



From the Arctic Circle to the Caribbean

Rev. Kim Mason

June 8th, 2025

Order of Service

Ringling of the Bowl & Welcome

Jan Herzog

Prelude

Waltz in A minor by Robert Schumann

Carolyn Toft, piano

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Opening Hymn #148 Let Freedom Span Both East and West

Judy Meyer

*Let freedom span both east and west, and love both south and north,
in universal fellowship throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In beauty, wonder, everywhere, let us communion find;
compassion be the golden cord close-binding humankind.*

*Beyond all barriers of race, of color, caste, or creed,
let us make friendship, human worth, our common faith and deed.*

*Then east and west will meet and share, and south shall build with north,
one human commonwealth of good throughout the whole wide earth.*

Chalice Lighting

Jan Herzog

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

Time for All Ages

The Perfect Place by Matt de la Peña

Rev. Kim Mason

Children's Recessional #118 This Little Light

Judy Meyer

*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 #155 Circle Round for Freedom

Carolyn Toft & Judy Meyer

*Circle 'round for freedom, circle 'round for peace,
for all of us imprisoned, circle for release,
circle for the planet, circle for each soul,
for the children of our children, keep the circle whole.*

Reading

Everything Falls Away
By Parker Palmer

Jan Herzog

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

Shall We Gather at the River
By Robert Lowry; Aaron Copeland Arrangement

Judy Meyer, vocal
Carolyn Toft, piano

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Reading

Map of the Journey In Progress
By Victoria Safford

Jan Herzog

Sermon*From the Arctic Circle to the Caribbean*

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #324 Where My Free Spirit Onward Leads

Judy Meyer

*Where my free spirit onward leads, well, there shall be my way;
by my own light illumined I've journeyed night and day;
my age, a time-worn cloak I wear as once I wore my youth;
I celebrate life's mystery; I celebrate death's truth.*

*My family is not confined to mother, mate, and child;
but it includes all creatures be they tame or be they wild;
my family upon this earth includes all living things
on land, or in the ocean deep, or borne aloft on wings.*

*The ever spinning universe, well, there shall be my home;
I sing and spin within it as through this life I roam;
eternity is hard to ken and harder still is this:
a human life when truly seen is briefer than a kiss.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude*I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free* by Billy Taylor and Dick Dallas

Judy Meyer, vocals
Carolyn Toft, piano

*This morning's flowers are given by **Emily Jaycox** in memory of **Jerry Troxell**.*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Nadine Vlietstra
Greeters: Kathy Wire and Betty Neill
A/V Assistant: Sarah Dashner

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, June 8th, 2025

From the Arctic Circle to the Caribbean - Rev. Kim Mason

Join Rev. Kim as she reflects on lessons from her sabbatical.

Watch this Service on YouTube!

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

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842582434?pwd=dThVUXR1clhTMVBFBmRYa0l3OVlKZz09>)

This Week at First UU STL

Sunday, June 8th 2025

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

12:00 am - 2:30 pm - Church Picnic (Turkish Pavilion - Tower Grove Park)

Monday, June 9th, 2025

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Policy Board Meeting Group (online) (Please Note: All Board meetings are open to members to attend as observers. Contact administrator Lynn Hunt for the link)

Tuesday, June 10th, 2025

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

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Personnel

Thursday, June 12th, 2025

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

Saturday, June 14th, 2025

9:00 am - 10:00 am - Human Rights Social Witnessing (Kingshighway)

Sunday, June 15th 2025

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

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

Upcoming Services

June 2025 Theme - Freedom

June 15th - Thick and Thin - Rev. Mason

June 22nd - Summer Solstice - ERDE

June 29th - tbd

Are you resilient?

Do you want to be?

During the Sunday service August 17th, we will be celebrating resilience.

We are looking for members and friends to be a part of this service by sharing a reflection, story, poem, or music on the theme of resilience.

We can work with you on development and presentation of your offering if you wish.

Please contact Tom Finan, Annette Peterson, or Lynn Hunt if you are interested in participating.

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Laura and John Zacher recently celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary – Congrats!

Concerns

We are saddened to inform you that **Warren Lammert, Susan Lammert's** husband, passed away on the morning of Sunday, June 1st. Warren had been ill for several years with a heart condition.

Our deep sympathy to Susan and the rest of their family.

A memorial will be held in the fall.

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)

Member News

A big thank you to the Membership Committee for a terrific Fellowship Dinner last Saturday! Thank you, too, to many members of the congregation who provided entertainment and helped with clean-up. It was a lovely evening!

NEW MEMBER BIOS

Jen Whitaker joined First Unitarian Church of St. Louis on April 6, 2025. She has always been “a seeker” and considers herself more spiritual than religious. She has attended some Buddhist retreats, but concerning religion in general, she has often thought, “How does any religion know they’re right?” When she was growing up, her family did not attend church because they were of different religions; however, she went occasionally with friends, who were mostly Southern Baptist. She remembers that on one occasion she was wearing a nice pair of pants (whereas the friends were wearing dresses), and she was criticized for not wearing a dress. As a result, she remembers thinking—even back then—that she was pretty sure God didn’t care what she wore, as long as she was there.

Jen was born in Florida, but has lived in St. Louis most of her life. Her dad was a St. Louis City firefighter and her mom was a nurse. After high school, Jen worked in the health food industry for 13 years, was an EMT for a little while, and has now been a nurse for 18 years.

Jen’s interests include scuba diving, reading, spending time with friends and being in the outdoors. She played rugby for 15 years and is an alumni of the St. Louis Sabers Rugby Club.

Jen is Rev. Kim’s partner. Welcome, Jen!

Laura Schuster became a member of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis on April 6, 2025. She was introduced to the church by Dwight Homer when they started dating in 2016. With him, she visited church and choir gatherings and found people here to be very friendly. The minister at that time was Gary James. Laura appreciated the intellectual depth of his sermons, they reminded her of the Episcopalian minister at St. Albans where her family attended throughout their lives.

Laura grew up on the East Coast in Wilmington, Delaware. She has also lived in Connecticut, Utah, San Diego, Alabama and Seattle, WA. She is a true citizen of the world, having taught PE first in North

Sulawesi, Indonesia through a program called: The Sport Corps (similar to the Peace Corps). She loved the culture and people and returned to teach at an international school in the capital city of Jakarta (23 years) and then in Singapore (18 years). Sports that she has enjoyed personally include field hockey, dance, swimming, and parachute! Recently, she had a hot tub installed in the back yard so she could endure her first winter in 40 years (and what a doozie it was!) Laura also enjoys doing water exercises serenaded by Dwight's saxophone and his great grilling expertise year round!

Laura has also been involved in a type of experiential theater called "Playback Theater." She feels that she has learned to be a better listener because of the playback theater experience and would love to share it here with interested people; no skills needed; just presence and an open UU heart!

Last but not least, Laura has two amazing adult children born in Indonesia and now married and working (yea!) one a middle school counselor in Fort Collins, Colorado and one in Brooklyn NY teaching gender and identity awareness classes in public schools and performing Drag with all ages. She wants them to come visit First Unitarian Church, they would be inspired. Welcome, Laura!

Religious Education for Children

This Sunday 6/8 10am-11am

Children will have a craft activity and outdoor play after the story for all ages.

Nursery is open for younger children.

Church News & Events

We are excited to announce that Rev. Sabrina Trupia has been hired for the new Congregational Life position. Many of you know Rev. Sabrina as our Sabbatical Minister. In this role they will be taking responsibility for Religious Education (children, youth and adult), membership support and other programming. Rev. Sabrina will be starting in mid-July. Welcome Rev. Sabrina!

UU Picnic!

Tower Grove Park, Turkish Pavilion

Sunday, June 8th, 12 pm

Join us for a gathering of UUs! There will be a Potluck lunch with games for all ages. If your last name starts with A-F please bring a salad. G-L a main dish or casserole. M-Q a dessert. R-Z a side dish.

PLEASE LABEL INGREDIENTS FOR ALLERGENS, VEGETARIAN, VEGAN. Plan to take your dish when you leave - even if it's disposable. Help with clean-up will be greatly appreciated.

Cups, plates, silverware, ice and water provided.

From the Ground Up: Notes from the 5/31/25 Facilities Retreat.

On Sat. May 31st members of the Facilities Cluster and the Stewardship Cluster met for about three hours to physically and virtually tour our buildings and grounds. We surveyed the status of various ongoing projects, assessed the new tornado-related damage, began the process of prioritizing needed repairs, and began thinking about strategies for paying for ongoing building maintenance and future improvements.

The good news is that damage to our campus from the May 16th Tornado was limited to the downed trees, 5 broken windows, several small holes in the flat roof of the RE wing, damage to the fence on

Kingshighway, and damaged slate roof tiles at the peak of the sanctuary roof. We were spared the worst of the storm, for which we can be grateful.

These storm-related projects now join the previous list of existing projects. The work on repair is being prioritized and scheduled with an eye toward putting the safety and health of people first. Tree debris removal is a first priority. [NOTE: as of 6/4/25 the large trees on Waterman Blvd. and the debris covering parking places on the S. side of the parking lot have been removed.] Next are more permanent patches for the Sanctuary roof, repair of the RE wing roof, and replacement of the glass panes in damaged windows.

Moving forward, the Church Council will be asked to provide guidance in prioritizing ongoing work within our current budget. The Policy Board and Stewardship Cluster will work on the development of a sustainable building fund and fundraising for large dollar projects.

Exciting volunteer opportunities with Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom School this Summer!

This is a volunteer opportunity that fits perfectly with our congregation's lifelong history of supporting education and youth, as well as our mission and vision of becoming more involved with our community.

Beyond Housing coordinates 4 CDF Freedom Schools in St. Louis, for grades K-5. CDF Freedom Schools are an amazing summer experience for young scholars, focusing on literacy. The emphasis is on developing a love of reading while interweaving literacy with creating community, empowerment and social action. Children, parents, and staff are introduced to a superb collection of books that reinforce the CDF Freedom Schools' theme "I Can Make a Difference". This collection is part of an Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) in which books, activities, field trips, and games all relate to and reinforce each other. The literacy program and books, meals, afternoon activities, field trips and celebrations are all at no cost to students (called "scholars"). Literacy testing is done at the beginning and end of the program, and scholars frequently improve by as much as several reading levels. Here is a link to more information and a short video: <https://deaconess.org/cdf-freedom-schools/>.

First Unitarian's Social Justice team is excited about the possibility of hosting a Freedom School ourselves next summer, and we need your help this summer to volunteer at one of the current sites! The site locations in need of volunteers are The Deaconess Foundation, The Legacy Foundation and Christ the King UCC. This year's session will be June 16-July 25.

There are many volunteer opportunities with a variety of time commitments – helping to serve breakfast or lunch, sitting and conversing with the kids during meals, reading aloud, assisting with or leading afternoon activities, and chaperoning field trips. Here is a link to volunteer for those at various sites (you have to scroll down a little): <https://beyondhousing.org/volunteer-opportunities/>.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about the opportunity to support children in this amazing literacy and empowerment program!

The Social Justice Committee is launching a task force to work on immigrants' rights.

In this time of stepped-up attacks on immigrants, particularly immigrants of color, our call to stand with people who are under attack is more important than ever. As these people have been singled out as scapegoats for the ills of America, the moral and ethical foundation of our own religious beliefs tell us we must help, shelter, and defend humans, from both the governmental and nongovernmental attacks they are experiencing.

The task force will work on education, social relief programs, collaborating with other existing organizations that are already doing this work, and where appropriate taking direct action. If you are interested in working on any of these projects, sign-up below or Fellowship Hall. Also, you can speak with Kevin Kellogg at the back of the church after service.

Women's Alliance Scholarship

The Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Announces its Scholarship Competition for the academic year 2025-2026

Materials due by July 31st, 2025

Initiated by a generous bequest from the estate of Edna Landzettel, a lifelong teacher and proponent of the importance of education in a woman's life, the scholarship will be given to a woman who is 21 years or older, responsible financially for continuing her education, a member or active friend of a Unitarian Universalist church or fellowship in the region and a registered student.

The award of \$5,000 will be made on the basis of scholarship, character and need.

[To apply you can download a full packet of information \(including printable application and reference form\).](#)

Or [Apply Online](#) and submit the [Online Reference Form](#).

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.



Pastoral Appointments

To set-up an appointment with Rev. Kim, please use this link: <https://calendly.com/kmason-7>

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:

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Staff

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister

Michele Grove, Interim Remote Director of Religious Education (mgrove@firstuustlouis.org)

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)

Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. (aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org)

Allen Hoffman, Organist

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician (mhurst@firstuustlouis.org)

Policy Board

Board President – Kathy Wilke

Vice President – Chris Kocher

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Treasurer - Margaret Weck

Member – Chris Kocher

Member – Betty Neill

Member - Carl Bassi

Member - Mike Bray

Member - Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant

Member - Lisa Ross

Church Council

Cathy Rauch, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Fran Hoffman, Outreach & Social Responsibility

Erin Milligan, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster