



Celebrate the Start of a New Church Year! Homecoming Sunday Picnic on September 13 in and around Westwood Hall

Join us after church for a picnic of **pizza**, a **beverage** and, of course, there will be **SNOW CONES**! Please bring a salad or dessert to share! Our choir returns September 2, with our new music director!

We Welcome Adrian Rodriguez — Emerson's New Music Director!

We are pleased to announce that Adrian Rodriguez has been hired as Emerson's new Music Director. Adrian is familiar to many of you, as he served Emerson in the past as a choir section lead. He currently serves as the Director of Choirs at Stephen F. Austin High School (Sugar Land, TX). In addition to conducting five choirs, he is the music director of the musical theatre program and teaches Advanced Placement Music Theory and Honors Music History.



Adrian received his Bachelors of Music in Music Education from the University of Houston (2011) and, after finishing his thesis, will have earned his Masters of Music Education from the Westminster Choir College (Princeton, NJ).

As an active choral clinician and consultant in Southeast Texas, he has worked with a variety of school, church, and community choirs and has been invited to present the Texas Music Educators Association (2015) and the Texas Choral Directors Association (2014). His academic interests include: empowering pedagogical practices, community and culture in school music programs, and building choral sound. He was the top choice among an outstanding field of applicants. We look forward to the next chapter in the life of Emerson's Music department under Adrian's direction.

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

Religious Education

If a child attends an hour Sunday school every Sunday from the age of 3 to 18, that's about seven hundred fifty hours, or just over a month of total time.

And sometimes we get sick or go out of town or have a Sunday morning rehearsal... the time is even more limited.

Thankfully parents, children's primary religious educators, can fit some hope and love and ritual into even the busiest of days.

Here are some ways Emerson can help parents have a full-week faith with children-

Each week we update the [Between Sundays](#) page on our website with questions and follow-up activities from our Sunday School classes. We also tell of upcoming events at Emerson and offer suggestions of ways to live our values.

Our RE Library (in the RE Office, Room 102) has many useful books for parents and children—feel free to come by and borrow something! Starting this month I'll be blogging quick book reviews from our shelves. And we're always looking for new family-friendly material for our [Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#) pages—find something great? Send it to me katy@emersonhouston.org and I'll add it to the mix!



Faithfully,
Katy Carpman
Director of Religious Education

September Religious Education Schedule:

Date	10 AM	11 AM
Sept. 6	Childcare only	All in Service
Sept. 13	10 AM activities	Multigen Service!
Sept. 20	10 AM activities	Classes
Sept. 27	10 AM activities	Classes

September Share-the-Plate

By Beth Hamner

September's plate will be shared with United Against Human Trafficking (UAHT) – a local non-profit whose mission is to end human trafficking. UAHT, formerly known as Houston Rescue Restore Coalition has been working in the Houston area since 2005. Training first responders to identify a victim of trafficking, working on prevention programs for girls and boys, and community awareness programs like their Multilingual media campaign are some of their current projects.



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Typical Sunday Schedule

9 AM EIO Rehearsal • 9:45 AM Professional Childcare Begins
10 AM Adult Ed and Kids' Activities • 11 AM Worship • 11:15 AM Kids' Programming

September 6

Work That Sustains Us

On this Sunday before Labor Day we will focus on the world of work (both in and out of the home) and our dependence upon it for both providing the necessities of life and meaning for our days. It will be a time to lift up our gratitude for the work we can do and our hope that people around the world can find employment to provide sustenance and meaning. And – we look forward to hearing from you about the work that you do – and what work means to you.

September 13

Homecoming Sunday: To A Honey of a Year

Our annual fall ingathering service will feature the return of the Choir and the debut of our new Music Director, Adrian Rodriguez, a favorite *Winnie the Pooh* story, and an Apple and Honey Communion - as we rededicate ourselves to the creation of Beloved Community in our midst.

September 20

Why Is Unitarian Universalism So Different?

We are not that easily explained because we do not fit in the box that people normally use to understand religion. Considering the sorry state that most religion is in – THAT'S A GOOD THING!

September 27

For Healing, Health and Wholeness

There are times for all of us when we need to be healed, either of wounds to the body or wounds to the psyche or soul. What does healing mean? Wholeness and health? Rev. Becky and the Lay Pastoral Ministry Team will lead a contemplative service of readings, meditations, music and congregational candle lighting to give expression to our hopes for health and wholeness for ourselves, those we love, and the wider human family.

10 AM ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Connection

On August 30 and September 13, 20, and 27, we will be exploring how Buddhism fits within the Unitarian Universalist movement. We will begin with a brief review of the ground we covered last year when we studied Buddhism as part of the Living Text Project. Participants will then be part of the planning process as we together explore the UU Buddhist connection. We expect to have several guests from the community on hand to answer questions about how this faith tradition enriches their lives.



Un-Conversation Discussions: A weekly discussion of current topics in Room 209.

Third Sunday Poetry Group: A casual gathering of those who love poetry. Bring something you have written or a poem you wish you had written. September 20, Room 204

Revels

Hasn't this been quite the summer? We traveled in June to Portland Oregon to attend General Assembly. While we attended numerous events and programs some of our time was devoted to networking with other leaders in the larger UU movement. We also got to spend a few days with our son Aaron and his wife Kristin who live in Portland. But, once the Supreme Court ruled that bans on LGBTQ weddings were unconstitutional we went into overdrive in finishing the planning for the Big Wedding Day. Even though we were still in Portland the messaging was routine and substantive. Much praise must be heaped upon Katy Carpmann since she delayed her own vacation for a week to finish the extensive on-site preparations.

The day itself was magnificent. The volunteer hours were enormous. The spirit which pervaded the entire campus was glorious. Guides guided, ushers ushered, photographers clicked, musicians played, cooks served up cakes and finger food, couples said, "I do," – 13 times. After years of performing LGBTQ unions that were not legally recognized, signing ACTUAL MARRIAGE LICENSES for the couples was truly a transcendent experience.

As if that was not enough for the summer, we were part of the search committee for our new artistic director. We had a slate of excellent candidates and wish to thank the other members of the Search Committee: Stephen Lipp; Barbara Crotty; Andy Andrews; and Ken McCloud; for their efforts and insights. One very important part of Bonnie Rosentsteel's legacy at Emerson is the high esteem with which the rest of the Houston music community now regards Emerson's music program. Really talented people want to make music here.

Of course, HERO continues to rumble. We attended a press conference launching the community wide effort to make sure the clock is not turned back in Houston. There will be more rallies and more opportunities to speak in behalf of equal protection under the law for all citizens of Houston in the weeks leading up to the November referendum.

And, on a far more personal note: time finally caught up with Mina McDuffie. She died peacefully with her family surrounding her but her death leaves an enormous hole in our hearts. Becky spent some sweet time with her over the past few weeks. Keep Tom in your hearts. We have also been attentive to John Aucock who is battling a very harsh brain cancer. Since his surgery in June John has had multiple complications – further delaying treatment. Many of you know that the Aucock's daughter Olivia died ten years ago from an unidentified infection. And now this – well, it just makes you want to scream at the nastiness which the universe sometimes dishes out. There are more than a few other people in the congregation who are experiencing the rough hand of life. It behooves us all to remember, as Emerson himself wrote, "All can use a good deal more kindness."

On a more positive note, Mark conducted the wedding for Alexandra Zambrano and Kiefer Forseth on August 6. The wheel of life keeps spinning. So now the routines of meetings and preparations for worship, of conversations upon conversations, begin again in earnest. We can't say it has been a peaceful or restful summer. We did take to creating the mental fiction that our backyard was in reality an island resort for a day here and there. And we want to commend the staff at that resort who were meticulous in looking after our wellbeing. After all, we will need our strength for the coming months. If the summer's pace is any indication, this will be a very busy and productive year.

With affection,
Becky and Mark

Recurring September Activities - You Are Invited

Choir Rehearsal: (begins September 2) Wednesdays, 7-9 PM in the sanctuary. All experience levels welcome, no auditions! Contact: Music Director, Adrian Rodriguez, adrian.euuc@gmail.com.

Emerson Intergeneration Orchestra: Sundays, 9-10 AM in Westwood Hall. All musicians and ages welcome. Contact: Orchestra Director, Bill Tackett, tackett.bill@gmail.com.

Stitchers: Every Wednesday, 11 AM in Delaney Hall. Come for conversation, if not for craft!

Women's Evening Book Group: Wednesday, September 9, 7:30 PM in the Library. *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. Contact: Jill Rose, jillorose@gmail.com.

Sandwiches for SEARCH: Thursday, September 10, at 10:30 AM in Westwood Hall. Contact: Barbara Hopkins, bbhopkins@sbcglobal.net.

Men's Book Group: Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 PM at Luby's, 2730 Fondren. The book of the month *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power* by Niall Ferguson. Contact: Dave Bergt, dbergt@comcast.net.

Daytime Book Group: Thursday, September 17, 10 AM in the Library. This month's book is *The Worst Hard Time*, by Timothy Egan. Contact: Dave Bergt, dbergt@comcast.net.

Volunteer Opportunities Available for Emerson's English Program

By Deborah Wotring Landis, UUNO English Class Coordinator

Join Emerson's English class volunteers this fall and help us fulfill our commitment to make the world a better place. Classes will be held at the church on Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4 and Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 PM. Volunteer opportunities include teaching, classroom assistant, greeter, food prep volunteer, child care, communications and class coordinators. We welcome all levels of time commitment. Even if you only have one hour a semester to volunteer we welcome your help.



1. Calling Deborah Landis at 713-504-0819 or sending her an e-mail at dlandis570@aol.com;
2. Use the signup sheets next to the coffee pot in the gathering place each Sunday morning; or
3. Go to the SignUp Genius web site. For details about using SignUp Genius, call Alisha Loftin at 918-809-8611, send her an e-mail at alishadenton@sbcglobal.net, or contact Deborah Landis.

This is the beginning of Emerson's third semester teaching English to adults in our community. Reaching out to adults with limited English skills is one way we can fulfill our mission to "build a better world." This work also honors the Unitarian Universalist's first, second and sixth principals which guide us to protect the inherent worth and dignity of every person, work for justice, equity, compassion and liberty for all. Come join us in sowing seeds of compassion in the world.

Save These Dates in September...

Circle Dinners

It is the middle of August, must be time to think about Pot Luck dinners for 2015-2016. The first Circle Dinner will happen on September 19, at 6:30 PM, three or four hostess/hosts are needed. If you have been participating with Circle Dinners in the past, you will be contacted after September 1. If you are thinking about it and would like to join an interesting group of Emerson friends to share a potluck dinner with great conversation, please let me know by emailing admin@emersonhouston.org. Hosts are needed for Saturdays, months where hostess/hosts are needed are November 21, January 16, 2016, March 19, 2016 and May 21, 2016. If you are not on the Circle Dinner list and would like to be, let me know and your name will be added to the list. Please contact at marusk@comcast.net. We typically have about four hosts for each date. Looking forward to good eats and wonderful conversations!



Mary Ann Rusk, Circle Dinner Chair

Autumnal Equinox



Autumn Equinox Supper and Service is on Wednesday, Sept 23. Potluck supper 6 - 7 PM with a service at 7:15 PM in Westwood Hall. This is an Informal, participatory service to celebrate the arrival of fall. You're invited to bring a reading, memory, or music about fall or the changing seasons. Questions? Contact Ann May at abmay11@gmail.com or Robin McElfresh (mcelfreshrobin@att.net). If the weather is nice, we'll have the service outside. Open to all ages.

Fall Campus Cleanup



Saturday, September 26. Bring your clippers, weeders, rakes, brooms to help brighten up our beautiful property. We also need to do some touch-up painting. The action starts at 8:30 AM but come anytime through noon. Snacks and drinks will be provided.



Training for New Members of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Team

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Team will be training new members in October. The training will be spread over three sessions - Sunday afternoon, October 18, from 12:30 to 4 PM and Saturdays, October 24 and 31, from 9 AM to 1 PM. If you are interested in learning more about this rewarding "ministry of presence" which helps make our Beloved Community real in the lives of our members, you can find a brochure describing the Team's work in the Membership Kiosk. If you think you might be interested in serving on this team, contact Kay Bergen, Coordinator, at kay_kenny@yahoo.com or Rev. Becky at the church office at ministers@emersonhouston.org.

YRUU Beach Trip!

Youth Group

We had a wonderful retreat August 14-16 at Surfside Beach. Favorite things about the weekend?

- Meatballs!
- A monster game of Risk
- Baked goods contest, complete with trophies
- Worship service including meditation on the beach, and deep sharing
- Meeting youth adviser Emily's new baby Blake
- Getting to know our new freshman and sending Mitchell off to college (with the promise of care packages for all our graduated seniors)
- Brainstorming ideas for a full year of youth group
- Wacky conversations about hypotheticals, like coconut liability
- Karaoke!
- Building sand castles together

Thanks to the many parents who helped with driving, shopping, and chaperoning!





Becky and Mark Edmiston-Lange, Co-Ministers

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PR News

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

Our Newsletter submission deadline is Tuesday, September 15, by noon.

Email submission to pr@emersonhouston.org.

New to UU? Want to Know More?

Join Emerson Sunday - Ready to join? The Membership Committee and Co-Minister Becky welcome you to a conversation about Emerson and to sign the membership book if you desire. Meet in the Library at 12:30 PM.

Next Class: TBD

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

www.emersonhouston.org

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