

THIS WEEK AT EMERSON – SEPTEMBER 18, 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

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

Sunday – September 21

17815 Wild Horse Creek Road (Barat Academy)

10:00 AM - Worship Service

“The Road of Life” Mark Fish, Speaker

A car company in the 90s said that “On the road to life, there are passengers and there are drivers. Drivers wanted.”

Roads have always been a great metaphor for life and many of life’s challenges.

The kinds of roads we drive, the way we drive, and how we view other drivers say a lot about our society and who each of us are. Roads also fit whatever personal challenge we’re facing and the way we individually view life.

Mark Fish will explore how closely roads are related to our life's journeys and will look for lessons that we can apply to help us look at ourselves and our fellow drivers a little differently.

Special music: Eric Stix

11:20 AM - Religious Education for all Ages

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

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: Laura Davidson

Greeters: Brenda Ernest, Nancy Belt

Board Member: Charles Landauer

Children’s Chapel: Susan Bell, Emily Covert

Grocery Cert & Scrip Sales: Pat Baker

**MESH Team: Jake Lyonfields, Christine Bastian, Sarahn & Iahly, Jim & Shawna Lyonfields,
Jim Beale, Jason Getz, Dana Benedicktus, Adriana Beale**

[Our Minister’s Message](#)

I continue to reflect several times a day on the ongoing situation regarding the shooting of Michael Brown. I'm sure that some of us are getting tired of hearing about it, but whenever I feel tempted to shut it off and to back away, I think about how people of color don't have the privilege of shutting off racism and taking a break from it. All of this will remain true regardless of whether the Grand Jury chooses to indict Darren Wilson. So when I, a white woman, feel tempted to give it a rest, I try to remember that.

I am very proud of our sister congregation, Eliot Unitarian Chapel, which has held a vigil every Tuesday night since the shooting of Michael Brown. The vigil gets larger every week. And, they are sending out an invitation to us to join them.

So I'm passing that invitation on to you. The vigil is every Tuesday night from 6-7 p.m. and you are all invited. This is a peaceful vigil, and you are welcome to bring your children if you want them to have this kind of experience. The point of the vigil is to stand in solidarity with the people of color in this city who experience the everyday presence of racism through racial profiling. Their message is not aimed only at law enforcement, but at all of us. If you already have a Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt, wear it. If you don't, go anyway. It's your body more than the color of your t-shirt that matters.

Many of you are likely asking what else you can do to help. Going to a Vigil may not work with all the responsibilities you carry, but you want to do your part. There are many things you can do. The biggest one is to educate yourself about the issues and then to communicate with political and civic leaders who have the power to do something: Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCullough, Governor Jay Nixon, Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson, Mayor of Ferguson James Knowles III, County Executive Charlie Doolie, Democratic candidate for County Executive Steve Stenger, Republican candidate for County Executive Rick Stream, as well as the Mayor of your own town. This is not just North County's "problem." It's also Manchester's, Town and Country's, O'Fallon's, Chesterfield's, Ellisville's, Ballwin's, Wildwood's, etc. etc.

And then, once you've written them, post your letter on your facebook page so your friends can see what you've done, and when you get a response, post that too. Every one of us doing our part keeps this issue alive in the public conscience. We can't allow this to fade away when the cameras and the media go away. So far they aren't, and that's because ordinary people aren't letting that happen. So many of us aren't letting them go. When we keep this in the public eye, it makes it worth it to the media to stick around and to keep giving this their attention. Again, this isn't just about trying to get an indictment of Darren Wilson. This is about keeping the focus where it counts, on the every day reality of people of color in America. Too many black and brown people are having their lives impacted by the power of systemic racism. We can't let this happen to our sisters and brothers anymore. The Civil Rights Movement didn't get a chance to finish the job in the 1960s. Now it's our turn to carry the mantle.

I want to hold up something I think is very important. None of this is about being anti-law enforcement. This is not about being anti-police. This is about being for justice. Asking for law enforcement reform is not about being against the police. It's about being very much for them. Asking the St. Louis County police and the police forces of all the tiny towns in our city to do some significant soul searching about the everyday choices made regarding law enforcement with people of color, asking them to question their tactics and assumptions, asking them to hold themselves accountable to the public, all the public, is about being for the police, about wanting them to be the best they can be. To be for Michael Brown is not to be against the police. We can be for both.

Our congregation's purpose has been pretty clear for many years. Our purpose is to "Transform Ourselves, Our Community, and Our World." I believe that right now the events of our city are asking us to give special attention to the "Our Community" part of our purpose. Love First, our social action team, has decided to deepen our relationship with M-SLICE, which stands for Metro ST. Louis Coalition for Equality and INclusion. We began working with M-SLICE and the Kensington Neighborhood last spring and will continue to do so. **November 8th is our next work day. Put it on the calendar.**

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), Pastoral Care Team Leader Karyl Howard (pastoralcare@emersonuuchapel.org) or President of the Board Nancy Belt (president@emersonuuchapel.org).

LOVE FIRST meets tonight – Sept 18th at 6 pm - everyone welcome

Emerson Chapel's Social Justice Team, Love First, has met twice in September to review our current affiliations and to determine our direction for the current church year. The upheaval in Ferguson has led us to investigate ways to support communities in our city who struggle with inequitable opportunities, racism, and violence. With last year's completion of the program Building the World We Dream About, an adult curriculum focused on racism in 21st century America and how to be a true ally for racial justice, our focus will be deepening the concrete actions we can take as a congregation to address systemic racism in our community and city.

We have agreed to continue our affiliation with M-Slice (Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion and Equality) to support the Kensington Park neighborhood, a largely African American neighborhood north of Delmar. Our primary engagement with M-SLICE continues to be a focus on the safety of the neighborhood. We have had two work days where brush is cleared from unoccupied lots to prevent illegal activity. In conjunction with First Church and Eliot Chapel, our next work day is set for Saturday, November 8th. Our contacts for M-SLICE are Vince and Jan Seyer, who are exploring additional ways to deepen our service to and relationship with this neighborhood.

Love First will be meeting again on Thursday, September 18th at 6 pm in our new meeting space at 16233 Westwoods Business Park. We will be discussing and planning our social justice direction going forward. Everyone is welcome.



Third Sunday MESH (Making Each Sunday Happen) team begins this Sunday.

Are you on Jake's team? Find out here:

Click on the link: http://www.emersonuuchapel.org/documents/mesh_teams_for_email.pdf

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!

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™

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



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

147 High Street at Powderhouse Road, Medford, Mass 02155 – Telephone 781) 396-4549

September 2, 2014

To the Members of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel:

On behalf of the UU Church of Medford, Massachusetts, we would like to congratulate you on the eve of your 30th anniversary. We understand that you have recently taken some bold and visionary steps toward your future, and wish to commend your leadership for doing so. Our own congregation, established more than 300 years ago, has moved more than once in its own history.

We wish you the best for your anniversary celebration and for worship in your new space.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Tess Baumberger
Minister

Cathy Collins
Board Chair

[This Week's Calendar of Events](#)

THUR, Sept 18	6:00 PM – Love First
FRI, Sept 19	6:30 PM – Java Soul**
SUN, Sept 21	10:00 AM - Worship - 17815 Wild Horse Creek Road, Chesterfield (Barat Academy) 11:20 AM -Religious Ed for all Ages & Pathways to Membership
WED, Sept 24	6:30 PM – RE TEAM
SUN, Sept 28	10:00 AM - Worship - 17815 Wild Horse Creek Road, Chesterfield (Barat Academy) 11:20 AM – Linger Longer (everyone invited to bring finger food – no utensils needed)

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



FALL FESTIVAL



Saturday, October 18th 4-7 PM – Cohran (large) Pavilion, Babler State Park
(same as July's picnic)

Bring hot dogs to roast. Bring your own beverages. S'mores are provided.

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

Eliot Chapel Invites you to a “Friday Night Film Series” – *Remembering Rev. James Reeb, A Witness to the Truth*

All Films will be shown at 7:00 PM in Adams Hall at Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood

September 19th – “Mississippi Burning”

November 14th – Inequality for All”

January 9th – “Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North”

March 13th – “Citizen Koch”

May 8th – “Stolen Ground”

Eliot Chapel: Every Tuesday Night Vigil from 6-7 p.m. and you are all invited. This is a peaceful vigil, and you are welcome to bring your children if you want them to have this kind of experience.

UU Women’s Connection – Fall Retreat – October 10th to 12th, DeKoven Retreat Center, Racine, Wisconsin
Register online at www.uuwomensconnection.org

UU College of Social Justice is offering an alternative Spring Break in March 2015 for college-aged young adults. On this weeklong trip, participants will work and learn with members of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP), a UUSC partner, on projects that help former Port-au-Prince residents build new lives in rural Haiti. Every day, you will work with Haitian peasants to build new homes, construct food gardens from old tires, or contribute to other sustainability projects. For more info, email info@uucsj.org.

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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 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 Baumel; Jeff Gidday; Charles Landauer

Treasurer:

Assistant Treasurer: Melissa Grizzle

Minister: Rev. Krista Taves