

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

Activity Directory



Emerson is a UUA Welcoming Congregation and is an accessible congregation. Listening devices and large print documents are available.



About Us

Emerson UU Chapel

Emerson is a vibrant and growing Unitarian Universalist congregation in west St. Louis County with many members and friends, all with various gifts they contribute to create a thriving spiritual home. Emerson UU Chapel is a proud member and supporter of our association of congregations (www.uua.org) and our Central Midwest District of the UUA (www.cmwd-uua.org).

Emerson Chapel is growing annually because of our vibrant staff and membership. Come join us and see for yourself.

Find Your Passion

We have places in the inner workings of Emerson just for you. As with all congregations, each and every volunteer job in our congregation plays a significant part in the success and daily flow of life at Emerson UU Chapel. Because interests vary and there are so many different roles, you are encouraged to try more than one group. If you are interested in any particular group, please contact as you are comfortable, the team leader or group convener listed.

Not sure where to start? Contact our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@emersonuuchapel.org.

Our History

We began when a small group of UUs in the greater St. Louis area, with the (then) ministers of First Unitarian Church in St. Louis and Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, founded Emerson UU Chapel in 1984. In the early days, members and friends met in people's homes, in schools (including LaPetite Nursery and Logan Chiropractic) and at Kol Am Congregation.

In the summer of 1992, we purchased this beautiful home and grounds. In the summer of 2002, the congregation completed construction on our wonderful new sanctuary and renovation of our original facility.



In 2005, we called our minister, the Reverend Krista Taves (*left*). In 2012 we hired a new Director of Religious Education Nichole Angieri (*right*) to grow our education programming for our children and youth.

Our goals are to maintain our intimate and friendly environment, enhance fellowship through participation in chapel functions and social outreach projects and grow the number of new members and friends.



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Our Communications

Want to know more? See our website at www.emersonuuchapel.org. This Week at Emerson (TWAE) as well as our newsletter and a link to our calendar are provided there.

Deepening your connections

Small discussion groups

Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups are small, supportive discussion groups open to everyone at Emerson. The central feature of the covenant groups is a promise you make to one another to build trust, share openly, and care for one another in the highs and lows of our individual lives.

You do not need to be a member of Emerson to join a covenant group, but our groups are definitely grounded in the principles of Unitarian Universalism. If you have felt a yearning for a place to talk about things of spiritual significance for you, or if you have had difficulty finding your "place" at Emerson, or if you're simply thrilled with the idea of getting to know a small group of people much better, these groups are for you.

New Covenant Groups begin in the fall of each church-year. Registration starts sometime in August and closes after the group's second meeting, or maximum membership. Maximum registration per group is ten people, including facilitators. Groups will begin meeting in September and will continue until the following summer. This is an excellent opportunity for spiritual exploration, personal growth, and friendship building. Interested in one of these groups (below)? Contact us at our office and we will connect you .

office@emersonuuchapel.org

Social Groups

Fellowship & Fun

These groups are open to all, and everyone at Emerson is encouraged to join in. If you are unsure about whom to contact, see anyone with a yellow name tag on Sunday morning, or contact our minister or our chapel office.

Basic Lunch Therapy (BLT)

A great way to take a break from the stress of the office and connect with old friends and meet new women. We are open to all Emerson women. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at a different restaurant, convenient to many people during lunch hours. Each month the time and location is emailed to all women in the Emerson directory, so if you're interested, please contact Randy our chapel administrator at office@emersonuuchapel.org to make sure your name and email address is in the directory.

Coordinator: Jan Seyer
blt@emersonuuchapel.org

Choir (see Emerson Singers and Walden Pond)

Circle Suppers

These events foster friendship and fellowship among members through a series of rotating dinners in member's homes. This year we have two forms: Adults Only and Families.

These popular dinners consist of groups of 8-10 people who meet 4-5 times during the church year at each other's homes or in the hearth room at the chapel. The host supplies the main course, other attendees bring the sal-

ad, desserts etc., and all contribute to a lively conversation. A great opportunity to meet new friends or refresh current friendships!

Coordinator: Lezza Baker
circle@emersonuuchapel.org

Drum Circle

This is a chance for those with or without experience in drumming to be in community and feel this powerful force as we drum together.

Meets on the second Sunday evening at 7P at our chapel.

Coordinators: Linda Giddy and Katie Jones
drum@emersonuuchapel.org

Emerson Band

A small group of musicians who bring their musical gifts about once a month on Sunday mornings.

This group plays in worship about once a month. There is no convener. If you are interested, please contact a member of the band, or our minister.

Band Leader: Kevin Horth
Band@emersonuuchapel.org

Emerson Singers (Choir)

Provides choir music to our congregation a few times a year. No experience is needed for Emerson Singers. Our choir meets several times prior to rehearsals to practice and prepare. Times/dates are listed in TWAE and on the Emerson Calendar.

Director: Camille Herman
music@emersonuuchapel.org

Garden Group

A group which shares its love of all things green, brown and other living things. This group is responsible for some of the gardens around Emerson.

Contact Grounds Team Leader for specific information about when they meet, as summer heat may cause changes to meeting times or days. Generally, Garden Club meets on Tuesdays from about 6P-dark.

Team Leader: Sally Armontrout and Marilyn Ortinau
garden@emersonuuchapel.org

Morning Song Leaders

Those wishing to help our congregation sing morning hymns. Strong voices, ability to read music, and willingness to sing in front of the chapel with a microphone. Training for song leaders is provided each summer.

Coordinator: Ann Kehler
SongLeaders@emersonuuchapel.org

Movie Matinee

An organized daytime opportunity to view and discuss current movies.

The group meets 15 minutes prior to the selected show the first Wednesday of every month. Following the movie, a discussion takes place at a nearby restaurant over drinks and snacks.

Convener: Pat Baker
movie@emersonuuchapel.org

Parent-Child Playgroup at Emerson

Join other Emerson families for snacks, conversation and play two times every month in the nursery (once at 10A and once at 2P). Parents and their infants and toddlers are welcome. Parents and their preschoolers and older children are also welcome, but please be aware that we will all be sharing the same space and there will be no separate childcare. If you are interested in joining us, just show up! If you have questions, contact Dawn French-Bell at

are provided on our chapel calendar and in TWAE. We hope to see you!

Convener: Dawn French-Bell
playgroup@emersonuuchapel.org

Reader's Circle

This group promotes fellowship and friendship among readers in our chapel. This group meets the fourth Monday of each Monday at 6:30 PM at the Chapel with a "Bring Your Own Dinner" and fellowship, then 7 PM for book discussion. A book list is available on our website.

Convener: Pat Baker
readers@emersonuuchapel.org

Walden Pond

Provides choir music to our congregation August through May. No experience is needed. There are no weekly rehearsal times, but rather, we consider ourselves as a "pick-up" choir, that is whoever shows up at 8:45 AM on the last SUN morning to rehearse sings. Please join in by simply showing up.

Director: Nancy Belt
walden@emersonuuchapel.org

Womyn's Web

The purpose of this group is promotion of fellowship and friendship among women of the church. This group meets the first Monday of every month to embrace and honor the feminine spirit while providing a sounding board for ideas and concerns in an informal setting. Two annual retreats are planned generally each year—a winter pajama party and a summer retreat.

Convener: Susan Gottlieb
womyn@emersonuuchapel.org

A Bit How Emerson Works

Our chapel is governed by its members, who in turn elect a board of trustees defined in our bylaws. Additionally, the board and congregation entrusts its programming and its ministry to paid and volunteer staff through its program council and program committees. Our bylaws and charter with the State of MO are posted on our website (see About > Members & Board).

A **program council** is entrusted to carry out, make decisions about, and provides support for the programming which the congregation is supporting and requesting. Additionally, to insure that programming doesn't conflict with major events occurring at our chapel, calendaring takes place. At Emerson, our Vice President is charged with convening this oversight group.

Teams (a.k.a. groups or committees)

Program Teams are set by the board, usually with some level of funding (dependent upon the canvass outcome) and charged with providing program(s) for our community (e.g., Religious Education, Adult Education). There is room for additional program teams. Anyone is invited to share their interests and gifts with a program team.

Some of our teams are:

- Sustaining Members—all current members and is in two teams below: Shared Ministry Team and Events Team.
- Welcome—new members
- Care & Concern

- Love First
- Diversity Alliance
- Religious Education – Adult and Covenant Groups
- Religious Education – Youth
- Worship/Music/Hospitality

Standing Committees as defined in our Bylaws support board work, work with our minister or the president of the congregation, and may not be open to everyone. Often, these are elected or appointed positions: Nominating Committee (appointed by the past nominating committee), Finance Team (appointed by the board), Human Resources (appointed by the board, currently this committee function is assumed by the board itself), Committee on Ministry (for this specific committee, please talk with the minister; nominated by minister and appointed by the board), and Stewardship Team (you might want to talk with a past canvass team leader, after you've talked with the president and treasurer or finance team leader).

Support Teams (often funded) support the work of our congregation. These are open to anyone with interests/skills or the desire to develop these skills.

- Building & Grounds
- Finance
- HR/Personnel
- Aesthetics
- Marketing/PR/Communications

Social or Fellowship Teams (described further in pages 7-8) are groups which anyone can attend (perhaps need not even "join") and

they may have a programming function, but provide the members of the group affiliation with like-minded Emersonians. These are open to all—and all are encouraged to find friendship and fellowship in one or more fun groups!

- BLT
- Movie Matinee
- Choir/Emerson Singers, Walden Pond and Morning Song Leaders
- Circle Supper
- Drum Circle
- Reader's Circle
- Hospitality
- Worship Band
- Garden Group
- Womyn's Web

Teams

...in alphabetical order...

Aesthetics (Support) The team works on the aesthetics of the interior of the chapel building. This includes planning of exhibits and helping to keep the sanctuary looking presentable.

Team Leader: Marcy Saphian

BLT

Building and Grounds (Support)

This team coordinates and facilitates maintenance of the Chapel and its grounds. See also Garden Group.

The team is responsible for overseeing the general maintenance and up-keep of Emerson Chapel including interior and exterior maintenance and safety issues. The committee is responsible for setting and managing an annual budget to cover interior clean-

ing service, grass cutting, snow removal, and miscellaneous repair and replacement of parts.

Team Leader: Shawna Lyonfields
building@emersonuuchapel.org
grounds@emersonuuchapel.org

Committee on Ministry (Standing)

The ministry team supports our congregational ministry as well as the ministry of our congregation. The committee meets monthly with our minister. Members are nominated to the board by the minister, and the board makes the appointment. The meetings of this committee are confidential.

Convener: Open

COM@emersonuuchapel.org

Diversity Alliance (Program)

Upholds social justice specifically as it applies to LGBTQ work. It works for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-alliance projects. This group was responsible together with Love First to have our congregation designated as an LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation by our association. This is an earned designation.

Team Leader: Lauren Lyerla
diversity@emersonuuchapel.org

Finance (Appointed Board Team)

The Finance Team advises the Board on all financial matters affecting the church including fundraising, stewardship and annual canvass. The Finance Team consists of members of the Chapel and the church Treasurer. The committee provides a budget review to the Board of Trustees. In addition, responsibilities include overseeing the annual operating canvass, and the grocery certificate sales. This

committee also determines if other fundraisers are needed and recommends policy to the Board of Trustees regarding planned giving, endowments, memorials and other financial policy matters.

Team Leader: Jen Seitz
finance@emersonuuchapel.org

Hospitality (Support)

This team insures we have beverages and light snacks during our social time on Sunday mornings. The Team is divided into three subteams: Morning Set-up, Pit Crew (sets up at end of service) and Clean-up.

Chair: Joy Hungerford
hospitality@emersonuuchapel.org

Human Relations (Appointed Board)

This group will insure Emerson UU Chapel ministers to its staff by maintaining all salary/wages and benefits within guidelines by our association. This team oversees recommendations of pay and benefits to the board, as per the Guidelines of our Association.

Chair: Shawna Lyonfields
HR@emersonuuchapel.org

Love First (Program)

Love First ensures Emerson UU Chapel is upholding our vision and mission through social justice. This team determines social justice work and advocacy projects each year.

Team Leader: Jan Seyer
lovefirst@emersonuuchapel.org

Marketing, Public Relations & Communication (Support)

This communications team is responsible for all internal/external communication about the Chapel. It develops marketing and advertising efforts to

attract potential members and increase the awareness among the public of programs and activities at Emerson Chapel, including our newsletter, the *Emerson Emissary*, (newsletter@emersonuuchapel.org) and through our team leaders (see end) bulletins for Sunday Services, flyers, articles in local news journals as well as selected paid advertising. In addition this committee maintains and updates our website. webster@emersonuuchapel.org

Team Leader: Charles Landauer
marketing@emersonuuchapel.org

Membership (Program)

See Sustaining Membership

Music (SubCommittee of Worship)

This team schedules musicians for performances on Sunday mornings during the regular church-year. While our pianist accompanies us for our hymns, and occasionally provides extra music for our service, additional musicians are scheduled monthly to reflect our wide interest among our members. See also under Choir and Emerson Band in Fellowship & Fun groups.

Co-Chairs: Morrie Reece
musiccomm@emersonuuchapel.org

Nominating (Standing)

Recommends to the congregation candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees, the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee. Per our by-laws, the committee generates a slate of nominees to fill open Board positions for the following church-year. The slate is voted on by voting members* at the Annual Congregational Meeting. [* a voting member is defined in our

Bylaws and is someone who has signed our book 90-days prior to the meeting and has given a gift of record.]

Convener: Open
nominating@emersonuuchapel.org

Pastoral Care (Standing)

Works with our minister to provide care to our entire community.

Team Leader: Karyl Howard
pastoralcare@emersonuuchapel.org

Religious Education – Adult (Program)

Coordinates religious education programming on various topics of interest. This team plans programs that promote and encourage learning, questioning, and personal growth. These Programs are usually presented on Sunday mornings, or on evenings during the week. See also information about Covenant Groups.

Team Leader: Susan Stafford
adultre@emersonuuchapel.org

Religious Education – Children & Youth (Program)

This program team creates and supports religious education programming for children and youth. It works with the Religious Education Director to determine and meet the religious education needs of our children. They choose curriculum, coordinate teachers, and work with the Worship committee on intergenerational services.

Team Leader: Susan Bell
REChair@emersonuuchapel.org
Youth Coordinator: Chris Gamlin
youthcoord@emersonuuchapel.org

Sustaining Membership (Program)

This team communicates with members/friends of Emerson in times of

need, offering assistance when possible as needed. It contacts individuals and friends as needed to offer care and support. The Events Team is also responsible to insure that events have volunteers to run, and organizes Circle Suppers.

Conveners: Lezza Baker (Events@) and Barb Brown (membership@) @emersonuuchapel.org

Welcome (Program)

Greets Sunday morning guests and helps them find meaningful connections to Emerson Chapel. Background: This committee maintains and staffs our guest table, works with our minister to plan and facilitate classes and social events for newcomers, and coordinates new member ceremonies. Team members work closely with our minister to guide newcomers on their paths to membership.

*Team Leaders: Open
Welcome@emersonuuchapel.org*

Worship (Program)

Provides coordination and leadership in the planning and presentation of all services. *Team* members identify and contact speakers, liturgists, and musicians necessary for each service and work with the Religious Education Committee to plan intergenerational programs.

*Team Leader: Nancy Belt
worship@emersonuuchapel.org*

Because, together, we can do more than we can alone...

Our chapel is a member of our local cluster of UU congregations (St. Louis Area UU Council). Additionally, we are a member of the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing local churches and fellowships, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together. The Association's polity is congregational; Association decisions are made by congregational delegates in business sessions at the annual General Assembly.

For more information about growing UUism in our area, see the Chalice Lighters Program on the Central Midwest District website (www.cmwd-uua.org)

For more information about our association and its governance, please point your browser to www.uua.org



Using our Building

Your Family's Life Passages

What are "Life Passages"?

- Marriage, union or other commitment or re-commitment ceremony between two individuals
- Child dedication or naming ceremony
- Memorial or funeral service
- Significant life passage (75th or greater birthday celebration, 50th or greater wedding anniversary)
- Retirement parties
- Coming of age events (Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, Bridging Ceremonies, Coming of Age, etc.)
- Any other event must be approved by the Board of the Chapel.

Who can use our building?

All members and friends may use our building for life passages. Others may rent our spaces and information is available on our website. Members may rent our building for uses other than life passages. All use of the building is board approved. Check our website for more information, including our contract. www.emersonuuchapel.org



Our Values

Transforming ourselves
Our community
Our world

Our Vision

Guided by the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, Emerson Chapel will be a beacon of liberal religion and service, recognized in our community as a source for stimulating spiritual, social, and intellectual interaction.

We will develop and maintain exceptional human, financial, and building resources to provide opportunities for lifelong learning, active social outreach, meaningful community fellowship, and deep spiritual exploration.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a liberal, welcoming community that nurtures people on diverse spiritual paths through engaging worship, collaborative learning, and social action.



Our Legacy

Our members have begun remembering this Chapel in their will, trust and estate plans. If you are doing so as well, please provide that information to our minister, or in privacy to our Legacy Team at Stewardship@emersonuuchapel.org

Building for Sale?

We've outgrown 73 Strecker in its current configuration.

Our current facilities no longer support our ministry. They are inadequate for adults and children/youth of all ages. They are inadequate for worship, coffee hour, and religious education. They are inadequate for our staff. This facility stands between us and us actually living our mission and vision. We can't forget why it is so important for us to move forward. We're not growing for the sake of growth, but for the sake of our liberal religious tradition, which emphatically tells us that we can't be selfish and hold onto what we have for ourselves.

We have to share it and we have to give it away. Our entire purpose is generosity, abundance and openness. This spiritual discipline should inform everything we do, such as:

- how we engage each other in coffee hour and in all our fellowship opportunities (like Womyn's Web, Circle Suppers, Covenant Groups, Book Club, etc),
- how we welcome our guest speakers, many of whom have different theologies than us. We should be ESPECIALLY welcoming of guest speakers that make us uncomfortable. It is the mark of spiritual maturity to embrace this difference and be open to what we can learn.
- how we open ourselves to the multigenerational reality of our people
- how we welcome and embrace a range of beliefs about the divine
- how we welcome newcomers, and not just the first time, but also the second, third, fourth, and fifth times
- how we care for those who are sick or in difficult life transitions
- how we engage those among us who struggle financially
- how we engage those among us who are minorities in our community of faith

When our building is too small for us to live this mission and vision, we are morally obligated to do something. This is how we live in openness, abundance, generosity, hope, and compassion.

This vision is how we got here. In 1984, the people who made the decision to start a new Unitarian Universalist congregation in West St. Louis County had the vision. The people who made the brave decision to buy 73 Strecker Road six years later had the vision. The people who made the decision to build a new sanctuary had the vision. And now, it's your turn to have the vision and to live it.

In the upcoming months, we will assess the fair market value of our building (putting it up for sale), determine what we can and cannot do with it (an architect) and look for other properties which might be suitable (Real Estate Broker and RE Agent). And then, we will embark together on a journey to make it happen.

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

73 Strecker Road, Ellisville, MO 63011

636-256-7393

visit our website at
www.EmersonUUChapel.org



Emerson Staff

All staff may be reached by phone at 636-256-7393.
Individual email addresses are listed.

Chapel Minister

Rev. Krista Taves
minister@emersonuuchapel.org
Blog: www.kristataves.wordpress.com

Director of Religious Education

Nichole Angieri
dre@emersonuuchapel.org

Chapel Administrator

Randy Whitman
office@emersonuuchapel.org

Pianist

Todd Painter
pianist@emersonuuchapel.org

Youth Coordinator

Chris Gamlin
youthcoord@emersonuuchapel.org

Join Us for Sunday Service & Religious Education

Service at 10 — 11A Year-round
Religious Education August — May
Children's & Youth RE 11: 30A — 12:15P
and Adult's RE 11:30A — 12:15P

For other celebrations, programs and services, please see our website
www.emersonuuchapel.org

Read more about our symbol, the flaming chalice, at www.uua.org. Emerson UU Chapel is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, Central Midwest District (CMwD) of the UUA, and the St. Louis Area Council of the CMwD. Additionally, Emerson Chapel and our members strongly support growth of UUism through the CMwD Chalice Lighters Program; learn more at www.cmwd-uua.org.

EUUC was established in 1984.

NURTURE Your Spirit.
Help HEAL Our World.

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