



Eliot Unitarian Chapel
100 South Taylor Ave.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-821-0911
office@eliotchapel.org

Office hours:
Monday - Friday
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Our Mission:
Bound by
courageous love,
growing in spirit,
and inspiring
compassionate
action.



Greenleaves

The Newsletter of Eliot Unitarian Chapel



December 2017

Leap of Faith

HOPE IS A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

When Robert and I lived in Wilmington, DE, the first year we were married, we lived only a few blocks away from what everybody called the ‘Christmas House’. There was no need to ask which one. They hung so many lights, you could see it from the freeway. We walked over to check it out the weekend of Thanksgiving. In addition to the lights, it was an impressive mash-up of every Christmas-themed lawn display imaginable. Frosty and Rudolph communed with the Holy Family. Snoopy and the Grinch hung out with the Wise Men and Angels. It took up half a block, and it was delightful!

It didn’t take long for the charm to begin to fade. With repeated drive-bys, the glare became irritating. The decorations looked tacky. The steady stream of visitors at night, just when I was coming home from church meetings, slowed traffic to a miserable crawl. We lived in an apartment complex with plenty of parking, but I’m sure their close-in neighbors were less than thrilled with all the cars parked in front of their homes. (When I was really grumpy, I felt indignant on their behalf.) As the weeks wore on, and the stress of the holidays hit, the whole thing got really old. I wanted it to be over.

I groused about it to Fran, our bookkeeper at church. She smiled and said, “When I first got divorced, I had two

kids and almost no money for Christmas. I wasn’t sure if I could even buy presents. But we could go to the Christmas House and walk around. It kind of saved us that year.”

I never really thought about what a gift this was to the community. They had nailed up a box that said, “Donations for our electric bill”, but that was it. The family even paved over most of their lawn to enable people to come in without having to worry about the grass. It struck me as wildly generous.

We sometimes express hope as a light in the darkness. Leaving the porch light on. Here’s to all those who go out of their way to do this for people struggling with whatever darkness or oppression. My prayer is that Eliot Chapel can be a ‘Christmas House’ for those who really need it this year. If we have to offend someone’s idea of good taste, I don’t mind.



Rev. Barbara H. Gadon
Lead Minister
bgadon@eliotchapel.org

In faith,

Barbara

www.eliotchapel.org

Supplemental Pledge Campaign The Results Are In!

The super-exciting results, that is – more than \$92,000 as the newsletter is going to press – 115% of our goal! Your Finance and Stewardship Team thanks you for your generous response, and your vote of confidence in and support of Eliot Chapel. So many people helped reach out to members, and we deeply appreciate all who worked on this effort. One of the most exciting things to note is that the gifts were spread out over a large number of people – most increasing their pledges. A good number of you also chose to change your pledge status to “sustaining” – which means that the amount stays the same until you tell us otherwise.

Since we had so many one-to-one conversations, we learned quite a bit about our community, and what is important to you. We are also learning about the culture of money and giving among us. Look for more about this – as well as our big fund-raising event – in the spring! We are moving ahead to keep improving the health and financial well-being of the chapel.

Again, we cannot tell you how overjoyed we are to report these results. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Louise Bradshaw

Jim Lyon

Chuck Schuder

Gary Gray

Pete Ruger

Rev. Barbara Gadon

Your Finance and Stewardship Team

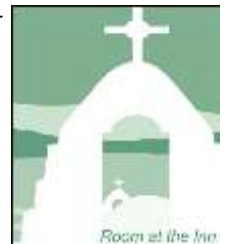


Sharing Our Bounty

In **December** we will be sharing our Sunday collections with **Room at the Inn**. Sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence, Room at the Inn provides emergency shelter and a stabilizing support system to women and families in need in St. Louis County, using a collaborative, interfaith effort of congregations and organizations throughout the St. Louis region. The program, which involves more than 60 churches in the St. Louis area, provides shelter for up to 20 persons per week. Most of the guests are single women and women with children.

During the day, the shelter in Bridgeton, Missouri, helps adults find work and housing and provides daycare for young children, transportation to school for older children, and personal

counseling. Each evening, the guests are divided between two of the churches, which provide an evening meal and sleeping quarters.



Eliot has been participating in this program since 1992. Every Thursday, except the fourth Thursday of the month, Eliot drivers pick up our guests at the shelter and bring them to Eliot where our cooks serve a delicious home-cooked meal. Two Eliot hosts spend the night and provide a light breakfast Friday morning. Our drivers then return the guests to the shelters. Eliot launderers pick up the sheets and towels and wash them. Please give generously to support RATI.

Our Christmas Eve service offerings will once again go to Eliot’s Minister’s Discretionary Fund. This can be a difficult time of year for some, and the fund is there to help. If you are having difficulty providing a special holiday meal for your family, need gas money to visit relatives, can't quite make the rent payment or can't afford toys for the kids, please let Rev. Barbara Gadon know. Gifts from the fund are made in confidence.

Christmas Pageant & Holiday Potluck Put Eliot Youth at Center Stage

Eliot members and friends of all ages are invited to join Eliot children and youth for the Christmas Pageant Service, which will be presented on Saturday, December 9 at 4:30 pm. Children ages four (4) and older are invited to participate. You can sign up by contacting Scott Stewart at scott@eliotchapel.org no later than December 1.

Following the production, you are invited to gather for a holiday potluck meal in Adams Hall at 5:30 pm. Christie Lee is coordinating details for the holiday meal. Please RSVP to Christie at christie@eliotchapel.org no later than Sunday, Dec. 3. People are asked to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert item to share with others.

A big thanks to members of the Senior High Youth Group for serving as this year's pageant directors, and to Alissa Rowan for her support and guidance.



Pageant Day Schedule Saturday, December 9

- 1:30 - Directors, main cast, and speakers rehearse
- 2:30 - Younger cast arrives and gets costumes
- 3:00 - Rehearsal in Sanctuary for cast
- 4:00 - Return to costume rooms, restroom break, etc.
- 4:30 - Pageant Service in Sanctuary
- 5:15 - Return to cast rooms, turn costumes in, etc.
- 5:30 - Family potluck meal in Adams Hall (details to come)



Thanks to everyone who is participating in this year's **Guest at Your Table (GAYT)** offering. GAYT is an inter-generational outreach program sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service

Committee (UUSC) to raise funds to support human rights around the world. You can learn more about Guest at Your Table and the UUSC here: www.uusc.org/welcome-to-guest-at-your-table/

GAYT offering boxes and donation envelopes should be returned to Eliot no later than **Sunday, December 10**. For those collecting coins and cash in boxes, it's helpful if you can convert those to a check made payable to UUSC prior to returning your box.

Gift Giving Tree Returns to Adams Hall

Eliot Chapel is sponsoring the Gift Giving Tree as part of Youth In Action's outreach to area children and youth. The tree will be in Adams Hall beginning **Sunday, December 3** after the 11:00 am service, and will stay up until **Thursday, December 21**. This is a terrific outreach opportunity for children, youth, and adults to share their holiday season with others in need.

Each ornament tag represents an area child or youth in need of a gift this holiday season. You can participate by selecting an ornament and purchasing a small, age-appropriate gift for the child or youth, whose age and gender is noted on the ornament. Gifts should be returned to Eliot Chapel (wrapped or unwrapped) along with the ornament attached to the outside of the gift no later than Thursday, December 21.

Youth In Action picks up the gifts and distributes them to area organizations which serve children and youth in need. You can learn more about Youth In Action and their service to the community at www.youthinactionstl.com. A special thank you to the Junior High Youth (7th & 8th grade) for setting up the tree this year.



We Put the Happy in Holidays



David Cox,
Board of Trustees
Chair

board@eliotchapel.org

2017-2018
Board of Trustees

David Cox,
Chair

Todd Stark,
Chair-elect

Dave Salivar,
Treasurer

Angie Bowland,
Secretary

Karen Fuchs

Trina Priese

Allison Hibbs

Brian Krippner

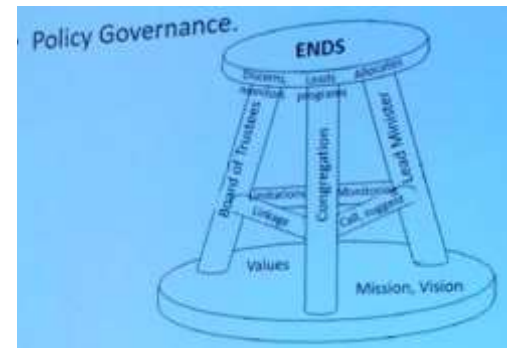
As you may know, our special fall fundraising effort, *Answering the Call*, was a resounding success. We not only obtained commitments that will fund our current budget, but we exceeded our goal by over 10%. This is in no small part due to the very hard work and dedication of the minister's Financial Stewardship Team. For example, team member Pete Ruger himself contacted about 30 Eliot members and friends, most of them in person. Of course, thanks also goes out to you, the faithful members and friends of Eliot Unitarian Chapel, who found the courage to do more – to answer the call! We now have established a tradition of more focused and personal fundraising that I'm confident will continue and serve us well into the future. You may recall my expressions of great confidence

that we could and would accomplish our goals – that we far exceeded those goals makes me swell with pride to be involved with such a dynamic, responsible community. The positive energy generated by our having done this together is a cause for joy during this season of joy. How can we help but be happy right now?!

Last month we held our second-annual Board-sponsored congregational potluck. It seems we have established a new tradition at Eliot that gives us a needed opportunity to get to know each other at a more intimate level than our other activities alone can provide. Those of you who attended the potluck and bingo game know that the Board used the opportunity to help everyone understand more about how we run Eliot Chapel. We used the symbol of a three-legged stool (included here if you missed the potluck) to explain the connection between the roles of the Board, the Lead Minister, the Congregation and our policies, programs and ends.

The entire structure supports our ends. We have five ends. They are posted conspicuously on an easel in Adams Hall. The Board's responsibility in this process is to monitor the entire thing to ensure things

are working to support our ends. We do this practically by setting policy that guides the minister in applying various means to accomplish our ends. She does this primarily through the various programs at Eliot, but also through the allocation of resources as reflected in the budget.



Our potluck event was actually pictured in the image of the three-legged stool – it is represented by the cross-bar marked “Linkage” between the Congregation and Board. If you want to learn more about policy governance and how it works to ensure a smoothly operating organization here at Eliot, check out this brief article: www.browndogconsulting.com/index.php/policy-governance-definition/

Our congregational survey is still active. If you haven't already done so, please go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/eliot2017 and spend about 20 minutes helping us improve by giving us valuable feedback about your experience at Eliot. Thank you to so many of you who have already completed your surveys. We are on track to set an all-time record in congregational response to the survey. More evidence that we are indeed stronger than ever at Eliot. Enjoy the season!

David T. Cox

Chair, Board of Trustees

Music Notes

December is here again and opportunities abound for hearing music in St. Louis. We invite you to treat yourself and your loved ones to a live performance this season! You are bound to find Eliot Chapel singers or instrumentalists making music around town! Lift your spirits and share the gift of song!

CAROLING

Feel like caroling for a good cause? Join the fun with other Eliot folks indoors at Plowsharing Crafts in the Delmar Loop on **Friday, December 8**. Encourage your friends and family to purchase gifts from around the world, providing fair income to artisans in over 40 developing countries. A small percentage during these hours benefits the Eliot music program. Bring your instruments and cookies to share between 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Contact Jan Chamberlin if interested at music@eliotchapel.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC

The Chalice Chimes Handbell Team is gearing up for their annual pre-service concert this year. For 15 minutes before the 4:00 and 5:30 pm Christmas Eve services, they will play some new arrangements of Christmas favorites! Those services will then feature Leon Burke leading the Eliot Choir in some lively Christmas songs with Gail Hintz on piano. The 8:00 pm service will feature Jan Chamberlin leading the Women's Chorale in a softer, gentler set of Christmas songs with the help of David Nalesnik on piano.

WINTER CONCERT

Our friend Amy Camie will bring her healing harp to our sanctuary for a warm celebration of the season on Saturday December 16 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. All are welcome with an optional free-will "love" offering.

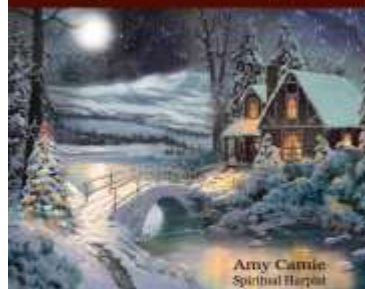
Happy Holidays
from your
Eliot music staff:
Leon Burke, Gail Hintz,
David Nalesnik
and Jan Chamberlin



Jan Chamberlin,
Music Director

music@eliotchapel.org

Embracing The Spirit of Christmas



An inspired musical journey through holiday favorites magically woven together in a seamless tapestry that gently opens the heart and lovingly wraps you in the spirit of Christmas

SATURDAY, DEC. 16TH

7PM - 8PM

LOVE DONATION

Eliot Unitarian Chapel

100 S. Taylor
Kirkwood, MO 63122

www.AmyCamie.com

COMING UP

Featured Musicians in Sunday Worship

December 3: Kathie Price & Rich Heuermann and Chamber Singers

December 10: Gail Hintz, Children's Chalice Choir and Eliot Choir

December 17: Shannon & Greg Davis and Women's Chorale

December 24, 10:00 am: The Tritones Trio

December 24, 4:00 & 5:30 pm: Chalice Chimes Handbells and Eliot Choir

December 24, 8:00 pm: Women's Chorale

December 31, 10:00 am: Ted Lau, piano



Connection and Reflection at Bergfried

The winter months can be a beautiful and peaceful time to be in nature at Bergfried.



Keep up with Bergfried happenings and upcoming events by following us on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/BergfriedForever

For safety reasons, the property is closed through **Sunday, December 3** for deer hunting season but is otherwise available for individuals and families to visit.

Our **last day trip of 2017** will be **Saturday, December 16**. Come out on your own or meet at Eliot's parking lot at 9:00 am to carpool/caravan. A Bergfried team member will offer a guided hike or two but feel free to come out and do your own thing or do nothing at all. Bring sturdy shoes and provisions for the day. Please RSVP to bergfriedinfo@eliotchapel.org by Thursday, December 14 so we know to expect you.

Remember - the heated cottage is available for your winter overnight visits (\$35 per night) to Bergfried. Contact bergfriedreservations@eliotchapel.org to plan your stay.

Mark your calendar for the **6th Annual Bergfried Winter Warm-Up** in Adams Hall to be held **Saturday, January 27** beginning at 6:00 pm. The Bergfried team will host a potluck gathering featuring a Bergfried-style music circle and a slide show of recent Bergfried events. More details to come.

-Shawn Cummings for the Bergfried Stewardship Team

Holiday Trivia Fun



Sunday, December 10

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Doors Open at 2:00 pm

Eliot Chapel

Tables \$100 –

Individual Tickets \$10

Eliot's **Young Adult Group** is excited to participate in the Chapel's special fundraising campaign. To support the needs of the Chapel to continue its dynamic music, education, social justice and other important programs, YAG is hosting TWO entertaining, exciting and fun trivia events between now and March.

The first event happens on the afternoon of **Sunday, December 10**. Take a break from holiday planning and join us for loads of fun! What do you know about the origins and traditions of the holiday season? Songs? Movies? Toys? Religious traditions? Food? All of this and more will test your team's knowledge... and your competitive spirit. Put together a table of your friends NOW and sign up on the Adams Hall bulletin board. Only eight tables of 10 players each are available so hurry! Plan to bring snacks for your table. BYO or purchase soda and juice there.

The second event in the Spring will be a community-wide Trivia Night – a major fundraiser for Eliot. MORE on this in 2018!

Presenting: the Susan Frederick-Gray Room

On Sunday, January 14, our very special guest preacher will be the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Unitarian Universalist Association President and daughter of Eliot Unitarian Chapel. As part of the festivities of the day, we will be dedicating a room in her honor! What we currently call “the junior high room” will be known as the Susan Frederick-Gray Room. This renaming will honor our UUA president and give Eliot youth something to aspire to. We would like to spiff up the room, install a plaque in her honor and present it on the Sunday she is with us. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact Christie Lee in the church office.



Announcing Eliot Chapel UU Christian Group

A few Eliot Chapel members have been meeting on a regular basis to explore, renew and deepen a shared practice of being Christian within the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Many of us inherited the Christian religion from our families of origin, and found this lacking (thus explaining why we are UU's); yet we have also experienced UUism without Christian practices to be less than fully nourishing of our spiritual lives.

We welcome newcomers to the group who desire fellowship on this journey and homecoming. Christianity is broad and deep, but we focus on what we have found so far to be of common interest: sharing readings and experiences through which we encounter the Divine, and performing devotional practices (praying for others, saying the Lord's Prayer, singing hymns and chants, and celebrating Communion). We periodically lead services open to the congregation (such as last year's Tenebrae or Maundy Thursday service.)

For more information, contact Ted Lau or Peter Wilson.

Eliot Adult Religious Education is back! Save the date!

There will be a two-evening education event this winter on Tuesdays, February 27 and March 6 at 7:00 pm in Adams Hall. Titled "Making a Graceful Exit," the series is aimed at older members or the children thereof. Session 1, *Getting There from Here*, will feature two guest speakers: elder law attorney Christine Alsop and a licensed clinical social worker. Topics include: legal documents and issues, institutional choices, who will take care of me?, and how to pay for it all. Session 2, *Planning the Final Adventure*, will feature a facilitated discussion by Rev. Jim Crawford with guest speaker Carol Klooster, LCSW. Topics include: care-giving and receiving, emotional, spiritual and ethical issues, hospice, or not, how much care is too much? Please forward your ideas about issues you would like to have addressed to Rev. Jim Crawford at jcrawford@eliotchapel.org.

Updated Operating Policies & Procedures Available

Are you wondering about Eliot's policies? Do you have questions about Eliot's guidelines & operating procedures? Then we have great news! The policies and procedures can be found on the church website at www.eliotchapel.org/policiesandbylaws.

Eliot also takes considerable pride in how hard we work to keep children and the entire chapel community as safe as possible. All Eliot members and friends are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Safe Congregation Policy, found at images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2388/SafeCongregationPolicy201718version.pdf. The policy is reviewed annually for updates, additions, etc.

Sanctuary Church Process

We have decided to slow down the process leading to a vote to become a sanctuary congregation, to allow more time for education and discernment. This includes deciding what level of involvement is right for us as a chapel. We will have informational meetings, including hearing from other sanctuary congregations, such as the UU Church of Columbia, which undertook a similar process last year. On December 8, we will show a portion from the film, "La Bestia" (see page 9 for details) and have a discussion with Sara John, the director of Inter-faith Committee on Latinos in America, and members of Kirkwood UCC.

While we are in process, there is plenty to do – we are currently encouraging people to help as individuals. Look for Paula Fulks and others on the Immigration Justice Committee during coffee hour at the Social Justice in Action table. We have also donated the stove, microwave and kitchen cabinets from our property at 222 E. Argonne Drive, to help outfit the apartment for Alex Garcia, a man from Honduras who is in sanctuary at Christ Church UCC in Maplewood.

Working for Eliot, Our Community and Our World

At the November meeting of the **Social Justice in Action Teams**, we discussed how our inner beliefs and our Eliot community fuel our Social Justice work. As I thought about some of the issues raised, I was reminded of the importance of ‘doubt’ in faith-based action. Sometimes I doubt that my actions are effective. Occasionally, I doubt whether Eliot efforts are most effectively and efficiently aligned with our principles. In the current national climate, I even may doubt whether our UU principles are relevant. In these moments I find it comforting to remember Sister Simone Campbell’s statement at the General Assembly Ware Lecture a few years ago: “Faith without doubt is certitude.” To me, this is profound. A more superficial definition of faith might equate it with certitude. Instead, Sister Simone invites us to consider doubt as an essential ingredient of faith. In matters of belief and social action, it’s impossible to be certain that we have all the right answers. At Eliot we are lucky to have a community in which we can discuss our doubts in the context of our covenantal relationships and to grow as a result. Some of my most profound conversations with Eliot friends have started with a doubt or reservation. I hope that all Eliot members and friends will take advantage to discuss their beliefs and doubts in the spirit of furthering Eliot’s mission and supportive relationships. Please join us at our next monthly meeting on December 5 at 7:15 pm.

– Steve Mennerick,
Chair of the Social Justice Steering Committee

Paper - Recycled and Reused

We use a lot of paper in December - Holiday cards, letters, envelopes, wrapping paper. Before you send out your cards and wrap your presents this year, stop to think about the trees. Could you use less paper? How many cards and letters could you send via email? Could you send postcards instead of cards-and-envelopes? Are your cards printed on recycled paper? Could you save the cards you receive and turn them into new cards to send out next year? Is your wrapping paper recycled or at least recyclable? Could you wrap presents in the comics? Or make wrapping paper out of paper grocery bags? Do you save those pretty gift bags and reuse them? And when the presents are all opened, do you make sure all that wrapping paper, boxes, etc. ends up in the recycling bin instead of the trash?

Think about the trees. Think about the forests.
Think about the Earth.



Social Justice

in Action at Eliot Chapel

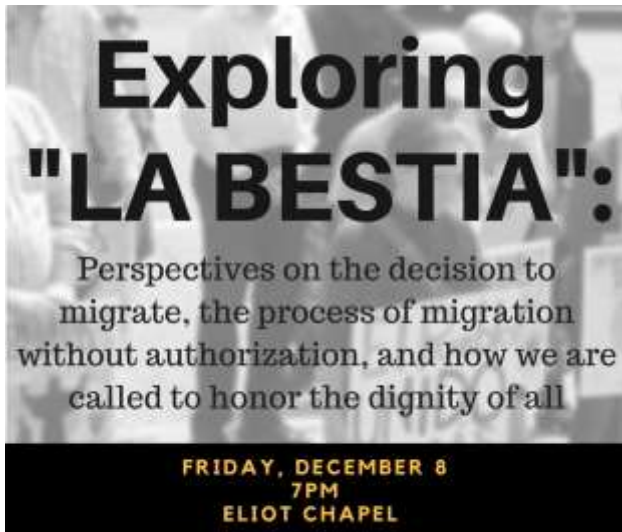
Don't forget the **Fair Trade table** in Adams Hall when doing your holiday shopping. **Chocolate** and **coffee** make great presents. And we now have **reusable mesh bags** to replace the plastic bags you need in the store to hold your loose produce. Keep them with your reusable grocery bags so you always have them while shopping. At \$3 for a package of 3 bags, they also make great stocking stuffers.



Vigil for Hope & Healing Every Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Mark your calendars to attend the **2018 Kirkwood Martin Luther King Celebration** on **Monday, January 15** at Kirkwood High School. Eliot folk are encouraged to come, mingle, and enjoy the presentation!





Social Justice in Action Assembly Bryan Stevenson Video and Reflection

**Tuesday, December 5
7:15 pm in Adams Hall**

All members and friends are invited to attend a special viewing of a video talk by Bryan Stevenson. Besides delivering inspiring stories about his work legally defending minority and other persons on death row in Alabama, in this talk he recommends four steps to change the world: Get proximate, change the narrative, remain hopeful, and be willing to be uncomfortable. Rev. Barbara has preached on these steps recently. Following the 35-minute video, Ann Ruger's All Read team will facilitate small group reflections. The meeting should last no more than 60 minutes, followed by time for SJA interest-group planning.



Film Night at Eliot

On **Friday, December 8** at 7:00 pm in Adams Hall, the St. Louis Coalition for Sanctuary and the St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America will present clips from the film "La Bestia", directed by Pedro Ultras. We invite you to join us to learn more about the struggles of immigrants in our community.

In recent months, you have seen several calls to action on behalf of the newly formed St. Louis Coalition for Sanctuary, the St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America, and especially Alex Garcia, a long-time resident of Poplar Bluff, Missouri who is fighting to stay with his wife of 13 years and his five children, American citizens all, by entering sanctuary at Maplewood United Church of Christ. You probably know many Eliot Chapel members and friends who have long been involved in pragmatic services through the International Institute, MICA, MIRA and other St. Louis institutions.

This focus on specific, urgent acts has neglected a critical step for people of faith: discernment of the appropriate role of our church in this movement. **Social Justice in Action** at Eliot proposes to conduct a discernment process over the remaining months of the church year, through a number of events that will provide information, create space for questions, and share perspectives and concerns. When the congregation has fully considered these issues, it can determine what Eliot Chapel will profess and how it will act at the intersection of desperate circumstances, theological imperatives, shifting public policy and unjust legal structures.

The first step in this education comes to Eliot Chapel in the form of a film and discussion event. Sara John of IFCLA will show clips and offer a facilitated discussion and reflection on migration justice and the themes highlighted in "La Bestia". View the film's compelling-trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQw5YEIgt4. Ms. John knows the director personally through her work at the border, was involved with the film in production, and provided research in the region. SJA is working to schedule a follow-up event with the director in person or via Skype.

Childcare is available if requested by 12:00 pm on **Sunday, December 3**. Childcare requests should be sent directly to Scott Stewart at scott@eliotchapel.org.

This is a free event. Please bring a snack to share.

Thanks to Eliot Fillmore Park Volunteers

Although a major renovation and reconstruction project by the City of Kirkwood shortened the maintenance "season," Eliot Chapel volunteers still accumulated 82 hours of work over eleven volunteer sessions.

Eliot Chapel parents and children "adopted" Fillmore Park over ten years ago, intent on providing a community service. In the past three years, our volunteers have renewed efforts to help maintain the park and we have enjoyed each other's company while we worked at pulling weeds, picking up trash, pruning, raking, and more.

Our Eliot Chapel Fillmore Park Volunteers for 2017 have been: Rosella Altman, Bob Becker, Mary and Sean Fitzgerald, Dick Gordon, Rich Heuermann, Sue Jarrett, Terry Jones, Jeanne Kloeckner, Kara Miller and Brian Nelson, Barb Natoli, Flo Reaves, Claire Robertson, Nancy Shepard, Armetta Smitley, Susie Stauber and grandson, Rob van Alstyne and Faith Williams.

On the Calendar

Women's Alliance

Women's Alliance provides the women of Eliot Chapel with an opportunity for fellowship, intellectual stimulation, involvement, and growth. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 am in Adams Hall to discuss books and provocative topics. On the fourth Tuesday, there is usually an outing to a local destination. All women are welcome.

December Meetings

Tuesday, December 5 – *In Order To Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom* by Yeonmi Park. Discussion leader – Sue Blandford

Tuesday, December 19 – Christmas Luncheon. Come at 11:00, eat at 11:30 am. Bring a white elephant gift. Contact Sue Blandford to sign up to bring a dish.



42nd Annual Eliot Chapel Renaissance Madrigal & Christmas Rout

November 30 and December 1 and 2

Doors open at 7 pm; festivities begin at 7:30



Start your holiday shopping—or finish it— at Eliot!

Holiday Bazaar on December 17

Eliot Chapel will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar in Adams Hall. At this holiday craft and goodies sale, either 100% of the vendors' proceeds go to a charity or 50% of the proceeds go to Eliot Chapel. If you are interested in having a table to peddle your goods, please contact Christie in the front office at 314-821-0911 or frontoffice@eliotchapel.org by December 13th.

You will be dealing with each vendor directly, so bring checks or cash; there will not be a centralized check-out for purchases.



Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season from the ministers and staff of Eliot Chapel!

The church offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and Monday, Jan. 1 for the holidays.

Eliot's **Grief Support Group** meets on alternating Thursday afternoons in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday, December 14 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm
- Thursday, December 28 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm

The **Pastoral Care Associates Team** will meet on Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 pm in Rev. Jim's office as well as on Tuesday, December 19 at 1:30 pm in the Jr. High Room.

Are You Ready for Eliot Membership? Meet in the Triplett Room immediately after either service on December 17. You will hear more about membership and get any questions answered. You will also have an opportunity to sign the membership book. If you need help finding the Triplett Room, stop by the Guest Center off Adams Hall and they will point you in the right direction.

Recognizing Eliot's Superheroes

Each month Eliot recognizes individuals who have done something to inspire us with their faithfulness, hard work, and committed joyful spirits! If you have someone to nominate for Volunteer of the Month, let us know at office@eliotchapel.org.



Eliot's **December Volunteer of the Month** is an amazing, giving, and versatile member of the Eliot community!

Beth Rossow coordinates our Receptions Team which provides memorial receptions for those mourning a loss who choose to celebrate the life of loved ones here at Eliot Chapel. Beth was instrumental in organizing Eliot's most recent trip to our partner church in Transylvania. She also takes time to volunteer for our Transportation Team, who drive Eliot members to doctor appointments and to Sunday services.

We are so grateful for the compassion and dedication which Beth exemplifies in our community.



We are looking for additional **volunteers** that can join our current pool of **greeters** here at Eliot. These are the fine people who pass out hymnals and orders of service each week, and take up the offering during the service. The work is easy — your total commitment is only to arrive 15 minutes before a service you'd be attending. In addition to Sunday Services, greeters are also needed for Memorial Services. Interested? Please contact our Coordinator Bob Coulter at greeters@eliotchapel.org and he will be happy to talk with you more about this great opportunity.



We are pleased to recognize a new member of our church family, **Alba Pearl Ciszewski**, born on November 8 to parents **Kalen Ponche-Ciszewski** and **Chris Ciszewski** and welcomed by siblings **Clark** and **George**.

In Sympathy

We extend our condolences to Eliot families who have recently lost loved ones.



Please remember **Barb Natoli and her family** as they mourn the loss of **Bart**, who passed away on November 25.

Welcome

Eliot Chapel welcomes our newest members!



Christy Buseman with Evelyn and James

Sunday Services

9:30 and 11:00 am
September – May

10:00 am only
Memorial Day through
Labor Day

Eliot Chapel Clergy

Rev. Barbara Gadon,
Lead Minister

Rev. Jim Crawford,
Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. John Robinson,
Minister Emeritus

Eliot Chapel Staff

Scott Stewart,
Director of Religious Education
Christie Lee, Asst. Director of
Religious Education

Jan Chamberlin,
Music Director

Dr. Leon Burke III,
Choir Director

Pianists:
Dr. David Nalesnik
Gail Hintz

Camille Novak,
Administrator
Christie Lee,
Administrative Assistant
Debby Lovell,
Communications Specialist
Myron Simms,
Facilities Manager
Ed Liebman,
Sunday Custodian

December Worship

December's worship theme is Hope

Sunday, December 3 – 9:30 and 11:00 am

“Hope in the Dark” – Rev. Barbara H. Gadon

What does it mean to be people of hope – especially when we feel most discouraged? Unitarian Universalists are generally optimists – about human nature and the moral arc of the universe bending toward justice. (It was Theodore Parker who first coined this phrase made popular by Martin Luther King, Jr.) What happens when we feel ourselves in darkness? Is there hope in the darkness itself?

Featured Musicians: Kathie Price & Rich Heuermann and Chamber Singers

Sunday, December 10 – 9:30 and 11:00 am

“The Hope of Hanukkah” – Rev. Barbara H. Gadon

We continue the theme of hope in the story of Hanukkah and Jewish history. How do you find hope when it seems that you don't have enough – light, energy, or might? Please bring your menorah for our display.

Featured Musicians: Gail Hintz, Children's Chalice Choir and Eliot Choir

Sunday, December 17 – 9:30 and 11:00 am

“The Hope of Winter Solstice” – Rev. Barbara H. Gadon

For centuries of winters, people have somehow “forgotten” that light and warmth return, and we have needed ceremonies to remind ourselves. How is memory important to cultivating hope?

Featured Musicians: Shannon & Greg Davis and Women's Chorale

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

10:00 am Sunday Service

“The Perfect Christmas Tree” – Rev. Jim Crawford

We hope you'll join us at Eliot on Christmas Eve morning to hear a wonderful story about a very special tree and the insight that resulted.

Featured Musicians: The Tritones Trio

“A Christmas of Hope” – Rev. Barbara Gadon

4:00 and 5:30 pm

Featured Musicians: Chalice Chimes Handbells & Eliot Choir

8:00 pm

Featured Musicians: Women's Chorale

4:00 and 5:30 pm are traditional Christmas Eve services for all ages.

8:00 pm is a quieter, more reflective service.

Sunday, December 31 – one service at 10:00 am

“Whence Comes Hope?: 2017-2018” – Ted Lau

Following Trump's election last year, the speaker became possessed by this question. Answers appeared from surprising sources, including Greek mythology, St. Paul, and liberal theologian James Luther Adams. All are invited to attend this end-of-year reflection on our journey as a religious community into sustainable Hope.

Today's speaker: Ted Lau is a long-time member of Eliot Chapel, a church musician, and theology wonk.

Featured Musician: Ted Lau, piano selections by Phillip Glass

