

THIS WEEK AT EMERSON – DECEMBER 4, 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 – December 7

17815 Wild Horse Creek Road (Barat Academy)

10:00 AM - Worship Service

“Inner peace when outer peace is hard to find.” Rev. Krista Taves
Sometimes life just vibrates and our minds and hearts vibrate with it.
How do you find inner peace, that place of calm and acceptance,
when life is pulling you in the other direction?

Special Music: Eliot Winds

No Children's Chapel

11:20 AM - Religious Ed for All Ages

12 Noon – Choir Rehearsal

The Nursery is staffed from 9 AM to 1 PM – Room 142
Barbara Woodruff, Nursery Care Worker; Melissa Grizzle, Second Adult

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: Adriana Beale

Greeters: Lisa Parnell, Barb Brown

Song Leaders: Lauren Lyerla, Manny Irizarry

Board Members: Debbie Baumoel, Jeff Gidday

The “Mitten Tree” – will be up through December 21st to receive mittens, hats, and kid undies for families served by Circle of Concern.



1st Sunday MESH (Making Each Sunday Happen) team this Sunday

Are you on Nancy's team? Find out here: Click on the link:
http://www.emersonuuchapel.org/documents/mesh_teams_for_email.pdf

Our Minister's Message

This may come as a surprise to some of you, but I absolutely love the Kung Fu Panda movies. Kung Fu Panda is a cartoon character, a clumsy self-deprecating noodle-loving panda who somehow, despite himself, is trained as a kung fu warrior. In his clumsy, self-deprecating way he confronts evil over and over again, saving the forces of good from the powers of evil every time.

I like Kung Fu Panda, even though it's a little smarmy and cliched in that Disney kind of way, because a highly imperfect awkward being makes beautiful things happen. There is a scene in Kung Fu Panda 2 that I really like. Here is the youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GeKglB-MLQ>

In this scene, Kung Fu Panda is facing the evil warship. He is standing on a tiny island in the middle of a harbor and the warship has its guns trained on him. The first shot is fired and the fireball comes right at Kung Fu Panda. But he closes his eyes, breathes deep, and finds his balance. He catches the fireball in his hand, swings round and catapults it into the sea. Over and over again, the ship fires and the fireballs are redirected by Kung Fu Panda into the water. Finally, he gathers all his focus, and the last fireball leaves his hand and goes up high into the sky and lands on the ship itself, which implodes by the very fireball that it first shot from its bow.

This is what I think inner peace must be like. Life itself is anxiety producing. Fireballs are lobbed at us all the time. Inner peace is not something that happens to us when the world gets quiet. The world never gets quiet. If we wait for a quiet world to find inner peace, we will be waiting a long time.

Inner peace happens when we redirect the anxieties that come towards us, like Kung Fu Panda lobbed those fireballs, sometimes even lobbing the anxiety back onto itself. If he hadn't found his inner peace, those fireballs would have killed him. If we don't somehow find inner peace, all the stresses of our lives will define who we are.

That's inner peace, and that's what we're talking about this 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. 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).

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FROM THE VISIONING TEAM – DECEMBER 6th

Emerson has assembled a Visioning Team to guide the process of developing a strategic plan for Emerson for the next few years. The first part of this process is to collect input from as many different people as possible.

The next opportunity to participate is: - **Saturday December 6th at the Emerson office at 10:30 AM (16233 Westwoods Business Park in Ellisville) (just after Program Council meeting)**

The Visioning Team: Debbie Baumel, Mark Fish, Steve Harvey, and Marilyn Ortinau



Emerson Singers! Rehearsal This Sunday from Noon to 1:00 PM

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

Dates: December 7, December 14.

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." Musically yours, Camille Herman, Director



The Women's Spirituality Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 7 pm at the home of

Camille Herman. We will welcome and celebrate the Winter Solstice. All women of Emerson are invited.

Please contact Camille for directions to her home or Phyllis Guberman for more information.

Stories of Hope from our Outreach Partner - UUSC

Through the month of November we met these outreach partners through UUSC, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee **Nancy Vilce & Marie Obethe Moise** run a community restaurant –which **serves** nutritious and affordable meals made with produce from local families' urban gardens – as part of their holistic health clinic in Haiti. **Chrisantus Mwandih** offers education about environmentally friendly agriculture, helping his community in Kenya sustainably grow food, preserve the rain forest, protect water resources, and adapt to climate change. **Don Mario Perez**, a small farmer in Honduras, grows organic coffee using methods that are good for the earth, and a fair-trade collaboration between Equal Exchange and UUSC ensures he receives the compensation he deserves. UUSC will receive our offertory each Sunday in November and December.



CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Thank you for your support of the food pantry throughout the year! Please place your donated items in the red wheelbarrow in the entry.

Circle of Concern will be the recipient of our "Mitten Tree" collection this year – Beginning November 30th, we will be collecting mittens, hats, and kid undies for distribution among the 700-800 families that Circle serves.

“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



REad all about RE!



(photos D. Seyer)



Thanks to all who shared in our November Service Project for Gateway 180!

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous donation received on November 29th Your thoughtful contribution helps Gateway 180:: Homelessness Reversed continue to empower adults and families as they work to become independent and permanently housed.”.....Sincerely, Abby Nolen, Volunteer Coordinator

REmember these dates!

November 30th thru December 21st – Mitten Tree – Bring 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

December 17th - 6:30 PM - RE Team Mtg

February 8th – RE Service

[Pathways to Membership Class Continues](#)

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 following the regular Sunday service on November 23, December 7 and December 14, 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.

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.



Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church
An Open-Minded, Open-Hearted Spiritual Community

www.wuuc.org

Dear Rev. Krista and the good people of Emerson UU Chapel,

Congratulations on your 3-year anniversary! I hope that today is truly one of celebration and inspiration to keep on keeping on. Congregations like yours are the ones that keep our faith tradition growing and moving forward. May you continue making bold choices necessary to grow in vibrancy and health.

Peace, Shalom, Salaam,

Rev. Lois E. Van Looer

This Week's Calendar of Events

THU, Dec 4	Lunch Bunch has been rescheduled to Thursday December 11 th at 11:30 AM 6:30 PM – Adult RE Team Mtg
SAT, Dec 6	9:00 AM – Program Council 10:30 AM – Visioning Activity/Discussion – Everyone Welcome *11:30 AM – Vigil at Chesterfield Commons
SUN, Dec 7	10:00 AM - Worship - 17815 Wild Horse Creek Road, Chesterfield (Barat Academy) 11:20 AM – RE for All Ages 12:00 – 1:00 – Choir Rehearsal
MON, Dec 8	7:00 PM – Finance Team Mtg
TUE, Dec 9	**7:00 PM – Women's Spirituality Group Mtg
WED, Dec 10	5:30 PM – Web Team Mtg 7:00 PM – Board Mtg
THU, Dec 11	7:00 PM – Love First

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

Congregational Meeting - January 25th

RE SERVICE – February 8th

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

WinterWomanSpirit 2015 – February 6th – 8th: Hosted by Lake Country UU church in Hartland, WI 53029
“Healing Words: Called to Consciousness” – Keynote Speaker: Mary Pierce Brosmer
Registration thru Dec 31, 2014 is \$175 - Visit www.womenandreligion.org for more info

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 Baumoel; Jeff Gidday; Charles Landauer

Treasurer:

Assistant Treasurer: Melissa Grizzle

Minister: Rev. Krista Taves