



First Unity Church of St. Louis

2022 Volume IV

Issue 3



Minister's Corner

IN COMMUNITY

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about community. The word *community* seems to be misused today; it's used to describe geographic groups like the South County Community; interest-based groups like the quilting community; and social media groups like the Facebook and the Twitter communities. Surely people "in the community" should share some actual connection! American psychologist and author Dr. Scott Peck writes, "If we are going to use the word *community* meaningfully, we have to restrict it to a group of individuals who have learned to communicate honestly, whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure, and who have developed a significant commitment to one another." I like this definition because I think it applies to a spiritual community. More than a club, more than a clique, more than a special interest group, certainly more than a virtual community where people never face or talk with one another, a healthy spiritual community is about people committed to one another and to a shared vision. This idea was reinforced as our Board of Trustees prepared to share last year's accomplishments at our 2022 Annual Meeting. Vice-president, Rick Emmett, prepared a slide show shown near the end of the meeting and is available by clicking the button below.

Sunday Service, Annual Meeting and Slide Show

Thinking about all that was accomplished even though we were closed for over one-half of the year 2021, I have a new definition of our spiritual community:

Centered on a shared vision
On purpose; with purpose
Many voices; many hands
Making a difference together
United in love & joy
New connections & commitments
Inclusive & interconnected
Transforming lives together
Yielding to Spiritual guidance

I am reminded of Margaret Mead 's words, *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."* Thanks to all who gave of your time, talents, & treasures to make last year so successful. Now we look forward to future successes.

Love & prayer,
Jan

Minister, Jan Mourning

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First Unity Church of St. Louis Newsletter

May/June 2022

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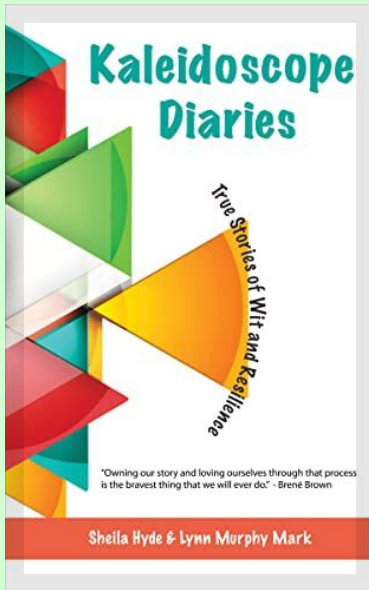
Photographs

FIRST UNITY BOOKSTORE

"Book of the Month."



Featured Book for May:



"Kaleidoscope Diaries"

by Sheila Hyde and Lynn Mark

True Stories of Wit and Resilience: As we all experience changes, some welcome, some do not. The kaleidoscope metaphor is powerful as it illustrates the complex and beautiful connections and patterns that shape our life journeys. We can be sure that transformation will happen, sometimes through a simple twist of circumstance.

Our book offers both humorous and serious true stories, a total of 63 stories. We hope our funny tales cause you to laugh out loud. Believe it or not, laughter strengthens resilience. And our purpose in sharing the poignant memories is to reach you in ways that inspire you and support you as you navigate the challenges of everyday life.

BOOKS ARE DONATED BY LYNN MARK, AND 100% OF THE BOOK SALES GO TO FIRST UNITY CHURCH. Thank you, Lynn.

To read Lynn's latest article in Unity Magazine Online, click on the link below.

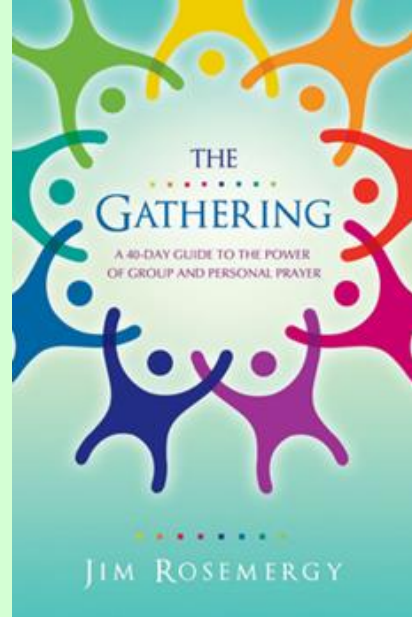
[Wisdom Bearers](#)

The Featured Book for June:

"The Gathering"

By Jim Rosemergy

The Gathering will lead you to the avenues through which God's power and presence can be expressed. You'll see that prayer isn't something you do, rather, it's an experience of God's presence. Having seen thousands truly connect with God and transform their lives through prayer, author Jim Rosemergy believes The Gathering is divinely inspired.



First Unity Church Presents Its Outstanding Music Calendar for May 2022

First Unity's Music Director, Dr. Steve Schenkel, has arranged for a variety of renowned guest musicians, singers, and groups to be with us for Sunday Services during the months of May and June. All are truly welcome here, and we hope you will join us in the sanctuary or online as we seek together to know God, unfold spiritually, and understand, love, and align with the Spirit's Laws of Being.

May 1, Brian Clarke, vocals and guitar.

Brian Clarke is perhaps the most beloved New Thought musician in St. Louis. He is most recently the recipient of the St. Louis Magazine "A-List" Award as Best Vocalist and Best Musician. Brian has played The Opera House / Train Wreck and Dorsett Inn and toured the U.S. many times as a bassist and vocalist with many well-known artists. As a solo performer, Brian has opened shows for The Little River Band, Poco, Leon Russell, David Crosby, and many others.

May 8, Carol Schmidt, piano.

Pianist and recording artist Carol Schmidt is a faculty member of Webster University. She is very active as a performer and music director in the St. Louis cabaret scene.

May 15, Mary Weber, trumpet with **Dr. Ruth Price**, piano.

Mary Weber, trumpet virtuoso, is regularly heard with the St. Louis Symphony, St. Louis Philharmonic, American Kantori, and the Bach Society. Mary is actively engaged in recordings, competitions, recitals, and lectures while managing the Clarion Brass, a professional brass quintet. Ms. Weber is the trumpet instructor for Washington University.

Webster University faculty member Dr. Ruth Price has performed across the nation. Her playing has been described by the Boston Globe as "...never less than first-class and a balm to the ears." An accomplished performer, teacher, and clinician, Dr. Price maintains an active private studio, and she is an avid researcher and writer on the subject of piano music, specializing in performers' analysis.

May 22, Mitzi MacDonald, vocals and keyboard.

Mitzi MacDonald performs at numerous churches, peace events, pubs, coffee houses, outdoor concerts, and special events. She has opened for authors Alan Cohen, and Neal Donald Walsh at Westport Playhouse, and has performed at the Sheldon Concert Hall with CD release concerts.

May 29, Special Music Sunday, The St. Louis String Quartet.

Adrian Walker, violin, is the concertmaster of the Fox Theater Orchestra and a former member of the St. Louis Symphony.

Wendy Lea, violin, has performed for over three decades before audiences across the US, excelling in the multiple roles as a conductor, clinician, teacher, and chamber musician.

Anna Lackschewitz, soloist, received her Bachelors of Music and Masters of Music from the Juilliard School. Since coming to St. Louis Ms. Lackschewitz has been a soloist with the University City Symphony and has played principal viola of the Fox Theater Orchestra and the Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis, among others.

Alvin McCall, cello, has been a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra since 1994. As a soloist, he has appeared with the University City Symphony, Virginia Philharmonic, Moscow Academic Symphony Orchestra, and Opera Theatre of St. Louis.



First Unity Church Presents Its Outstanding Music Calendar for June 2022

June 5, Robert Nelson, vocals with **Eric Slaughter**, guitar.

Robert Nelson is one of St. Louis' busiest and most popular jazz singers. He is an extraordinary artist whose golden voice is a unique blend of standard jazz tones similar to Joe Williams and Johnny Hartman. Mr. Nelson writes, records, and performs music, and works as a consultant for the Heal the Arts Jazz Initiative.

Eric Slaughter is one of the nation's finest jazz guitarists. He has worked with everyone from David Sanborn, Houston Person, and Donald Harrison to St. Louis legends Oliver Sain and Willie Akins.

June 12, Alan Ferber, trombone and **Jody Redhage Ferber**, cello.

Three-time GRAMMY-nominated trombonist-composer-arranger Alan Ferber has

been called “one of the jazz world’s premier composers and arrangers for larger groups” by All About Jazz NY. Jazz Times magazine describes Ferber’s compositions as “*inspired and meticulous*” and the L.A. Weekly deems him “one of the premier modern jazz arrangers of our time.”

Jody Redhage Ferber has premiered over 100 works, including almost 30 that she has commissioned for her voice, cello, and electronics from some of today's most talented composers. As a multi-style cellist, Redhage Ferber is a busy recording session player and a mainstay performer in several groundbreaking scenes, contributing to the ever-increasing 21st-century blur of musical boundary lines.

June 19, Deborah Sharn, vocals and **Steve Schenkel**, guitar.

Deborah Sharn has been singing in St. Louis for many years and is a guest vocalist at various places of worship each Sunday. She is also an actress who has worked with the Black Rep, New Line Theatre, The New Jewish Theatre, and the Mustard Seed Theatre. Winner of two JUDY Awards, Deborah has performed her cabaret show, "An Evening With Deborah Sharn" several times at the Kranzberg Art Center to sold-out audiences.

Steve Schenkel is the guitarist and orchestra manager for the Fox Theater, guitarist for the Muny Opera and the St. Louis Symphony, and a freelance jazz musician. He recently retired after 37 years at Webster University, where he founded the Jazz Studies program, the Webster Jazz Concert Series, and the Jazz Studies/Music Technology program. He serves as Music Director of First Unity Church of St. Louis.

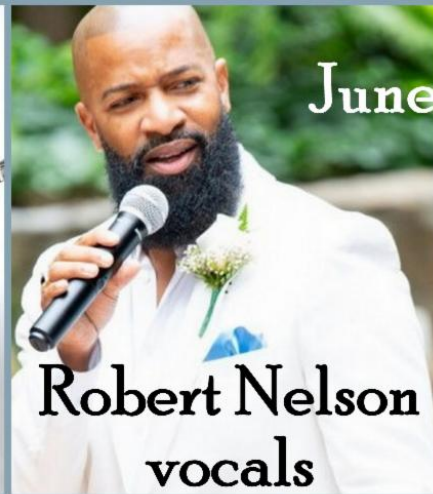
June 26, Peter Merideth, vocals and **Steve Neale**, piano and vocals.

Peter Merideth has been singing at his church every weekend since he was child. “Music has a powerful way of bringing people comfort. It takes the chaos of sound and creates some degree of order and beauty. Music feeds my soul. Very simply, it keeps me connected to something deep that’s beyond words, and is the most spiritual thing I do in life.”

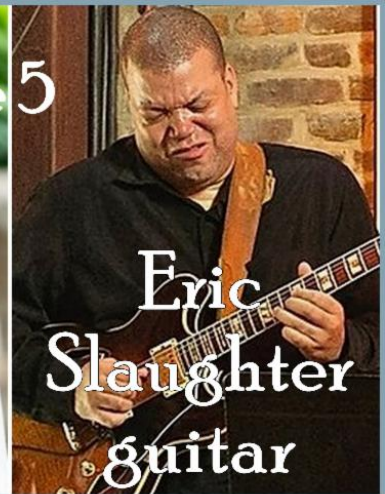
Steve Neale composes music for media, has worked on films and video games, directs theatre and live events, sound design, conducts choirs, is a sought-after session pianist, accompanist, and vocalist, and works as a producer and video editor. He has performed on some of the biggest and smallest stages in the country and toured with the a cappella octet Pieces of 8.



June 19
Deborah Sharn
vocals
Steve Schenkel
guitar



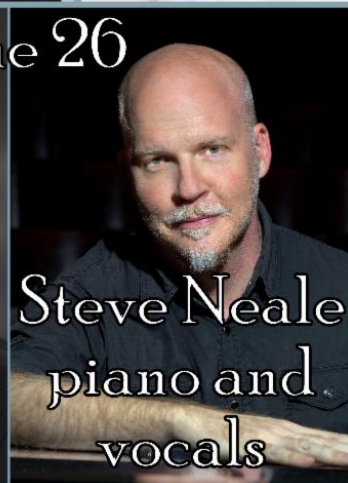
June 5
Robert Nelson
vocals



June 5
Eric Slaughter
guitar



June 26
Peter Merideth
vocals



Steve Neale
piano and
vocals



June 12
Alan Ferber, trombone
Jody Redhage Ferber,
cello

We welcome the following new members of the Board of Trustees:

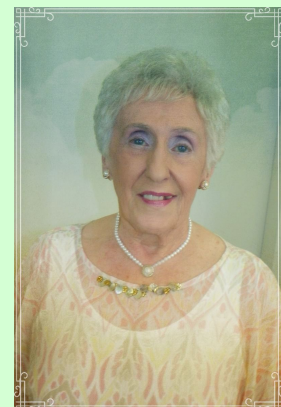


Lynn Mark has been a member of Unity since 2010, when she attended and then joined Unity of Naples, Florida. She has previously served on two church boards, including Unity of Naples.

These days she is a Prayer Chaplain and loves this way of serving the church. As the author of two books, she is a retired nurse and very much enjoys retirement writing. She volunteers as an immigration specialist two days a week. She is a mom of two adult children and is graced with two adorable grandsons. Serving on the Board at First Unity would be an honor!

Betty Jean Kofran is willing to serve a second three-year term on our Board of Trustees because she believes that New Thought voices are needed now more than ever. She brings to the Board new ideas about opportunities for our continued growth and expansion of our outreach program in the community. Along with her co-chair, Mary Grace, Betty Jean is responsible for redesigning our Bookstore.

Betty Jean grew up in Unity and as a young adult taught in the Wee Wisdom Sunday School. She has been active in New Thought most of her life.



Mary Tumminello came to Unity New Thought in January 1997, looking for someplace to express her gratitude for everything she



had and still has throughout her life. This is Mary's second three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

She has attended many classes learning the New Thought ideas. In 2012 was guided to the Prayer Chaplain program, which she says has given her much more than she thinks she has given. Mary now serves as our Prayer Chaplain trainer. In her words, "First Unity Church has given me so much through the teachings and the people; it is now time to step forward and serve again." Mary is Co-Chair of the Welcoming Ministry and is responsible for Ladies Night Out.

Thank you to our new Board of Trustee members for saying "yes" to this important sacred service for First Unity.

New Class on Sunday Mornings!

Join us on Sunday mornings in the adult classroom from 9:00 - 10:00 am starting June 5, 2022, with LUT Candidate, Hope Dodson.

Alternatives: New Approaches to Traditional Christian Beliefs

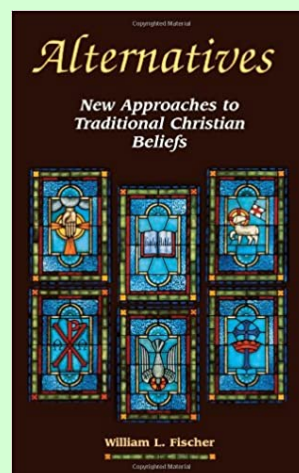
by Rev. William Fischer
(Available in the First Unity Bookstore)

Many traditionally accepted Christian doctrines may or may not reflect the religion of Jesus. Some reflect questionable economic, political, social, and even superstitious influences. Is it possible that "We have become more concerned with the religion *about* Jesus Christ than with the religion *of* Jesus Christ"?

Alternatives examines the thinking behind traditional Christian beliefs, offers some nontraditional perspectives, and allows you to decide what is valid for yourself. Teachings considered are "God", "Jesus Christ", "heaven", "hell", "Satan", "sin", "worship", "communion", "prayer", "baptism", and "life after death".

Let's explore some *Alternatives* to these understandings and find answers to questions that have puzzled you for years. We will discuss Unity's perspective and interpretation of these concepts. It may strengthen some of your long-held beliefs and shed new light on others. This class will surely expand your thinking and enhance your spiritual growth!

This class is offered on a Love Offering basis and will consist of 10-weeks.



Upcoming Event

***Route 66 Jazz Orchestra Performance
at First Unity Church***

Route 66 Jazz Orchestra

Jazz Concert

*With Special Vocalists
Valerie Tichacek & Ron Wilkinson*

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

First Unity Church of St. Louis

4753 Butler Hill Road, St. Louis, MO 63128

Lasagna Dinner & Jazz
Lasagna, Vegetarian Lasagna, Salad & Dessert

Dinner 5:30 pm and served until 6:30 pm
Concert starts @ 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$17.50

Advanced tickets available:

Chuck Seger at 314.614.2950

First Unity Church at 314.845.8540



Up To The Minute News

Easter Lillies



*Thanks to everyone who donated Easter Lillies
in honor and/or memory of loved ones.*

Jan Mourning & Bob Leonard
~In Memory of Our Parents

Hope Dodson & Paul Henley

Rick & Ruth Emmett
~In Memory of Frank & Ruth Vielhaber, Elmer & Cecilia Emmett

Mary Grace
~In Honor of Elise Grace Mueller

John & Gladys Young
~In Memory of Our loved ones that have made their transition

Nancy Davis
~In Memory of Carolyn Branson, sister

Ed & Deb Mattison

~In Memory of Phillip & Ina Woodworth

~In Memory of Josephine Mattison

~Thoughts and Prayers for Nevaeh Poston

Anne Hartupée

~In Memory of John Hartupée

Jane & Eric Vondruska

~In Memory of Our Parents

Mary Tumminello

~In Memory of John Tumminello

Jim & Tiffany Anne Arechederra

~ In Memory of Aric

Ladies Night Out



May 16, 2022, at 5:30 pm.

San Jose'

35 North Gore Ave

Webster Groves, MO 63119

June 20, 2022, at 5:30 pm.

Fitzgerald's Irish Pub and Grill

3650 S Lindbergh Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63127

Please contact Mary at jtpres5111@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Night Out

May 16, 2022, 6:00 pm

La Fiesta
7439 S. Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO, 63125
(In the Shopping Center
by Home Depot)

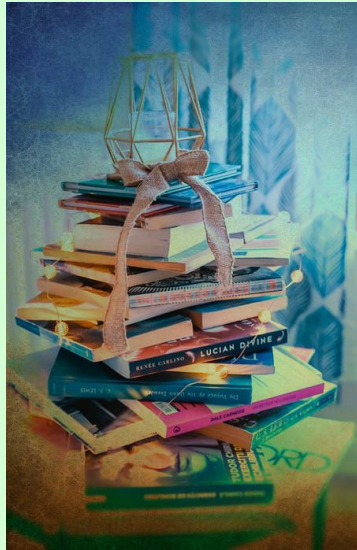
June 20, 2022, 6:00 pm

Fitz's
5244 S. Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO, 63126



Please contact Roy at fisherofbass@gmail.com for more information.

Book Club



Our Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 2 pm - 4 pm at:

**Panera's
130 South
County
Center
Way
St. Louis,
MO 63129**

The book to be discussed is "*The Last Thing He Told Me*" - Laura Dave.

Future books:

June 14, 2022 - "*Big Little Lies*" - Lane Moriarty

July 12, 2022 - "The Plot" - Jean Hanff Korelitz

Looking forward to seeing you at the Book Club!

For further information, please e-mail Carol at cabullock48@yahoo.com

For more information on our church activities: Check our website, unitystl.org or call 314-845-8540.

[Visit our website](http://unitystl.org)

In oneness
of Spirit,
we celebrate
a world
awakened
to infinite
possibilities



We are a vibrant,
inclusive Spiritual
community
enriching lives
through
positive prayer,
education, and service

One of our core values for First Unity Church is:

SPIRIT-LED

We transcend our human identity and claim our spiritual identity by aligning with and living in awareness of Infinite Spirit.

COMMUNITY BEHAVIORS

- We begin all our gatherings with prayer
- Cultivating communion with the Divine, we teach spiritual principles and practice sacred service
- We consistently provide opportunities to deepen and expand understanding of Unity principles and how to align with them
- Guided by Spirit, we act from our Divine Identity

INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIORS

- I take life's celebrations and challenges into prayer
- I engage in daily spiritual practices that keep me conscious of Spirit
- I choose activities that deepen my relations with the Divine



Q: What did Gandhi say to the British, after they asked him to move?

A: Nah, mastay.

Q: Why are bunnies the luckiest animals?

A: Because they each have four rabbit feet.

Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into school without help.

I asked our sixth-grader, Noah, to help his brother carry them in. "I could," he said, "but I'd prefer not to."

Spotting a teaching moment, my husband asked Noah, "What would Jesus do?"

Noah answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes."

A Christian man named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out.

The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!"

Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop.

Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over.

Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff.

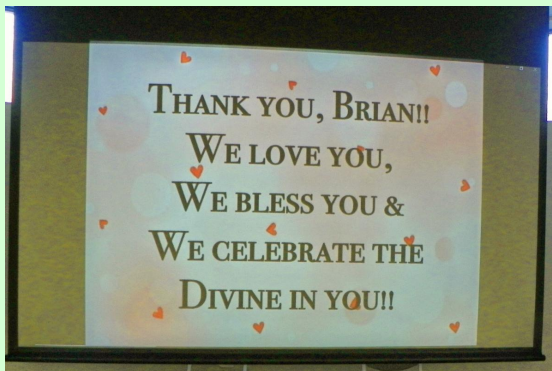
Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

Six-year-old Ned's mother was looking through an old family Bible when an oak leaf fell

out. Ned said, "I guess that must be Adam's shorts."

Q. How can you make God laugh?

A. Tell him your plans.











Minister: Jan Mourning
Office: 314.845.8540
Email: firstunity@firstunitychurchstlouis.org
Website: unitystl.org
SilentUnity prayer support
1.800.NOW PRAY (669.7729)
uPray is a [free mobile download](#)