

THIS WEEK AT EMERSON – AUGUST 14, 2014

Emerson UU 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

Sunday – August 17

17815 Wild Horse Creek Road

10:00 AM - Worship Service
“Building the World We Dream About”

Lauren Lyerla, Mark Fish, Mary Murphy, Jake Lyonfields

Last church year, Emerson embarked on an educational journey focused on antiracism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism. One of the results of this work has been Emerson's current partnership with M-SLICE, the Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion and Equity. Right now, our region's attention is focused on Ferguson, MO, and issues of race, culture, privilege, and power.

Four Emerson members will share relevant insights gained through participation in the BWWDA curriculum and working with M-SLICE that can help us move toward healing, reconciliation, and justice.

Pianist: Todd Painter

Our Outreach Partner through August: **M-SLICE**
(Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion & Equality)

M-SLICE is a not for profit social and economic opportunity organization that advocates for inclusive and equitable public policies and allocation of public and private investments in low wealth and communities of color.

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: Laura Davidson

Song Leaders: Kylie Kirkpatrick & Leann Martin

Greeters: Mark Fish, Diana Irizarry

Board Members: Mark Fish, Jeff Gidday

**Set up: Nancy Fish, Kevin Horth, James Lyerla, Mark Fish, Sharon McCarron, Vince Seyer,
Ben Gleason, Carole Behrer, Laura Davidson, PJ Pyrchla**

[Our Minister's Message](#)

Last night, I attended a Community Action Meeting at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant MO on behalf of our congregation. On Saturday afternoon an unarmed African American teenager was shot dead by a police officer in North County. Witness accounts of the incident vary, but the circumstances are very familiar to this largely African American community. Once again, a young black man is killed. There will be one more funeral for a young man who should have had his whole life ahead of him.

Since Saturday afternoon, there have been demonstrations and protests night and day, some peaceful, some not. Looters have destroyed some local businesses. The police have responded with riot gear, dogs, and tear gas. From the beginning, local clergy have played a very visible role, hosting prayer vigils, peace walks, and community meetings.

Regardless of the particular circumstances of the shooting of Michael Brown, something is not right and most of us know it. The systemic poverty, the school to prison pipeline, racial profiling, the disparity between the inner suburbs and the outer suburbs, the segregation of our city – these patterns are prevalent in every American city and they are prevalent in ours. The shooting of Michael Brown has become like a bolt of lightning in a dry forest. It has set something off. It remains to be seen whether this situation will bring about true healing, reconciliation and justice, or if it will be lost in the 24 hour news cycle, with the status quo taking hold as soon as the TV cameras go away.

That, my friends, is where we come in.

Many of you have asked what we can do as a congregation to be of help in this difficult situation. These are my thoughts so far.

- 1) Given that most members of our congregation are white, we should **accept that we cannot be in the drivers seat in terms of how this situation is responded to**. We have to take our direction from the community that is in turmoil. This means listening more than speaking and sometimes staying out of the way, literally and spiritually. It is our place to be open and receptive.
- 2) **Keep educating yourself about the way race works in this country**. Read everything you can. Learn as much as you can about the reality of being black in America. Learn how to identify racism in the 21st century. Avail yourself of any opportunity to engage in multiculturalism and diversity training, especially if you can do it in community and in a multiracial context because there is more accountability that way. Welcome that accountability.
- 3) **If you are white, your job is to be a witness to racism, even and especially when it's risky**. Don't be afraid to say what you see, especially to other white people. This could mean a one on one conversation, speaking up in a group, writing a letter to your elected politicians, signing petitions, and posting on social media. Because of the way race works in this country, many white people (even liberal white people ☺) will be able to hear from you what they couldn't hear from a person of color. This will help other white people to understand what they are seeing. And maybe, it will give them the courage to speak out as well. White silence, white denial and white ignorance gives systemic racism a lot of power. You have to model a different way and do your part to create the critical mass needed for real change.
- 4) There are tentative plans for **a prayer vigil and walk at the Canfield Apartments in Ferguson MO on Saturday at noon**, the neighborhood of Michael Brown. Keep an eye out on social media for any updates.
- 5) **Come to church this Sunday**. Lauren Lyerla, Mark Fish, Jake Lyonfields and Mary Murphy are dedicating the service to racial justice. Lauren, Mark, and Mary were all facilitators in Building the World We Dream About, a program curriculum that our congregation engaged last year on multiculturalism and diversity. It is important to be together during difficult times. Come connect to your community.
- 6) **Come to the Love First Meeting on Wednesday, August 20, 6:30 p.m.** at the church office (16233 Westwoods Business Park Dr., Ellisville MO 63021). Love First is Emerson Chapel's social justice team. We will talk about what has happened this past week and how we as a community will witness to our values of compassion, equality and justice at this time and become allies to those who are hurting so much and need justice so badly.

Let us hold Michael Brown's family as well as the officer and their family in our thoughts and prayers. While the damage and the pain is more acute and feels closer in their circles, we are all damaged by the poison of systemic racism. It remains to be seen if we are strong enough to feel the truth of how close this pain is to every one of us.

Yours in faith, Rev. Krista.

Rev. Taves will be in Cleveland OH at the Beyond the Call Preaching Institute from Thursday August 14 through Sunday August 18. She will be back in the office on Wednesday August 20.

Rev. Krista Taves is available for regular pastoral care on Wednesdays, 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), Pastoral Care Team Leader Karyl Howard (pastoralcare@emersonuuchapel.org) or President of the Board Nancy Belt (president@emersonuuchapel.org).



Photo: Lisa Parnell

Welcome to our newest members pictured at signing ceremony on August 10th:

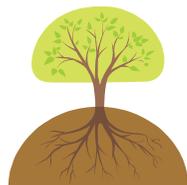
Emily Komiskey, Jason Getz

Sierra, Kaia, Aurora

Emerson Chapel's 30th Anniversary begins in September!

Emerson's 30th anniversary is this September. We will begin celebrating on September 14th, with a special worship service, Children's Chapel, and Adult Education session. If you would like to help plan our celebrations, let us know! Drop a line to office@emersonuuchapel.org and Rev. Taves will be in touch with you. Thank you!

We are building a team to plan Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel's 30th anniversary celebration September 13th. Team members so far: Todd Painter, Camille Julig Herman, Kevin Horth, Ann Michaux Kehler. Let us know if you wish to join us! office@emersonuuchapel.org.



Unitarian Universalist Roots:

Pathway to Membership

offered by Rev. Krista Taves and our Membership Team

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

September 7th – UU History

September 14th - UU Theology

September 21st - Everything Emerson

Contact office@emersonuuchapel.org to sign up!

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or this Chapel, or if you are considering membership, you are welcomed and encouraged to take this class. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and to meet others like yourself. The three sessions take place after Sunday worship and focus on UU History, Theology, and Everything Emerson including membership.

[Religious Education Programming Begins!](#)

Religious Education classes begin this Sunday, August 17th at 11:30am!

I hope everyone is excited about RE in our new space, because it is going to be amazing! We finally have enough room for everyone! In case you haven't filled out an enrollment form, forms will be available (ask PJ Pырchla or Becky Langrall for one). Classrooms are down one hallway and will be easily marked.

Safe congregations policies remain in place in our new worship space. As a reminder, no one under the age of 18 can be left unsupervised on Barat property. Supervision must be by at least two adults who have had background checks. All children up through 5th grade must be picked up from classrooms by parents or caretakers after Children's Chapel and RE classes. With the new space, we are working on updating these policies to reflect our new physical realities, so watch this space for more information as it is available.

The nursery is open and childcare will be available from 9am-1pm for those families who are helping with the set-up/take-down of the space.

My time at Emerson as the Acting Minister of Religious Education ends on August 15th. As part of the responsibilities of ending this time as a religious professional in an interim position, I will be deleting my AMRE Facebook profile and my AMRE@emersonuuchapel email address will be closed. I will continue to be an Affiliate Community Minister with Emerson, so I am not going away completely, but my role shifts. If you have questions regarding the RE program, please direct them to PJ Pырchla and Becky Langrall, co-chairs of the RE Team.

It has been an honor to serve the Emerson RE community this year. Thank you for all the wonderful ways you are committed to growing lifelong Unitarian Universalists.

In service,

Rev. Julie

[News from the Board](#)

The board is working on several fronts to help our Emerson community move through the transition from owning to renting and to envision moving forward into future possibilities. This article focuses on the area of finance. Future articles will focus on other areas.

Finance — In July, the board approved the first part of a financial policy proposed by the finance team. It provides guidelines for the general operating fund. Its specific provisions are, as follows:

1. The annual expense budget shall be capped at 95 percent of the annual-income forecast as reported in the annual pledge-drive report provided by the stewardship team.

2. To serve as input for pledge-drive goal-setting discussions, the finance team and treasurer shall prepare an updated five-year historical-trends report for the board and stewardship team.
3. The board will establish an annual fundraising goal separate from the annual budget and integrated with Emerson's mission and vision.
4. The treasurer will provide a monthly budget-to-actual report to the finance team. Depending on the percentage of variance and historical trends as identified by the treasurer, administrator, and stewardship team, actions will be triggered as follows. If income—which is the sum of YTD pledge revenue plus YTD net income from fundraising that is categorized as undesignated—is three percent below budget, the finance team will notify the board and stewardship team. If income is four percent below budget, the congregation and staff are informed that we are approaching the expense-reduction trigger. If income is five percent below budget, the congregation and staff are informed that the following actions will be taken sequentially until the variance is below the five-percent level.

Action 1: Furlough pianist and nursery-care worker.

Action 2: Furlough administrative, RE, and ministerial staff.

If expenses are over the budget, the board will contact the appropriate team leaders, requesting spending cuts to bring their team's spending back in line with the budget. If the excess spending results in a five-percent variance, the same actions identified above will apply.

5. The finance team will provide information to the board, enabling the execution of a congregational-communications plan. The plan provides for the budget view, pledge forecast, and fundraising goal to be communicated yearly. It provides for a YTD budget view and income statement to be communicated monthly. It provides for the congregation and staff to be informed when we approach the expense-reduction trigger. And it provides for the congregation and staff to know when the trigger-point of five-percent variance is reached and that actions will be taken per policy.

The finance team and board are actively working to create the second and the third parts of the financial policy, which, respectively, will cover how we will use net proceeds of sale of 73 Strecker Road to establish a reserve fund and an endowment fund.

In addition, within the next two weeks, Melissa Grizzle, interim treasurer, expects to close the books on FY14 and report on July financials, including a transition budget-to-actual report.

Please send any comments or questions to board@emersonuuchapel.org, and, remember, you are always welcome to attend board meetings, unless we are discussing personnel issues.

Faithfully,

Nancy Belt, president

[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

SUN, August 17	10:00 AM – Worship - 17815 Wild Horse Creek Road 11:30 AM – Religious Education
MON, August 18	7:00 PM – Readers Circle
TUE, August 19	11:30 AM - BLT (Basic lunch Therapy) will meet at "The Cheesecake Factory" in Chesterfield Mall. All women of Emerson are invited and welcome!
WED, August 20	6:30 PM – Love First
THU, August 21	7:00 PM – Emergency Response Team
FRI 22 – SUN 24	Womyn's Web Retreat

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, September 7 – Water Communion

September 7, 14, 21

Pathways to Membership during Religious Ed Hour

An Invitation

The Women of Eliot Chapel and the Bergfried Women's Weekend Committee invite the women of Emerson to join us for a camping weekend, Friday-Sunday, September 26-28. The Bergfried meadow offers lots of tent camping sites (no electric hook-ups) and a large shelter with a central fire pit (in case of rain). There are a limited number of indoor sleeping spaces in the Bergfried cottage and some spaces on the cottage's screened porch, available on a first come, first served basis. For more information, to reserve a space in the cottage, or to RSVP for camping in the meadow, please email bergfriedwomen@eliotchapel.org.

How/Where/When to find us:

Sunday Morning

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 from 9 AM to 2 PM; Friday from 9 to Noon

Phone: 636-256-7393

e-mail:

minister@emersonuuchapel.org

office@emersonuuchapel.org

Emerson Unitarian Chapel

Our Covenant

We build our church on a foundation of love and covenant with one another,
To freely explore our values and honor our diversity as a source of communal strength,
To accept responsibility for our individual acts and promote justice and peace,
To celebrate the joys of discovery, embracing the fullest measure of our humanity,
To communicate with kindness and support,
To serve with compassion and commitment,
To openly share our laughter and tears and,
To show reverence for the divine in all that is.

Covenant of Right Relations

The well-being, strength, and reputation of our church depend on a sense of fellowship among the members, friends, and staff, which thrives in an atmosphere of trust, respect, and cooperation. Within such an atmosphere, differences of opinion and their resolution through compromise or consensus can enhance a sense of community and serve as an opportunity to grow in healthy authentic relationships with one another. However, differences or misunderstandings that go unresolved and descend into prolonged conflict can threaten the social fabric of our church. We recognize that conflict may occur between members, members and staff, members and minister, or staff and minister.

We preface these suggestions with the commonsense wisdom that all should adhere to the UU Principles and Purposes and our own church covenant, exhibiting behaviors that enhance the dignity and inherent worth of all participants: expressing sincere appreciation; allowing for human fallibility; dealing directly with each other; speaking softly; being creative in problem solving; maintaining a sense of humor; actively listening and clarifying what we hear; letting others have their say; respecting boundaries that may differ from our own; respecting confidentiality; refraining from harmful gossip about others; and speaking honestly. We will actively and graciously pursue genuine peace and authentic reconciliation, carefully using mediators when appropriate. We will seek just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.

Each person, regardless of his or her role in the church – including clergy, board members, non-member staff, etc., - is expected to live to this covenant within the context of their relationship with the church community.

We all, as responsible members of this community, have an obligation to bring to light concerns about things which threaten the health of our church. This should be done by using existing procedures, proper committees, etc. As members of this community, we have an obligation to find out what those procedures are, in a conflict or in any other dealing with the church, just as we have responsibilities to support the church, honor our pledges, show up, fulfill our commitments for committees, and strive to be on time. In short, we owe each other respectful participation in the life of our church.