

emerson UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST church

A Welcoming Congregation

***The Invisible Threads***  
**Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange**

January 12, 2020



***"Our beloved community of faith, reason, and affection welcomes all to grow  
in mind and spirit as we build a better world."***

Katie Scott, President, Board of Trustees  
Becky Edmiston-Lange, Senior Minister  
Katy Carpman, Director of Religious Education  
Adrian Rodriguez, Music Director  
Hui Shan Chin, Keyboard Artist

**CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**January 12, 2020**

You are invited before the service begins, during the Prelude and during the Postlude, to light a candle to acknowledge a personal joy, sorrow, or milestone at the table on the left front of the Sanctuary.  
The candles are our gift to you.

**Prelude**      *Allegro from Faschingsschwank aus Wien*    Robert Schumann

**Welcoming Words**      Bradley Smith

**\*Opening Hymn #1040 (teal)**    *Hush*

**Call to Worship**

**Chalice Lighting (Responsive)**

We are the Beloved Community.

*We belong to one another despite the assaults of the world.*

Where hate and malice rule,

*We affirm the sacredness of all humanity.*

Where chaos and alienation reign,

*We affirm a universal presence in all creation.*

Where despair clouds the human heart,

*We affirm the transforming power of love.*

**Greeting One Another**

**A Conversation for All Ages**

Video: *The Invisible String*, Patrice Karst

**\*Hymn #128 (gray)**      *For All That is Our Life*

Following this hymn, children and teachers  
proceed to Sunday School classes.

**Reading**      *The Importance of Ministry,*  
Rev. Dr. Webster Kitchell

## Special Music

## Meditation and Silence

### Offering

*Romanze*

### Sermon

*The Invisible Threads*

Rev. Dr. Becky Edmiston-Lange

**\*Closing Hymn #114 (gray)**    *Forward through the Ages*

**\*Benediction** from Rev. Susan Manker Seale

### Postlude

*Intermezzo*

*Kindly allow the worship leaders to exit down the center aisle.*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*



The altar flowers this morning are given by the  
Josephs and the Haralsons Families,  
“In loving memory of our precious Jana.”

Thank you to our greeters: Betsy Gelb, Shelley Gottschalk; to our ushers:  
Patrick Grealy, Chris Paschke, Zena Taylor, Judy Williams; and to our AV  
team: Chuck Cornish and Leo Vandermeulen.

Assisted listening sets are available at the AV sound stand.  
Please see the AV operator.

### *Sunday Altar Flowers*

Would you like to donate the Sunday altar flowers in memory or honor of someone or something special? If so, please email your request to [alejandra@emersonhouston.org](mailto:alejandra@emersonhouston.org) at least one week in advance.

## IF YOU ARE NEW HERE, WELCOME!

Please fill out **both** sides of the yellow card in the pew rack to receive more information on Emerson's programs, activities and special events. You can drop your completed yellow card in the collection plate. Also, visit our Welcome Center after today's service. This special hospitality area is located in the alcove near the bookstore to the right of the front doors. There you'll find more information about our Unitarian Universalist faith as well as members who will be happy to talk with you about Emerson and show you around our campus.



## WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN US.

We offer many opportunities to talk with other newcomers as well as to learn about Unitarian Universalism and Emerson Church. Please take one of the Information Packets at the Membership Information Center.

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### ***Today!—Children/Youth Religious Education***

We're back in classes following the winter break! Come see your friends as our learning and growing continues.



Learn more: <http://emersonhouston.org/sundayclasses>. Want to get a weekly text about Sunday School? Sign up online at [www.remind.com/join/emfamilies](http://www.remind.com/join/emfamilies).

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### ***Today!—Open House***

**12:30 PM** in the Library

If you are visiting our community, we invite you to our Emerson Open House next Sunday. You will have an opportunity to learn more about our church and discover the myriad ways our members become involved to create our beloved community.

And—if you feel ready to become a member of Emerson UU—you will be invited to sign the congregational book, available at this meeting.

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### ***Today!—New Members! Prospective Members! Interested Visitors!***

Learn the basics of Unitarian Universalism and navigating Emerson in just two hours! *Meet other new UUs! Meet potential UUs!* Don't miss this once in a some-time opportunity, presented by long-time UUs Beryl Kaminsky and Pat Smith. Lunch has been ordered for those that registered early. Snacks available. **Westwood Hall, 12:30 - 2:30 PM**



**Next week—January 19, 2020 at 11 AM**

***Crossing Thresholds: Coping with Change?***

Rev. Dan King, Guest Minister

The issues we all encounter as we experience significant life transitions for ourselves and for those we love can sometimes seem overwhelming. In this service, our guest minister Rev. Dan King reflects with us on how our Universalist theological heritage can help us deal with the transitory nature of our human existence.

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***Next Sunday at 10 AM!—Adult Religious Education***

***January 19 – Who Were the Stoics?, cont.***

Stoicism is a philosophy that developed after 300 BCE in the Hellenistic world and became the major philosophy of the Roman Empire. Even though today we often think of “stoics” as those who do not complain about pain or misfortune, Stoicism as a philosophy and way of life emphasized cosmic and natural law, materiality, rationality, and control of emotions and passions. There are distinct similarities to Unitarian Universalist approaches to life. Presented by Michael Condit. Room 205/206

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**January Share-the-Plate Collections—**

**Texas UU Justice Ministry**

*Members and friends sustain the operating expenses of the church with their pledges enabling us to donate our entire offering to organizations approved by our Outreach Committee.*

Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM) is YOUR voice for UU values in the public arena. Your statewide ministry, representing 49 UU congregations, works to educate, organize, and be a bold advocate to ensure that our seven principles are reflected in public policy. TXUUJM has been on the front lines of advocacy and public witness in the areas of economic justice, reproductive justice, and immigration/refugee justice.

***If paying by check, please indicate “Share the Plate” on the memo line of your check. If paying your pledge, please write “Pledge” on the memo line of your check.***

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***Today!—Social Action Council Meeting***

The Social Action Council meets today at **12:30 PM** in Room 204. All interested Emerson members are welcome to attend.

## ***This Week Around Emerson***



### ***Mondays—Beginners' Meditation***

We welcome people from all backgrounds and spiritual practices. 7:00-8:15 PM Room 208.

### ***Wednesdays—Stitchers in The Gathering Place***

Stop by for stitching and/or conversation from 11 AM - 3 PM.

### ***Wednesdays—Choir Rehearsals***

For all who are interested in sharing music with our beloved community, please attend the laid-back rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 PM. No audition needed. Contact Adrian Rodriguez, [adrian.euuc@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.euuc@gmail.com), with any questions and to get involved!

## ***Announcements***

### **On Super Bowl Sunday (February 2) we raise funds for the Houston Food Bank.**

This year we're having a soup lunch! Give what you can!

And please let us know if you're attending through sign-up genius below. If you'd like to contribute a soup or side, please note that as well:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4EACA62FAB9-souper>

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### **Annual UU Network Luncheon**

#### **Spreading Our UU Voice**

**January 18, 2020**

10 AM to 2 PM at Emerson/Westwood Hall

The Unitarian Universalist Network will be holding the 2020 Network Luncheon. It is open to congregational ministers, officers and board members, congregational administrators and UU members in general. Please mark your calendars and RSVP at [UUhouston.org](http://UUhouston.org)\registration.

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### **Planned Parenthood Roe V. Wade Luncheon**

#### ***Celebrating the 47th Anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision***

**January 31, 2020**

Marriott Marquis Hotel

We are getting Emerson tables together again for the luncheon in January! Tickets are \$150 each. If interested in attending, please email Shelley Gottschalk ([shelleyjg@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyjg@gmail.com)) or call 713-899-2349.

## ***Announcements, cont.***

### **The Emerson Players to tread the boards ANEW— May 1-3**

We have a director! NOW the troupe is looking for interested thespians (with or without prior experience), a stage manager, lighting/sound specialists, "and other miscreants" (*per Stephen Lipp!*) for Michael McKeever's, *Suite Surrender*, a hilarious throwback to the classic farces of the 30s and 40s.

***Interested?*** Come to Westwood Hall on **Sunday, January 19, at 12:30 PM** to see how you can be part of the fun! Auditions, interviews, questions... **ALL WELCOME!** See you there! (And if you are interested but can't come at that time, please contact Jill Rose ([jillorose@gmail.com](mailto:jillorose@gmail.com))).

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### **Annual Meeting Reminder**

Our Annual Meeting is on **January 26, 2020** in the Sanctuary at **12:30 PM**. Childcare provided. Anyone who has been a member for at least ninety days has a vote.

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### **Amazon for Emerson**

We received \$311.05 from Amazon during 2018 and \$118.90 through Dec 29, 2019.

Emerson receives about 6% rebated when shoppers use our special hyper-link to browse Amazon.com when making purchases. Please use the special "Amazon for Emerson" link in left margin of every e-blast. Details about Amazon, Randalls and other rebates are at

<http://emersonhouston.org/giving-overview/donate-while-you-shop/>

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### **The Emerson bookstore needs YOU!!!**

If spending one Sunday a month (about a half hour before and after the service) surrounded by thought-provoking books, funny bumper stickers and curious browsers sounds like your kind of volunteer gig, contact Kris Taylor at [ktaylor2106@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ktaylor2106@sbcglobal.net).

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### **Church Parking Lot Safety Reminders**

Keep valuables out of sight in our parking lot. Either place them in your trunk or take them with you.



# Welcome!

## Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church

Founded in 1960, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church is named after American essayist, reformer, and Unitarian minister, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

### We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Welcoming Congregation is a UU community that, through education and discernment, makes explicit its welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

### As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the Forces which create and uphold life.
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



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[www.emersonhouston.org](http://www.emersonhouston.org)

Facebook: /emersonhouston Twitter: @emersonhouston Meetup: /EmersonSeekers