



# Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

73 Strecker Road, Ellisville, MO 63011  
636-256-7393  
visit our website at  
[www.EmersonUUChapel.org](http://www.EmersonUUChapel.org)

## Emerson Staff

All staff may be reached by phone at 636-256-7393.  
Individual email addresses are listed. See inside back page for staff listing.

## Join Us for Sunday Service & Religious Education

Service at 9 AM and 11:20 AM  
10 AM Summer

Religious Education (RE) 11:10 AM

For other celebrations, programs and services, please see our website  
[www.emersonuuchapel.org](http://www.emersonuuchapel.org)

*Read more about our symbol, the flaming chalice, at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). Emerson UU Chapel is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations and MidAmerica Region of the UUA. Additionally, Emerson Chapel and our members strongly support growth of UUism through the CMwD Chalice Lighters Program; learn more at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and [www.midamica.org](http://www.midamica.org)*

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**NURTURE Your Spirit.**

**Help HEAL Our World.**



# Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

## Activity Directory “...and service is our prayer...”



**Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel  
Est. 1984**

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



A Welcoming Congregation of the UUA



## 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](http://www.uua.org)) and our Central Midwest District of the UUA ([www.cmwd-uua.org](http://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](mailto: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 2013, we asked our Community Minister, the Rev. Julie Taylor,

to become our Acting Minister of Religious Education (bottom, *right*) to continue to grow our education programming for our children and youth, we took the time to do a solid search for our next Director of Religious Education.



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.

## Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel Staff

### **Chapel Minister**

Rev. Krista Taves

[minister@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:minister@emersonuuchapel.org)

Blog: [www.kristataves.wordpress.com](http://www.kristataves.wordpress.com)

### **Acting Minister of Religious**

**Education** Rev. Julie Taylor

[amre@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:amre@emersonuuchapel.org)

### **Chapel Administrator**

Randy Whitman

[office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)

### **Pianist**

Todd Painter

[pianist@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:pianist@emersonuuchapel.org)

### *Emerson Staff*

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

## 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 life-long 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](mailto:Stewardship@emersonuuchapel.org)

## Contact Us

If you need to contact any member of the board, staff, or committee chair, please see each committee for contact information, and board and staff information appears on the back of this booklet.

## 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, or through our office during the week.

Also, Emerson UU Chapel is funded generously by its members, and gives its collection plate away every month to a partner organization doing the work of our values and mission in the community. These partner groups are shown on the front page of our website, on the left bottom column.



## 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, this is 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](mailto: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)**

**Profile:** 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.

**Background:** 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](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org) to make sure your name and email address is in the directory.

**Coordinator:** Jan Seyer  
[blt@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:blt@emersonuuchapel.org)

### **Choir (see Emerson Singers)**

### **Circle Suppers**

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

**Coordinators:** TBD

[circle@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:circle@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:* Ann Kehler  
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

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

Our chapel is a member of our regional area of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, the MidAmerica Region of the UUA. 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 our association and its governance, please point your browser to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) or to [www.midamerica.org](http://www.midamerica.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](http://www.emersonuuchapel.org)

*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.

*Leader: Jan Seyers*  
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.

*Coleaders: PJ Pyrchla & Steve Harvey*

REChair@emersonuuchapel.org  
Youth Coordinator: *Chris Gamlin*  
youthcoord@emersonuuchapel.org

### **Welcome (Program)**

*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. Team members work closely with our minister to guide newcomers on their paths to membership. Team Leaders: Barb Brown & Mark*

### *Fish*

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.

*Chair: Greg Hungerford*  
worship@emersonuuchapel.org

## ***A Bit How Emerson Works***

Our chapel is governed by its members, who in turn elect a Board of Trustees, as 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
- Pastoral Care
- Religious Education – Adult and Covenant Groups

- Religious Education – Youth
- Social/Fundraising
- 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 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!

- Movie Matinee
- Choirs: Emerson Singers or Walden Pond
- Circle Supper
- Drum Circle
- Reader's Circle
- Worship Band
- Garden Group
- Womyn's Web

## *Teams...*

### *...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-leaders: Phyllis MacLaren and Mark Fish*

#### **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 miscella-

neous repair and replacement of parts.

*Leader: Melissa Grizzle*

building@emersonuuchapel.org  
grounds@emersonuuchapel.org

#### **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 & Linda Giddy*  
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.

*Leader: Linda McAffrey*

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.

*Leader: Shawna Lyonfields*  
HR@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)

*Leader: Camille Herman*  
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.

*Leader: Barb Brown*  
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.

*Leader: 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.]

*Co-leaders: Nancy Fish & Debbie Baumel*  
nominating@emersonuuchapel.org

#### **Religious Education - Adult (Program Committee)**

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