



Sabbatical Sundays
Renewal in Our Time
January—March 2012



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Rev. Taves, On Sabbatical January—March 2012

Excerpted from Rev. Taves article in the Nov 11 *Emissary* available on our website.

“I will be on sabbatical from January through March, returning to the pulpit on April 1st. Our Unitarian Universalist tradition has a great sensitivity regarding the demands on spiritual leaders and has long understood that in order for us to be the leaders you need us to be, we need intentional times of rest and renewal.

Some of you are wondering what I plan to do for three months. First, I intend to work my way through the piles of books I have accumulated over the years, books that are waiting for my attention. Second, I plan to begin and end my sabbatical with an intentional time of silence. My partner and I have an off-the-grid cabin in southwest Missouri and I plan to spend at least a week in January with my dog, chopping wood and hauling water, immersing myself in total silence. I plan to spend my weekends visiting all kinds of different houses of worship. I don't get to go to worship that much because weekends are my busiest time. I love attending worship. I go for myself but also with the eyes and ears of a minister. You can't lead worship and not be changed in how you experience worship. It's impossible to simply be. I'm always taking notes and thinking “Oh, how could I use that at Emerson?”

I will spend some of my time in Newton, Kansas with my second cousin. She is the first woman to be ordained in the American Mennonite Church. She now lives in a senior's residence and I want to be sure I spend time with her while she's strong and with us. I need to hear her story.

I also plan to spend lots of time with my partner, enjoying normal weekends together. I will end my sabbatical with another silent retreat at the cabin from the start of my sabbatical.

I will return to Emerson's pulpit on April 1st, just in time for our Annual Stewardship Campaign. Of course, there is much to plan to ensure that things continue smoothly here at the Chapel. We have a strong pastoral care team that will be the first line of response to all the pastoral care needs of the Chapel. We are arranging for a local Unitarian Universalist minister to be on call for pastoral care emergencies. I have promised our leaders that I will do everything I can to be available in the event of a life or death situation, but if I can't get back right away, we will have someone who can be there at a moment's notice.

Twelve members and friends of Emerson Chapel signed up for the preaching class and ten will be offering their sermons during the sabbatical. This is a tremendous gift. If you attended worship this summer, you received a taste of what you're in for. Class participants have been trained in the basics of Unitarian Universalist theology and sermon preparation, and go through a rigorous feedback process to ensure that what you receive has spiritual significance, intellectual strength, and theological depth. These people are to be commended for taking the risk to stand before you. Information on each of them, as well as the sermons they have written during this preparation time is included inside.”

In faith,
Rev. Krista

Find more information about Rev. Taves' sabbatical at www.EmersonUUChapel.org/sabbatical.shtml.

Sabbatical Speakers

Our speakers scheduled during Rev. Krista Taves' sabbatical have participated in at least one three-month "Sermon Class" whereby the speaker's sermon was critically reviewed and topic honed with input from both Rev. Taves and fellow class members.

January, 2012

Jan 1

New Year's Day Brunch

Join us for a Sunday brunch and start your New Year with your spiritual community.

Jan 8

The Evolving Nature of Our Institution

Jake Lyonfields

Jake has been attending Emerson since his junior year of high school, and joined as a member in 2010. He attends Washington University in St Louis and is double majoring in Systems and Science Engineering and Spanish. Jake has been actively involved in community environmental sustainability efforts, and recently became the team leader of the Love First team at Emerson. *Emerson's recent efforts in environmental sustainability have inspired him to reflect upon these changes in his sermon. Jake explores the connections between Unitarian Universalism, peace, the development of social institutions, and the work of Emerson's Love First social justice team.*



Jan 15

And, Service is Our Prayer

Barb Brown

Barb is a long-time member of Emerson Chapel, and has served in every officer position and many of our committee chair positions of our chapel at least once. She has worked behind the scenes for events like Madrigal Dinners and the Tea Party Cabaret. Her passion is stewardship of UUism, so that our faith will be here long after we are gone. She has served both our larger associations in many stewardship roles. *Her sermon will explore giving of ourselves and looking at service as a spiritual practice rather than drudgery.*



Jan 22

Autonomy and Choice

Allyson Taggart

Allyson Taggart became a member of Emerson UU Chapel in 2010. During the week, she works as a compliance supervisor at a financial firm in Chesterfield. *We decide things arbitrarily every day. What would your life look like if you made choices based on commitment, honor, truth, strength, and compassion?*



February, 2012

Feb 5

Is Unconditional Empathy Possible in a Divided Nation?

Lauren Mackey

Lauren is a graduate student in community counseling at UMSL and is interning at Queen of Peace, a drug & alcohol treatment center for women. In her free time, Lauren enjoys singing, watching movies, live music, theatre, and family time with her partner, Chris Gamlin, and their dog Tivoli. *As UU's, we pride ourselves on being an exceptionally empathic congregation, especially in our devotion to groups of people who are oppressed in society. Having empathy for minorities is easy for us, but what about for people who seem to lack empathy, particularly people in power? Lauren will explore how judgment and hatred of the "haters" hurts only ourselves, and what we can do to rid this negativity from our spirit, thus creating more peace within our hearts.*



Feb 12

Religious Education Sunday

Our children and youth will provide the Sunday morning service.

Feb 19

Just How Lucky Are We?

Jim Lyonfields

Born Jim Lyon, Jim was lucky enough to marry Shawna Fields while she completed her engineering degrees and he his psychology degrees. He completed his internship as a Captain in the Air Force where he supported rescue/recovery efforts for the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City



In 1995. *In this sermon, Jim moves beyond the more common factors to clarify what really makes people successful, particularly factors that most people may not have considered; how we integrate success and failure on a psychological level. How do we keep these in perspective?*

Feb 26

Susan Stafford

Step off the Train: Judging or Participating



Susan is a lifelong UU and has been a member of Emerson Chapel since 2005. She and her husband, Charles Landauer, have two children, Megan, 15, and Ben, 12. She works as a psychiatric nurse at Centerpointe Hospital. She notes, “Sermon writing gave me a chance to explore things I had been contemplating in a new way.” *She explores humans as judging creatures. Yet, how do we judge and be authentic to our UU Principles?*

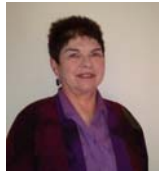
March, 2012

Mar 4

Nancy Belt

Hangin’ with the holy ghost

Now retired, Nancy has more time to engage with a church community and to reconnect with a lifelong passion—music. After having been an active UU in St. Louis for many years, she began attending Emerson in fall 2009 and became a member in spring 2010. *This sermon will explore the concept of “spirit,” which, in Middle English, was the definition of “gast,” which evolved into “ghost.” Her sermon will consider that within each of us is a true spirit, as well as a false spirit. We’ll consider characteristics of each, some ways to discern the voice of each, how to stay in tune with the true spirit, and how our choices color our lives.*



Mar 11

Morrie Reece

Aircraft Carriers and Tombstones



Morrie Reece and his wife, Sue, are recent additions to Emerson UU Chapel. They live in Chesterfield near their daughter and new granddaughter. He has served on board the *USS Enterprise* as the nuclear reactor officer; was a member of the faculty of the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana; and had a very successful, honored, 30-year career with Apple. *His sermon will share some of the important Unitarian Universalist truths that he learned while serving in the US Navy, and how a personal tragedy has changed his life for the better, and how it can change your life, too.*

Mar 18

Chris Gamlin

Can Music Save Your Mortal Soul?

Chris Gamlin and her wife, Lauren Mackey, have been active members at Emerson since the fall of 2010. As Emerson’s youth coordinator, Chris has become passionate about working with our youth and serving our congregation at large with her energetic spirit, dedication, and creativity. She also enjoys trivia nights, games, movies, theatre, following Cardinals baseball, and spending time with her family, friends, and dog Tivoli. *Music is divine. It can whisk us away so swiftly that we may experience a plethora of emotions lasting a mere minute or for hours. Chris and the Emerson Worship Band will explore the profound impact that music has on our lives, and how we can use it to create our best selves to “spread the music” to a world in need.*



Mar25

Lauren Lyerla

In Praise of Failure



Lauren Lyerla has been a member of Emerson Chapel since 2006. A three-time graduate of our preaching class, Lauren enjoys the creativity of the sermon-writing process and the journey of discovery involved in researching her topic. She works part-time as a medical transcriptionist, and currently serves Emerson as greeter, newsletter editor, classroom assistant, and coordinator of Diversity Alliance. *Her sermon will explore the idea that failure is not just something we must learn to accept. On the contrary, embracing failure can actually set us free.*