

# THIS WEEK AT EMERSON – OCTOBER 16, 2014

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](http://www.emersonuuchapel.org)  
Emerson Chapel is on Facebook and Twitter

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



**Sunday – October 19 – Bring a Friend**

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

**10:00 AM - Worship Service**

**“Thirsting for Unity in our Diversity” - Rev. Krista Taves**

The yearning many of us feel for unity keeps growing, especially given what has happened in our city. The divisions between us feel so wide even as they break down. So many of our hearts are hurting even as we hope for real change.

What does Unitarian Universalism offer us at this juncture in time?

What it has offered humanity for the last 400 years -

the promise that we will find wholeness and healing in our unity only by affirming and embracing our true diversity.

**11:20 AM - Religious Education for all Ages**

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: Vince Seyer**

**Greeters: Brenda Ernest, Nancy Belt**

**Song Leaders: Megan Landauer, Camille Herman**

**Board Members: Jeff Gidday, Jake Lyonfields**

**Children's Chapel: PJ Pynchla, Emily Covert**

**Hospitality: Christine, Sarahn, Iahly Bastian**

**Team: Larry Kehler, Jim Beale, Jason Getz, Dana Benedicktus, Adriana Beale**

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

We are blessed to have our church office located right next to a woodworking shop. It didn't start out that way. The office next to us was vacant when we moved in and it was blissfully quiet. Then the woodworker moved in and it wasn't quiet any more. At first I was completely annoyed by my new neighbor. The walls here are pretty thin and I hear saws and sanders running most of the day. It gets pretty loud.

The thing is, I could keep being annoyed by the noise and wish for the return of those quiet days. But my annoyance is not going to bring the silence back. I am powerless to change this so I have to find another way. One option is to find a way to live with it. A second option is to do more than that. I can embrace my new neighbor. I have decided that I'd rather try the second option.

I have come to love many things about my new neighbor.

- 1) He is clearly operating a successful local manufacturing business. Who is doing that in the United States of America? Making stuff, selling it, and earning a living? Less of us all the time. I can celebrate what he has accomplished and what it means for our local community.
- 2) He was very responsive when we asked him to turn his music down so that I could do pastoral care. He had no idea there was a church next door. He wants to be a good neighbor and turned down his music. I'm thankful for that. I used to listen to AC/DC all the time as a teenager. Somehow I've changed. I'm thankful for that too. 😊
- 3) Randy Whitman, our office administrator, and I am often at the office alone. Before we had neighbors, no one saw us coming or going. Now our neighbor often works with the big garage doors open for the fresh air. He sees us coming and going. I like that.
- 4) We both build things. He builds furniture. We build people.

Unitarian Universalism builds people in a very particular way. We hold fast to the truth that you don't have to believe alike to love alike. We are a people who are united beyond belief. As we say in our call to worship, "If you believe in God some of the time, all of the time, or none of the time, you are welcome." And it's true. At least it should be, and part of building us up is about learning how to live this truth.

Being able to do that is a spiritual discipline that takes years, which is why we start with our youngest children and continue this learning into adulthood. It takes a certain spiritual fortitude to be able to sit side by side with those who have different political leanings or understandings of the sacred and see them as brothers or sisters. It takes an inner strength to be able to listen to perspectives different from ours, or to learn how choices we have made affect another person or group, and stay in relationship. Many Unitarian Universalists were damaged by other religions. Sometimes, others in our churches may do or say things that remind of us the religions that hurt us. It takes spiritual hutzpah to realize that just because we have been hurt, we do not have the right to ask someone to dampen the expression of their faith to protect us from our pain. Embracing diversity is sometimes as easy as breathing, and other times as disciplined as committing to meditation every day. It's a way of being and a way of living.

Having said that, it is important to state that committing to diversity does not mean anything goes. Contrary to our popular image, this is not a faith tradition where you can believe anything you want. If your beliefs or actions bring harm to another person or group, or to this earth, a beloved community has the right to set boundaries and it has the moral obligation to witness to our values of inclusivity and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

This Sunday we will be exploring what it means to live into diversity and through diversity into our ultimate unity. It's also Bring a Friend Sunday. This will be an excellent Sunday for your friends or family to experience what it is about Unitarian Universalism that draws so many of us into this faith tradition.

Wondering how to invite someone? See the article below by Mark Bernstein, Regional Consultant for Growth Development with the Central Eastern Regional Group.

Just like I've decided to love my neighbor with his saws and sanders, we can decide to love each other, and be free.

Yours in faith, Rev. Krista.

#### Office Hours

October 13 – 19 – Wed, Thurs, Sat. ; October 20 – 27 – Wed, Thurs, Sat.

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)).

## Asking Friends to Worship – Oh My!

*By Mark Bernstein, Regional Consultant for Growth Development with the Central Eastern Regional Group*

Let's start with some statistics:

- ▲ 70 to 90% of people who join a congregation have a friend or relative already in the congregation.
- ▲ 75 to 90% visit because someone invited them.
- ▲ We know that the most frequent way in which people hear about us is through word of mouth. However, the average Unitarian Universalist only invites a person to church once every 26 years.

So what's up with that? Why are we so hesitant to invite people to our congregation?

So here's something that might surprise you: **The short term goal of Bring a Friend Sunday is not to increase the membership. The short term goal is to enable our friends, neighbors and loved ones to experience the place that has brought us such joy and meaning.** The immediate purpose is to spread the good news about Unitarian Universalism.

Let me share a story with you:

*A blind beggar boy was once sitting on the pavement. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in his begging bowl.*

*A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy.*

*That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"*

*The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." What he had written was: "Today is a beautiful day and I cannot see it."*

When we invite people to Bring a Friend Sunday, the sign we're displaying should not be, "We need more members. Please help." It should be, "We have a beautiful congregation and a beautiful building and you haven't seen it."

We are inviting people because we want them to meet the people and see the place that has brought us so much joy and meaning. And we want them to see it because they as well have brought so much joy and meaning to our lives.

### The Big Pitch

**Disclaimer:** A true and authentic "ask" comes from the heart and in one's own words. Please use this document merely as a guide and a resource of gentle suggestions.

*"On Sunday, October 19th, my congregation is having a "Bring a Friend Sunday." There will be a service featuring a sermon by our minister and an informal reception following the service. As you know, this is a community that is very important to me, a place where I feel at home. As someone who is also important to me, I want you to see this place and to meet the people who mean so much to me.*

*Will you accept my invitation?"*

*So what makes this invitation so special?*

- You are only asking the person to experience something that is important to you, not to convert to Unitarian Universalism
- You are honoring the person by inviting them to meet others who are also important in your life
- You are being very clear and honest about the agenda and content of the day
- You are making a straight forward invitation without bargaining, pleading or coercing. The other has the right and opportunity to say “no” without consequences or diminishing of the relationship

If they ask...	You say...
What happens during the service?	We listen to music and sing hymns. There are opening and closing words read by the Worship Associate. Our Minister also gives about a 20 minute sermon.
Do I have to sing?	Only if you want to.
Do people pray?	We often have moments of silence and reflection. These are private times when you can be alone with your thoughts.
Will I be asked to introduce myself?	You won't be singled out in any way. Hopefully, people will come over to us to say “hi” because they'll want to meet you.
I won't have to sign anything, will I?	Just a blank check. I'M KIDDING. You don't have to sign or do anything you don't want to.
Can my children come and what will they experience?	Yes, and they have the choice of joining you in the service or going to children's Religious Education classes with a friend or with their own age group.
So why is this Unitarian Universalism faith so important to you? Or why is this congregation so important to you?	Insert your own answer here and be ready to respond. If you stutter and stammer and have to think about it for too long, your friend will begin to wonder if this is a place worth visiting.

Mark Bernstein, Regional Consultant for Growth Development with the Central Eastern Regional Group



[Third Sunday MESH \(Making Each Sunday Happen\) team 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](http://www.emersonuuchapel.org/documents/mesh_teams_for_email.pdf)



## FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 18th 4-7 PM – Cochran (large) Pavilion, Babler State Park  
Bring hot dogs to roast. Bring your own beverages. S'mores are provided.  
Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Chili Cook-Off



### Take Your Best Shot!

For those of you members and friends who want to submit a photo to accompany your listing in the directory being created as part of the new Emerson website being built, now's the time to find a good setting, pull out a camera, and take your best shot. For information on photo requirements and where to e-mail your photo, please contact the church office.

### Emerson Chapel joins the Eliot Unitarian Chapel Vigil on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 6 PM to 7 PM

Eliot Chapel has been holding this vigil since the shooting of Michael Brown. They are holding vigil to stand in solidarity with people of color in our city and will hold vigil until the Grand Jury makes a decision regarding the indictment of Officer Darren Wilson. The Vigil is peaceful and for all ages. It takes place outside in front of Eliot Unitarian Chapel, which is located at 100 Taylor Street in Kirkwood.

If you wish to carpool, email Rev. Krista at [minister@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:minister@emersonuuchapel.org) or check in at the Emerson facebook page to see who else is going. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/119879484463/>

For more information and to see pictures of the Vigils, go here: <https://www.facebook.com/stlstandingonthesideoflove>

### Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Women's Spirituality Circle begins

A Women's Spirituality Circle is beginning at Emerson UU Chapel. This would be different from Womyn's Web, although there will likely be some overlap. The focus is on the feminine divine as we honor our lives as women.

We will follow the Wheel of the Year (essentially seasons) in ritual. The calling of the four directions begins each ritual as we move around the wheel to invoke the energy and sacred element each direction represents. Discussion and sharing follows.

The first meeting is Friday, October 24 at 7:30 pm in O'Fallon. It will include a ritual to celebrate Samhain (Halloween). At that time we will also determine a schedule for upcoming gatherings. Leadership would be shared, and we will probably meet in members' homes. Contact Phyllis Guberman for additional information (info in Directory) or send an e-mail to [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)

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.



Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists  
*A Welcoming, Worshiping, Witnessing Community*

Dear Friends in Faith,

We, the members of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, join congregations around the U.S., and Canada to congratulate you on your 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

In the course of these three decades, you have made difficult decisions and bold choice. You have placed your trust in good leaders and excellent ministers. You have been willing to step into the future with courage rather than fear. Thus, you have created a strong foundation upon which the next generations will build.

It takes a certain amount of audacity to build up a church in times such as ours. And so we need the friendship and support of one another. We need to walk together, as Alice Blair Wesley once wrote...

*To walk together in the ways  
Of truth and affection  
As best we know them now  
Or may learn them in days to come  
That we and our children may be fulfilled  
And that we may speak to the world  
With words and actions  
Of peace and goodwill.*

May your hearts be full of goodwill and celebration, and may your sanctuary overflow with many new families in the years ahead!

Sincerely,

Rev. Jennifer Ryu, Minister

Lola Warren, Board President

*3051 Ironbound Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185 – [www.wuu.org](http://www.wuu.org)*



The Weekend of Resistance - Ferguson October March  
 Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, St. Louis

Lauren Lyerla (Emerson Chapel) Jake Lyonfields (Emerson Chapel), Christopher D. Sims (UU Church of Rockford), Jenny Fung



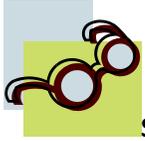
Rev. Krista Taves getting ready for Saturday's March



Last weekend, Unitarian Universalists from all four St. Louis Unitarian Universalist Congregations and around the country gathered in St. Louis to stand for racial justice, healing, reconciliation, and harmony.  
 Unitarian Universalists Stand on the Side of Love in Downtown St. Louis

## 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 Dierbergs and Shop & Save. Spend what you normally spend each month and give 5% to Emerson.



**Scrip Bonus** Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores® is offering a **2% bonus contribution from Saturday, October 18 through Friday, October 31**. Customers who purchase \$25 Jo-Ann gift cards will receive an **8% contribution** instead of the standard 6%.

## This Week's Calendar of Events

THU, Oct 16	7:00 PM – Love First
FRI, Oct 17	6:30 PM - **Java Soul Cafe
SAT, Oct 18	4 to 7 PM - ** Fall Festival – Babler Park
SUN, Oct 19	10:00 AM - Worship - 17815 Wild Horse Creek Road, Chesterfield (Barat Academy) 11:20 AM – RE for all Ages
MON, Oct 20	7:00 PM – Reader's Circle
TUE, Oct 21	11:30 AM - **BLT (Basic Lunch Therapy) 6:00 PM - **Vigil at Eliot Chapel
WED, Oct 22	5:45 PM – Web Team

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

## LOOKING AHEAD: M-SCLICE WORK DAY – Saturday, November 8th

## LOOKING AHEAD: PATHWAYS TO MEMBERSHIP - November 23, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

### 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

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Inequality for All”

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

March 13<sup>th</sup> – “Citizen Koch”

May 8<sup>th</sup> – “Stolen Ground”

Lake Country UU Church in Hartland, Wisconsin invites you to “Winter WomanSpirit 2015” February 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

Visit [www.womenandreligion.org](http://www.womenandreligion.org)

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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 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)

**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 Baumoei; Jeff Gidday; Charles Landauer

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Assistant Treasurer: Melissa Grizzle

Minister: Rev. Krista Taves