

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel Activity Directory



A Heart Inside, photo by Bob Layne

“...and service is our prayer...”



Join Us for Sunday Service & Religious Education

Service at 10-11A Year-round
 Religious Education September—May
 Children’s RE 11:15A —12:15P
 Adult’s RE Program I 11:30A—12:15P
 Adult’s RE Program II RE 11:30A-1P
 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 and Central Midwest District (CMwD) of the UUA. Additionally, Emerson Chapel and our members strongly support growth of UUism through the CMwD Chalice Lighters Program; learn more at www.cmwd-uua.org.

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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 committee chair 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. In 2010, we hired a new Director of Religious Education Jenn Taylor 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.

Welcome to Emerson Chapel

From our Minister, Rev. Krista Taves

"I am very excited about what happens here at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel. This is a dynamic congregation with vision and drive, a congregation that lives out its values. We practice acceptance of diversity. We model open-mindedness for our children. We care for one another and stand by each other in the living of our lives. We serve the community around us and the world at large.

This is a faith without certainty, a faith that challenges us to find our own way. This is a faith of risk where we accept that there is little black and white in the world. We ask each other to live in a world of grays with courage, conviction, honor and integrity.

If this is how you want to live your life, if this is already how you move through your days, welcome to Unitarian Universalism."

Rev. Taves is available by appointment on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, August through May. To contact Rev. Taves, call the Chapel, 636.256.7393, or e-mail her at Minister@EmersonUUChapel.org. Our minister, Rev. Taves, is available to officiate your Rite of Passage (see page 14). More information about this service from our minister is available on our website.

Worship With Us

Sunday Morning

Our services follow a similar format from Sunday to Sunday. The service begins with the ringing of the bell and music. We light our chalice, the symbol of Unitarian Universalism. There will be greetings and some announcements, followed by a hymn.

The next part of our service, Joys and Concerns, is very special. First, we read a Unison Affirmation:

Love is our doctrine, the quest for truth is our sacrament, and service is our prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve life, to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine, thus do we covenant with each other, and with all.

Then, soft music begins, and anyone who wishes to comes forward and lights a candle in silence. After all who wish to have come forward, the Joys and Concerns

book, which sits at the back of the sanctuary, is brought forward. This book is for anyone who wishes to have a joy or concern read before the congregation. Most will enter their joy or concern as they come into the sanctuary before the service begins.

After the joys and concerns have been read, a small prayer may be offered, followed by a congregational blessing. Then we take our morning offering, and sing a second hymn.

Every service includes a time for our children. Our children leave the sanctuary after the Story for All Ages, and go to the Hearth Room for Children's Chapel. We have four intergenerational services a year - Water Communion (the first Sunday after Labor Day), Bread Communion (the Sunday before Thanksgiving), Easter Sunday, and Flower Communion (the last Sunday before Summer Services begin, typically this occurs the last Sunday of May).

We often include readings in our service. There is usually a time of silence. And of course, the sermon, which is the reason many of us attend the service on Sunday.

Our service ends with a hymn and the extinguishing of the chalice. Coffee hour takes place immediately after the service in the Hearth Room.

Summer services (June-July) include discussion groups. In August our minister returns, but religious education (following service) does not begin until September.

Information about upcoming Sunday services is on our website www.emersonuuchapel.org.

Our Holidays

In addition to traditional holiday, Emerson celebrates...

There are two holidays that many Unitarian Universalist congregations celebrate that are unique to our faith: **Water Communion and Flower Communion**. Both holidays are ceremonies that celebrate our Unitarian Universalist community and the importance of each individual's unique contributions to that community. Additionally, other unique communion services are celebrated in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Though derived from Christian communion rituals, which in turn derive from the Jewish Passover rituals, Unitarian Universalist communions often celebrate our connection to the Earth through food and, hence, Emerson also celebrates **Bread Communion** (around Thanksgiving).

Religious Education

RE for all ages

September-May Sunday Classes

11:30A—12:15P Young Adult & Adult –Program I

11:30A—1P Young Adult & Adult –Program II

11:15A—12:15P Children & Youth

June-August

Children's Chapel is within our Sunday service with children's programming ending about 11A.

Adult RE

Adult RE occurs Sunday mornings a bit after service, as well as some evening and Saturday offerings. Please see our website, and our bulletin board (in our Hearth Room) for additional programs in addition to discussion after service and after a brief social time. Sunday morning presents a chance to further explore the sermon topic.

Children and youth RE

Nursery (Infants & Toddlers)

Consistent, responsible childcare with age appropriate creative play is provided every week of the year.

Our Children's Safety

Our congregation takes the safety of our children very seriously. To that end, we adopted a "Safe Congregation" guideline that encompasses our entire community and safety of our children. This is posted on our website for parent's review. Background checks are required for teachers and caregivers.

Children and Youth Programs

Children begin worship hour in our Sanctuary with their families, but about halfway through the hour (after the Story for All Ages) they are invited to come out to the Hearth Room for Children's Chapel - a kid-friendly opportunity to connect with each other and with Unitarian Universalist values. Often these Children Chapel services have a similar, but child-centered, message as the adult service.

Youth (high school)

Youth Programming begins September. More information about youth conferences (CONs) is provided on our website under children's religious education. These are teen safe, friendly weekends allowing supervised, appropriate spiritual and ethical growth.

Family activities

Our chapel offers entire family experiences, such as Fall Festival, Holiday Make-It/Take-It, Ice Cream Sunday, and social justice projects. Please see our order of service inserts, bulletin board (Hearth Room) and website for these events.

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.

Who are these groups for? Anyone who is interested. 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.

Sign-up for covenant groups takes place in August and early September. Covenant groups begin in September and disband the following summer. New covenant groups start every September.

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.

Choir (see Emerson Singers)

Circle Suppers

Profile: Fosters friendship and fellowship among members through a series of rotating dinners in member's homes.

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

Coordinators: Alice and Eric Stix
circle@emersonuuchapel.org

Drum Circle

Profile: A chance for those with or without experience in drumming to be in community and feel this powerful force as we drum together.

Background: Meets on the second Sunday evening at 7P at our chapel. Additionally, members who wish to participate, provide music for one or two services annually.

Coordinators: Linda Giddy and

Katie Jones

drum@emersonuuchapel.org

Emerson Band

Profile: A small group of musicians who bring their musical gifts on Sunday mornings.

Background: This group plays in worship about once a month. There is no chair or 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)

Profile: Provides choir music to our congregation a few times a year. No experience is needed for Emerson Singers.

Background: This fellowship groups share ministry through their music and fun.

Chair/Director: Camille Herman
music@emersonuuchapel.org

Garden Group

Profile: A group which shares its love of all things green, brown and other living things.

Background: This group is responsible for some of the gardens around Emerson. Contact Chair 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.

Chair: Sally Armontrout

garden@emersonuuchapel.org

Morning Song Leaders

Profile: 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.

Background: These fellowship groups share ministry through their music and fun.

Coordinator: Barb Brown
SongLeaders@emersonuuchapel.org

Movie Matinee

Profile: An organized daytime opportunity to view and discuss current movies.

Background: 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.

Co-Chair: Pat Baker

movie@emersonuuchapel.org

Reader's Circle

Profile: Promotion of fellowship and friendship among readers.

Background: 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

Womyn's Web

Profile: Promotion of fellowship and friendship among the women of the church.

Background: This group meets the first Monday of every month home 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

Introducing Emerson UU Chapel

If you need more information about our Chapel, please see our companion booklet, *Introducing Emerson UU Chapel*, which is available from a Guest Greeter on Sunday morning, on our website, or through our office during the week.

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 chairing this oversight group.

Committees and Groups

Program Committees 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 committees (e.g., Movie Night). Anyone is invited to share their interests and gifts with a program committee.

Some of our program committees are:

- Membership—all current members
- Welcome—new members
- Care & Concern
- Religious Education – Adult and Covenant Groups
- Religious Education – Youth
- Worship/Music

Standing Committees support board work, talk 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 Committee (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 Canvass Committee (you might want to talk with a past canvass chair, after you've talked with the president and treasurer or chair of finance committee).

Support committees (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
- Aesthetics
- Marketing/PR/Communications

Social or Fellowship Groups (described further in pages 3-6) 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!

Committees...

...in alphabetical order...

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

Background: Provides framework to insure a presentable and aesthetically pleasing sanctuary.

Co-chairs: Phyllis MacLaren and Marcy Saphian

Building and Grounds (*Support Committee*)

Profile: Coordinates and facilitates maintenance of the Chapel and its grounds. See also Garden Group.

Background: This committee is responsible for overseeing the general maintenance and upkeep 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 cleaning service, grass cutting, snow removal, and miscellaneous repair and replacement of parts.

Chair: Sally Armontrout

building@emersonuuchapel.org

grounds@emersonuuchapel.org

Tim Martin, Building Safety

Committee on Ministry (*Standing Committee*)

Profile: Supports the Ministry of the congregation.

Background: The committee meets monthly with the minister. Members are nominated to the board by the minister, and the board makes the appointment. The meetings of this committee are confidential.

Chair: Dorothy Newell and

Linda Gidday

COM@emersonuuchapel.org

Finance (*Appointed Board Committee*)

Profile: Advises the Board on all financial matters affecting the church including fundraising, stewardship and annual canvass.

Background: The Finance Committee 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.

Chair: Ron Fischer

finance@emersonuuchapel.org

Human Relations (*Appointed Board Committee; Currently the Board acts as "Committee of the Whole" in this function*)

Profile: Insures Emerson UU Chapel ministers to its staff by maintaining all salary/wages and benefits within guidelines by our association.

Background: This committee oversees recommendations of pay and benefits to the board, as per the Guidelines of our Association.

Chair: President of Congregation
President@emersonuuchapel.org

Long Range Planning (*Board Appointed Support Committee*)

Profile: Considers and evaluates the long-term plans for the growth and development of Emerson Chapel including facility expansion and ministry.

Background: This committee is responsible for drafting and updating 5- and 10-year long-range plan for the Chapel. Periodic surveys and congregational meetings provide direction for this committee.

Chair: This has just completed its current work, and implementation is the hands and oversight of the board and committees.

LRP@emersonuuchapel.org

Marketing, Public Relations & Communication (*Support Committee*)

Profile: Responsible for all internal/external communication about the Chapel.

Background: Develops marketing and advertising efforts to attract potential members and increase the awareness among the public of programs and activities at Emerson Chapel, including *Emissary*, our newsletter

(newsletter@emersonuuchapel.org) and through our chairs (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:

www.emersonuuchapel.org
(webster@emersonuuchapel.org)

Chairs: Camille Herman and Barb Brown

marketing@emersonuuchapel.org

Membership (Program Committee)

Profile: Communication with members/friends of Emerson in times of need, offering assistance when possible as needed.

Background: This committee contacts individuals and friends as needed to offer care and support. Assists with monitoring phone messages for urgent care during times when the office is unstaffed.

Chair: TBD

membership@emersonuuchapel.org

Music (SubCommittee of Worship)

Profile: Schedules musicians for performances on Sunday mornings during the regular church-year.

Background: 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: Phyllis MacLaren and Kevin Horth

musiccomm@emersonuuchapel.org

Nominating (Standing Committee)

Profile: Recommends to the congregation candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees, the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee.

Background: 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.]

Chair: TBD

nominating@emersonuuchapel.org

Religious Education – Adult (Program Committee)

Profile: Coordinates religious education programming on various topics of interest.

Background: This committee 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 Covenant Groups in its own section (sign-up for CGs ended at their first meeting). Please read about them, and talk with our minister about joining one next summer.

Co-chairs: Allen Schwab and Nancy Russell

adultre@emersonuuchapel.org

Religious Education – Children & Youth (Program Committee)

Profile: Creates and supports religious education programming for children and youth.

Background: This committee 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.

Chair: Laura Davidson

REChair@emersonuuchapel.org

Youth Coordinator: Alyson Taggart

youthcoord@emersonuuchapel.org

Welcome (Program Committee)

Profile: 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. Committee members work closely with our minister to guide newcomers on their paths to membership.

Chair: Jeff Gidday

Welcome@emersonuuchapel.org

Worship (Program Committee)

Profile: Provides coordination and leadership in the planning and presentation of all services.

Background: Committee members identify and contact speakers, liturgists, and musicians necessary for each service and work with the Religious Education Committee to plan intergenerational programs.

Chairs: Mark Fish

worship@emersonuuchapel.org



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

Jenn Taylor

dre@emersonuuchapel.org

Chapel Administrator

Randy Whitman

office@emersonuuchapel.org

Pianist

Todd Painter

pianist@emersonuuchapel.org

Volunteer Coordinator

Claudia Hall

volunteer@emersonuuchapel.org

Youth Coordinator

Alyson Taggart

youthcoord@emersonuuchapel.org

Contact Us

Leadership and Staff

To contact the following Emerson staff, board members, or committee chairs, click on these addresses or copy them into your e-mail address line. Please see next page for the Board of Trustees.

Email Contacts at a Glance

Simply follow each @ with emersonuuchapel.org

Leadership (Staff are listed above)

President@

Program@

Secretary@

Treasurer@

Newsletter@

Webster@ or Webmaster@

Program Committees

Program@ for Program Council Chair (VP of the Board)

REChair@ for Children's Religious Education

AdultRE@ for Adult's Religious Education

LoveFirst@ for Social Justice

Membership: Welcome@ and CareandConcern@

Worship@ and subcommittee: MusicComm@

Fun Groups

Band@ Circle@ Drum@ Garden@ Movie@

Readers@ Sing@ Songleaders@ Womyns@

Standing & Support Committees

Building@ Grounds@ Finance@

Marketing@ Spring@ for spring fundraiser

Madrigal@ for Madrigal (December)

COM@ Committee on Ministry

Board of Trustees

If elected to board, the number following the person's name is their term expiration on the 30th of June of that year

President Jim Lyonfields ('12)

Minister Rev. Krista Taves

Vice President and Program Council Chair

Marilyn Ortinau ('12)

President-elect Lisa Parnell ('13)

Vice-President-elect Nancy Fish ('13)

Secretary Michael Warren ('13)

Treasurer Melissa Grizzle ('12)

Immediate-Past-President Camille Herman ('11)

Member-at-Large Leslie Armontrout ('11)



Our Minister, the Reverend Krista Taves



Our Director of Religious Education,
Jenn Taylor

