



**Dangerous Ideas: Banned in America**  
**Pamela Geppert and Roz Cook, Worship Committee**  
**June 29th, 2025**  
**Order of Service**

**Ringling of the Bowl & Welcome**

Roz Cook

**Prelude**

*The Times They Are a 'Changin'* by Bob Dylan

The mUUses

Jama Dodson, Pamela Geppert, Paula Hanssen, Sidney Watson

**Call to Worship**

Roz Cook

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

Allen Hoffman, piano

*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**

Roz Cook

**Sung Response -Be the Light**

*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

**Time for All Ages**

*Arrow to the Sun* by Gerald McDermott

Pamela Geppert

**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.*

**Part 1**

The Challenge

Pamela Geppert

**Joys & Concerns**

Roz Cook

**Prayer**

Roz Cook

**Sung Response #155 Circle Round for Freedom**

Allen Hoffman, piano

*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.*

**Call for the Offering**

Roz Cook

Use the Online Giving QR Code on your pew QR codes card to make an online offering

**Offertory***Simple Gifts* Traditional Shaker

The mUUses

**Gratitude**

Roz Cook

**Reading Reflection***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

Chris Tighe

**Reading Reflection***1984* by George Orwell

Joe Katrosh

**Part 2**

Dangerous Ideas

Pamela Geppert

**Closing Hymn #297 The Star of Truth**

Allen Hoffman, piano

*The star of truth but dimly shines behind the veiling clouds of night,  
 but ev'ry searching eye divines some partial glimmer of its light.*

*The certainty for which we crave no mortal ones can ever know;  
 uncharted waters we must brave, and face whatever winds may blow.*

*Though for safe harbor we may long, we must not let our courage fail,  
 and, though the winds of doubt blow strong, upon the trackless ocean sail.*

*From honest doubt we shall not flee, nor fetter the inquiring mind,  
 for where the hearts of all are free, a truer faith we there shall find.*

**Part 3/Closing Words**

“In the Waiting” by Nita Penfold  
 from *They Stand Up In Broken Shells*

Pamela Geppert

**Postlude***Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around* Traditional

The mUUses

**Serving Us This Morning**  
**Ushers: Patrick McCormick**  
**Greeters: Lisa Ross and Cathy Rauch**  
**A/V Assistant: 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, June 29th, 2025**

**Dangerous Ideas: Banned in America - Pamela Geppert and Roz Cook**

Across the country, book challenges and bans have soared to the highest levels in decades. Is it books being banned or ideas?

**Watch this Service on YouTube!**

<https://youtube.com/live/qs0dmH0FJ8g>

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842582434?pwd=dThVUXR1clhTMVBFBmRYa0l3OVIKZz09>

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

**Sunday, June 29th, 2025**

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

**Tuesday, July 1st, 2025**

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

**Thursday, July 3rd, 2025**

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Herzog Covenant Group

**Friday, July 4th, 2025 - Holiday**

**Sunday, July 6th, 2025**

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

## **Upcoming Services**

**July 6th, 2025** - Interdependence Day with Rev. Kim Mason

**July 13th, 2025** - Musings on the Divine Mystery with Scott Sinclair

**July 20th, 2025** - Is THAT really in the Bible 2! Breaking to Electric Boogaloo with Steve Wilke and Kathy Wilke

**July 27th, 2025** - A Celebration of Global Friendship with Annette Peterson

## **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**

Congratulations to **Sarah Dashner and Steve Miller** who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on June 15th!

### **Concerns**

Wishing **Dwight Homer** a speedy recovery after a recent ankle surgery.

Sending positive thoughts to **Kimberly Perry** and her sister who recently had surgery.

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU\\_bjkTVw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform))

## **Religious Education for Children**

### **This Sunday 6/29 10am-11am**

Religious Education Summer Fun – Activities for Children after the Story for All Ages.

Nursery is open for younger children.

## **Church News & Events**

### **UUA Disaster Relief Funds**

In the aftermath of the May 16th tornado, Saint Louis and First Unitarian are still cleaning up, repairing and rebuilding. It is a slow process as so many homes and businesses were impacted. However, we are pleased to announce that the UUA accepted a Disaster Relief grant request from the congregation for \$50,000.

The UUA Disaster Relief Fund "is part of a covenant—a covenant between the UUA and congregations, between congregations who give generously and those in need, and with our community partners." The funds from the UUA will go towards four areas:

- repair and clean up efforts to our building at 5007 Waterman
- grants of up to \$1000 to members and friends of the congregation to help with insurance deductibles/repairs
- grants of up to \$1000 to residents of North St. Louis to help with insurance deductibles/repairs
- a \$10,000 grant to Centennial Christian Church for clean up and rebuilding efforts

The funds will be dispersed to us shortly and we will announce how to apply for/receive grant funds. Any unused funds will be disbursed to North City residents for repair and rebuilding costs.

This grant from the UUA is a reflection of our interconnection at work. Being part of a denomination meant that we had a partner to lean on when disaster happened. Stay tuned for how you can send your thanks and appreciation to UUA for this generous gift.

## **Beyond Earth Day: Climate Revival 2**

**Sunday, August 3rd, 2025**

**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

### **First Unitarian STL**

Join congregations from across the St. Louis region as we learn and lament, regroup and recommit ourselves to the work of environmental justice in the Saint Louis region and beyond. Connect with area non-profits working in environmentalism, conservation, education, advocacy, art and more. Hear from leaders and volunteers in environmental justice about what sustains them and keeps them in the work.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/FdqyJbgmGuU9B3zU7>

### **Upcoming First Church Volunteer Activity-Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>- Trinity Hot Lunch**

Our Central West End neighbor, Trinity Episcopal Church, operates an ongoing food ministry that includes a food pantry and a Sunday Hot Lunch program. Both have operated for more than 30 years with assistance from area churches and the community. You may have noticed our collection baskets for Trinity food donations in Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, First Church members and friends can support the Hot Lunch program by preparing a meal for approximately 100 in our Fellowship Hall kitchen and transporting and serving it at Trinity. This is a great multi-generational volunteer activity that benefits our neighbors in need. Food prep begins at about 10 am and concludes at Trinity at 3 pm with clean up. Volunteer shifts are available throughout the morning and afternoon, permitting helpers to participate in preferred ways and shifts. You can also support our effort by donating home-baked cookies.

Volunteers may sign up by accessing our [online volunteer form](#) or in Fellowship Hall. Let us know who we can expect to see on the 27<sup>th</sup> as well as when and how you will help. Please keep us posted regarding any changes in your availability.

For questions, email Administrator Lynn Hunt ([lhunt@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org))

A schedule of volunteers and assignments will be emailed as confirmation the week prior to the event.

Hope to see you!

The Social Justice Committee,

Annette Peterson, Chair

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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.



## **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 **Pastoral Appointments**

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

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