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emerson UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST church

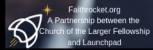
the emersonian

NOVEMBER 2019—MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FOCUS

Praise

"What you appreciate
appreciates."
--Lynne Twist



**In this season of Thanksgiving,
our focus for November is
Praise.**

*What do you praise? How do you
best receive praise?*

**Each month our Emerson com-
munity focuses on a single idea,
going deeper with one another.
You can engage through:**

- Sunday services—Second Sundays are fully multigenerational
- Age-appropriate Sunday school lessons around the themes
- Exploration Sunday—10 AM, Second Sundays—a time for contemplation and discussion of our focus
- Social media—sharing articles, quotes, and podcasts shared via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Optional covenant group sessions

Remembrance Project - Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)

Between 1890 and 1928, at least four men were lynched in Harris County. The Equal Justice Initiative is working to confront this history of racial terror with a monument downtown and markers at each known lynching site. Emerson is advocating for this project as it moves forward. Check out this video (https://youtu.be/Y7M_IBjBOo) of Rodney Ellis explaining the project and specifically naming our church! Want to get involved? Contact Michael Bloom at (mfbloom12@gmail.com) and learn more at <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/news/eji-community-remembrance-project>.



Share the Plate Nominations

The Outreach Committee is asking for nominations for 2020 recipients of our Share the Plate monthly offerings by November 30th.

Nomination forms are available in The Gathering Place and on the church website (<http://emersonhouston.org/social-action/share-the-plate/>) along with guidelines. Committee members include Beth Hammer, Marilyn Rambow, Glori Reeder and Lisa Rockett.



LGBTQ+A Emersonians Brainstorm Session

The group will meet Sunday, **November 10, from 12:30-1:30 PM** in Room 205/206 to brainstorm plans for 2020.

Hope to see you there!

- Bradley Smith and Ken McLeod



Religious Education

Raising up the next generation is not unlike navigating a minefield – so many opportunities for explosive missteps. Do this – but not too much of it. Don't do that, unless...

One of the most wrought pieces, with endless advice and judgement? Giving praise.

We're supposed to praise a child's actions, but don't let them get a big head about it! Praise each child equally, in that endless (and near impossible) balancing act.

How about we just encourage the child? Recognize both their achievements and their struggles – and that they are still growing and tomorrow brings new chances to practice.

And of course, that's true of all of us at every age and stage – what is the narrative that we're telling ourselves? Sometimes out loud while children are listening—“Oh, I really messed that up- I am such a klutz.” “I wish I weren't...”

This month in Sunday School



cc Vincent Morano

November 3: Sunday School Classes

November 10: All Ages Attend Worship*

November 17: Sunday School Classes

November 24: All Ages Attend Worship*

**See ushers for special worship materials for children!*

As we move into this holiday season, let's try for a little grace – grace to ourselves and to others. Pay attention, and take the time to recognize what is good, what is growth. What we're truly grateful for. Even if the place settings aren't perfect, the conversations stilted, the sweet potatoes scorched.

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education
katy.euuc@gmail.com

Meet Emerson's Newest Members!



Charlie Johnson

Charlie has lived in Houston for about four months! He is an intern veterinarian and en-

joys tennis, badminton, jogging and volunteering for various community organizations. Fun fact: He's from Minnesota and says “uff da” a little too much!



Pat Smith

Pat was born in Houston but grew up in Dickinson, just 30 miles south of I-45. She's a stat-

istician by training, having worked in academia and industry. Now retired, Pat enjoys playing pickleball and likes to practice yoga with her husband Phil. They have four grandchildren!



Jessica Abernathy

Jessica has lived in Houston for 16 years and found Emerson after relocating to the area. She enjoys reading and crochet. Fun fact: She likes to dance!



David Bosserman

David moved to this area four months ago! He is a retired assistant district attorney for Brazoria County. David enjoys singing, carpentry and construction, gardening, camping and hiking. Fun fact: He was with the Bay Area UU Church choir for four years!

The Emerson Music Department presents

We Need a Little Christmas!

A holiday pops spectacular



December 15 at 11am/ Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday Morning Schedule



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

Please join us on Sundays for Worship.

November 3—How and Why Do UU's Worship? - Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange

For the month of November, we will be examining the theme of "giving praise". To many people in our society that would be the definition of worship, as long as you understood that the object of that praise was God. But is "giving praise" what we are doing in worship? And if so, to whom or to what are we giving praise?

November 10—Veterans Day: Giving Thanks Appropriately? - Rev. Dan King, Pulpit Guest

This week is the 100th commemoration of the Presidential proclamation of the first anniversary of the Armistice of 1918 ending the conflict which became known as World War I. Every subsequent President has made decisions which called upon millions of men (and recently, women) to become veterans of many armed conflicts around the world.

In this service, our guest minister Dan King will share reflections on how we might express meaningful appreciation and praise for the sacrifices which those veterans have given, not restricted to this annual event.

November 17—The Days Are Gods - Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange

In these days of golden light and milder temperatures, I am often moved to sing the praises of the natural world. There is good precedent for that within our faith tradition. To the Transcendentalists, such as Emerson, the natural world was an unrivaled source of spirituality because it provided them an assurance of the things of the spirit that transcend the vagaries of the moment.

November 24—The "Praiser" and the Praised - Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, let us consider the role of praise and thanksgiving in our interpersonal relationships. How do we affirm and give thanks for the people in our lives? How much praise is appropriate? Can you overdo praise? What does praising someone do for the "praiser"? The "praised"? I will have one of my favorite stories for you about the proper recipients of praise and thanks.

Why I Love Emerson, How Did We Get Here, How We Connect

By Katie Scott, Board President

Each of us, whether Emerson member or friend, has a special story about how we originally connected with Emerson. This connection is how we all came to love Emerson and hold each other in love. The beauty of Emerson is that we have many ways we can connect, not only with each other, but to ourselves. We want to celebrate these connections through our upcoming Photo Contest.

"Why I Love Emerson" Photo Contest:

Share photos depicting the reasons you love Emerson or how you became connected to our community. Submit your photo, with a brief caption, to alejandra@emersonhouston.org by **Sunday, December 8**. Photos will be shared through Emerson's social media channels and throughout the church. Selected photos will be framed and displayed throughout Delaney Hall.



Wheel of Life



Many of us were deeply saddened by the death of **Francine Heller** on October 1, 2019. Francine had been a member of Emerson for 11 years and was very active in our Ministry for Earth. Our thoughts go out to her friends and family. Her memorial service was at Emerson on October 19, Rev. Becky presiding.

We also hold **Robin McElfresh** in our hearts. Robin's brother Bruce died in October after a long, slow decline.

Our condolences are also extended to **Lydia Chasen** whose 90 year old father-in-law died recently.

We wish **Bill Hammons** and **Ann May** well as they continue to recover from surgery. We continue to think of Betsey **Sevy**, **Cynthia Miller** and **Gabe Gelb** as they cope with ongoing health issues.

Our sympathies go out to **Jane Zachritz-Holt** who is mourning the death of her cat who had been her furry friend for 21 years.

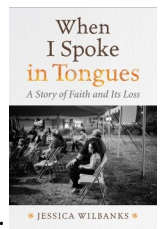
Congratulations to **Ellen Norton** on the recent marriage of her son Kevin Savidge and spouse, Michelle Mussett and to **Janet Meininger** and **Robin Sickle** whose son David married his beloved Wes in early October. Congratulations to **Bonnie and John Homier's** daughter Julia who is now engaged.

Adult Religious Education (ARE)

Enrich your fall with our Adult Religious Education offerings each Sunday

PotpouUri - 10 AM in Room 205-206:

- **November 3** – Seeking humanity across the divide – Author Jessica Wilbanks looks back at her childhood in a conservative Pentecostal church and traces her journey out of that faith tradition. Along the way, she sheds light on the reasons for the deep political divisions plaguing our country, and why it's more important than ever to engage across lines of difference and seek the humanity in those with whom we fundamentally disagree.
- **November 10** – Exploring Praise – go deeper into our month's focus with readings and dialogue.
- **November 17** – Memories, Emotions, and Scents - Why do some scents remind us of people and events, sometimes reviving old long-lost emotions and memories? Why do we find some scents calming, and others invigorating? Presented by Beth Hammer
- **November 24** - A Lay Person's Musings on Neuroscience – A look at some of the fascinating ways the brain works – knowing this, how might you improve your life? Presented by Molly Hammer



Spirit in Practice – Sundays @10 AM in Room 208 - facilitated sessions November 10th and 24th, with open meditation space on November 3rd and 17th. Questions about Spirit in Practice? Contact Marci at 713marci@gmail.com.

Poetry Group - November 17th, 9:45 AM in Room 204

LPMT Divorce/Relationship Support Group

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Team has decided to renew the Divorce/Relationship Support Group through the end of the year and new participants are welcome. Meetings: November 3rd in Room 209, November 17th in the Library and December 1st in Room 209.

All meetings will begin at **12:30 PM**. Questions? Contact Marci by email at 713marci@gmail.com.

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](#).

ELL Classes- Saturday from 1-4 PM and Tuesday/Thursday evening classes from 6:30-8:30 PM.

Interested in volunteering? [E-mail](#) the program director for more information.

Stitchers - Every Wednesday, 11 AM in Delaney Hall.

Emerson Choir - Every Wednesday from 7-9 PM. For all who are interested in sharing music with our beloved community, please attend the laid-back rehearsals. No audition needed—singers with all levels of experience are welcome! Contact [Adrian Rodriguez](#) with any questions and to get involved!

Sandwiches for SEARCH - Second Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM in Westwood Hall. Contact: [Barbara Hopkins](#)

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

Calling All Crafters and Artists!

Please join us for a self-led crafting free-for-all on Sunday, **November 10** in Westwood Hall. We will be there after church (or from the end of the activities in The Gathering Place) until 3 PM.

Prep your handi-wares to sell at the Emerson December Craft Fair, or work on an ongoing project. We ask you to bring your own materials and ideas as there will not be a prepared craft, but we can share some of our supplies and input. Basic snacks will be provided. For more information, email Ruth Alkons-Wolinsky (ruthalkons@gmail.com). Stay tuned for a second crafting session later in November.

Local Craft Fair

Emerson will hold its 4th Shop Local Craft Fair on **Sunday, December 8**, after the service. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful items! Crafters and artists: If you would like to reserve space at the fair, please contact Beth Hammer (bethandjohn@gmail.com) or Robin McElfresh (mcelfreshrobin@att.net).



Game Nights for Teens and Families!

Every 3rd Saturday of the month from 7 - 9 PM.
Contact Michael Bloom at mfbloom12@gmail.com

Save the Date—Emerson's English Language Learners Program's Hospitality Committee is sponsoring and invites you to a

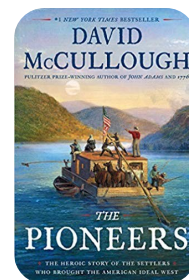


Holiday Bake Sale

on **December 15!**

Stay tuned with our e-blast for more details. Want to participate? Email the committee at euu-ell@outlook.com.

Book Clubs

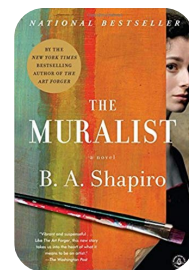


WOMEN'S

Wednesday, November 20

7:30 PM in the Library

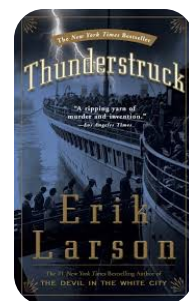
Book: *The Pioneers*
by David McCullough
Contact: [Jill Rose](#)



DAYTIME

Thursday, November 21

10 AM in the Library.
Book: *The Muralist* by
B.A. Shapiro
Contact: [David Bergt](#)



MEN'S

Monday, November 18

6:30 PM at La Madeleine
(10001 Westheimer)
Book: *Thunderstruck*
by Erik Larson
Contact: [Cletus Lee](#)

November Share-the-Plate

Harris County Drug Court Foundation (HCDCF)

The Drug Court Foundation is one of Emerson's greatest achievements. We started and ran it for several years as the sole board members. The need? Commissioner's Court had set up the Harris County Drug Court but provided no funding for treatment. So Emersonians swung into the breach and 81 of us contributed the initial funding for the two-year program of treatment for each participating non-violent drug offender. (See plaque in Westwood Hall.) The result: 585 graduates over the years, with a 15% recidivism rate compared to jailed offenders who have a 75% recidivism rate after one year. They also provided funding for a highly successful training for Recovery Coaches.



Circle Dinners

Nancy Rilling is now the coordinator for Circle Dinners. If you're interested in joining, please email her at therillings@aol.com.

She is always looking for volunteers to host dinners. These are wonderful opportunities to get to know your fellow church members and friends in a smaller group.

If there are not enough volunteers for a month, the option of meeting at a restaurant will be provided. The next Circle Dinner will be held on **Saturday, November 16**.



Adding eGiving to Your Giving Choices!

For those who no longer write checks or carry cash, you can now give to Emerson electronically with credit, debit or banking information:

- Online at emersonhouston.org/give
- With a mobile app
- By text

Schedule recurring donations so they arrive when you are out of town. Choose to pay on your pledge or give to Share the Plate or special funds as they arise. Instructions and assistance will be available at the Stewardship Table before and after church. If you are happy with your current method of giving, no need to change.

Emerson Podcast Launched!

Rev. Becky's sermons are now available on Stitcher, Google Podcasts, TuneIn, iTunes and Spotify! Subscribe and listen to our podcasts!

<http://emersonhouston.org/podcast>



*Looking for more spiritual growth
and exploration?*

Join an Emerson Covenant Group!



Reflect on
and discuss
significant life
topics

Get to know
yourself

Groups meet
monthly

8-12 Person
Groups

Build deep
connections
with one
another

Feel a deeper
connection within
the congregation



For more information contact Mike Hilgart (mrhilgart@outlook.com)
or see emersonhouston.org/covenant



Becky Edmiston-Lange, Senior Minister

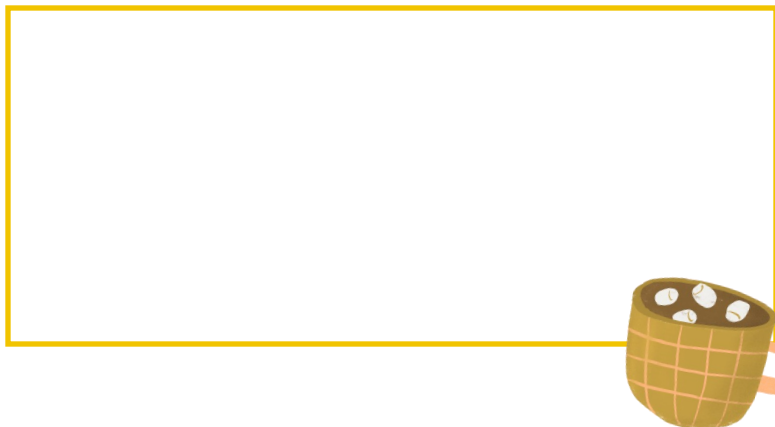
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Come Learn What Membership Means at Emerson.

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 PM. **Next Class: November 10**

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

Stay Connected!



emersonhouston.org

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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, November 12 (Holiday Deadline)

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