

emerson UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST church
the emersonian

MAY 2021 —MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From the Board President

By Martin Estill



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. The 2021 session is 100% virtual.

Virtual Registrants are able to watch and

ask questions in live sessions including workshops and business sessions (mini-assemblies, hearings, etc). Voting delegates are also able to propose amendments in the live business sessions, participate in debates, and vote in general sessions.

Virtual registration for General Assembly is \$200 per person. Registration for General Assembly is the same process for delegates and non-delegates.

If you would like to attend General Assembly and would like to represent Emerson as a delegate, please contact Martin Estill

Religious Education

What genre is your current life's story?
Are you living a mystery?
An adventure story? A romance? A thriller?
Are you working hard to get it published?
Are you fine with it just being told
around the family fire?
Is it stuck because you're
having writer's block?
Are you in the midst of going
back and re-writing the ending?



This month we focus on the idea of Story. You can engage through Sunday worship, on social media, and optional covenant group sessions. Children and youth receive family packets in the mail.

Want to go deeper? Get spiritual exploration packets from katy.euuc@gmail.com.

Katy Carpman,

Director of Religious
Education

Looking Ahead! - Book Study Previews (Adult Religious Education)

Sunday, June 6th @ 10 AM—Two different book studies are being planned with dates to be determined. This summer Marilyn Rambow will lead a 4-session study of *The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Racism*, by Dolly Chugh. Lisa Rockett will lead a 3-session study in the fall on the UUA Common Read *Breathe: A Letter To My Sons*, by Imani Perry. Lisa and Marilyn will introduce these books and invite your comments.

Save the Date! - Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 16th, after the service. Stay tuned for more information.

Interim Minister, Rev. Michelle LaGrave

As we enter into the month of May and begin to explore the monthly theme of “Story”, I would like to invite you to a special congregational event called “Who Are We?” led by the Transition Team and myself. We will gather together to tell stories about Emerson and its people that capture the essence of who Emerson is as a faith community. Who are you as a congregation? What values do you uphold in the everydayness of your coming together as a community?

Through the medium of storytelling, we will get at the core values that answer the question “Who are we?” As Emerson prepares to go into search for its next called and settled minister, knowing who you are as a congregation and being able to clearly identify your core values will help both the search committee and potential ministers discern who will be the next right minister for Emerson.

So, while this is important work for a congregation to undertake during the interim, it can also be both simple and fun. All you have to do is choose one of two dates, show up (on Zoom), and

have some paper and pens, maybe even some markers, colored pencils, or crayons at the ready. We will gather in community, tell stories, and identify up to five core values that characterize who Emerson is. These values will come to live in the forefront of everyday congregational life. You’ll hear them preached in sermons and discussed at Board meetings. No getting bogged down in process or filed away in a document somewhere that hardly anyone ever remembers to look at. Simple. Fun. Useful!

Our hope is that each and every one of you will be able to join us so we are offering a choice of two dates: Wednesday, May 5th at 7 pm and Saturday, May 8th at 10 am. For those of you who have other church commitments at those times, your group is being encouraged to attend this gathering instead. For example, there will be no choir on that Wednesday so that the choir can attend this gathering instead.

On behalf of the Transition Team, (Lisa Rockett, Annie New, Jill Rose, Carol Trout, and Mark Holt), and myself, I will share that we are excited to be hosting this event and look forward to seeing you there!

Rev. Michelle

Adult Religious Education (ARE)

We are grateful to be able to join in community each Sunday to explore a diversity of topics during the online 10 AM sessions. Join us as you are able!

May 2: Shall Emerson become a member of the local Memorial Assistance Ministries? Learn more with guest speaker Bill Ogden

May 9: Soul Matters topic: “Story” facilitated by Pat Smith and Lydia Chasen

May 16: The Future of Unitarian Universalism – The Unitarians & Universalists merged in 1961. How have we done in those 60 years, and what does our future look like?” by David May

May 23: Discussion of our UU 7th Principle: How do we affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part? Facilitated by Beryl Kaminsky and Dori Wolfe

May 30: Honoring and mourning our military and all working for peace – how do we as UUs find the balance? Facilitated by Dori Wolfe

The May virtual meeting of the Adult Religious Education committee will be on the second Tuesday, May 11, at 4:00 pm (<https://emersonhouston.org/ARETeam>). We’d love to hear your ideas! If you can’t come to the meeting, submit your ideas into our [online Suggestion Box](#).

Lay Pastoral Ministry Team (LPMT)

Members of Emerson's Lay Pastoral Ministry Team (LPMT) are available to congregation members that would like to talk during this stressful time. The members of the LPMT are: Ian Sachs, Coordinator; Rev. Michelle; Mim Freiter; Marci Collier; Stephen Lipp; Suzan Miles; Judy Taylor. You can request Pastoral Care by our LPMT by completing this form: <https://emersonhouston.org/pastoralcare>

May Share the Plate—The Montrose Center (LGBTQ Homeless Youth Housing)

The Montrose Center empowers our community—primarily lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals and their families—to live healthier, more fulfilling lives. [Learn more.](#)

For information on how to give electronically for Emerson's Share-the-Plate, please visit this link: <https://emersonhouston.org/electronic-giving/>

Sunday Morning Worship

Please join us on Sunday for worship at 11 AM
<https://emersonhouston.org/SundayService>

May 2 - Question Box Sermon with Rev. Michelle LaGrave and Katy Carpmann

May 9 - with Rev. Michelle LaGrave

May 16 - Soul Matters: Story

May 23 - Flower Communion

May 30 - with Rev. Dr. Catherine Ishida

Save the Date!

A fun (and important) church event is coming up soon. You'll have your choice of dates to attend, either Wednesday, May 5th at 7 PM or Saturday, May 8th at 10 AM. More details to follow!

Wheel of Life



Emerson member, **Carla Saunders**, is home from the hospital after surgery for colon cancer. She has also been diagnosed with recurrent breast cancer, or metastatic breast cancer. Her 82 year old father has been moved from Dallas to live with Carla, her son and his wife in a new home near Sharpstown.

Carla needs help in finishing the move in (specifically her bedroom) and two meals a week just to get some support. Carla has been fully vaccinated and is working on getting appointments for the others in her household.

Here is the link to the [Meal Train](#) with details.

Congratulations to **Randy Partain's** upcoming ordination! A virtual ceremony is planned for Sunday, May 23rd at 3 PM. More information on how to join the ceremony available [here](#).

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that **Gene Whitten-Lege** passed away on February 21, 2021, at the age of 82 in Galveston County. [Bradshaw Carter Funeral Home](#) provided cremation services. A Memorial Service in Houston and a Burial Service in Port Arthur will be announced later in the year. [Obituary](#)



To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit: [Sympathy Store](#).

The family thanks all of you of all faiths for your prayers and offerings and asks that any charitable donations be made to one of the following charities or a charity nearest to your heart: <https://acadianmemorial.org/>; <https://www.txdisabilities.org/>; <https://www.txp2p.org/>; <https://simsfoundation.org/about-us>

Event/Meeting Notices

Stitchers - The Emerson Stitchers meet virtually every Wednesday at 11 AM. Bring your needlework, beginning or advanced, and stitch with friends, new and old. <http://emersonhouston.org/StitchersGroup>

Beginner's Meditation Group - Meets online on Mondays at 7 PM. Email [Marci](#) to receive invite link.

The **Third Monday Book Club** resumes in person at La Madeline in the Galleria area on May 17th. The book for discussion in May is *Radiation Nation: Fall-out of Modern Technology - Your Complete Guide to EMF Protection & Safety: The Proven Health Risks of Electromagnetic Radiation (EMF) & What to Do to Protect Yourself & Family* by Daniel T. DeBaun (Author), Ryan DeBaun.

The group discusses both fiction and non fiction with a penchant for mystery and history. We limit our membership to 10 and currently have no openings. If you have an interest in joining our discussions, you may sign up on a waiting list for future openings. For information contact [Cletus Lee](#).

Choir Gatherings - 7-8 PM Wednesday nights. Contact [Adrian Rodriguez](#) for details.

Open Book Group - (formerly Women's Evening Book Group) We continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM. The group is open to people of all gender identities who are interested in reading and discussing a variety of books and who are interested in our informal style of meeting. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 20| Fill out this [pre-registration form](#) for more information.

Friday Social Hour - Don't be shut-in. Come to social hour with fellow Emersonians on Fridays at 7:30 PM. If interested, contact Mary Ann Rusk (mafrusk@comcast.net) or Pat Thomsen (patthom75@att.net) for an invitation. *Emerson members only*.

Virtual Open House - If you would like to learn more about Emerson then come and be a part of the conversation. Learn what membership means at Emerson. This also presents an opportunity to learn more about growing in mind and spirit while deepening your sense of belonging to this beloved community. If you are considering joining Emerson, please visit this link on Sunday, May 23rd at 12:30 PM: <https://emersonhouston.org/OpenHouse>

Mike Hilgart's Covenant Group - Third Sunday of the month - Contact: [Mike](#).

Ministry for Earth (MFE) will not meet on our regular 4th Sunday in May. Instead, we strongly encourage you to attend the joint meeting with IENO on May 9: 100 Climate Solutions for Houses of Worship & Their Members, Sunday, May 9, 2 PM online. Nan Hildreth from First UU's Climate Action Team presents. Visit Emerson's MFE page for more events.

Some of our committees and groups are meeting online - contact the facilitators for more info!



Rev. Michelle LaGrave, Interim Minister
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Sunday Morning Online Worship—Please Join Us!

Join us every Sunday at 11 AM online: <https://emersonhouston.org/SundayService>. For instructions on how to join, visit: <https://emersonhouston.org/about-worship/welcome-to-zoom/>



Emerson Church and facilities are closed till September 2021, at which time the Board will reassess the need for this measure. Only Board members, the Treasurer and staff will have access to the building during this time.

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, or 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. If you are happy with your current method of giving, no need to change.

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[meetup.com/emersonseekers](https://www.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, May 18**