
This Week at Emerson – April 3, 2014

Emerson UU Chapel, 73 Strecker Road, Ellisville, MO 63011 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

Sunday – April 6, 2014

“Exploring our 7th Principle” – Rev. Krista Taves

9:00 AM First Spark Worship Service

10:15 AM Religious Education for all ages

Pathways to Membership – Session 3

Adult RE: Building A World

Facilitators: Caroline Korb and Becky Langrall

11:20 AM Second Light Worship Service

Our Minister's Message

The Interconnectedness of All Things

This month we move to an examination of our seventh and final principle, that we as Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. I see this principle as the destination of our faith, the big “why”, the ultimate motivation for why we do what we do. Every principle prior to the seventh principle is a tool for us to use to get to this point.

And what is that point? It's when we have internalized the truth that everything is connected. We are not isolated beings living in our private universes. Every single choice we make affects the world around us, the people around us, and their choices shape us, too. We are one.

This becomes real in all kinds of ways. In Adult Education this year we made racial justice our focus, but in reality we have learned that racial equality is connected to other forms of justice. Gender equality, economic justice, reproductive justice, environmental sustainability, equality for sexual minorities, peace, racial equality – these are all connected. For Unitarian Universalists, it is a sacred journey to see this interconnected reality, to explore its meaning, and to draw on this reality when we make the small and large choices of our lives. This is how we shape heaven on earth. Our seventh principle tells us that this is a sacred journey, the journey of our lives.

Our seventh principle can also be taken to a mystical level. There is a spark of the divine in all things and that spark is like a web more than a collection of stars. The spark of the divine does two things—it holds up the individual uniqueness and beauty of every living thing, and holds them into deep relationship with all that is. This is also how we create heaven on earth. Walking into this deeper connection is a sacred journey.

This month we celebrate two significant religious holidays, Passover and Easter. Passover takes place in the Jewish faith. Easter takes place in the Christian faith. Both of these holidays and the stories that support them invoke the seventh principle.

At Passover, the Jewish people celebrate their liberation from slavery. Jewish People emerged from slavery by understanding and internalizing their deep connections to each other and to their God. Every time they acted in isolation, every time they ignored the truth and love of their God, they got in trouble. When they acted as a people, they found their freedom.

Easter is the victory of connectedness over separation. When Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, it was an attempt by the Roman Empire to separate and divide Jesus' followers and destroy his message. This was an act of intimidation. It didn't work.

When Jesus rose from the dead, his message became even stronger. No longer was he one individual walking the face of the earth. Now he lived in the heart of everyone who could hear his truths. Far from being destroyed, his teachings gained a power they did not have during his life.

Please join us this month for our exploration of this life-giving principle, this pinnacle of Unitarian Universalist faith tradition.

Yours in spirit, Rev. Krista Taves

April Office Hours

Mar 31 – Apr 6 – Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun; April 7 – Apr 13 – Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun; April 14 – Apr 20 – Wed, Thurs, Sat
April 21 – May 4 – Wed, Thursday ; Friday, April 28 – Wednesday, April 30: In Tulsa, OK for Worship Arts Conference

Rev. Krista Taves is available for regular pastoral care on Wednesdays, Thursday, and Sunday afternoon. She is available for emergency pastoral care 24/7. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please leave a voice mail or text at 417-343-8657. If you wish to see Rev. Taves, please email minister@emersonuuchapel.org or phone 417-343-8657 to make an appointment. Visit Rev. Taves at her Facebook site, or her blog www.kristataves.wordpress.com

Pathways to Membership Continues - April 6 and April 13

The last two sessions of the four-session series will be held at the Chapel between the regular Sunday services on April 6, and April 13 from 10:15 AM to 11:00 a.m. and will focus on Emerson congregational life and membership.

This interactive class is an excellent way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, as well as to meet others who are also new to Emerson Chapel. These classes are open to everyone.

Worship News!

With the addition of a second service, there have been many changes to our congregational life. Throughout the year, many teams have been discussing how to improve our worship and fellowship experience. The Worship Team is also talking about how we will handle our summer Sundays. Here are some changes to be looking for:

- 1) Todd Painter has agreed to be the Music Coordinator for First Spark, which means that special music is being restored to First Spark. Three Sundays have already been spoken for. The Emerson Singers led by Camille Herman will be serving us on Easter Sunday and the Emerson Orchestra, led by Phyllis MacLaren, will be serving us on Mother's Day. The Yes Intergenerational Choir led by Nancy Belt will be singing on Coming of Age Sunday, May 4th. Todd will focus on arranging for special music in the coming year. Kevin Horth will continue to arrange special music for Second Light.
- 2) Beginning on Memorial Day Sunday, we will revert to one service for the summer. Service will be at 10 a.m. Children's Chapel will be offered every Sunday. The worship format will be more aligned with the contemporary style of Second Light.
- 3) Conversations have started with the Worship Team, the Membership Team and the Ministry Team about how we can strengthen the fellowship aspect of Sunday morning. At this time, we are just beginning to explore implementing a monthly potluck between the two services to increase the opportunities for the entire congregation to gather. This possibility will be brought to Program Council for further discussion. If Sunday morning fellowship is important to you, please let us know so that we can channel your commitment to Emerson Chapel in this area of ministry.

The Worship Team includes Kevin Horth (Second Light Music Coordinator), Todd Painter (Pianist and First Spark Music Coordinator), Carrie Lang (Song Leader Coordinator), Rev. Krista Taves (Lead Minister), Rev. Julie Taylor (Affiliate Minister and Acting Minister of Religious Education), and Amy Stark (Student Minister)



Canned Food Needed: Easter is coming soon! On Easter Morning our RE kids will be going on a canned goods hunt. So, we are in need of some canned goods for which to hunt. Please bring your donations to the Chapel and place in the box in the vestibule by April 13th. After the “hunt” the cans will be given to Circle of Concern, our community food bank.

A Message from Your Student Minister: Join me for a Maundy Thursday Service - April 17th

Hello Emerson,

I am not sure about you, but in the past week as I see the first crocuses and the tiny stalks of green grass pushing through my lawn, I am ready to leap with joy! It was a particularly harsh winter, and the relief that comes from nature’s renewal is invigorating. Unfortunately, I also know that this is St. Louis, and the chances for a sudden ice storm or several inches of snow are still a possibility. It is that time of year when spring is within grasp, but the shadow of winter remains.

This hesitant anticipation I have for spring mirrors the feeling of so many of my Christian friends who are moving through the Lenten season toward Easter. This contemplation of the days leading up to Jesus’s death is a time to consider the shadows of winter as well as the signs of spring. While Christians consider the realities of a world which put Christ to death on a cross, they search their own souls for how the shadow side of themselves and others can, at times, overtake one’s spirit. For many, Lent is also a time of community and personal renewal, to make amends and move forward in love. For them, saying sorry is made easier by knowing the resurrection awaits.

As UUs, we do not all have this same belief in the resurrection, but almost all of our congregations celebrate Easter as time of rebirth and renewal for ourselves and the planet; we also know that hope awaits. However, seldom do we turn toward Lent as a teacher of contemplation and confession. This piece of our Judeo-Christian roots, I believe, can enrich our spiritual journeys, giving time to find where the interdependent web is broken, and reflect on how we might weave it back to wholeness. It reminds us to slow down and discern where our spirit stands, before we leap to celebration.

On **Thursday, April 17th, at 6:30pm** I will lead an evening **Maundy Thursday service**, to allow that contemplative space. Maundy Thursday is a reflection on the last supper of Jesus with his community, when he knew betrayal and death were inevitable. The service will be a quiet reflection -acknowledging and letting go of those fears, anger, and burdens that keep us and our communities locked in winter. We will end with a celebration of communion (UU style). All are welcome to the service and the table.

I hope you will join me to release some burden, and be reminded of the hope of community! If you have any questions, contact me at studentminister@emersonuuchapel.org

Yours in Service,

Amy



**Emerson Singers Rehearsals for April 20 Easter Services:
Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM - April 2, April 9, April 16**



Tickets go on sale this Sunday!
Emerson Trivia Night!
Saturday, April 26th 6:30 – 10:30pm

Tell your friends and neighbors, it is sure to be a fun night filled with a fierce and friendly trivia competition!

We have some great items for the Silent Auction - Mike Matheny autographed baseball, Rams autographed T-shirt, TV, Muny tickets etc. It's not too late to donate -especially for the baskets Melissa is putting together. Invite your friends and neighbors and don't forget to include a variety of ages!

Sign up your tables on the poster in the vestibule.

WHERE: Ballwin VFW Hall (Behind the Ballwin Post Office)

HOW: Tables of 8 with room for up to 250 people. - Bring your own food; NO outside liquids.

COST: \$15 per person.

WHAT: 10 Rounds of trivia, Mulligans included, cash bar, silent auction, collection of goods for charity

Do It Yourself - Emerson Rummage & Plant Sale - Saturday, May 3rd 8:00 am- 3:00 pm

Start gathering your stuff and potting up those perennials that are finally starting to emerge..

Watch for more information in this Sunday's Order of Service.

To reserve your space, or if you have stuff to donate, but no time, or desire to sell it on May 3, contact chair Trish Cuba at: trashntreasure@emersonuuchapel.org.



Kudos to Ben Landauer and associates for cleaning out the refrigerator!

Circle of Concern – Our community's food pantry

Immediate Needs at the Circle include: Peanut Butter & Jelly

Please place your donated items in the red wheelbarrow in the Chapel entryway. Thank you for your ongoing support of our community's food pantry.

Circle's mission is to both feed the hungry and to provide opportunities for self-sufficiency..Reflecting that mission, offering packaged food addresses hunger. Offering additional fresh and frozen food helps sustain and foster long-term health. With your gifts, you help us provide food to help our clients stay healthier. Thank you for your support of the food and pantry ... and our mission."

Circle of Concern, 112 St. Louis Avenue, Valley Park, MO 63088

Easiest Fund raising ever!! Grocery gift cards and GL Scrip are on sale Every Sunday

Stop by the table in the Hearth Room and see how ALL your shopping can benefit Emerson. Stop by the table in the vestibule and 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.

Emerson is now registered at AmazonSmile <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1364860>

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

MUUSE (Adult Midwest Unitarian Universalist Singles Enrichment)

Singles' Enrichment Vacations and Weekend Getaways – Visit www.AMUUSE.org

Marwood Unitarian Universalist Youth Camp – July 20th and July 26th - Info on Hearth Room bulletin board

This Week's Calendar of Events

SUN, April 6

9:00 AM Worship Service - First Spark
10:15 AM Religious Ed
11:20 AM Worship Service – Second Light
1:00 PM Coming of Age
4:00 PM Group Meditation Practice

MON, April 7

7:00 PM Womyn's Web – Annual Clothing Exchange

WED, April 9

7:00 PM – Board Meeting
7:00 PM – Emerson Singers Rehearsal

SAT, April 12

9:00 AM – Program Council
1:00 PM – Toler/Irizarry Wedding & Reception

Looking Ahead

◆ **Emerson Trivia Night - Saturday, April 26, 2014**
Ballwin VFW Hall (behind Ballwin Post Office)
Tickets \$15 per person - on sale April 6, 2014

◆ **DIY Rummage Sale – May 3rd**

◆ **May 18th - Congregational Meeting**

◆ **May 25th – Soul Cafe**