

Circle Dinners

Circle Dinners will begin on **Saturday, September 21, 2019**. Following dates are Saturdays, November 16, 2019, January 18, 2020, March 21, 2020 and May 16, 2020.

There are usually four dinners in homes for each of the dates. Please contact me (mafrusk@comcast.net) if you could host a dinner. These are wonderful opportunities to get to know your fellow church members and friends in a smaller group.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Rusk



emerson UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST church the emersonian

AUGUST 2019—MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August Share The Plate—



Texas UU Justice Ministry

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. In addition, your TXUUJM works to:

(Continued on page 4)



Free Screening: *Paris to Pittsburgh*



Sunday, August 4, 12:30 PM Room 205

From coastal cities to America's heartland, Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change; they aren't waiting for Washington to act. Over 100 cities and 6 states plus Puerto Rico have set goals to match the Paris Climate Accord committing to 100% renewable energy. Learn about two incredible stories in *Paris to Pittsburgh*, and be inspired to create change in our own community! Co-sponsored by Ministry for Earth and Citizens' Climate Lobby. The climate for change is now!

Religious Education

Each summer we spend time with my family in Wisconsin. The first time I made the drive with my sons, they were nine months old. One of them had a broken arm—car seat strap logistics were extra complicated. On the way home our Ford Escort, crammed with all our stuff, had a blowout and we learned that the spare tire did not fit the car. So a kind tow truck driver and a Missouri state trooper got us to a tire shop.



How times have changed – now we are three drivers. *I* could be the one in the back-seat, letting them do the driving and decision-making. I napped AND I read a book!



Change is coming to Emerson as well! Starting in August, the second Sunday of each month will be a multi-generational service. Not only does this help our children to learn the rhythms and rituals of worship, but it is a chance for all ages to spend time with one another.

We'll explore common themes each month in worship services and classes for adults and children. If you subscribe to our Facebook page, you'll find daily resources to go deeper in these themes, and our covenant groups will have the opportunity to incorporate sessions as well.

Summer Sunday School continues this month - thanks to all the Emersonians sharing their hobbies and assisting to help everyone have a joyful time! Our full Sunday School schedule resumes after Homecoming Sunday, September 8th.

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education
katy.euuc@gmail.com

Summer Sunday School

Sharing Our Hobbies

June 2—August 25

11:15 to Noon

Schweitzer Hall (Room 108)



Hobbies make us more joyful,
balanced people!

Each Sunday this summer,
we'll share our hobbies with
our youngest Emersonians.

Sessions features a story and
a hands-on activity children
can take into the world.

[emersonhouston.org/
summer-sunday-school](http://emersonhouston.org/summer-sunday-school)

August 4: Tissue paper stained glass
w/ Florrie S.

August 11: *All ages attend service w/ Katy!*

August 18: Lego Building w/ Jenny L.

August 25: Go strategy game w/ Michael B.

Sunday Morning Schedule



9:45 a.m. Professional Childcare Begins
10 a.m. Adult Education • 11 a.m. Worship • 11:15 a.m. Children's Programming

Please join us on Sundays for Worship.

August 4—Why I Create Visual Arts

Several Emersonian artists will talk about what leads them to create visual art and their different media. Participating will be Barbara Elmore, Dodie Meeks, Carole Huelbig and Laurie Hammons.

August 11—The Gospel According to Queer Eye - Katy Carpman, Director of Religious Education

Whether or not you're a fan of the Netflix series, let's consider how we can all embody the Fab Five's spirit of affirmation and joyful improvement!

August 18—To Be Announced

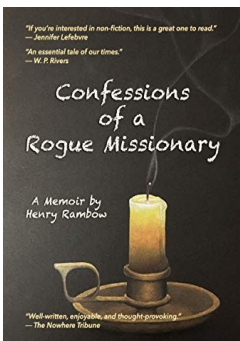
August 25—Nurturing the Spirit, Healing the World - Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange (Becky's back in the pulpit!)

Why I am a Unitarian Universalist; why I believe the world needs religious communities like ours.

September 1—Confessions of a Rogue Missionary—Henry Rambow

Henry will share the story of his descent into Christian fundamentalism, his eventual escape from it by means of reason, and the lessons he has since learned on his quest to rediscover meaning and purpose in the wake of disillusionment. *Henry is a teacher, writer, and former evangelical missionary to China.*

Confessions of a Rogue Missionary by Henry Rambow



As a National Merit Scholar majoring in physics at Rice University, Henry Rambow thought he was a rational person. But primed by years of Sunday School and haunted by a promise made as a terrified child, he nevertheless fell head over heels into a fundamentalist brand of Christianity. *Confessions of a Rogue Missionary* is an account of his struggle--and eventual failure--to reconcile his faith with reason. At times dryly humorous and at times sober and contemplative, the story begins when Henry is "born again." Brimming with zeal--but already plagued by doubt--he travels to Beijing as a missionary in the guise of an English teacher, where he tries desperately to embrace the culture and win disciples for Jesus. Culture clashes and miscommunications result in cringe-inducing encounters in unlikely settings, ranging from a brothel to a military base. Eventually, the very questions that troubled him from the start prove to be too much, and his faith collapses entirely, leaving him feeling disillusioned--but free.

Purchase Henry Rambow's book on Amazon or Barnes and Noble!

Looking Ahead — Adult Religious Education

While August was supposed to be relatively quiet, we are offering a joint Citizens' Climate Lobby and Ministry for Earth documentary screening and discussion of "From Paris to Pittsburgh" on the 4th at 12:30 PM (bring a bag lunch!); Poetry Group on the 18th at 9:30 AM; and Ministry for Earth on the 25th at 10 AM.

We have some great classes lined up for the fall. Do you have an idea for a class? Want to facilitate a discussion? Share your ideas through the online form on Emerson's website/Religious Education.

Our next Adult RE committee meeting will be on Wednesday, August 7 at 4:30 PM in the library.

Wheel of Life



Judy Williams has a new granddaughter Margot, born July 10. Hooray!

Uno Wahren's memorial service was Thursday, July 18th. His obituary is available online at <http://emersonhouston.org/unowahrenobit>.

ELL (English Language Learning) Fall Semester Registration-Aug. 17th!



Winter is coming and that means it's time for another fall semester of the Emerson English Language Learners program to begin. Make visible your UU values...become an ELL volunteer this fall as a supporter, encourager, or in action as a greeter at front desk sign-in, computer/roll keeping helper, celebrations, fund raising, public relations, recruitment, teacher, back-up teacher, teacher assistant, and misc. administrative. English only speakers are welcome as students need practice ...smiling is required.

Registration will be held on **August 17th from 1 to 4 PM**. If you would like to help, please arrive at 10 AM for a brief orientation/training and lunch. Contact us via email at euu-ell@outlook.com for more information.



First day of classes is on Saturday, September 7!

(Continued from page 1—TXUUJM)

- Engage the sustaining power of worship, community building, and friendship in the work of social justice
- Foster collaborative and civic engagement among Texas UUs and encourage close partnerships with our interfaith allies and community partners
- Put our faith into practice to directly address systematic injustice and create lasting, positive social change
- Provide UUs with information, education, training and opportunities for dialogue on pressing issues of public policy, legislation, and ballot initiatives

TXUUJM has been on the front lines of advocacy and public witness in the areas of economic justice, reproductive justice, and immigration/refugee justice. The work of YOUR statewide ministry is overseen by an Advisory Board and Congregational Liaisons which all serve on a voluntary basis. YOUR statewide ministry is managed by its Executive Director, Rev. Chuck Freeman. Emerson UU Church was instrumental in creating TXUUJM. Emerson, as all ministry-affiliated UU congregations, contributes to the operating costs of TXUUJM through a relatively small budget contribution. During the month of June, our Share-the-Plate contribution will be donated to TXUUJM. Please contribute generously to this vital ministry and its outstanding work and achievements on your behalf. Even better, please become a sustaining monthly sustainer—\$10 - \$25 per month provide predictable income for the ministry and are hardly a significant drain on most personal budgets.

Let's make Emerson a leader in its support of this vital and much needed social justice ministry.

Emerson Activities

Beginner's Meditation - Every Monday from 7-8:15 PM in Room 208. We welcome people from all backgrounds and spiritual practices. For additional information, please contact [Ann May](#).

Stitchers - Every Wednesday, 11 AM in Delaney Hall.

Sandwiches for SEARCH - Second Thursday of the month at 10 AM in Westwood Hall. Contact: [Barbara Hopkins](#)

Emerson Poetry Group - Third Sundays of the month at 9:45 AM, Room 204.

Emerson Bookstore

Stop by the bookstore to see the new titles in stock. While you're there, check out the great assortment of bumper stickers and hand-made cards.



Support Emerson While You Shop!

Emerson is pleased to announce our participation in the **AmazonSmile** program.

- Log on to smile.amazon.com
- Search for **Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church** (You'll have to use the whole name for the search to find us.). When the name comes up, hit select and you're through!

You only need to do this once.

In the future, just log on to smile.amazon.com when you wish to shop on Amazon and your purchase will automatically generate funds for Emerson.

It's easy to support Emerson by shopping at smile.amazon.com! Start today!



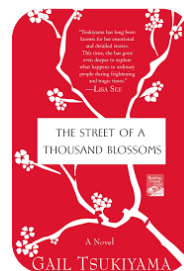
UUs and Humanism



On Sunday, all are invited. We'll focus on the leadership of individual UUs in defining Humanist values in the Humanist Manifesto and the role of the UU Humanist Association from the 1960's up till today. To find out more about the organization, visit humanists.org.

On Sunday, August 11, 12:30 PM in Room 205, Emersonians interested in the strong tradition of Humanism within Unitarian Universalism will meet. It is an open discus-

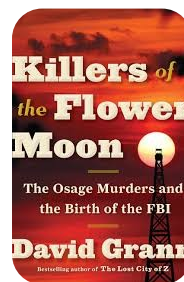
Book Clubs



DAYTIME

Thursday, August 15
10 AM in the Library.

Book: *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms* by Gail Tsukiyama
Contact: [David Bergt](#)



MEN'S

Monday, August 19
6:30 PM at La Madeleine
(10001 Westheimer)

Book: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann
Contact: [Cletus Lee](#)



WOMEN'S

Wednesday, August 21
Location TBD

Book: *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman
Contact: [Jill Rose](#)

Community Events in August

Greater Houston Environmental Summit

Please join us for our annual Greater Houston Environmental Summit on **Friday, August 2, 2019, from 8:30 AM- 3 PM** at the United Way of Greater Houston's Community Resource Center (50 Waugh Dr., 77007). In addition to excellent presentations, we will again offer small-format table talks. Details and registration will be available soon. The theme this year is the Sustainable Development Goals set forth by the United Nations. [Register on Eventbrite.](#)



Creation Care Fest — Environmental Extravaganza—August 24th



Faith Lutheran Church invites you to the 2019 Creation Care Fest – Environmental Extravaganza! This free event has fun & educational environmental activities for all ages. Terrific kids' activities will be on offer. Lectures by experts addressing the State of Our World will educate adults & youth. Exhibits by local environmental nonprofits will offer more opportunities to engage. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at gcs.lrc@gmail.com with any questions.

Lecture Details:

- 10 AM State of Biodiversity, Professor Kerri Crawford, University of Houston
- 10:45 AM State of the Air, Professor Dan Cohan, Rice University
- 11:30 AM State of Fresh Water, Professor Hanadi Rifai, University of Houston
- 2 PM State of the Oceans, Professor Hyun-Min Hwang, Texas Southern University
- 2:45 PM State of the Land, John Ferguson, owner of Nature's Way Resources

Exhibits by local environmental non-profit organizations 12 - 2 PM Current exhibitors include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Gulf Coast Bird Observatory | • Citizen's Climate Lobby |
| • Harris County Parks | • Public Citizen |
| • Galveston Bay Foundation | • Vegan Society of Peace |
| • Air Alliance Houston | • Wildlife Center of TX |
| • Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy | • Co-Housing Houston |
| • Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. | • Houston Climate Protection Alliance |
| • Mercer Botanic Gardens | • Native Prairies Association of Texas |
| • Westbury Community Garden | • Blackwood Educational Land Institute |
| • Houston Botanic Garden | • Texas Master Naturalists, Gulf Coast Chapter |

Kids' Activities 10 AM - 3 PM, including games, crafts, interaction with live education animals, planting seeds (to take & home watch it grow!) & more.

Location: Faith Lutheran Church (4600 Bellaire Blvd., 77401)

Date and Time: Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 10 AM—3:30 PM





As I settle into my new ministry at First Unitarian Church of Orlando, I carry with me gratitude for our transitional ministry of the past two years in Houston. Especially I am thankful for the congregation's generous cash gift to me and all the cards, well wishes and tokens of appreciation you bestowed on me. You are a bold, prosperous and amazing congregation.

Rev. Samuel Schaal

“Hello, Welcome to Emerson . . .”

If you are comfortable saying that phrase, you have conquered step one of becoming an Emerson greeter. We have an increasing number of visitors walking through our doors each Sunday and we need your help to welcome them to our community. If you would like to share your love of Emerson with a newcomer, please become a greeter. To get started, contact Dori Wolfe (dori.wolfe@gmail.com).

Welcome to Emerson!

Usher Volunteers Wanted

Ushers provide vital services in preparing the Sanctuary, welcoming the congregation, and collecting the offering each Sunday. Please consider volunteering as an usher one Sunday a month or every other month. Ushering is a very easy way for you to help serve our beloved church with very little effort.

Chat with an usher on Sunday morning if you'd like to learn more!



Lay Pastoral Ministry Team (LPMT)

Need someone to talk to? Members of the LPMT are available if you need a listening ear and support. Members of the LPMT include Victor Anwaar, Shannon Butler, Marci Collier, Mim Freiter, Stephen Lipp, Suzan Miles, Ian Sachs, April Smith, and Judy Taylor. They can be identified by their YELLOW name tags on Sunday mornings.





Becky Edmiston-Lange, Senior Minister

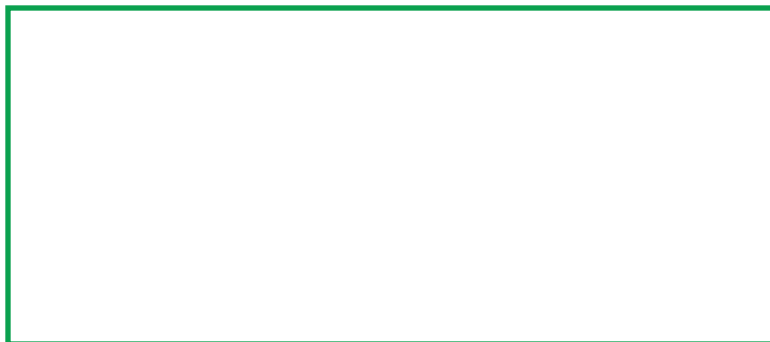
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Come Learn What Membership Means at Emerson.

Open House - The Membership Committee welcomes you to a conversation about Emerson and to sign the membership book if you are ready to join. Meet in the Library at 12:30 p.m. **Next Class: August 11**

Child care is provided. Please RSVP to the office at alejandra@emersonhouston.org at least five days before the event.

Stay Connected!



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meetup.com/emersonseekers

PR News

Please send all submissions for the E-blast, Order of Service and website weekly by Tuesdays to pr@emersonhouston.org.

**Next Newsletter deadline is:
Tuesday, August 20**

Digital version of this newsletter is available on our website, emersonhouston.org, under "News & Calendar."