



## **A New Hope: Flower Communion**

**Rev. Kim Mason**

**May 4th, 2025**

**Order of Service**

**Ringling of the Bowl & Welcome**

Nita Penfold

**Prelude**

*Elevation number 31* by Dom Paul Benoit

Allen Hoffman, organ

**Ritual of Return**

Sabbatical Committee

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Opening Hymn #298 Wake Now My Senses (new lyrics by Ellie Kilpatrick)**

Allen Hoffman

*Wake now my senses the force, do I feel.  
Use it for goodness to hope and to heal.  
Honor the breadth of emotions we hold.  
Even when frightened, our love makes us bold.*

*Wake now my friendship, to that I do owe  
The warmth to endure all the trials and woe  
Being together reminds us that we  
Journey empowered through the galaxy.*

*Wake my solidarity, join with new friends.  
Seek out allyship and seek out amends.  
Speak against all oppression, for justice we long.  
When we join forces, our bond makes us strong.*

*Wake now rebellion, give heed to the cries  
Fighting the empire, the people, we rise.  
Lean into our conviction, the streets we will roam  
Until democracy is everyone's home.*

*Wake imagination, the stories we weave  
Teach us the power of hope while we grieve  
Hold Star Wars as a lesson, a call to inquire  
Never defeated, our souls we inspire.*

**Chalice Lighting**

Nita Penfold

**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

**Joys & Concerns**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Sung Response #123 Spirit of Life**

Allen Hoffman

*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.*

**Readings**

*Nemik's Manifesto from Andor*  
*It is Worthwhile to Live and Fight* by Norbert Capek

Nita Penfold

**Call for the Offering**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Offertory**

*A Horse with Wings* by Ricky Ian Gordon

Judy Meyer, vocals  
Carolyn Toft, piano

**Reading**

from *Engagement* by Terry Tempest Williams

Nita Penfold

**Sermon**

A New Hope

Rev. Kim Mason

**Children's Procession #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.*

**Story for All Ages**

*Flower Ceremony: A Plain and Simple Beauty*  
by Janeen K Grohsmeyer

Rev. Kim Mason

**Blessing the Flowers**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Hymn #78 Color and Fragrance**

*Color and fragrance, magical rhythm,  
sweet changing music will change us with them:  
life within life, inner light gently glowing,  
surely you seem to be God's vision growing.*

*O starry heavens, worlds of all splendor,  
suns without number, new life engender:  
wheel in a wheel with the light brightly glowing,  
moving in harmony, God's vision growing.*

*Hand full of pebbles, high mountain passes,  
depths of the ocean, dew on the grasses:  
great things and small, with the light gently glowing,  
word of the wordless song, God's vision growing.*

*Delicate beings, lacewing and sparrow  
in field and forest, clover and yarrow:  
life greeting life with the light brightly glowing,  
none are too small to be God's vision growing.*

*In human eyes burns the soul of living,  
illuminates altars of loving giving:  
greeting, we meet, seeing light brightly glowing,  
share in a greater life, God's vision growing.*

*Shaper of all things, to us you've given  
our chance to keep here on earth, a heaven.  
Moving in harmony, light gently glowing,  
may we be, gratefully, God's vision growing.*

### **Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

### **Postlude**

*Andante Maestoso* by Arcangelo Corelli

Allen Hoffman, organ

*This Sunday's flowers are provided by the **Policy Board** to celebrate **Reverend Kim Mason's** return from her sabbatical.*

### **Serving Us This Morning**

**Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Nadine Vlietstra**

**Greeters: Sidney Watson and Sherry Bassi**

**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, May 4th, 2025**

### **A New Hope: Flower Communion - Rev. Kim Mason**

Can you imagine a world where we value the differences in each individual? Unitarian minister Norbert Capek did. So did the Rebel Alliance. On this May 4th we learn lessons from Star Wars and Capek while celebrating our annual Flower Communion.

**Watch this Service on YouTube!**

<https://youtube.com/live/FPxzOWf3d7s>

**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, May 4th, 2025**

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

10:30 am - 1:00 pm - Trinity Hot Lunch Prep (Kitchen)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Beltane (Chapel)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Budget Info Session (Clark Room)

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

**Monday, May 5th, 2025**

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

**Tuesday, May 6th, 2025**

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

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Budget Info Session (online)

**Wednesday, May 7th, 2025**

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

**Thursday, May 8th, 2025**

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

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Worship Committee (C1 & online)

**Saturday, May 10th, 2025**

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

**Sunday, May 11th, 2025**

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

## **Upcoming Services**

### **May 2025 Theme - Imagination**

May 11th, 2025 - Music Sunday - Rev. Kim Mason

May 18th, 2025 - Religious Education Sunday - Rev. Kim Mason

May 25th, 2025 - tbd

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## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Joys**

### **Concerns**

Healing thoughts and prayers to **Kaidynn Evans** who has several health issues.

Our sympathy to **Derrick Green** whose mother recently passed away.

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrfkA6h7HR77ZJfDl4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU\\_bjkTVw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrfkA6h7HR77ZJfDl4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform))

## **Religious Education for Children**

**This Sunday 5/4 10am-11am**

**Children go to class first and then to the Sanctuary at the end of the service for the Flower Communion.**

Nursery is open for younger children.

## **Church News & Events**

### **Beltane Celebration hosted by ERDE**

**TODAY! 11:30 am to 12:30 pm**

All are welcome to this family friendly event.

Beltane, also called May Day, is a pagan holiday that marks the halfway point between the spring equinox and the coming summer solstice. It represents the peak of spring and is associated with fertility, bonfires, and, of course, the Maypole dance. We will be dancing around our own Maypole! Join us in the Hope Chapel for this lively celebration! Everyone is welcome.

**\*\*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!\*\***

### **Budget Info Session**

**Today - May 4th 11:30 am in the Clark Room**

Meet with Finance Chair, Kathy Wire, to learn about the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025/2026

### **Notice of Annual Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis will take place on Sunday May 18, 2025 at 5007 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 11:30 am.

The Annual Meeting shall be conducted in person and using the electronic meeting platform Zoom which will be hosted within the boundaries of the City of St. Louis.

[Read the full notice here.](#)

**Save the Date!**  
**Fellowship Dinner - May 31st (5:30 - 8:30 pm)**

**Travel opportunities to Transylvania are available this summer!** Trips for hiking or for visiting historical sites are being offered. See the Flyers posted in Fellowship Hall or contact Kimberly Perry. Robert Kokenyesi will be traveling to Csókfalva our partner church in Transylvania this summer to attend our partner church minister's installation as accredited minister. YOU too could go to Transylvania!!

**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 – Chuck Eby

Vice President – Larry Dusenbery

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Treasurer - Kathy Wilke

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Chris Kocher

Member – Betty Neill

## **Church Council**

Sherry Bassi, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Outreach & Social Responsibility  
Erin Milligan, Outreach & Engagement  
Grace Munie, Programming Cluster