



**Thick and Thin**  
**Rev. Kim Mason**  
**June 15th, 2025**  
**Order of Service**

**Ringling of the Bowl & Welcome**

Steve Wilke

**Prelude**

*Aria* by Felix Mendelssohn

Allen Hoffman

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Opening Hymn #148 Let Freedom Span Both East and West**

Allen Hoffman

*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**

Steve Wilke

**Sung Response**

Allen Hoffman

*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 Farmer's Legacy*, a folk tale

Rev. Kim Mason

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

Allen Hoffman

*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**

Allen Hoffman

*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***Duty* by Natasha Trethewey

Steve Wilke

**Call for the Offering**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Offertory***Cats in the Cradle* by Harry ChapinTom Finan, solo  
Allen Hoffman, piano**Gratitude**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Reading**from *Thick Stories, Thin Stories* by Matt Alspaugh

Steve Wilke

**Sermon***Thick and Thin*

Rev. Kim Mason

**Hymn #357 Bright Morning Stars**

Allen Hoffman

*Bright morning stars are rising.  
Bright morning stars are rising.  
Bright morning stars are rising.  
Day is a-breaking in my soul.*

*Oh, where are our dear mothers...*

*They are sowing seeds of gladness...*

*Oh, where are our dear fathers...*

*They are in the fields a-plowing...*

**Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Postlude***Gigue* by Douglas Wagner

Allen Hoffman

**Serving Us This Morning**  
**Ushers: Lisa Ross and Chuck Eby**  
**Greeters: Kathy and Dan Wilke**  
**A/V Assistant: Margaret Weck**

**Music Notes**

**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 15th, 2025**

**Thick and Thin - Rev. Kim Mason**

What happens when we're stuck in a storyline handed to us by someone else? This morning we explore the stories we're given by our fathers and the ways we can free ourselves to tell our own stories.

**June 15th Designated Collection: Elmer Hammond Child Development Center** is a Near North Side St. Louis neighborhood child care and development center serving 2-12 year olds, with before- and after- school care for K-6th graders, including tutoring those who need it to reach grade level proficiency. This program serves as a resource to assist low and moderate income families in the mental, physical, and educational growth and development of their children with emphasis on the total child. This frees our parents to attain, retain, or train for employment. Nominated by **Laura Zacher**. To make your donation, put cash or check (with Designated Collection in the memo line) in the collection or scan the QR code (located at the end of the announcements) to make an online donation. Thank you for your generosity.

**Watch this Service on YouTube!**

<https://youtube.com/live/zDWNQyNIAJ0>

**Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!**

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

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## **This Week at First UU STL**

**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)

**Monday, June 16th, 2025**

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Church Council Meeting (online)

**Tuesday, June 17th, 2025**

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

**Sunday, June 22nd, 2025**

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

11:30 am - 11:00 pm - Maker's Ministry (C7)

## **Upcoming Services**

**June 2025 Theme - Freedom**

June 22nd - Summer Solstice - ERDE

June 29th - Dangerous Ideas: Banned in America with Pamela Geppert, Worship Committee

## 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.

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## Joys and Concerns

### Joys

### Concerns

Healing thoughts and prayers to **Karen Siegrist**. She has had a relapse in her cancer treatment and is being evaluated for new treatment options.

It is with sadness that we inform you that long time member **Quintus 'Bud' Drennan** passed away on June 2nd, 2025. Bud was honored in 2024 for being a 60 year member of the church! He was married to Carol Princell (1952 - 2014) who was a lifelong Unitarian. The family held a private service.

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](mailto:careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org)

Submit Joy or Concern Online

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17IBeY9tZgdzU\\_bjKT\\_Vw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjKT_Vw/viewform))

## 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 6/15 10am-11am**

Religious Education Summer Break - Children are invited to stay with their families during the morning service.

Nursery is open for younger children.

## **Church News & Events**

### **Are you new to First U STL? Want to learn more?**

Plan to attend the Newcomer Chat this Sunday after the service in the Dodson Room at 11:30am -- Hope to see You!

### **Partner Church News**

Congratulations to Rev. Noemi Tamási, the minister of our partner church in Csókfalva who is being ordained June 15. Church member Robert Kokenyesi will be attending and bearing a letter of congratulations from Rev. Kim Mason and a lovely stole created by church member Cathy Rauch.

**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!

## **Designated Collections Nominations Now Being Accepted**

Our Designated Collection program arises out of our UU principles; particularly our reverence and respect for human nature and commitment to justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Through the program, First Church Members and Pledging Friends may nominate area nonprofits, or First Church programs and projects, to receive the proceeds of Sunday plate collections. Approximately two plate collections monthly are dedicated to the program along with our Christmas Eve collection. Selections are based on nominees' consistency with First Church's mission and values as well as core focus, programmatic impact and connection to our First Church community.

[Nomination forms are easily completed on-line by clicking on this link here.](#)

Forms may also be downloaded and must **be completed and be received by Monday, July 14th to be considered.**

Nonprofits selected for the program will be highlighted in our Fall E-News and in Sunday service announcements throughout the year.

Questions may be directed to Administrator, Lynn Hunt.

## **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.

## **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

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### 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

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\*\* Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitarianSTL>)

\*\* [https://www.instagram.com/first\\_unitarian\\_stl/](https://www.instagram.com/first_unitarian_stl/) ([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

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

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs ([lhunt@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org))

Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. ([aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org))

Allen Hoffman, Organist

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician ([mhurst@firstuustlouis.org](mailto: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