

THIS WEEK AT EMERSON – JANUARY 8, 2015

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel -- A welcoming congregation of the UUA

If you've missed something - this week and last week editions are on the website: www.emersonuuchapel.org
Emerson Chapel is on Facebook and Twitter

..Celebrating 30 years of transforming ourselves, our community, our world..

Sunday – January 11

17815 Wild Horse Creek Road (Barat Academy)

10:00 AM - Worship Service

“What’s Grace Got To Do With It?” Rev. Krista Taves

Traditional Christianity defines grace as receiving forgiveness that is unearned.
Unitarian Universalism takes grace in a new direction.

Children’s Chapel follows the Story for All Ages



Check out the visioning clouds during coffee time this Sunday!



11:20 AM - Religious Ed for All Ages

And discussion opportunity in the sanctuary

The Nursery is staffed from 9 AM to 1 PM – Room 142
Barbara Woodruff, Nursery Care Worker

Our Outreach Partner is: Faith Aloud, which works for reproductive justice for all persons and families.
www.faithaloud.org

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: Laura Davidson

Greeter: Nancy Belt

Board Members: Nancy Belt, Charles Landauer

Sunday, January 25, 2014

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting

11:20 AM in the Sanctuary

Our Minister's Message: Grace on a Cold Winter Night

A few winters ago, on an evening as cold as the one we just experienced, my partner and I headed off downtown in my little Toyota Matrix to see a concert. We made the mistake not to check the weather forecast before we left. When the concert finished three hours later, almost half a foot of snow had fallen, with more coming. We muttered some words that should never be repeated about how we should have taken our four-wheel drive that night, but that was neither here nor there. We had to get home.

It took us over an hour to get back out here, but the greatest challenge was yet to come - two big hills and a downhill winding road. We live out in the hills just west of Castlewood State Park, if you know that area. We got to the first hill, fingers crossed!

It was not to be. Half way up, the car started sliding and pulling sideways, coming to rest across the road below a blind curve. This was not good! We got out of the car in case someone came around that blind curve and broadsided us. We got blankets out of the car and stood out in the snow to call AAA, who said that we could be waiting for hours.

As luck would have it, a Jeep pulled up. The guy inside asked if we needed help. We explained our situation. Then he said words that I will never forget, "Would you trust me to get your car down, park it, and give you a ride home?" It was quite an offer, but at the same time I felt nervous. Should we get in the car with two strangers? We live in such a culture of fear, trained to worry about the worst that could happen. When we hesitated, his wife piped up, "You won't be sorry. He can get your car down and our Jeep can get you home." That did it. He backed our car down and took us through those hills in his Jeep.

This was an act of grace. We could have stood out in the cold for a very long time, waiting. Instead, we were safe at home. I will never forget the kindness of that couple, taking the time to help two strangers standing in the snow.

For those of us who grew up in traditional Christian churches, we were taught that grace is receiving something that you don't deserve. God's grace saves us from our own sinful natures because we couldn't possibly do it ourselves. By this account, we probably deserved to be standing in the snow because we hadn't bothered to check the weather.

Many people of faith, including progressive Christians, see grace in a very different way. Grace happens through the unnameable spirit of all things that connects us to each other. In a lecture delivered to Unitarian Universalist religious educators, Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ minister and theologian Rev. Rebecca Parker says that, "We ... have a very strong sense in our heritage that there is a spirit of life that is in all things, moves in all things, is in us and in others and weaves us all together." (2002).

I believe it is that spirit of life that drew four strangers together that cold and snowy night. It is that spirit of life that called them to make the offer and us to say yes to it. It is the spirit of life that asks us to say yes to each other. We become participants in grace and creators of grace.

Grace is the theme of our services this month, and I look forward to exploring how grace moves in our lives and between them.

Stay warm, check the weather before you leave home, and see you Sunday.

Yours in faith, Rev. Krista.

Rev. Krista Taves is available for regular pastoral care on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday afternoon. She is available for emergency pastoral care 24/7. If you have a pastoral care emergency, please leave a voice mail at 417-343-8657, 636-256-7393 and pastoralcare@emersonuuchapel.org. Someone should be in touch with you shortly. A pastoral care emergency includes death, the proximity of death, or a life-threatening emergency. If Rev. Krista Taves is on her weekend, vacation or study leave, please contact either the Office Administrator (office@emersonuuchapel.org), or President of the Board Nancy Belt (president@emersonuuchapel.org).



Mark Your Calendars for Important Upcoming Events

As Emerson begins 2015, we, as a congregation, will be looking for ways to put one of our basic programs—religious education for children and youth—on solid ground for the new year.

Specifically, we'll have several opportunities to discuss and vote on ways to fund a half-time Director of Religious Education (DRE) position. Having a staff person dedicated to this role can strengthen relationships with and between children, youth, and parents and help in customizing activities to meet changing needs of students. Someone in this position can provide a consistent, guiding force and face for the program, as well as provide support and relief for overstretched religious education (RE) volunteers.

The schedule is, as follows:

Jan. 11—11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Discussion on potential ways to fund a half-time DRE position, considering the advantages and disadvantages of each. Adult RE will be held at same time in conference room.

Jan. 18—11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., near hospitality area. Informal discussion on above and agenda items for Midyear Congregational Meeting on Jan. 25. Adult RE will be held at same time in conference room.

Jan. 25—11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Midwinter Congregational Meeting, with vote on how to fund half-time DRE position. (Proxy form accessible via front page of Emerson website.) No "Linger Longer" or adult RE today. Activities, instead of regular classes, will be provided for children and youth.

Prior to the meeting, please attend a discussion and read related Constant Contact messages and newsletter items, in order to make an informed decision. If you have questions, please contact President Nancy Belt.



The Women's Spirituality Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 7 pm at the chapel office at 16233 Westwoods Business Park, Ellisville, MO 63021. We will be doing a guided meditation relating goddesses to our chakras; feel free to bring a blanket or yoga mat so you can lie down if you wish.

All women of Emerson are welcome.



Chalice Lighters

Living Our Faith
... Igniting Dreams

About the Chalice Lighter Program

You may not have heard about our region's Chalice Lighter program. It uses gifts from Unitarian Universalists in the 13-state MidAmerica Region to award grants for growth projects to congregations it chooses from those applying for such. Chalice Lighters, including 15 from Emerson, donate from \$20 to \$250 three times a year, to support MidAmerica grants. (See chart below.) The grants apply to one of four purposes—starting a congregation, adding professional staff, building new or enhanced space, or implementing outreach and public relations programs.

We'd like to increase Emerson's number of Chalice Lighters to show our support for Unitarian Universalism in our region and because, by February 15, we'll submit an application for a grant to support a Director of Religious Education into our next church year. Having a sizable number of Chalice Lighters from Emerson shows our commitment to the Region and will put our application in a favorable light. If the Chalice Lighter Committee approves our application, we would receive a grant in June.

Become a Chalice Lighter today by . . .

- enrolling at <http://www.midamericauua.org>
- mailing in the brochure provided at worship on Jan. 11 and 18 or by the church office

You may participate at one of four suggested levels, as follows:

- Believer – \$20 three times a year, or \$60 per year
- Builder – \$50 three times a year, or \$150 per year
- Benefactor – \$100 three times a year, or \$300 per year
- Beacon – \$250 or more, three times a year, or \$750 or more, per year

If you opt to donate three times each year, you'll receive a Call Letter in the fall, winter, and spring. If you prefer, make one donation per year to cover the next three Calls. (You may make payments via the website above, or mail your check to the MidAmerica office.) Annual donations will be divided equally among the three Calls. If you wish to change your level of participation, you may do so via the website or brochure mentioned above.

For your information, Chalice Lighter programs were founded in the 1980s to raise funds from Unitarian Universalists across the country to support growth of Unitarian Universalist churches. Since inception, programs have supported almost 100 congregations and given out more than \$300,000 in grants. For a list of funded projects, contact Barb Brown, Emerson's Chalice Lighter Ambassador. If you were a Chalice Lighter in our former Central Midwest District, you continue to be one in our Region. If you are unsure if you remain a Chalice Lighter, please ask Barb.

We hope you have found something special in your Unitarian Universalist faith and are moved to share it with others and that your values guide how you live your life and your generosity to worthy causes.

Thank you for your generous spirit. Your current and future participation will help us grow into our own future and continue to grow UUism in our Region! If you have questions, please contact Barb or President Nancy Belt.



REad all about RE!



REmember these dates!

January 21st – 6:30 PM RE Team Mtg
February 7th – RE Rehearsal for Sunday Service
February 8th – RE Service
Next Pathways Series will begin April 12, 2015

You are Welcome...to Join a MESH Team!

We need your help to continue Making Each Sunday Happen (MESH). Our teams have settled in pretty well to the routine of Setup and Takedown each week, but we've also had some transitions that have left some critical gaps. Below is a list of 5 opportunities to join one of the teams. Training is available for each role so you will be well prepared to contribute to the success of our Sunday services.

Please contact Nancy Fish at samtisha@yahoo.com for more information and to join a team.

2 Greeters (1 each on the 1st & 2nd Sundays)
1 stage & drapes (4th Sundays)
1 Chalice Guild (4th Sunday)
1 Team Leader (3rd Sunday)

2nd Sunday MESH (Making Each Sunday Happen) team this Sunday

Is this your team? Find out here: Click on the link:

http://www.emersonuuchapel.org/documents/mesh_teams_for_email.pdf



CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Thank you for your support of the food pantry throughout the year! Please place your donated items in the red wheelbarrow in the entry.

Easiest Fund raising ever!! Grocery gift cards and GL Scrip are on sale Every Sunday

See how ALL your shopping can benefit Emerson. Gift cards are available from Dierberg's and Shop & Save. Spend what you normally spend each month and give 5% to Emerson.

This Week's Calendar of Events

SAT, JAN 10	9:00 AM – Program Council 10:00 AM – Worship Team
SUN, JAN 11	10:00 AM - Worship - 17815 Wild Horse Creek Road, Chesterfield (Barat Academy) 11:20 AM – RE for All Ages & congregational discussion in sanctuary
TUE, JAN 13	7:00 PM - Women's Spirituality Circle
WED, JAN 14	7:00 PM – Board Meeting
THU, JAN 15	7:00 PM – Love First 7:00 PM – Stewardship Team Meeting

Meetings are held at the Chapel Office, 16233 Westwoods Business Park in Ellisville unless indicated ** as offsite.

LOOKING AHEAD: **Mid-Year Congregational Meeting – January 25th**
RE SERVICE – February 8th

Notices & Invitations from our Outreach Partners, our Wider UU Community & Sister Congregations

The Midwestern Women and Religion Committee announces their Winter WomenSpirit Conference 2015, "Healing Words: a Call to Consciousness," February 6 - 8, in Hartland, Wisconsin. Unitarian Universalist writer and feminist Mary Pierce Brosmer will lead the program.

Information available at: <http://www.womenandreligion.org/>

The Women and Religion Committee, and all Committee sponsored events, are open and welcoming to all those who identify as female.

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) invites you to join them at a conference "Escalating Inequality or Opportunity for All?" to be held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois, February 20-22, 2015.

The purpose of the conference is to present the facts of economic inequality, its causes and social effects, to gather ideas from speakers, participants, media and other resources, and to develop the leadership, study material and action plans so UU individuals and congregations can make a real difference toward reducing inequality over the next four years of the Congregational Study/Action Issues [CSAI] process.

More information at <http://uujec.com/conferenceInformation>

How/Where/When to find us:

Sunday Morning 10:00 AM

17815 Wild Horse Creek Road, Chesterfield, MO 63005

(Barat Academy)

Mailing & Meeting Address:

16233 Westwoods Business Park Drive, Ellisville, MO 63021

The office is staffed

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM

Phone: 636-256-7393

e-mail:

minister@emersonuuchapel.org

office@emersonuuchapel.org

Emerson UU Chapel 2014-2015 - Board Members

President: Nancy Belt

President Elect: Mary Murphy

Vice-President: Jake Lyonfields

Vice President Elect/Secretary: Mark Fish

Members-At-Large: Debbie Baumoe; Jeff Gidday; Charles Landauer

Treasurer: Jake Lyonfields

Assistant Treasurer: Melissa Grizzle

Minister: Rev. Krista Taves