the emerson unitarian universalist church .



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Harvey Relief Fund

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to create a recovery and relief fund for those affected by the storm Harvey. Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will Unitarian support Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm. Those funds will be administered by leaders in the UUA's Southern Region and the affected congregations. The UUSC will work with and support local grassroots community partners on the in Texas serving at-risk ground populations who may not be able to access relief services and who are traditionally left out of mainstream response efforts. You can give by visiting https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods.

Article written on August 16, 2017

"Many Sides" regarding Charlottesville tragedy? Really?

—by the Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange

Typically, my first column back after my summer vacation/study break would be on a more personal note. But this is not a typical time. The events in Charlottesville, Virginia this past weekend, the death of Heather Heyer and President Trump's lack of moral leadership in the wake of that tragedy are deeply distressing to me and I am sure to all of you.

Racism, anti-Semitism, white supremacy, discrimination and bigotry are unequivocally wrong and morally repugnant. There are not "many sides" to these issues and for our President to imply that there are reveals his utter lack of moral discrimination. Yes, of course, violence by anyone is also repugnant. And, yes, there were among the counter protesters a few who were ag-

gressive and confrontational. But, really, what were the "many sides" in Charlottesville this past weekend?

On the one hand, there were hundreds of white supremacists, neo-Nazis, white nationalists and other extremists who believe that the U.S. should be a white's only nation. They came to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia (my undergraduate alma mater, by the way) in a "Unite the Right" rally, spewing hatred, behaving in ways that chillingly reminded of images from Nazi Germany, and waving Nazi and Confederate flags - and, yes, waving pro-Trump signs and sporting "Make America Great Again" hats - to protest the removal of a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. When interviewed, they trumpeted their white supremacist views that there is no room in America for Jews, blacks, Latinos or Muslims. They chanted "You will not replace us; Jews will not replace us; blood and soil" as they marched.

And on the other "side"? There were students, civil rights supporters, clergy, Black Lives Matter activists, Indivisible and <u>SURI</u> groups, and other human rights and progressive organizations - including <u>Unitarian Universalists</u> "standing on the side of love" in their yellow t-shirts - who came to support diversity and to proclaim there is no room in America for hatred, bigotry and virulent racism. One of those, of course, was thirty-two-year-old Heather Heyer, who was

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killed when James Fields, a twenty-year-old Neo-Nazi drove a car through the crowd. Nineteen others were injured in this hate-filled act of domestic terrorism.

Soon after Heather's death, one white supremacist group praised Fields, saying "they were glad 'n----r lover' Heather had been killed". At her Memorial Service this morning, Heather's dad said Heather always had a strong sense of right and wrong; "that she wanted equality and to put down hate". Many "sides"? Really?

Sadly, tragically, racism, anti-Semitism, and Neo-Nazism in this country are not new. There have always been people in this country who believe in white superiority and domination. And there have always been those who resorted to violence and terror in support of those views. What is different in this current moment is that such people have been emboldened by the ways Trump has courted the support of the alt-right, including the appointment of alt-right advisors in the White House. None of us should be surprised, perhaps, that the man who began the "birther" movement questioning Barack Obama's citizenship and who started his presidential campaign by calling Mexicans "rapists" has failed the country miserably at this moment. In my opinion, by his failure to denounce unequivocally the evil views that led to the tragedy in Charlottesville, Trump has all but vacated any right to speak in America's name. It falls to the rest of us to be the voice of the nation's conscience, to condemn hate and evil in no uncertain terms. We cannot let the racism and bigotry of the past reassert itself. We simply must recommit as a nation to pursue the paths of justice, inclusion, and equality - the values that truly make America great.

There is work calling to us, folks. I look forward to being with you soon. In the meantime, on that more personal note - in my sermon on August 27 I try to answer your questions about what my summer was like and how I'm doing now in relation to Mark's death. If you can't be there, you might want to get it on CD.

In faith and affection,

Becky Edmiston Lange

Wheel of Life



Congratulations to John and Bonnie Homier on the birth of their first grandchild, Henry Clifton, born August 1st!

Our hearts go out to all the members of our church community who were affected by Harvey, indeed to *all* who were affected by the storm. We have been moved and inspired by the ways in which people are helping one another.

If you have been affected by Harvey, please visit page 6 if you need assistance and/or need to update your contact information.



Sunday Morning Schedule

Summer Sunday Schedule

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

Please join us on Sundays for Worship service.



Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange—Community Strong after Harvey

After Harvey we come together to reconstitute our beloved community to share our stories of sorrow and loss, as well as stories of compassion and hope.

Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange—Come on Out! Come on Up!

It's Homecoming Sunday – AND – Bring a Friend Sunday! Come embrace the new church year and welcome new faces, including our new transitional assistant minister. Let's see what amazing things might happen as our energy creates synergy. The Choir makes its fall debut, Shan will tickle the ivories and we will all have a chance to help make something "come on up!" PLUS, stay for the pizza pot luck afterwards. What's not to like?





Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange—Learning to Inhabit the Unimagined Future (Rescheduled from August 27) Becky will share reflections about grief and healing, hope and joy, prompted by her time off during the summer and by the poetry of Mary Oliver.

Rev. Samuel Schaal—At Home in the Wilderness

The wilderness is uncertain, and getting through it can seem confusing as the comforts of routine are left behind. But the wilderness and desert experiences of our lives can be a time of exploration and discovery. As we begin our ministry together, we'll explore the joys of the journey.



Adult Education

The Adult Religious Education program is held in Room 205/205 on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

September 3

No Adult RE on this day.

September 10

Please join David May and Kenny Jones for an Overview and Introduction to the Adult Religious Education Program for 2017—2018.

September 17 and 24 *The Early Reformation – What Happened and Why* Presented by Mike Condit

The Reformation was one of the most important times not just in the history of the Christian Church but also in the course of Western civilization. It was a continuous movement of ideas, people, and actions, but it was not homogeneous. The year 2017 is the 500th anniversary of Luther nailing his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenburg, often felt to be the "beginning" of the Reformation. This presentation will focus on *why* the Reformation occurred and look specifically at *what* happened in its early years. We will focus on the key individuals of Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin. Although this is usually characterized as Christian history, what occurred had a significant effect on subsequent Unitarianism.



What can you do in an hour? You can drive to the Woodlands, or if there's traffic, you might drive six miles. You can watch yet another Law & Order rerun. You can get lost in the IKEA maze, do something about that cat hair on the couch, or start your Christmas shopping while it's still sweltering outside.

Or, you can do just one thing to get to know and support our youngest Emersonians.

Consider sharing an hour of your time – in the classroom, on the playground, or help plan a special event. <u>Sign up</u> for a monthly or occasional gig, and keep an eye on our e-blast and the <u>Between Sundays</u> page to see what's going on!

Families, you also support your emerging Unitarian Universalists when you

get them <u>registered</u> and bring them to church whenever you can make it – the more they're here, the better they can connect with one another and our core principles.

Our 2017-2018 Sunday School year begins with Homecoming Sunday on September 10th – our <u>full class schedule</u> begins the following Sunday. Here's the plan:

- Preschool and Kindergarten will experience our caring space, explore new and familiar ideas, and ground themselves with Celebrating Me and My World.
- Our elementary class will delve into the sources of our faith with Love Will Guide, a dynamic curriculum named for one of our favorite hymns.
- Our Middle School will develop community as they consider life's sticky spots in our Lodestones class.
- Eighth graders embark on their Coming of Age Year, piecing together their personal values as they move ever closer to adulthood.
- Our High School group works with their adviser team, some days exploring faith and ethical concepts, others creating together or playing games, and attending service about once a month. And in January they'll host a weekend-long event for youth and adults from across Texas and neighboring states!

Hour by hour and soul by soul, we're building a better world. Let's talk about how we can play together. And I'll see you at the snow cone machine Homecoming Sunday!

Katy

Share the Plate Nominations

The Outreach Committee is asking for nominations for 2018 recipients of our Share the Plate monthly offerings by October 31.

If you know of a worthy organization, large or small, the Outreach Committee hopes you will fill out the 2 page nomination form for an organization to be considered as a recipient of 75% of the Plate collected for one month in 2018. Nomination forms will be available in the Gathering Place every Sunday after church and will shortly be available through the church website. If you have questions or wish to return a completed form, committee members include Jane Collins, Carolyn Truesdell, Karen Ostrum George, Lori Reeder and Edna Kelly.

Share the Plate—Harris County Drug Court Foundation



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. In the last year we also provided funding for a highly successful training for Recovery Coaches.

Traci, the graduate in the photo, has done a great job as a Recovery Coach, even started a new option called Rollers for Recovery, which meets once a month to ride bicycles as recovered addicts.

The Foundation is grateful to Emerson for founding and continuing to support its efforts. If you'd like to enhance the 'Share' contributions in September on a personal basis, contact Gabe Gelb at <u>ggelb@gelbconsulting.com</u>.



Circle Dinner

The September Circle Dinner has been cancelled due to flooding. The next Circle Dinner will occur on Saturday, November 18.

The next dinner dates : November 18, 2017, January 20, 2018, March 17, 2018, and May 19, 2018. It is always a great way to spend an evening to get to know your church friends.

If you would like to be a host or wish to have your name put on the list to meet others in your church community, you can contact <u>Mary Ann Rusk</u>.



Ministry for Earth Events

"Native Plants for Houses of Worship" by Jaime Gonzalez Sunday, September 10, 4 – 5:30 p.m. University of St. Thomas, Robertson Hall, and online. **Free and open to the public.** <u>Please regis-</u> <u>ter</u> so we have enough seats and lines.

There are many actions that faith communities (or indivuals!) can take to be more planet-friendly and meet their needs at the same time. Hear Jaime González, Community Conservation Director for the Katy Prairie Conservancy, on using native plantings on your faith community campus. He will touch on how native plants are important for xeriscaping, provide resources and outlets for getting native plants, and even delve into the ethics of saving wildlife. The event will be recorded, so if you register, you can hear it later. Presented by the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston, the Houston chapter of TX Interfaith Power & Light, a division of TX Impact.



Fall Campus Cleanup

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 a.m. through noon. Come when you can. Choose outside trimming the plantings or inside cleaning cabinets and cupboards. We have the tools! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Many hands make light work; come help out!

Autumn Equinox Supper and Celebration Friday, September 22. Potluck supper 6-7 p.m. in Westwood Hall. Short service at 7 p.m. in Westwood Hall or if the weather is nice, we'll have the service outside. This is an informal, participatory service. You're invited to bring music or a reading about fall or the changing seasons. Questions? Contact Ann or Robin at ministryforearth@emersonhouston.org. Open to all ages.



Emerson Activities

Stitchers

Every Wednesday, 11 a.m. in Delaney Hall.

Emerson Choir

No audition needed. Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. Contact <u>Adrian Rodriguez</u>

LGBT+Allies Emersonians Potluck Lunch

Sunday, September 10, in Room 209, at 12:15 p.m. <u>More information</u>

Sandwiches for SEARCH Thursday, September 14, at 10:30 a.m. in Westwood Hall. Contact: <u>Mary Ann Rusk</u>

Emerson Poetry Group Sunday, September 17, at 9:45 a.m., Room 204.

Ministry for Earth

Next meeting takes place Sunday, September 24 at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

Book Clubs

WOMEN'S

Wednesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m. in the Library. Book: *Grant Park* by Leonard Pitts, Jr. Contact: <u>Jill Rose</u>



DAYTIME

Thursday, September 21, 10 a.m. in the Library. Book: *The Promise* by Ann Weisgarber. Contact: <u>Dave Bergt</u>



RANKIN

MEN'S

Monday, September 18, 6:30 p.m. at La Madeleine (10001 Westheimer Rd.) Book: *A Question of Blood* by Ian Rankin. Contact: <u>Gabe Gelb</u>

Lunch and Learn Spanish

Lunch and Learn Spanish kicked off a new semester on August 29! The beginner class meets from **11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**, and the intermediate/advanced class will meet from **12:15 to 1:00 p.m.** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in Room 204. The cost of the class is \$250 per 8 weeks; two 8-week sessions are planned, ending December 14. Beginners will need to buy the book "Spanish in 10 Minutes a Day," which is easily available at Barnes and Noble or Amazon. Please <u>email</u> Alisha Loftin or call (918) 809-8661 for more details!

Affected by Harvey? Did your home flood? Do you need assistance?

Emerson Family Check-In

We've put together a short form to collect one another's check-ins and identify needs with which our community might be able to assist. Jane Zachritz is working with the Rebuilding Together Crew, and Cynthia Miller is also on board for Helping Hands purposes.

Please visit this site (<u>http://emersonhouston.org/check in</u>) and fill it out when you're able, and feel free to share the link. May we all stay safe in the meantime.

Please Update Contact Information

If you had to relocate due to Hurricane Harvey, please e-mail your new mailing address to <u>alejandra@emersonhouston.org</u>.

Emerson—Rebuilding Together

If you would like to assist an Emersonian whose home flooded, please click on this link (<u>http://emersonhouston.org/</u> <u>rebuild team</u>) to view the Google Docs spreadsheet. Each house is listed with instructions and there is a tab to sign-up. Help is needed with remediation but also with sorting, cleaning, boxing and laundry. Homes will be added so please check back. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Zachritz-Holt at jm.zachritz@gmail.com

emerson UNITARIAN TUNIVERSALIST church

Becky Edmiston-Lange, Minister 1900 Bering Drive Houston, TX, 77057 713-782-8250 emersonhouston.org facebook.com/emersonhouston twitter.com/emersonhouston



Come Learn What Membership Means at Emerson.

Join Emerson Sunday - 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 12:15 p.m. **Next Class: September 17**

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



PR News

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

> Next Newsletter deadline is: Tuesday, September 19