2026 - Perspectives on Resilience

February 15th, 2026 - Let's Talk About Sex - Revs. Kim Mason and Sabrina Trupia

February 22nd, 2026 - Nevertheless She Persisted - Rev. Kim Mason

Joys and Concerns

It is with sadness that we inform you that long time member **Stan Veyhl** passed away peacefully this week. Our sympathy to his son Alex.

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

This Sunday 2/1 10am-11am

This Sunday children and youth start in the Sanctuary and go to their classrooms after the Connection Moment.

In RE this month we are learning about the UU value of Transformation.

OWL students should go DIRECTLY to classroom C-8. OWL classes end at 12 noon.

Nursery is open for younger children.

Click on the QR Code to register children and youth for Religious Education.



Church News & Events

Plan to stay after church on **Sunday, February 1st** for a warm bowl of veggie chili prepared by the Women's Alliance. All are welcome and a free will offering to support the project is appreciated.

Diaper Drive

The Religious Education Committee is collecting diapers for the Southside Early Childhood Center. Bring your donation to Fellowship Hall – the collection will be delivered in March.

We need: Diapers (sizes 4 - 6), Pull Ups (sizes 3-5T) and unscented wipes. Thanks!

Imbolc - Lighting the Creative Force Within

Join ERDE for an Imbolc celebration Sunday, 2/1 after services in the Clark Room.

Imbolc is the cross quarter between winter solstice and spring equinox that honors Brigid, an ancient Irish goddess of poetry/inspiration, healing and smithcraft/fire. Join us for a viewing and discussion of how creativity brings meaning to life as raised in the short documentary film "STRETCH - The St. Louis Arts and Entertainment Underground" by member Sue Herzberg. We will view while eating lunch, and then have an opportunity to create something ourselves with a craft that honors the season. Everyone is welcome!

Field of Dreams Fundraiser

Help First U build it, so they will come! On Saturday, February 7th, you can join your fellow members and friends for an evening of trivia, games, stadium food, and--most important--a chance to support our overtaxed building reserve fund. We will auction a few hot items, including dinners, bike rides, and an opportunity to stay at Scot and Joanne Boulton's casita in Santa Fe, NM or the Ross/Eby condo on Sanibel Island

We need volunteers to help with all aspects of the event: hospitality, games, planning, auction/contribution management, check-in, and, of course, setup and cleanup. We also welcome contributions for the auction/sale. You can find more information about volunteer roles and sign up on the forms in Fellowship Hall or look for a committee member in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Target St. Louis Film Viewing and Discussion with the Director February 6th, 2026 - 6:45 pm

Damien D. Smith's award-winning film Target St. Louis documenting the military's experiments on an unknowing population at the Pruitt-Igoe Complex will be shown in the Chapel of First Unitarian Church on Feb. 6th at 6:45 pm.

The film will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Smith, Ben Phillips and Chester Deanes, plaintiffs in a class action suit seeking damages from Stanford University for the experimentation. Also participating virtually will be Lisa Martino Taylor, a researcher who uncovered key details about the tests.

Phillips and Deanes are leading an effort to introduce a bill in the Missouri Legislature that would demand access to records that will help the community better understand the impact the experiments had on the residents' health. They also will be calling for action from the region's congressional delegation, including Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmidt and U.S. Rep. Wesley Bell.

To date Taylor's research shows the government sprayed zinc cadmium sulfide, a potential carcinogen, into the air as part of a Cold-War era experiment. Residents were unaware of what the government and its contractor, Stanford University, were up to and had no say in how the work was done. Many families say that in subsequent years their loved ones suffered from cancer and other maladies that caused deformities.

Sponsored by the Environmental Justice Task Force

The Unfish Fry is coming! **Friday February 27th from 5:30pm-7pm** the Unfish Fry Crew will be serving an all vegetarian meal that will be open to the public. Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall February 15th and 22nd after services and at the church office. Adult tickets are \$12 and child tickets are \$6. This event is sponsored by the Feasts and Festivals committee. Everyone is highly encouraged to attend and invite friends, relatives, or co-workers! This is a great opportunity to enjoy good food, music and fellowship and introduce people to Unitarian Universalism. The Unfish Fry Crew will see you there! Be a part of the crew – volunteer in Fellowship Hall.

Missouri History Museum Tour: Mill Creek, Black Metropolis

Join Social Justice Thursday, March 5 from 5:30-6:30 PM for a First Unitarian guided tour of the "Mill Creek: Black Metropolis" exhibit at the Missouri History Museum. We will meet under the Spirit of St. Louis plane in the Grand Hall at 5:20 PM. Families are welcome! Registration is required so we can give them a head count 1 week prior to the event. \$5 per person which can be paid at the event. Please also indicate if you would like to carpool from church, and if you would like to join for dinner afterwards. We look forward to sharing this experience!

New Website Coming Our website is getting a new look!

Soon, when you visit our website, it will be on a new platform. It will retain features of the current website, along with the goal of being a tool for newcomers, and there will be some new sections. The new platform will be easier to navigate on phones. It will take some adjusting to a new format (for example, the full calendar will be on the bottom of the homepage) for regular users. The best thing is it is a website and not stone tablets! As we move forward adjustment can always be made. Watch for more info.

Women's Alliance February Programming

February 10 – 12:00 Brown Bag Lunch 1:00 – Esley Hamilton-St. Louis in 1940. The riverfront was torn down for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and several other turning points in this city's history.

February 24 -12:00 – Brown Bag Lunch 1:00 - Carole Watson - TBD

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Policy Board Meeting Summary

January 12, 2026

The Policy Board voted to endorse a draft of a Land Acknowledgement Statement and Project for the congregation. Member Chris Tighe explained how, following a suggestion by the Worship Committee, the Social Justice Committee developed the proposal for a Native People's Acknowledgement Statement. The purpose of the Statement and Project is not just to acknowledge the harms that happened in the past, but the harms that are happening today.

The Social Justice Committee presented the draft Land Acknowledgement Statement and the other elements of the Project at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Over the next few months, there will be additional opportunities for the congregation to learn about the proposal, ask questions, and make suggestions. If there appears to be congregational support, the finalized Statement and Project proposal will be put to a Congregational vote at the May Annual Meeting.

The Board also discussed developing a 3-year rolling strategy rather than a 5- or 10-year strategic plan. The world is changing quickly, and we need to respond to an ever-changing environment. It is the Board's responsibility to create the rolling strategy, evaluate our performance, and update it annually. Our committees and staff will implement the plan. The Board will seek input from members and committees as they prepare our first 3-year rolling plan for kick-off in the 2026-2027 church year.

Sidney Watson, Secretary

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Totals for our Designated Collection program are particularly strong so far this year with slightly over \$10,000 donated. In recent years, full year totals ranged from \$12-\$16,000.

The Facility committee request for monies for replacement trees received the highest single donation (\$1623.84), followed by the First Church Community Fund (\$1551.37), Central West End Homeless Outreach (\$1499.70) and St. Louis Foodbank (\$959.57).

Each of the following nonprofits received donations of approximately \$900:

- Tabernacle Community Development Corporation
- The First Church Partner Church Committee
- Dream Builders 4 Equity
- Gateway 180
- Southside Early Childhood Center

Community nonprofits and church committees are selected for collections through member nominations each July. Our next Designated Collection nominating opportunity will begin in June.

Submitted by Rosemary Lawton,
Chair, Designated Collection Committee

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, Office Asst.

Allen Hoffman, Organist

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician

Policy Board

Board President – Kathy Wilke

Vice President – Chris Kocher

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Treasurer - Margaret Weck

Member – Betty Neill

Member - Carl Bassi

Member - Mike Bray

Member - Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant

Member - Lisa Ross

Member - Chris Peterson

Church Council

Cathy Rauch, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Fran Hoffman, Outreach & Social Responsibility

Erin Milligan, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster