



Creating Belonging

Rev. Kim Mason

September 14th, 2025

Order of Service

Ringling of the Bowl & Welcome

Jan Herzog

Prelude *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*, arranged by Lani Smith

Allen Hoffman, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn : *Belong* (see insert)

Lighting the Chalice

Jan Herzog

Sung Response *Be the Light*

Allen Hoffman, 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

Baby Dedication

Revs. Kim Mason & Sabrina Trupia

Special Music

Hearth & Fire by Gordon Bok

First Unitarian Choir

Connection Moment: Teacher Dedication

Rev. Sabrina Trupia

Children's Recessional #118 This Little Light

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Kim Mason

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 from *Power of Belonging* by Janae Johnson Jan Herzog

Call for the Offering Rev. Kim Mason
Text the dollar amount you wish to give to this number: 833-649-0088

Offertory *Berceuse* (Lullaby), by Gabriel Faure, arr. by Lani Smith Allen Hoffman, organ

Gratitude Rev. Kim Mason

Sermon Creating Belonging 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 *Episode on "Dunlap's Creek"* arr. By David Paxton Allen Hoffman, organ

*This morning's flower arrangement was created by **Karen Albin**.*

Serving Us This Morning
Greeters: Grace and Tony Munie
Ushers: Lisa Ross and Chuck Eby
A/V Assistant: Mindy Allen

Music Notes

One of the earliest published American folk hymns, also known as Holy Manna.

This Berceuse, from about 1879, was originally for violin and piano, but it has been arranged for many other instrumental combinations. There is no connection to the Berceuse from Faure's "Dolly Suite."

America's first cast iron bridge, still standing from the 1830s, crossed Dunlap's Creek outside of Brownsville, PA. Two hymn tunes commemorate the bridge. One is from "Southern Harmony," but the one played today is based on the tune by Samuel McFarland.

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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, September 14th, 2025

Creating Belonging with Rev. Kim Mason

How do we create belonging without othering? This Sunday we celebrate the start of a new year of growing and learning together through religious education and invite you into a community of radical welcome.

Watch this Service on YouTube!

<https://youtube.com/live/i3jUj8Q9JuU>

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

This Week at First UU STL

Sunday, September 14th, 2025

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Religious Education Family Gathering (Dodson Room)

11:30 am 12:30 pm - Environmental/Beyond Earth Day Discussion (Clark Room)

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Membership Committee (C1)

Tuesday, September 16th, 2025

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

Wednesday, September 17th, 2025

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Saturday, September 20th, 2025

9:30 am - 12:00 pm - Litter Pick-Up (off site)

Sunday, September 21st, 2025

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Galen Gritts Presentation (Chapel)

Upcoming Services

September Worship Theme

Building Belonging

September 21st, 2025 - Reflections on Belonging - Worship Committee

September 28th, 2025 - We Belong to Each Other or Individuality vs Individualism - Rev. Kim Mason

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Congratulations to **Noemi Balazs**, the minister of our Transylvanian partner church, and her husband **Zsombor**, on the occasion of the birth of their first child, **Zente**.

Concerns

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform)

Religious Education for Children

This Sunday 9/14 10am-11am

Children begin in the Service and then proceed to C1 for the beginning of RE.
Nursery is open for younger children.

Start getting excited! RE is coming back in September

RE is coming back on September 14th! The theme this year is "Building our UU Identity". Registration is now open and **RE teacher training will be Saturday Sept 13, from 1 to 3 pm**. If you would like to be an RE teacher and haven't yet signed up or if you have any questions about RE, please contact Rev. Sabrina (strupia@firstuustlouis.org).

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



Church News & Events

Message from Rev. Kim

“That’s how we’re gonna win. Not fighting what we hate, but saving what we love.” -*The Last Jedi*

I’ve been thinking about this quote a lot since I shared it with you all in May. So much of this summer has felt like loss, from the loss of gender affirming care for minors, to mass deportations, to the declaration of a famine in Gaza, the ending of DEI programs and multiple mass shootings. Our city is still struggling to recover from the May 16th tornado and cuts to FEMA means fewer resources to help. And a beloved congregant died just at the end of the summer. At moments it feels like too much, coming at us all at once on all fronts. How do we hold it all?

This is the question I found myself asking as I prepared the worship calendar for this year. How do we hold it all? We focus on love. Even in moments of worry and struggle, love surrounds us. As a congregation, we come together in times of grief and loss to remember. As a community, we show up for our neighbors by donating supplies and clearing debris and funding rebuilding efforts. As citizens,

we write letters and make calls and attend rallies to affirm our democracy. As people, we resist efforts to dehumanize immigrants and minorities. As UU's, we promote peace. Each of these is an act of love. Each time we show up or speak out, we are putting love out into the world. We are making love real in the world, for ourselves and others. We are saving what we love.

So each Sunday, my goal is that you find yourself reminded of what it is that you love, reminded of what is worth saving and inspired to do the work of loving this world into flourishing. Sometimes we may lament together. Sometimes we may rejoice together. Sometimes we may wrestle with hard questions together. But at the end of each morning, I want you to know you are surrounded by love. I want you to know that you love this world and be committed to saving it. Because that's how we'll win. By saving what we love.

See you Sunday,
Kim

TODAY - Beyond Earth Day Discussion

Join Rev. Kim Sunday September 14th at 11:30 AM in a follow up conversation to the conversation on August 3rd. Bring ideas of books/movies for an educational program and be prepared to consider the new UUA [Green Sanctuary program](#). Meet in the Clark Room.

Are you interested in the activities of the Partner Church Committee? You are invited to the committee's first meeting of the year, a potluck on Saturday September 13. Contact Kimberly Perry to attend.

Missouri, Native Land: Tales from the Other Side

Galen Gritts

September 21st - (11:30 am in the Chapel)

Mr. Gritts is a registered member of the Cherokee Nation. He was born and reared in St. Louis. He has a degree in history from UMSL.

Currently he is a board member of the Missouri Chapter of the National Trail of Tears Association.

For ten years now he has been a member of the Disparities Elimination Advisory Committee (DEAC), Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD), under the partnership of Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University School of Medicine, and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, representing the local Native American community

Recently he wrapped up a six-year stint as a speaker for the Missouri Humanities Council.

This talk is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee as we explore native land acknowledgements.

Transgender Inclusion in Congregations from the Transforming Hearts Collective

Every Other Tuesday, Starting September 23rd, 6:30 pm

In-person Discussion Facilitated by Rev. Kim Mason

Over six sessions you will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality, and faith community and gain the grounding, context, and skills to transform yourself and your congregation.

Learn more here: [All About the Course "Trans Inclusion in Congregations"](#)

Love at the Center Book Club explores the moral principles of our Unitarian Universalist Association Values statement: Interdependence, Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice. Books are selected that reflect UU values on a rotating basis and by member vote. Engaging books in a wide variety of genres is encouraged. Book titles are announced monthly and newcomers are always welcome. Meetings are held on Zoom generally on the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 pm. [Please sign-up online](#) or in Fellowship Hall. (Facilitated by Erin Milligan and Sherry Bassi)

Next Meetings and Selections:

7:00 pm on Sunday, October 5th, 2025 (Theo of Golden by Allen Levi).

No need to sign-up again if you have already done so.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Policy Board Meeting Summary

September 18, 2025

Lisa Ross and Cathy Rauch presented a proposal for First U to become a site for a Children's Defense Fund Freedom School summer session. The consensus was that hosting a Freedom School summer session aligns with our mission and vision. The Board members agreed to move forward with the proposal, asking the Church Council to explore how we can make this happen and sustain it without using Church funds.

The CDF Freedom Schools® program has its origins in the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964, which brought college students from around the country to Mississippi to secure justice and voting rights for Black citizens. These early Freedom Schools aimed to keep Black children and youth safe and provide them with rich educational experiences not offered in Mississippi's public schools.

Today's CDF Freedom Schools program is designed to foster a love of learning, improve reading and language skills, build community, empower "scholars" (as the students are called), strengthen families, connect children to needed medical and social services, and develop social action skills. All Freedom Schools are offered at no cost to the families they serve.

CDF Freedom Schools presently operates 6-week summer programs at four sites in the St. Louis area, mainly in the county. CDF Freedom Schools wants to expand in the St. Louis area, especially in the City.

Sidney Watson
Secretary

Litter Pick-Up

Please join us for a litter pick-up on Saturday, September 20 at 9:30 AM. For liability reasons, this activity is limited to adults only.

First U. is responsible for doing litter pick-ups along Forest Parkway between Big Bend and Skinker Boulevards four times a year. You may have noticed the roadway "adoption" signs with our name on them along that segment of Forest Parkway! This location is especially significant to us since the street is adjacent to the main campus of Washington University, which was founded by our Unitarian "ancestor," William G. Eliot.

We will gather in the parking lot north of Snarf's (360 N. Skinker Blvd.), where the sign specifies parking for Grace Methodist Church and Snarf's.

Those interested can enjoy lunch together after our work is complete. Snarf's has delicious sandwiches, soups, etc. available.

Please let Tom Crouch know by Friday, September 19, if you can help. Thank you!

Support LGBTQ+ Rights: UUs at Tower Grove Pride

September 27-28

Missouri continues to deny gender affirming care for trans youth as well as allowing employers to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. As attacks on LGBTQ+ rights amp up it is more important than ever that we as UUs show our faithful support of LGBTQ+ folks in our congregations and our community.

Volunteer at the Metro STL UU booth at Tower Grove Pride on Saturday & Sunday, September 27-28. Shifts are only 2.5 hours long, all supplies provided.

Sign Up Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AADAA29A7FAC52-58519072-tower>

Sandwich Making Returns

For many years First U had a social justice program called Sandwich Making. Sack lunches were prepared for the unhoused and other food insecure individuals which were then distributed by local agencies. For several reasons the program was suspended, but now it is back!

Look for the sandwich crew on Sept. 28th, Oct. 19th and Nov. 16th in Fellowship Hall (10:30 - 11:30 am). The Youth Group will get the project started but feel free to join in at any time. Our initial goal is 100 lunches per month. Thanks for your help and support -- **Sam Hunt**

Volunteer for Tabernacle CDC

Tabernacle CDC is still in need of volunteers to help prepare their client choice food pantry on Wednesdays, and to help distribute the food to clients on Thursdays. It is an easy and fun way to help out, and to meet the staff and community. You can sign-up here for 1 or more 2-hr. shifts here: <https://tabdev.org/volunteer/>

They are also in need of three volunteers to support their annual fundraiser, *Evening of Hope* on Oct. 6. Volunteers will assist with registration and hospitality from 4:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Following your shift, you are welcome to stay and enjoy the fun and inspiring event.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CAEAD23A1F4C52-58569939-evening>

Flowers for Sunday Services

If you like fresh sanctuary flowers for Sunday services, please consider signing up to provide them for one (or more) Sunday this year. Donating is easy – Dottie Kinscherf can take care of ordering and arranging for delivery. People often choose to donate in memory of loved ones or in honor of a special occasion or person. If you are interested in learning more or signing up for a specific Sunday, talk to Dottie after services or contact her at flowers@firstuustlouis.org.

Bike Across Missouri - BAM! - Katy Trail Bike Trip

Join members and friends of First U on an autumn bike ride across much of Missouri on the beautiful KATY Trail. The ride begins in Sedalia on October 2nd and ends in St. Charles on October 7th. Join for all or just a part. Stops are in Sedalia, Boonville, Jefferson City, Rhineland and Augusta. Interested in this fun trip? Contact Larry Dusenbery or Erin Milligan.

Social Justice Opportunities Facebook Page

The social justice committee has created a Facebook group page for sharing of information about social action opportunities in a timely fashion. The page is called First Unitarian St. Louis Social Action Opportunities

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/910632344477376/>

It is a closed group, so you have to request membership, but membership is open to all members and friends of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.

Margaret Weck for the Social Justice 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

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Member – Betty Neill
Member - Carl Bassi
Member - Mike Bray
Member - Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant
Member - Lisa Ross
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Erin Milligan, Outreach & Engagement
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