

THIS WEEK AT EMERSON – NOVEMBER 13, 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
Emerson Chapel is on Facebook and Twitter

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

Sunday – November 16

17815 Wild Horse Creek Road (Barat Academy)

10:00 AM - Worship Service

“It’s A Boy” - Rev. Julie Taylor

“. . . As our family anticipates the arrival of our second child answering the question, “Do you know what you’re having?” is not as simple as one might think. Through lived experiences and an openness of spirit, our society is beginning to acknowledge that gender is not binary. As Unitarian Universalists, how do we connect theologically and philosophically with this reality?”

11:20 AM – Religious Ed for All Ages

Our Outreach Partner is: **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**

UUSC advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. www.uusc.org

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: Vince Seyer

Greeters: Brenda Ernst, Nancy Belt

Song Leaders: Lauren Lyerla, Manny Irizarry

Board Members: Nancy Belt, Jake Lyonfields

Children’s Chapel: Becky Langrall, Emily Covert



[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

[Our Minister’s Message](#)

In October, Love First, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel’s Social Justice Team, made the decision to host a weekly vigil for racial justice in Chesterfield MO, at one of the busiest intersections of town, Boone’s Crossing and Chesterfield Airport Road. There were many reasons involved in this decision. Love First wanted our congregation to have a physical presence in relation to the events that have deeply affected our city since Michael Brown, a black teenager, was shot by Officer Darren Wilson in early August. The shooting has brought to light many of the tensions faced by people of color in our city, including distrustful relationships with law enforcement. There have been non-stop protests since the day of the shooting. We wanted to bring this issue to West County. For many of our members, this is our home and we know that things are not right here. We know that West County was created by white flight out of the city. Many of the assumptions made about the protesters in Ferguson are part of long standing racial prejudices in this city that created

the shape of where we live and how we live. This is not just about Ferguson. This is about our city and our nation. This is about the unfinished work of the American Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Our vigils take place every Saturday from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. We hold signs that say “Black Lives Matter” or “Ferguson Lives Here” or “E-racism.” We stand for one hour facing the busy traffic of people coming and going from the Chesterfield Commons.

The first Saturday, 17 people joined together. We were joined by two members of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis and two people unconnected to a UU congregation but who heard about our vigil. The response from the traffic was enlightening. Almost every vehicle with black occupants greeted us with gratitude and excitement. We received thumbs up, the enclosed fist symbolizing black power, honks, lots of pictures and videos, and verbal thanks. The response from whites was primarily silence although we were definitely noticed. A few gave us thumbs down, the finger, or shouted profanities out the window, but that was few and far between.

Last Saturday, 11 of us stood out there in the cold windy morning. We were joined by one member of Eliot Chapel and the same two people unconnected to UUism. The mood was very different today than the first week. There was a higher level of verbal aggression from whites. More shooting the finger and thumbs down. One young man screamed "I hate black people." A young girl, around 12-13 yrs old, clearly supported by her mother, screamed, "Go home! Go home!" Another older woman shouted, "Support the cops b****es" and yet another screamed, "All lives matter sweetheart!" which is similar to a slogan used at a white protest elsewhere in the city today. A white driver almost seemed to propel himself out the window of his semi truck in rage that we were there. There were some whites who expressed their support through thumbs up, honking and waving, including the driver of a semi truck who kept honking as he drove by.

We did get a lot of honks from black drivers and occupants, but whereas almost every single car with black occupants expressed their support last Saturday, today more remained silent.

I am wondering if the escalating tension in the city is part of the increased silence from blacks and higher aggression by whites. We all knew the Grand Jury Reveal was unlikely to come before the mid-term elections. The election is finished now, and the grand jury reveal is closer to being a reality.

It was unnerving to be the focus of that kind of hatred. Those of us who stood there have experienced first hand the many ways that whites police each other to preserve the privilege of whiteness. Whites who stand for racial equality are often met with incredible anger because we've crossed the line. Those slurs were about shaming us and intimidating us back into an acceptable whiteness that remain silent in the face of racism.

This experience has confirmed for me what our primary job is as white allies standing in solidarity with people of color. Our job is to change the hearts and minds of white people because that's where the institutional power is.

Rev. Barbara Gadon, Senior Minister of Eliot Unitarian Chapel, preached about our vigil to her congregation on Sunday. Eliot Chapel knows about vigils. They have held vigil for racial justice every Tuesday since Michael Brown's shooting. When they heard about our experience, many became committed to supporting us. A carload of Eliot members will be joining us this Saturday. I hope you will too.

Many of you have asked about your children's safety. To date, we have received no physical threats. You will need to decide how comfortable you are with your child experiencing verbal aggression, often using foul language, from strangers in moving vehicles.

Thank you to everyone who came on Saturday. I was so proud to stand with you, witnessing in such a real and immediate way to our values of respect and diversity and truth-telling. It was a blessing to stand with you all.

Yours in faith, Rev. Krista

Office Hours

Nov 10 – 16 – Study Leave; Nov 17 – 23 – Wed, Thurs, Sat.; Nov 24 – 30 – Study Leave

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).



Calling All Singers! Rehearsals begin this Sunday!

Choir will practice on Sunday mornings at Barat from 12-1.

Dates: November 16, November 30, December 7, December 14. **NO rehearsal November 23.**

The Emerson Singers (a.k.a. The Choir) has been invited to sing for the December 21st service. We will sing 2 songs: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and a round "Shalom Havayreem." The choir is open to anyone over the age of 14 who likes to sing - no training necessary. If you would like to sing or have any questions, please contact me. (See directory)

Musically yours, Camille Herman, Director

"Black Lives Matter" Vigil

Living the Message in West St. Louis County

When: Every Saturday until Christmas, plus Black Friday.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Where: Boones Crossing and Chesterfield Airport Road, Chesterfield MO

Bring: Signs saying "Black Lives Matter" or "We Stand With Ferguson"

Hosted by: Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

www.emersonuuchapel.org



Stories of Hope from our November Outreach Partner – UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)

Don Mario Perez is a member of Café Organico Marcala (COMSA), a coffee-farm cooperative with more than 850 members and a particularly holistic approach to its work. As Equal Exchange puts it, COMSA's "philosophy centers on living out and practicing their values in the work, community and personal life." Don Mario is passionate about continually learning and talks about "changing the chip" in your brain to open yourself up to new perspectives—"to observe, analyze, think, and invent!" he says. "Experience has taught us that change happens first in your mind and then in your home and on your farm." –UUSC supports small farmers like Don Mario throughout the world. Learn all about UUSC at uus.org.

VISIONING

Recently, Emerson has formed a Visioning Team to develop a strategic plan to help guide our congregation in the coming years. We hope that this plan will help us to focus our energies, and to more sharply define who we are and what directions we want to go as a community.

Once the Team's proposal is complete, the current timetable calls for the plan to be presented to the congregation for approval by Spring 2015. Since the strategic plan will be a living document, it can be reviewed and revised through fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

The first step for developing this plan is for the Visioning Team is to gather input from the entire community of Emerson. This input includes thoughts about our strengths and weaknesses, hopes and aspirations, and directions that we would like to take. The information-gathering stage will continue for several weeks -- allowing time for members to reflect, share, review others' responses, and to reflect further. Posted responses may be anonymous or signed. Opportunities to respond will be available on several Sunday mornings during social hour, an Adult RE session this coming Sunday, Emerson's Facebook page and other venues -- so that we can get input from as close to every member and friend of Emerson as possible.

You'll be hearing more about this over the next few weeks. If you have any questions, please contact someone on our visioning team -- Marilyn Ortinau, Steve Harvey, Mark Fish, and Debbie Baumuel.



REad all about RE!



REmember to save these dates:

Wednesday, November 19th – 6:30 PM - RE Team Mtg

November 23rd during the RE hour inter-generational event – Sandwich Making

We will need bread, apples, cookies, peanut butter!

November 30th – Mitten Tree appears – Bring your winter hats, mittens, and “kid undies” for Circle of Concern, which serves about 2,000 persons each month, more than one-third of those are children.

Circle of Concern is first and foremost, a food pantry. In 2013, C of C fed 27,382 individuals with 44,927 bags of groceries – enough to put a bag on every seat in Busch Stadium, with a few thousand to spare. At Circle, feeding families is just the beginning, though. There is also financial support, scholarships, job mentoring, children's programs and holiday events.

December 7th – Our middle-schoolers party with Rev. Krista

4:00 to 6:00 PM

Hosted by Becky Langrall

Pathways to Membership Class Begins – Contact the office to register

November 23, December 7 and December 14

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 new to Emerson or to UUism. The three-session series will be held at the Chapel between the regular Sunday services on November 23, December 7 and December 14. Our classes will be held during the Religious Education Hour at 11:20 AM.

The three sessions will cover the history of North American Unitarian Universalism; Unitarian Universalist theology; finding your place: Social Justice, Religious Education, fellowship and how things get done. Each session includes interaction time and teaching time and there is much opportunity for discussion.

Please call the chapel office (636-256-7393) or email office@emersonuuchapel.org by November 20th if you plan to attend, or if you have questions.

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.



Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation
79 Hiawatha Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel,

I have heard about your thoughtful and ambitious plans for the future from your Minister. Our congregation has taken some of the same steps. We have moved, moved again and finally bought a building that seemed too large for us. The building now fits fine and we are happy we had visionary leaders. We are on our third capital campaign.

I and we, hope you will take our encouragement and blessings on your journey.

Rev. Wayne Walder
Minister Neighbourhood UU congregation

CIRCLE OF CONCERN



Every month Circle shares food, personal care items and other support to over 500 families. Circle accepts non-expired food items such as canned goods, box cereal, bottled juice or boxed dinners. Personal care items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo & conditioner are always needed. The pantry also gives out pet food, laundry detergent and diapers.

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

Thanksgiving is the 27th this year and now is the time to buy grocery cards at the scrip table! Stop by during fellowship time and 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. Start planning for Christmas it will be here all too soon.

Get Low Denomination Gift Cards While They Last! Order this Sunday at the scrip table!



If you're looking for stocking stuffers! There are a limited number of special small denomination gift cards available, just in time for the holidays! These cards will only be available while supplies last, so don't wait to place your orders. The following cards are currently available:

- Amazon.com Gift Cards \$10 AMC Theatres® \$10 Target \$10 Starbucks \$5
- Applebee's \$10 Barnes & Noble \$5 Outback \$10 Pizza Hut \$5
- CVS/pharmacy \$10 IHOP \$10

- NOTE: FYI – There have been some inquiries re our participation in the Amazon Smile program. We have just received this notification.

*This email is to notify you that Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel will be receiving a **\$12.04** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between **July 1 and September 30, 2014**. The donation will be deposited to your organization's bank account on or before Nov 15, 2014. It may take several days for the donation to appear in the account.*

As you know, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible AmazonSmile items and there's no cap on how much we will donate.

The holidays are coming, and you can increase your organization's donation potential by spreading the word about AmazonSmile. Sign in to <http://org.amazon.com> and click on Marketing Tools to access customized online tools to let your supporters know that they can support your organization when they shop at smile.amazon.com. When you send an email or post to social media promoting your participation in AmazonSmile, make sure you use your charity-specific link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1364860>. This bypasses the charity selection page and makes it easier for customers to select and support Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel through AmazonSmile.

This Week's Calendar of Events

THU, Nov 13	7:00 PM – Love First
NOV 14-16	**Youth at CON
SAT, Nov 15	**11:30 AM – Vigil at Chesterfield Commons
SUN, Nov 16	10:00 AM - Worship - 17815 Wild Horse Creek Road, Chesterfield (Barat Academy) 11:20 AM – Religious Ed for All Ages
MON, Nov 17	7:00 PM – Reader's Circle
TUE, Nov 18	**11:30 AM – BLT (Basic Lunch Therapy)
WED, Nov 19	6:30 PM – RE Team Mtg
FRI, Nov 21	**6:30 PM – Java Soul

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

LOOKING AHEAD: RE SERVICE – February 8th

On Saturday, March 14, from 10am to 5pm, Dr. Ysaye Barnwell and St. Louis men, women and children will circle within the nave of Christ Church Cathedral and build vocal community by singing in the African-American tradition. You are invited to join us for this amazing experience. Africans and African-Americans have raised their voices in song for hundreds of years in order to remain connected to their heritage, to tell stories, to protest, to boost morale,.....to build community. Through this workshop, we will learn to do the same. True to tradition, all songs will be taught and learned by rote.

Dr. Barnwell is an amazing woman and a masterful facilitator. Her heart shines forth with faith and joy and her deep voice soars with the angels. Her wisdom and strength come from over 70 years of living, singing, composing, marching, teaching and leading.

Dr. Barnwell holds degrees in speech pathology, craniofacial studies and public health. She recently retired after 30 years of singing with **Sweet Honey in the Rock** to focus on building community.

Please share this email message with individual singers, family, friends.....anyone who may be interested. All are welcome - all that is required is a willingness to sing! This event is sponsored by the St. Louis Women's Hope Chorale.

Online registration is available at stlwomenshopechorale.org. You may also register by calling (314) 727-3587

Tickets are **\$20/person** for the full-day event.

I hope that you will help us spread the word about this amazing workshop, as well as join us on March 14 for an incredible experience of singing and building community.

-- Camille Herman

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

You're Invited to "Enchanting Opera" on December 7th, 2014 at 3:00 PM at Union Avenue Christian Church
Featuring Choruses by Rossini, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan.

Tickets are available at www.missouriwomenschorus.org or contact Phyllis MacLaren.

Eliot Chapel Invites You to

Join Queen Elizabeth I and the Lords & Ladies of the Court for Hors D'Oeuvres, Drinks & Dessert in an Evening of Merriment & Song.

Be Royally Entertained by ye Greenleaf Singers, Royal Actors of the Not-Ready-for-Reformation Players, and Recorders of the St. Louis Madrigal Consort, all assembled for the 39th Annual Renaissance Madrigal and Christmas Rout.

December 4, 5, & 6, 2014

Doors open at 7:00 pm/Festivities begin at 7:30

Prices are \$30 for Thursday night, \$35 for Friday and Saturday night.
(one table of 8 remains for Saturday night)

Registration closes November 30th.

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 Baumel; Jeff Gidday; Charles Landauer

Treasurer:

Assistant Treasurer: Melissa Grizzle

Minister: Rev. Krista Taves