

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

Introducing Emerson UU Chapel,
2010-2011



A Heart Inside, photo by Bob Layne

**Are you looking for a
spiritual home with heart?**

**Emerson Unitarian Universalist
Chapel Est. 1984**

An index to information contained
in this guide is on the back cover.



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

Need More Ways to Connect?

For additional ways to connect, see Social Groups (immediately following, or Roots and Wings classes).

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.

Coordinators: Linda Gidday 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 Grounds 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 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

Now that you've read about us, come in and join the fun!

Not sure where to start?

Check in with our minister or
volunteer coordinator.
They will connect you.

Getting Involved

Deepening spirituality and connections

Deepen your sense of spirituality or connectedness with Emerson UU Chapel through one of the two adult classes provided by our minister and Welcome Committee.

Unitarian Universalist Roots

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or this Chapel, or if you are considering membership, you are encouraged to take this class. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and to meet others like you. The three sessions take place after Sunday worship and focus on UU History, UU Theology, and Everything Emerson including membership. There is a suggested freewill offering of a one-time \$10 to cover the cost of childcare. This class is offered four times per year (each meeting three times).

Please check our website (www.emersonuuchapel.org click on Be Our Guest) for our next class offering, or visit our calendar on our website, or contact the chapel office at office@emersonuuchapel.org

Unitarian Universalist Wings

The perfect class for those who are wishing to deepen their sense of spirituality, or connectedness within Emerson Chapel, and perfect next step for those who have completed the Roots curriculum, or recently become a part of the Emerson community. The class meets monthly, September through May, and offers participants the opportunity to explore more deeply Unitarian Universalism and their own expressions and experiences of spirituality. There is no registration limit. All are welcome. You may begin attending the sessions at any time through the year.

In this group you will have the opportunity to:

- Become familiar with a broad and inclusive definition of spirituality—one that includes those who do and don't affirm the existence of spirit or deity
- Evaluate your experiences of the spiritual during turning points in their lives and during day-to-day living
- Learn methods for being attentive to your spirituality
- Consider the value of spiritual practice, in any variety of forms, as a means to deepen faith and enhance the quality of everyday living
- Participate in the spiritual practices of speaking and listening with respect
- Articulate thoughts, feelings, and longings in authentic ways, and develop your understanding of the spiritually healing value of such authenticity
- Explore possibilities for deepening experiences of spirituality for yourself and for others in the context of Emerson UU Chapel.

This class meets on the third Wednesday of each month from September through May. To join, please contact our office at: office@emersonuuchapel.org

Hymn 123, *Spirit of Life*

from our hymnal, "Singing the Living Tradition"
... "roots hold me close, wings set me free..."

Living Our Faith

Love First

Each month, the generous members and friends of Emerson UU Chapel support outreach partners who we feel live our beliefs in the world. We do two things which support services outside our own doors:

- We bring food to support a food pantry in St. Louis County, Circle of Concern. We put together work parties as we can. See our website or newsletter for collection items for the Wheel Barrow in the vestibule. PB&J is always welcome!
- We give 50% of our Sunday collections all but one Sunday each month to one of our partners.

Living Our Faith through Outreach Partners

Our outreach partners are under review for church-year 2010-11, please check back as our Love First group makes their support decision known.

Living Our Faith Through Outreach

We support our friends and members through a dedicated collection one Sunday each month, and Christmas Eve Service, to help those in our community who need direct assistance. Please see our minister.

Living Our Faith Through Social Justice and Action: *Love First*

Emerson's Social Justice group, Love First, is actively at work in the world. It's now focusing on LGBTQ equality and on reproductive justice. All in Emerson community are welcome to join the group. To receive group e-mails, send request to:

This group meets at 7 PM at the Chapel on the last Wednesday of each month in the Hearth Room. If you would like to know more, why not stop by and see what we are doing to put Love First in the world? Everyone is invited. One night. One project. Or, all of them!

Conveners: Nancy Belt and Shawna Lyonfields
lovefirst@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 chairing this oversight group.

More information about committees, when they meet, and their chairs or conveners is available in a companion document, Activity Directory. This is available to anyone on our website, or through a Guest Greeter on Sunday morning.

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

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.

The UUA is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of District Trustees (elected by congregations in the various Districts), and at-large Trustees, (elected by congregational delegates to the General Assembly). The Board of Trustees meets quarterly.

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

Connect With Us

Are you looking for a faith community filled with heart?

If you have been searching, we hope that you will be our guest for several Sundays, and then if you like what you find here, please contact our Minister, the Reverend Krista Taves, for a discussion about your hopes, values and dreams for your future with Emerson UU Chapel.

Please join us for worship and fellowship. We welcome all guests...young, middle-aged and elders...families, couples and singles...all the colors, cultures, classes, genders and sexual orientations of the human race. We believe we are enriched by diversity and everyone's gifts are valued.



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

