

A newsletter for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel  
A liberal religious voice in West St. Louis County [www.emersonuuchapel.org](http://www.emersonuuchapel.org)

## CHANGE COMES

My thanks go to all the contributors to this issue. Because I had Spring break plans out of town, I asked that articles be submitted ahead of the usual deadline. With the submissions safely stored on a thumb drive, I spent my “down time” assembling this issue.



As you may guess from the photo, I was in Montana traveling around Glacier National Park. I found such beauty and quiet this time of year, and also several surprises. In the 100 years of the park’s existence the namesake glaciers have dwindled from 150 to only 26. Hillsides like this were once solid white with ice all year round, now barren as result of climate change. On learning this I felt a little better having taken the train there, and leaving a slightly smaller carbon trail along the way.

Change comes silently and unexpectedly like this, as well as in spasms of cataclysm. Let’s work to see that the changes coming for Emerson are intentional, positive and spiritually affirming. In this issue are articles of planned change:

- Rev. Taves reviews enhancement of the covenant groups (page 4)
- Focus the Beacon (page 5) covers more of the long-range planning process

*Tom Kibby, ed.*

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### Important Dates in April

- 11: Canvass cards due
- 9-11: Circle Supper Weekend

# KRISTA'S CORNER

MINISTER'S NOTES FROM REV. KRISTA TAVES



## Did I Tell You?

Exciting things are happening at Emerson Chapel. We are nearing the end of our pledge drive and the response of the congregation has been one of generosity. We will know by April 11th if all goes well and we have met our goals.

I want to thank the Canvass Committee with co-chairs Linda Gidday and Dorothy Newell, Barb Brown and Lisa Parnell for their hard work. They took on the responsibility with open arms and created a wonderful and well-planned canvass. I also want to thank all of our canvassers who have been working hard to contact every one of you.

Other good things are happening. We are reworking our Covenant Group program. Covenant Groups are groups of 7 to 10 people who meet 1-2 times a month for the purposes of spiritual and personal growth. Sign up for our new covenant groups begins in August, the groups begin meeting in September and run for 9 to 11 months, depending on the group.

I want to thank those of you who have indicated an interest in leading a covenant group. There's a lot of dreaming going on right now, with talk of groups

focused on parenting, leadership development, Christian spirituality, meditation, building your own theology, and the LGBTQ experience. We don't have a lot of specifics right now but have no fear, all this dreaming and hoping will result in something wonderful and amazing being created right here. Our hope is to have at least five groups for next year. If you are thinking of leading a group yourself, please let me know and I'd be happy to give you more details about what is involved. There will be a training sometime in May, date to be determined by availability of leaders.

The Focusing the Beacon Team is doing phenomenal work. With Chair Shawna Lyonfields and members Mark Fish, Andrew Dickson and Jeff Gidday, there isn't an aspect of this congregation they haven't explored. To those of you who have made the time to meet with them, whether one-on-one or in a larger group, thank you for your time and your willingness to share. Your embracing the process has made a big difference.

There may still be a few opportunities to meet with these wonderful people so keep an eye on the weekly emails and the announcements on Sunday. We anticipate their recommendations for how we can best live our religious mission in the years to come.

Finally, there has been a growing awareness that we want to be more intentional about responding to the pastoral needs of our congregation. As we grow it is easy for those needs to go unnoticed and without response. We will be exploring

the possibilities of developing a lay pastoral care team next year. These individuals will receive special training in active listening and be available for home and hospital visits and for one on one pastoral care with members and friends when I am not available. Keep an eye out for updates in the months to come.

Did I tell you exciting things are happening at Emerson Chapel? I feel blessed every day to be working among such wonderful and inspiring people. May it always be so.

*In faith,  
Rev. Krista*

## Rev. Taves Office Hours

Available by appointment  
Mar 29 – Apr 4: We Th Sa  
Apr 5 – 11: We Th Sa  
April 12 – 18: We Th Sa  
April 19 – 25 – OFF  
April 26 – May 2 – District Ministers Retreat Assembly

If you wish to meet with Rev. Taves she can be reached at [minister@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:minister@emersonuuchapel.org) or 417 343 8657. She is available 24/7 for Emergency Pastoral Care. She is available for non-emergency pastoral care the weeks she holds office hours.

# CAMILLE'S LINES

OBSERVATIONS FROM BOARD PRESIDENT CAMILLE HERMAN



April has arrived in all her glory. How fitting that the first Sunday in April is Easter, a day that allows us to celebrate the rebirth of everything. It's wonderful the way the sights of sunshine and flowers lift our hearts and our spirits. I did find one good weekend in March to get out and clean out my flower beds. (I've never been good about doing this in the Fall, the cold weather comes too quickly for me.) It's always exciting to rake away the brown leaves and find tiny green shoots underneath them that seem to grow – while you watch – once they are exposed to light. The bulbs that stored food all last summer are now ready to display their springtime glory. I know the next shoots will come from my perennials and soon the spring trees will be in glorious bloom. Every time I look out the window, I will smile and say a prayer of thanksgiving.

There is new growth at Emerson as well. The influx of guests continues and we added three new members in March. Looking around on Sunday mornings, and

seeing so many new faces mixed in with the more familiar ones, also makes me smile and say “Thank You!”

We are nearing the end of our annual canvass. This year's theme is “Will You Stand with Me?” It's been inspiring to watch the addition of Carole Behrer's Origami birds to our Canvass Tree to demonstrate how we are standing together. It is a unique way of demonstrating our theme. I hope that all of you found your way to giving Emerson one more hour of your time each month and some additional dollars each week. I know that both are needed to help us to continue to grow and to reach out to those less fortunate. The more we have in the ways of everyone's time, talent, and treasure, the richer the experience all of us will have.

The *Love First Project* (Emerson's Social Justice Program) got off to a good start last month with two groups forming out of the initial meeting. I am sure we will hear more from them as they look for ways to make our social outreach efforts more effective and meaningful.

Our *Focusing the Beacon Team* will complete their group interviews on April 11<sup>th</sup> during the Adult Religious Education time slot at 11:15. If you have not had an opportunity to meet at one of the previous times offered, I

urge you to put aside the time and participate.

Following this meeting, the team will begin to sort the data they've collected to see where we stand as a church community and where we say we want to go.

As I write this, the *DRE Search Team* is conducting interviews with potential candidates. Watch for their results later this month.

We have now entered the last quarter of our church year. The board has begun their reflection of this year to evaluate what has been accomplished and what needs to be moved ahead to next year. We are in the process of obtaining information on the refinance of our mortgage which we want to accomplish before the end of the fiscal year so we have a true figure for our mortgage payment going in to next year. We are also taking bids on repair of the major leaks in our basement and fixing the summer mold problem. I will have more to tell you about these next month.

In the meantime, get out and enjoy the sunshine and flowers, I know I will.

Yours in Spirit,

Camille

## A Month of Services

All Sunday Services begin at 10:00 AM

**Special Service:**  
**April 2nd**  
**Good Friday Family**  
**Communion. 7 p.m.**  
Rev. Krista Taves

This evening service has become a unique tradition at Emerson Chapel. By candlelight, we will explore the universal meaning of the cycle of life, death, and resurrection in our lives. We will conclude the service with a communion, re-experiencing this centuries old ritual in the context of our liberal religious tradition. Childcare will be provided.

**April 4**  
**Reclaiming Easter**  
Rev. Krista Taves

The traditional Christian understanding of the Crucifixion is that Jesus died for our sins so that we might be saved. His death was the ultimate substitutionary atonement, meaning he took the punishment for us. Many theologians are coming to a different conclusion and consider this theology quite damaging. They are restoring Easter.

Special Music: Emerson Singers  
Pianist: Ron McGowan  
No Adult RE today

**April 11**  
**Home is Where the Heart Is**  
Director of Religious Education Lauren Lyerla

What do we mean when we say we are "at home" somewhere? If Emerson is your church home, what does that mean about your relationship to the church and to the church community? Director of Religious Education Lauren Lyerla explores our associations with the word "home" and how they apply to church life

Special Music: Laura Davidson.  
Pianist: Ron McGowan  
Adult RE: Shawna Lyonfields on Round Two of Emerson Long Range/ Strategic Planning

**April 18**  
**The Earth Under Our Feet**  
Rev. Krista Taves

Ecotheology is the merging of spirituality and environmentalism. How does this work in Unitarian Universalism?

Special Music: Emerson Youth.  
Pianist: Ron McGowan  
Adult RE: Susan Stafford on UU Principle VI

**April 25**  
**Is God Necessary for Religion?**  
Bob Greenwell, M.Ed

The peculiarity of this question will be used to open up some new perspectives on the meaning of God and the meaning of religion in human experience. Reflections will touch upon freedom of conscience, ethical maturity, compassion for others, and an organically arising inner peace. Special Guest Speaker: Bob Greenwell, M.Ed., is Ethical Culture Leader of Ethical Society Mid Rivers in St. Charles County, and has served in this position since the Society's inception in 2003.

Special Music: Ron McGowan  
Adult RE: Bob Greenwell

### Special Kudos

*The Worship Committee wishes to take a moment and thank two special people who have worked tirelessly to make the Sunday Worship at Emerson truly great.*

Pat Baker is a founding member of Emerson, and she has worked with worship for 20+ years. During this time, she has helped create a structure for worship, has worked hard to integrate all the different elements of the service, and she has continually sought ways to improve our Sunday Morning Worship. In my time as worship chair Pat has given me a deeper understanding of Emerson and of Unitarian Universalism, and her no-nonsense approach has helped us make great strides in the past two years. She is leaving this committee to take a more-than well earned rest, and we cannot thank her enough. If you enjoy Sunday Mornings, tell her so!

Jeff Gidday is a long-time member of Emerson who has served on Worship for almost as long as Pat. Jeff has chaired the committee, served Sunday after Sunday in whatever capacity was needed, and his commitment to Emerson is not only noted by long-time members, but by new arrivals as well. Many of you do not know, but Jeff is responsible for every special speaker we have had for the past year, an INCREDIBLE feat given that he arranged for quality people to come present at Emerson for free. Most people would have thrown up their hands in

despair, but Jeff kept trying and trying and working with people and helping special speakers to make sure that the services were as integrated, spiritual, and thought-provoking as possible. Without his intense commitment to this work, Emerson would not have been able to provide full-service Sunday worship this past year, and we all owe him a debt. Jeff is moving on to Welcoming, and I know he will do exceptionally well there since one of my first memories at Emerson is the way in which he made us feel truly at home here. Again, if you value our guest speakers and the way Emerson has brought worship to a new level in the past few years, give Jeff a big thank you!

Thank you both for your hard work, and for leaving such big shoes to fill! See you Sunday. :) Peace, Claudia Hall, Worship Chair

### Focusing the Beacon

The FTB Team thanks everyone for giving time and thoughts, ideas and suggestions, and wonderful, fabulous ideas for living out our mission and vision within our Emerson Community. Please join in the discussion after service April 11.

The team is currently analyzing the data and is hoping to be able to provide a report to the board for its May meeting.

**FTB Team:** *Shawna Lyonfields (chair), Andrew Dickson, Mark Fish and Jeff Gidday*

### P-R Committee

#### 558 Unique Visitors to our Website in February!

Our visitors came to our website 821 times (1.47 visits/visitor) and viewed 3,511 pages (4.27 pages/visitor). Our website is in good demand, and is being visited by many people. Do we know why? Usage is highest on Monday, drops heading to low on Wednesday and then begins picking back up heading to Sunday/Monday. While six (6) of our guests visited for an hour or more, most visitors (about two-thirds) are on our site for less than 30 seconds. However, one-third of our guests come and stay for 1-59 min. Where are they looking? Front Page (from which most guests exit, likely not the search end they planned); About Minister; About Sunday; About Beliefs; About Emerson; What to Expect; Sermons; Calendar; Newsletters. Religious education pages don't make the top ten, but do make the list. These last two months, our DRE Search page has headed our list, but will likely fall off our list now. In faith and service,

*Barb Brown*

### Our UU Roots

An Introductory Series, offered by Rev. Krista Taves and the Welcoming Committee.

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or this Chapel, or if you are considering membership, you are welcomed and encouraged to take this class.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and to meet others like yourself. 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 \$10 to cover the cost of childcare.

Three Sundays. April 11, April 18, May 2, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Participants may join the program at any time.

### Unitarian Universalist Wings

If you have recently begun attending Emerson Chapel, have completed our introductory series UU Roots, or are seeking intentional spiritual exploration, this is an excellent group for you.

In this covenant group, participants:

- 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 their experiences of the spiritual during turning points in their lives and during day-to-day living

- Learn methods for being attentive to their 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
- Explore a vocabulary of reverence drawn from the Unitarian Universalist hymnbook *Singing the Living Tradition* and its supplement *Singing the Journey*
- Articulate thoughts, feelings, and longings in authentic ways, and develop their understanding of the spiritually healing value of such authenticity
- Explore possibilities for deepening experiences of spirituality for themselves and for others in the context of their Unitarian Universalist congregation

This group meets once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 p.m. and welcomes new members. The meeting dates for Spring 2010 are as follows: Thursday April 1, Thursday May 6. \*If you require childcare, please email [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)

### Time Was....

As promised, a picture from Emerson's past is pulled from the albums. Below is a photo from about 1995 of several younger Emersononians trying out the new playground, just recently built.

The playground was started by a donation from Mary Murphy in memory of her son Dylan, who died of tick-borne illness in 1991. Memorial gifts received then were saved and became the seed for the new playground.

Work began in 1994 with a bobcat scooping out the hillside, large holes dug for heavy 9x9 timbers, and heavy duty bolts and hardware applied by hand: all labor supplied by Emerson members that summer.

The finishing touch was the brass plaque applied at the top center, which was a reproduction of a sign Dylan wrote to make up for fighting with his best friend: "NO FITING".

A suitable reminder to all children playing there since.



### The Love First Project Holds Its First Meeting in March.

On Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 25 of our members and friends met for the purposes of discerning a path for Emerson Chapel's Social Justice Program. All were in agreement that a successful meeting would result in some clear, concise, focused and actionable items.

The group discussed the four kinds of social justice:

- **\*social service\*** - responds to the symptoms of injustice, i.e. immediate needs like food, clothing, basic health care
- **\*social education\*** – educating self and others about the issues, the why behind the symptoms
- **\*social witness\*** - providing a public witness to the issues that reflect our values
- **\*social action\*** - organized action focusing on the causes rather than solely the symptoms of injustice

The aim of Love First is to affirm the importance of compassionate immediate responses to suffering, but also to go beyond that and to work towards larger systemic change. Love First will move us from social service to a combination of social education, social witness and/or social action.

There was general consensus that we wanted to be focused in our action. Too many directions would compromise our ability to be effective. We then embarked upon a fruitful but also very challenging exercise of looking at the range of social justice areas and

making choices about where we would focus our attention.

We considered the following social justice issues: peace, economic justice, the environment, racial equality, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered/questioning equality, reproductive justice, education, animal rights, gender equality, human rights. The following were added by participants: peer abuse, interfaith dialogue and action. Participants were asked to choose their top three and rank them in order of priority. The top three were LGBTQ, equality, reproductive justice, and the environment. When voting on these three, LGBTQ equality and reproductive justice were virtually tied. There was general agreement that while all the possible social justice issues reflected our values, these issues reflected our values in a unique and important way.

Participants then made the decision to divide into two task forces: one for LGBTQ equality and the other for Reproductive Justice. Both groups met during March to educate themselves about what kind of social justice is possible in their area. The larger group will reconvene on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. All are welcome. You may join the process at any time.

### Plant and Yard Sale 2010

The Fourth Annual Plant and Yard Sale will be held at Emerson Saturday May 8 from 8 AM until 1 PM. All Emerson members and friends are asked to help make this year's event even more successful than the last. Here's how:

- Donations from your shelves and closets are needed. Gently used but no longer needed items will be accepted for the Yard Sale (actually held in the Sanctuary!). Best selling items last year were house wares, kitchen wares, children's toys and books, tools and sporting goods. Call Tom Kibby if you are considering donating large items like furniture. We cannot accept clothing or electronics. See other announcement for plant donations.
  - Bring your items for donation to church the week before May 9. The earliest that items can be stored is May 2 after service.
  - Come help sort items for the sale. Sorting parties are set for Wednesday May 5 in the evening (Tom Kibby coordinating) and during the day Friday May 7.
  - Come help run the sale. Two shifts are needed, 8 until 12 noon to assist guests, and noon until about 3 to clean up. The sanctuary must be completely set up for service the next day!
- Come help raise funds for Emerson and have fun with your fellow UU's!

RE VIEW



Lauren Lyerla, DRE

Dear Emerson UU Religious Education Families,

The DRE Search is going well. The Search Committee has a number of candidates, and I have no doubt that my successor will be well qualified and full of enthusiasm. We will likely have someone hired by May 1, allowing a month of on-the-job training before I am officially done on June 1.

I have deeply appreciated all the kind words and hugs in recent weeks. Many of you have said you'll miss me, and that I've done a good job here. However, underneath those compliments – and coming more to the surface as June 1 gets closer – I sense some growing anxiety about my departure from the post.

The concerns I am hearing are: 1) Will you and your children still like the RE Program when I'm not the DRE? 2) Will I disappear from Emerson, never to return? 3) What will I do next, and will I be okay?

First, I am positive that you will still like Emerson's RE program. It is normal and understandable that this change brings up such fears, and of course things won't be exactly the same without me as DRE, but I have utmost confidence that they will be great. You can be a part of making that happen! You will have many opportunities to

shape the program as a parent, a church volunteer, and a member of Emerson.

Second, I will not disappear from Emerson. I am very flattered that you like me. I like you, too! For a while, I'll be laying low, giving my successor a chance to really take ownership of the position. But I won't be gone. And after a suitable amount of time, I'll be able to volunteer in the RE program, so I'll be able to maintain a connection with your kids, who, trust me, I adore.

Third, I still don't know what I'm going to do next. It's scary but exciting. I wanted to make this change so that I could try to earn some money actually using my Masters in English – writing, editing, or maybe even teaching or tutoring. If you've got any leads or ideas, I'm all ears! Your care and concern mean so much to me.

*In peace,  
Lauren Lyerla, DRE*

**Religious Education Hour for Children and Youth: April 2010**

**April 4**  
No Religious Education programming – Easter Egg Hunt preschool through 7th grade following the Easter service.

**April 11**  
Preschool-Kindergarten: Celebrate sand and soil.  
1st – 4th: Wonder about where people and animals go when they die.  
5th – 7th: Explore their faith.  
Senior Youth Group: Explore personal ethics with Susan and Harry.

**April 18**  
Preschool-Kindergarten: Celebrate trees.  
1st – 4th: Wonder about how life began.  
5th – 7th: Potential field trip to Buddhist temple.  
Senior Youth Group: Youth Pew discussion.

**April 25**  
Preschool – 7th Grade: Nature Day with member Sam Faith  
Senior Youth Group: Spring Youth Conference in Springfield, Illinois. Youth not attending CON are invited to join the Adult RE programming on this date.

**Youth Interface**  
Notes for and about our Youth (Senior High)

Attendance in March was strong, averaging 5 per SUN (range 2-9) and with Spring Breaks occurring this month, that has been very encouraging. This is leading up to our youth CON in Springfield (late April) and a lock-in early in May.

We are concluding our work in Building Your Own Theology: Ethics this month, while we build on what we want to accomplish at our lock-in in May. We are working around spring breaks in March, and will conclude this program while working around Proms.

I want to thank the adults which help make our Youth Program strong: Susan Stafford, Harry Shukla, Max Starbuck, Sally Armontrout, Leslie Armontrout, Jim Beale, Stan Herman, and an early thanks to Steve Jones.

*In faith,  
Barb Brown  
Youth Coordinator*

## Administration

MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2010 FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
FEBRUARY 2010	Actual	Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$ 9,803	\$ 11,763	\$ (1,959)
Expenses	\$ 13,583	\$ 11,455	\$ 2,128
<b>FY2010 YTD</b>			
Pledge Income	\$ 112,709	\$ 94,100	\$ 18,609
Expenses	\$ 92,380	\$ 91,708	\$ 672
	February	YTD	
Contributions to Monthly Charity	\$ 192	\$ 2,413	
Grocery Certificate/Esript Income	\$ 118	\$ 2,444	

### DRE Search Update

As reported, we have strong candidates (we had 9 of ten that were viable; of the nine, we moved forward with four) and March found us reviewing resumes, talking with references, and meeting these very capable candidates.

Our next step in early April will be to provide our minister, Rev. Taves, with our top candidates and that she will interview them separately. At that point, our job will be over. We believe we have been able to generate some very excellent candidates for consideration.

*Your DRE Search Team:  
Barb Brown and Greg Keller  
(Co-Chairs),  
Rev. Krista Taves,  
Marilyn Ortinau, and  
Soledad Villagomez*

### MONEY MATTERS

Melissa Grizzle, Treasurer

Thanks to everyone who has turned in a pledge card for this year's Canvass. As I write this, we are half-way to our goal! I am encouraged by the continued generosity of this congregation with their time, talents and treasure.

If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so by April 11 so we can have time to finalize a budget for approval at the May congregational meeting.

*In Peace,  
Melissa Grizzle  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:treasurer@emersonuuchapel.org)*

### RANDY'S DESK

#### Chapel Administrator's Notes – Randy Whitman

#### Office Hours

**M, Th, F: 9:00 - 1:00**

In February we welcomed 15 visitors. Our February outreach contributions totaled \$242.14, designated for "Lift for Life", which offers a safe, enriching environment for St. Louis city youth.

Please keep the office updated with current phone, address and e-mail. The directory can now be accessed on our web site.

Randy can be contacted by calling the chapel office at: 636-256-7393 or by e-mail at: [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)

## Welcome New Members!

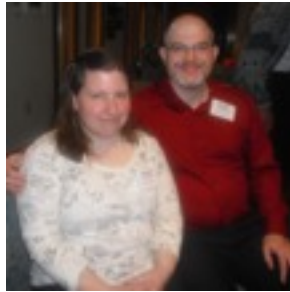
### Mark Pedigo

I spent my childhood on a small non-commercial farm near Bonne Terre, MO, a former mining town two counties south of St. Louis. As a kid, I had a nagging feeling that there must be more out in the world than I could see from the large plate glass window in the living room. I yearned to see unimaginable possibilities. Or put another way, I had a wanderlust from an early age.

After graduating high school, I lived in various places: Missouri, Seattle, The Netherlands. Along the way, I picked up a B.S. in Computer Science (MS&T, 1992) and masters degree in mathematics (SEMO, 1996). I am currently working on my PhD in Mathematics from St. Louis University (projected 2011). Professionally, I taught courses at technical schools and universities and programmed kids games at Humongous Entertainment. I currently work as a research assistant at Parks College on a safety program for the airline industry.

As a kid, I took piano lessons. I played jazz bands in high school and college and gigged the occasional wedding. Recently, some friends and I started a jazz quartet.

This summer, Mandy Baumgartner and I married. We both yearn for the spiritual meaning in our lives, but don't fit the traditional mold. After trying out several churches, we discovered Krista. Her message resonated strongly with both of us, which led us to Emerson Chapel. After a long search, we feel we have finally found home.



### Mandy Pedigo

I grew up in Ellisville and Ballwin area. In fact my childhood home is just a few streets away [from Emerson Chapel]. I live with my husband, Mark, and our assortment of adopted animals - two mixed breed dogs, three parrots, a canary and finches - in South County. In my former life, I volunteered with a variety of animal rescue nonprofit groups. I did everything from administrative tasks to working helping people with animal and training issues.

I have a master's degree in Education and a bachelor's degree in Psychology. I am currently looking for an elementary classroom to call my own.

I enjoy gardening, genealogy, traveling, music and many crafts. I am also a voracious reader of children's books, memoirs and books about farming, food and other botanical interests.

We first came to Emerson on Youth Pew Sunday and I was very impressed. The congregation did not just say they valued young people, but put their values in action! Coming to Emerson fulfills a promise that Mark and I made to each other - to find community and find a place where we as individuals and as a couple could grow.



### Karyl Howard

A little bit about me: I am a 64-year-old mother, grandmother and wife and I have lived in Wildwood, MO, for 21 years. I was born and raised in a fairly small town in Wisconsin in a small but very active Jewish community. On my father's side of the family I am a first generation American - many of the relatives who surrounded me were immigrants from Eastern Europe. I have also lived in Kansas City, Winston-Salem, NC, and Bloomfield Hills, MI, where we were active in Birmingham Unitarian Church.

I received a B.A. in Geological Sciences for the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and an M.A.Ed. in Counseling from Wake Forest University. I have a background in crisis intervention and teen suicide prevention education. Each member of my family has been actively involved in international student exchange. Currently, as a trained journaling therapist, I present personal journaling, art journaling and legacy journaling workshops. I also teach bookmaking classes.

I am an avid and voracious reader and love to cook.

Reverend Taves' thoughtful and thought-provoking sermons and discussions have drawn me to become an active member in this congregation.

### Womyn's Web

Womyn's Web will be held at the Church on Monday, April 5th at 7 p.m. It is the annual clothing exchange, it will be held at the church. Please clean out those closets and bring any women's clothing you wish to exchange/donate. If you know of someone not on our email list who would be interested in attending please let them know.

Please bring a snack, treat and/or beverage to share. If you are not currently on the email list for Womyn's Web but would like more information, please contact Susan Gottlieb [womynsweb@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:womynsweb@emersonuuchapel.org).

### Readers Circle

Attention book lovers! Meet at the Chapel on April 19th to discuss "Breakfast with Buddha" by Roland Merullo. Nancy Russell will lead our discussion and we'll have dessert and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Come early to share a brown bag dinner if you like. May's book will be "The Reluctant Mr. Darwin" Contact Pam Foresman for more information.

### Green Thoughts

Compact Fluorescent Lights are wonderfully energy efficient. But there's a catch: CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, which is toxic and doesn't belong in your regular trash. So what to do with them?

1. Municipal Government—The St. Louis County Department of Health ([http://www.stlouisco.com/doh/waste/waste\\_mg.html](http://www.stlouisco.com/doh/waste/waste_mg.html)) offers information on recycling events throughout the year for all hazardous household wastes. They are also working on a network of permanent drop-off sites.
2. Retailers—Some retailers like Ikea and Home Depot have free take-back programs to dispose of CFL bulbs. Watch for these and ask your favorite retailer to establish company wide return programs.
3. Earth 911 ([earth911.com](http://earth911.com)) is probably the United States and Canada's largest online clearinghouse of recycling information. Visit their site and enter "CFL," "fluorescent blub," or "mercury" and your Zip code in the "Find a Recycling Center" field at the top of each page. If there's something in your region, it will almost certainly be listed.
4. Commercial Services—There are a variety of for-profit companies which provide CFL and fluorescent bulb disposal by mail. Failing a local option, these firms represent a responsible and environmentally friendly channel for CFL recycling.

*Susan Stafford*

# APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 Emerson Singers 7PM	2	3
4 Easter Service 10AM Easter Egg Hunt 11AM	5 Womyns Web 7PM	6	7	8 Daytimers 11AM	9	10
					Circle Supper Weekend	
11 Service 10AM Drumming Circle 7PM	12 M&Ms 7PM*	13 Wyse Womyn 1:30PM* Emerson Board 7PM	14	15	16	17
18 Service 10 AM	19 Readers' Circle 7PM	20	21	22	23	24
25 Service 10 AM	26 M&Ms 7PM*	27	28	29	30	

### Upcoming events:

- Plant and Yard Sale, Saturday May 8, 8AM - 1PM
- Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday May 16 - Following the service

All events occur at Emerson unless noted with an \*  
 Child care may be provided to any Emerson Sponsored event, please call the Chapel office.  
 Confirm with Covenant Group (CG) leader for meeting location and time.



## OFFICERS

President: Camille Herman  
 VP/Program Council:  
 Nancy Russell  
 VP-Elect: Marilyn Ortinau  
 Secretary: Rebecca Langrall  
 Treasurer: Melissa Grizzle

### Emerson Covenant Groups Invite New Members.

Emerson's Covenant Groups, our program of small group ministry, welcomes new members. Groups of up to ten people meet once or twice a month with a focus on deep listening and sharing personal experiences. Prepared session plans are used to guide each session, with topics such as forgiveness, gratitude, or saying good bye. Groups also do service projects for the church and community. Participants find that they get to know themselves, and often others, more deeply in these small groups. For more information about specific covenant groups, please see the church [website](#) or pick up a copy of the Emerson Program Guide at the visitor table. If you are interested in joining a covenant group, please email [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org) and we will be in touch with you.

### Emerson Emissary

Serving the members and friends of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel. Editor: Tom Kibby

**All submissions are due by the 18th of each month. All groups are requested to send their meeting notices monthly to ensure their accuracy.** Send to:

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

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**EMERSON EMISSARY**

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