

# *THIS WEEK AT EMERSON – SEPTEMBER 4, 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](http://www.emersonuuchapel.org)  
Emerson Chapel is on Facebook and Twitter

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

**Sunday – September 7**

**17815 Wild Horse Creek Road (Barat Academy)**

**10:00 AM - Worship Service**

Pianist: Todd Painter

**Blessing of the Waters Communion Service**

Rev. Krista Taves

In Unitarian Universalist congregations across the continent, the Sunday after Labor Day is reserved for this beloved ritual. We bring water that represents a place that is spiritually significant for us. We pour our water into a communal bowl, signifying the coming together of our diverse lives into a deep unity that is beyond us. This will be the first Water Communion to be held in our new facility.

We will use the water to dedicate our Religious Education Teachers, the Board of Trustees, and the new facility to the life-giving ministries of our beloved religious community.

All are welcome. Those wishing to observe rather than participate are invited to do so.  
Water will be available for those who come without.

**11:30 AM - Religious Ed  
Pathways to Membership**

Our Outreach Partner is: **UU Trauma Ministry**

Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry provides culturally sensitive spiritual care to survivors of mass disasters and other significant trauma. [www.traumaministry.org](http://www.traumaministry.org)

**Serving this Sunday:**

**Liturgist: Lisa Parnell**

**Greeters: Jake Lyonfields, Lisa Parnell**

**Board Members: Debbie Baumel, Jake Lyonfields**

## [Our Minister's Message](#)

Two years ago, I prepared for the Annual Water Communion by reflecting on the tremendous drought that we had experienced that summer. It was a long hot summer with very little rain and extremely high temperatures. This is a different summer. We've had a constant stream of rain and below average temperatures. One day I decided to go for a walk at noon, and realized half way through my walk what a delicious pleasure it was to simply be able to go outside at noon and walk for an hour. Everything has remained lush and green. I go outside and it smells so rich and lush and the trees are still so green and lush.

Unitarian Universalism is a religion that has a special place for the natural world. Many of us feel a deep connection to the earth. We are part of the natural world at all times, even when squirreled away in air conditioned homes!

Unitarianism was profoundly shaped by a naturalist theology in the 1820s and 1830s when transcendentalism was brought into our movement by the younger generation. Transcendentalism offered a direct experience of the divine, and saw in nature a purity should humanity could be restored to, that could bring us closer to our essence. Thoreau's *On Walden Pond* is a reflection of that way of thinking.

Fast forward to the 1970s and 1980s, with the emergence of the Women's Movement. Many Unitarian Universalist women were drawn to feminism, one branch of which involved reclaiming a pre-Christian earth-centered feminine spirituality. Unitarian Universalist women brought this into Unitarian Universalism and changed our faith forever.

The Water Communion is a legacy of these two streams of influence. It is a relatively new ritual, created by women in our liberal religious tradition, and yet it uses the ancient practice of gathering water. In feminine spirituality, water is the most sacred element of all, symbolizing birth, life, cleansing, clarity, purity, and nourishment. Water is the breath of life itself. Nothing on this planet exists without it.

In our Annual Water Communion, each person is invited to bring a vial of water that symbolizes a place that is sacred to them. It could be somewhere you went on vacation, or a place that you return to frequently. It could be a brook where you take your daily walk. It could be from your kitchen tap, for our kitchens are often the heartbeat of our homes. During the service, each person pours some of their water into a communal bowl and shares with a few short words the meaning of their water (i.e. love and connection, community and rest, renewal and hope, family and tradition). There will be a small pitcher of water next to the bowl for those who did not bring water and wish to participate. As the bowl fills, the water symbolizes the essence of the gathered community. Finally, I will add water that I saved from last year's Water Communion, water that was also used for our Child Dedication, to symbolize that the past and the future co-exist in each of us and in us communally.

The water will then be used to bless the work of the Board of Trustees and our Religious Education Teachers. We do that by simply touching the back of the hand with the water. This symbolizes that you have the blessing and trust of the congregation in the sacred work that you do.

Then, we will take a small container of that water and walk through our new Sunday building, blessing all the places that we gather in that building and seek to live into the truths of our liberal religious tradition – the Nursery, the Religious Education Rooms, the Entrance where all of us are greeted when we arrive, the Sanctuary, and the Common Grounds Café where we enjoy fellowship.

At the end of the service, a small jar of that water will be saved for our Child Dedications and next year's Water Communion, where the old water is added to the new, for we cannot move into the future without reverencing the past.

I warmly invite you to this beautiful service, this homecoming service, this time of renewal and gathering into beloved community, recentering our thoughts, our deeds, and our hearts into a common purpose that affirms our diversity and reverences our unity.

See you on 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)), Pastoral Care Team Leader Karyl Howard ([pastoralcare@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:pastoralcare@emersonuuchapel.org)) or President of the Board Nancy Belt ([president@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:president@emersonuuchapel.org)).



Contact the office ([office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)) to sign up for  
Unitarian Universalist Roots: Pathways to Membership  
offered by Rev. Krista Taves and our Membership Team

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – UU History

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> - UU Theology

Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> - Everything Emerson

Contact [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto: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.

### [Womyn's Web Meeting - Monday, September 8th, 7-9 pm](#)

Open to all women of Emerson, members and friends alike, this social group promotes fellowship and friendship among the women of the Chapel. We meet monthly in members' homes. The meetings are two hours, where the first 30 minutes are for gathering and socializing and the remaining time is spent discussing a topic chosen by the facilitator. Attendees are invited to bring a small snack or beverage to share.

The facilitator for September is **Debbie Baumoel**, and the meeting will be held in the home of **Denise Livingston**. An email will be sent during the week prior to the meeting as a reminder. It will include the address of the hostess and will request that you RSVP so the hostess and facilitator will have an idea of how many to expect.

If you are interested in attending the meeting, want to catch a ride with someone else, or just want to find out more about Womyn's Web, you may contact Debbie Baumoel, Denise Livingston or Nancy Fish. Contact information is available in the Emerson Directory

In honor of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, congregations across the continent are sending us greetings and congratulations. These are wonderful expressions of care, gratitude, and support.

## First Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

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Worcester, Massachusetts 01606  
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(508) 853-4188 (fax)  
office@uucworchester.org  
www.uucworchester.org  
Reverend Aaron R. Payson, *Minister*  
Rev. David Miller, *Minister Emeritus*  
Rev. Cheryl Leshay, *Aff. Community Minister*  
Robin Caracciolo, *Religious Education Dir.*  
Matthew Johnsen, *Music Director*  
Jennifer Landry, *Office Administrator*  
*Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Dear Friends in UU Faith:

Please accept the heart-felt congratulations of the members and friends, Staff and Leadership of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester upon the celebration of your 30th Anniversary.

Many of you will remember quite vividly what it was like to turn 30; no longer considered young and yet not old enough to feel quite settled into adulthood. It was a time of introspection, often a turbulent time of making difficult decisions about what to leave behind from youth and risk taking up as you gained more experience, responsibility, autonomy, and freedom. It was a time too of transitions, settling into new jobs, new homes, a new sense of your potential and promise, and though sometimes difficult, it is a turning that also awakened you to new possibilities and dreams.

I wish for you fortitude through the turbulence, exuberance for the awakening possibilities, and in all things loving-kindness to mark your blossoming countenance. You are so very necessary in Ellisville, MO and in our movement and you are, as my colleague Mark Belletini reminds us in the popular benediction contained our hymnal "a good gift."

May your minister Rev. Krista Taves, and lay leadership continue to serve you with wisdom, courage and grace. And may you always experience the unity of spirit available to you through strong ties to other Unitarian Universalist congregations across this country and world.

Blessings to you on this very happy occasion.

Sincerely,

Rev. Aaron R. Payson  
Minister

## 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.



### **Scrip bonuses!**

Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores® is offering a 2% bonus contribution from Saturday, September 6 through Friday, September 19. Customers who purchase \$25 Jo-Ann gift cards will receive an **8% contribution** instead of the standard 6%.

Starbucks® gift cards are available for ReloadNow® with the same great **7%** rebate! Starbucks gift cards can be reloaded for \$10 - \$200. With ReloadNow, your reloaded funds will be available in minutes when you pay with PrestoPay™

## This Week's Calendar of Events

THUR, Sept 4	11:30 AM – Daytimers 5:30 PM – Love First 6:30 PM – Adult RE Team Mtg.
SAT, Sept 6	9:00 AM – Program Council
SUN, Sept 7	10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM -Religious Ed
MON, Sept 8	**7:00 PM Womyn's Web
WED, Sept 10	7:00 PM – Board Meeting

\*\* meets offsite

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

### 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](mailto:minister@emersonuuchapel.org)

[office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)