Leap of Faith

EMERGENCE

To be people of “emergence” is to be watchful and patient; it is to recognize the signs of change, of new growth. On my drive in to the church each day, it revives my soul to see buds on the trees, crocuses and daffodils poking up in yards. In my 57th spring, you would think this would lose its magic, but it never does. The soul needs signs of new growth and life.

Our first job as people of emergence is to somehow ‘unstick’ ourselves from our old assumptions, especially those that bring us pain. The rabbis ask a teaching question: “Is your suffering dear to you?” To be a person of emergence is to ask this question, gently, and then to let go of it a little bit. Enough to make room for small, green shoots of goodness and healing.

Our second job is to watch for what is emerging. What is emerging in your life? If you look carefully, you can see new growth coming up somewhere. A new child or grandchild is a clear sign of emerging life and hope. A new friendship - or the possibility of one - could be emerging.

Is there a place of hope emerging where you thought there was none? It pays to watch for one.

Our third job is to care for what is emerging. If we do see something, what sort of response does it need from us? How do we tend it, the way we would a seedling? The care is mutual; our souls are revived by the new growth; we offer our time and attention in return.

April is a remarkable month at Eliot Chapel for emerging growth and change.

For Sanctuary. On Sundays, April 15 and 22, and Wednesdays, April 25 and May 9, we will come together to discern the soulful question of becoming a sanctuary congregation for undocumented people. In worship on April 15, our guest will be Carly Garcia, wife of Alex Garcia, who has been in sanctuary at the Maplewood UCC church for months now. She will share how her life has been impacted by harsh immigration enforcement of the current administration and the hope provided by sanctuary communities. See “Immigration Justice: Sanctuary Discussions” for details of Eliot’s sanctuary proposal to be voted on at our annual meeting, and FAQs.

For the Earth. On April 22, we will launch our Green Sanctuary initiative to commit ourselves to environmental justice. Daniel Gould, lead organizer for Missouri Faith Voices in St. Louis and environmental activist, will be our guest, speaking on “A Time to Heal.”

Continued on page 2
**Leap of Faith, continued from page 1**

**For Spiritual Growth.** Thursdays, starting April 26 at 7:00 p.m., Cindy Lau and I will begin a 5-week class on spiritual development, introduced in my March 4 sermon, “Mystery and Wonder”. We write spiritual autobiographies, credo statements, and learn the basics of mindfulness.

New things abound in April, offering hope to our community and to the world. I hope you join us!

*In Faith,  
Rev. Barbara*

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**Pastoral Care Corner**

**The Caring Team Cares for Eliot Chapel**

Did you know Eliot has several extraordinary people who are involved with our Caring Teams? These teams are composed of individuals dedicated to providing meals (team leaders – Mary Quinn and Mary Meihaus) for people recovering from a recent surgery or birth of a child. Another team is devoted to helping members with transportation (team leader – Chuck Beargie) to Sunday Service or a doctor’s appointment. Yet another team is focused on providing memorial service receptions (team lead – Beth Ros sow) for recently deceased members of our community. Finally, Carolyn Burke is wonderful about sending cards and notes of encouragement to members who have had illness or a recent loss. To receive support from any one of these areas, please contact Rev. Jim Crawford at jcrawford@eliotchapel.org. Also, our teams are in need of volunteers, so if you’d like to become a part of this compassionate endeavor with meals, transportation or memorial receptions, please contact Rev. Jim.

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**Rev. Jim on Vacation April 6 – 29**

**Dear Friends** –

I will not have access to email or cell phone during this time as my spouse Cathy and I will be in Italy. Please contact the church office for questions or concerns during my absence.

*Thank you, Rev. Jim*

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**Sharing Our Bounty**

In April, we will share our offerings with *EarthDance*, which operates an organic teaching farm in Ferguson, on the oldest organic farm west of the Mississippi. Their mission is to grow food, farmers, and community through hands-on education and delicious experiences. In addition to selling their produce at the Ferguson Farmers Market, they also sell to the Ferguson-Florissant school district and to local restaurants.

They grow farmers through a Farm and Garden Apprenticeship, teaching organic agriculture, market farming and applied permaculture.

They grow community through the Junior Farm Crew, hiring 6 high school students for summer jobs on the farm, and through a work experience program with the Ferguson-Florissant Special School District. They also offer volunteer opportunities at the farm and free Saturday tours of the farm. *EarthDance* has a positive influence on not just the physical environment of our area, but also on racial and economic issues. If you would like to take a tour of the farm, or volunteer in their gardens, please contact the Environmental Justice Team at environmentjustice@eliotchapel.org
Congratulations to Our Whole Lives (OWL) Graduates

Congratulations to Eliot Chapel’s 18 kindergarten and first grade Our Whole Lives (OWL) graduates. With the closing celebration on Sunday, March 4, these children have completed this Unitarian Universalist sexuality education program for K-1 children, which you can learn more about at www.uua.org/re/owl.

K-1 Our Whole Lives Graduates

Xavier Carre, Thomas van Alstyne, Mira Huber, Natalie Walsh, Caroline Duckworth, Eli Herzon, Clark Suter, Jude Pioter, Erin Walter, Evelyn Baughman, Wanda Marengo, Samantha Winlof, Abygail Woldridge, Greta McDade, Lily Ances, Elliot Galfi, Matthew Hindes, and Eve Lowder

A special thank you to Caroline Day, Marta Gray, Elizabeth Lowder, and Jeremy Patterson for serving as volunteer facilitators for this year’s K-1 Our Whole Lives program.

Journey to Memphis for Racial Justice

Thirteen Senior High Youth Group members traveled to Memphis, TN in early March to explore racial justice and the ongoing struggle for equality and justice. Tour stops included the Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum, situated in a house which was a stop on the Underground Railroad in the 1850s, and the National Civil Rights Museum, located at the site of the historic Lorraine Motel.

Huge thanks to Jordi Prats, Linda Korinek, Karen Fuchs, Helen Mihailevich, Amy Stark, and Dave Day for serving as co-leaders, drivers, and chaperones.
Who Does What Around Here?

The most common interactions I experience with members at Eliot are questions about facilities and programs. And that’s fine. I know that for most of our history as a congregation, the Board of Trustees acted as a sort of super-committee. One committee to bind them all. Board meetings back then were filled with what we might call management issues. Something needs fixing. Why can't we have this program or that program at Eliot. However, once we adopted our current governance model, the Board’s role changed dramatically. Just to give you an example, our regular board meeting in March lasted just one hour whereas former Board members report marathon sessions ending at midnight.

At the leadership development event earlier this year, those in attendance were introduced to this grand idea: As leaders, it isn't our job to make people comfortable, or even happy. That is the job of management. Effective leadership necessarily involves instilling a level of discomfort with the status quo. A discomfort that prompts action – a change of pace or a change of direction. Here at Eliot Unitarian Chapel, the lead minister and her staff are management – they handle all the things that make people happy – great programs, a warm and safe building, and even coffee. Leadership, a responsibility the lead minister shares with the Board, requires a different skill set that has nothing to do with making people happy. To describe my view of leadership, I regularly invoke the image of Moses parting the Red Sea. Just like Moses had to convince the recalcitrant Israelites to step into the Red Sea – as uncomfortable as they may have been at that prospect – good leaders have to push their followers from their fixed positions. They must have a vision where they want to lead the group. Then, they must encourage others to move out of their comfort zone and into the promised land – or at least a different and hopefully better place. So who is our Moses at Eliot? Is it the Lead Minister or the Board?

The Board of Trustees is working with the Lead Minister to better define our roles in leading the congregation at Eliot. As we do so, it is important to remember how we as a congregation have decided to divvy up the responsibilities of running this place. Who does what is an important question. I hope you won’t stop asking that question as we grow our congregation in every way possible. We have made great progress in how we govern ourselves. For the most part we have defined who does what in our policies which we can always adapt to changing conditions. I think I see the promised land just beyond the horizon. Let’s move from our current places of comfort and take up the mantle of change. Our Mission, Vision and Ends will guide us on that incredible journey!

David Cox, Board Chair

Operating Policies & Procedures Available on the Eliot Website

Are you familiar with 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, youth, and the entire Chapel community as safe as possible. All Eliot members and friends are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Safe Congregation Policy, also found on our website. The policy is reviewed annually for updates and additions.
Notice of Annual Meeting - Sunday, May 20th at 12:30 pm

Members of Eliot Unitarian Chapel, please note that the Board of Trustees has scheduled our Annual Meeting to take place on the third Sunday of May. This year, that date falls on Sunday, May 20. The annual meeting will be held at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary on that day. Other than our standard agenda items, members of the congregation will be voting on Eliot Unitarian Chapel becoming a Sanctuary Congregation. There is additional information about the sanctuary topic in this newsletter, on the Eliot Chapel website, and in the weekly order of service. There you can learn where to get more information and ask questions in advance of the annual meeting.

The congregation will also vote on candidates for Board and Nominating Committee positions. The slate is:

**Nominating Committee:** David Rowan

**Treasurer:** Ken Denson

**Board of Trustees (2018-21 term):** Cathy Converse & Jon Spiesman

Please note, our bylaws do not allow for proxy voting so voting members must be present to cast a ballot. Only members of record will be allowed to vote. The term “Member” is defined in our bylaws, a copy of which is available at www.eliotchapel.org. A list of members will be posted in the hallway outside Adams Hall two Sundays prior to the meeting date so that congregants can check to make sure they are listed as members. Any discrepancies with the list of members should be raised with the lead minister no later than 72 hours before the meeting begins.

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**Eliot Stronger!**

Sunday, April 8  10:30 am  Kirkwood Community Center

All-Church Service & Canvass Sunday

- Worship
- Swing Band
- Catered Lunch
- Activities for the Kids

10:00 am    Child Care opens for children up to age 4 at Eliot Chapel
10:30 am    Congregation gathers at KCC
10:45 am    Service begins
11:45 am    We have all made our Pledges
            Children join their families for lunch
12:00 Noon  Lunch and Dancing
1:00 pm     Ending
1:15 pm     Please pick up children from Eliot Child Care

Please join us for a joyful time!
COMING UP
Featured Musicians in Sunday Worship
April 1 – Music Sunday
Eliot combined choirs and orchestra will play Easter excerpts from Messiah by Handel
April 8
Chuck Schuder’s Oasis Jazz Ensemble
April 15
Owen Mitchell, violin and the Women’s Chorale
April 22 – Earth Day
Children’s Chalice Choir and the Eliot Choir
April 29
Shannon & Greg Davis and the Chamber Singers

A Generous Gift to Eliot Chapel

A few months ago, we suffered a loss: the death of Eliot member Curt Kristofitz. He remembered Eliot in his estate with a generous gift of $50,000. The Board will vote on the use of funds at their April meeting. Our policies state that such gifts are to be used for long-term purposes. Curt was a stalwart member of the former Building and Grounds Committee; we are sure he would appreciate that his gift will go toward much-needed capital improvements. We are deeply grateful to Curt and to his family.

ALL ARE CALLED
June 20-24, Kansas City, MO
SIGN UP NOW FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN KANSAS CITY!
Housing fills up quickly! Eliot delegates are needed – speak to Rev. Barbara. Register online at www.uua.org/ga
When it was decided that Music Sunday would fall on Easter Sunday, I was really overwhelmed by the possibility of celebrating our music program and acknowledging Christianity’s most important holiday. The story of Jesus’ death and resurrection has been called “the greatest story ever told.” Finally, I decided to present excerpts from Messiah by Handel. Recently, Reverend Gadon gave us a sermon about the first of the sources: “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.” The German writer and poet, Heinrich Heine, has written, “where words leave off, music begins.” Let this music, written by one of the great musical dramatists, take you to a place where we can encounter the life-creating, life-affirming spirit.

I am thrilled to include some Eliot folks in our orchestra: Phyllis MacLaren, violin; Noel Burke, viola; Mel Priese, cello, Beth Hayes and Carl Serbell, trumpet, and Ian Pallares, timpani. Our vocal soloists will include guest tenor Keith Boyer, Pamela Triplett and Karen Gottschalk, sopranos, and myself, Leon Burke, bass. Our combined choirs have been preparing their parts for weeks.

In a way, the premiere of Messiah was an act of social justice. The 1742 premiere in Dublin, Ireland was advertised as a fundraiser for three charities. The takings from that concert, after expenses, are reported to have given each charity a considerable sum and secured the release of 142 people from debtors’ prison. The custom of standing for the Hallelujah Chorus originates from a belief that, at the London premiere, King George II did so, which would have obliged all to stand. There is no convincing evidence that the king was present, or that he attended any subsequent performance of Messiah; the first reference to the practice of standing appears in a letter dated three years prior to Handel’s death. We prefer that you remain seated during the Hallelujah Chorus and, if you are so moved, stand and applaud at the end. However, if you stand for the Hallelujah Chorus, we will continue to play/sing and appreciate your enthusiasm.

Messiah photos courtesy of Rev. Barbara Gadon.
News from Bergfried

Stewardship efforts have been a primary focus for the Bergfried team this winter. In the last two months, Eliot volunteers and forestry students from the University of Missouri put in hundreds of hours toward our forest improvement efforts. Work included a prescribed understory burn of 50 acres and mechanical removal of underbrush on another six acres. These efforts, which leave established trees untouched, will help to improve oak regeneration over the next several decades. Kudos to Jim Lyon and Jim Hershey for their leadership in organizing and executing this important work.

Day Trip
Celebrate Earth Day weekend with a day trip to Bergfried on Saturday, April 21. An optional guided hike or two will be offered, but feel free to come out and do your own thing or do nothing! Bring sturdy shoes and provisions for the day. Meet at the Eliot Chapel parking lot at 9:00 am to caravan or carpool (or come out separately if you prefer). Email bergfriedinfo@eliotchapel.org at least 48 hours ahead to let us know you are coming.

Men’s Advance
The Men’s Advance May 4 through 6 brings together Eliot members and friends of the male persuasion. Newcomers are especially encouraged to come out to enjoy hiking, camping, camaraderie, a Saturday night feast, and lots of super-secret men’s stuff (which looks suspiciously like doing nothing). Fifteen dollars buys your ticket to the feast. All other meals are on your own. Most choose to camp in tents or trailers; spaces in the cottage (with running water and electricity) are available by reservation with priority given to those with medical needs or physical limitations. Eight beds are also available in the new rustic bunkhouses. To sign up for the weekend, to reserve a cottage or bunkhouse space, or for any information contact mensadvance@eliotchapel.org. A sign-up sheet is also posted in the corridor to Adams Hall.

A Night at the Cottage
If you love nature but camping is not your thing, consider renting the Bergfried house, with all the comforts of home, for the modest fee of $35 per night. For details on amenities and to reserve the house, contact bergfriedreservations@eliotchapel.org.

–Shawn Cummings and Jim Hershey for The Bergfried Stewardship Team

Survey Says!

A lot of you have been asking about the results of the congregational survey. In our service on February 25, we reported on three significant portions of the survey:

1) your responses to how well we are doing on our five ends,
2) what people named most often as issues for our community and
3) the top 5 achievements people would like to see us achieve in the next three to five years.

You can read more about that in this PDF on our website: images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2388/surveysays.pdf. If you have more questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to ask – either the board or your lead minister. We will do our best to answer.
To clarify.....

As you may know, our congregation has identified five ends toward which we will work as a community; one of these is “to achieve greater spiritual maturity.” Because there’s been confusion about what this means, we asked Rev. Barbara for some help. She defines spiritual maturity as “well-being, stability, love, joy, generosity, patience, inner peace, self-control, kindness and the ability to handle life’s difficulties while remaining open-hearted, compassionate and able to give and receive love and service.” She adds that “achieving greater spiritual maturity means becoming, over time, more and more a person whose presence makes this world a better place, through activism or joyful and spirited presence.”

Note that there is no mention of a particular belief system in this definition. All Eliot members and friends, from devoted Christians to devoted atheists, are invited to join in this work.
Workshop Creates Tools to Combat Systemic Racism

The Living the Pledge workshop is a well-designed component in Eliot Chapel’s overall Pledge to End Racism in St. Louis initiative. Participants commit to 12 hours of training that will help deepen their understanding of systemic racism. Each person will create and implement an individualized action plan for continuing her or his racial justice journey. The workshop is an excellent follow-up to signing the Pledge to End Racism card, participating in various All Reads, and taking the Speak Up! workshop (these are not prerequisites). Having previously read Debby Irving’s Waking Up White is not mandatory but highly recommended.

The workshop includes two Saturdays, April 14 and 28, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. A $20 workshop fee is requested to cover materials and simple lunches. Scholarships are available.

Attendance at both days is expected both to build and maintain group cohesion as well as to facilitate participants’ own journeys on this work. If this round won’t work for you, look for a different schedule format in Fall 2018.

Questions? Contact Tim Gardner/Peter Wilson. 

Fillmore Park 2018 Season Starting Up

Plan to join Eliot Chapel volunteers by spending an hour or so, up to three times a month as you’re available, working in our “adopted” Fillmore Park, 410 S. Fillmore, Kirkwood, a newly renovated pocket park in a multi-race neighborhood about half a mile south of Eliot. We will be embarking on our fourth year of this spring, summer and fall community service, helping to maintain the park with such tasks as pulling weeds, picking up trash, deadheading flowers as needed, and reporting any problems to the Kirkwood Parks Department for their action. Weather permitting, we meet at 9:00 am (cooler then as summer heats up), sharing the company of others from Eliot. Our work dates for April will be Thursday, April 19; and Saturday, April 28, both at 9:00 am, meeting in the shelter. Sign up on the bulletin board outside Adams Hall, at the Social Justice table between and after services, or email Claire Robertson at socialjustice@eliotchapel.org for more information.
Green Sanctuary: What is it?
The SJA Immigration Team has been talking a lot recently about “sanctuary.” Now the Environmental Justice Team is talking about “Green Sanctuary.” Are they related? No. Green Sanctuary is a UUA designation for a congregation that has taken significant steps to educate themselves about climate change and environmental justice. It is a slow deliberate process which involves individual as well as congregational education and action.

There is an increasingly urgent need for courageous action to fight climate change and the environmental and human injustices that it causes (climate justice). We envision Green Sanctuary congregations that are infused with a spirit and passion to join others in life- and planet-saving work.

Over the next year, the Environmental Justice Team will be providing many opportunities for you to learn and take action, as we begin the process of earning Green Sanctuary status for Eliot Chapel. If you would like to take an active part in this process, please contact the team at environmentjustice@eliotchapel.org.

Explore Climate Justice
April SJA Assembly
The April SJA Assembly will be presented by the Environmental Justice Team on Tuesday, April 3 at 7:15 pm. Our presenter will be Ken Denson.

In this educational outreach event we will explore Climate Justice, first by establishing a common framework for understanding the Climate Crisis, and then by making the connection to its moral and justice implications. The presentation is very visual, pulling together information from several sources. Come learn more about this rapidly worsening crisis and our needed response.

Climate Movie Screened at Eliot
Video Discussion with Filmmakers Follows
Friday, April 20 at Eliot Chapel • Doors open at 6:00 pm
Start your Earth Day celebration early by joining Ken Denson and the Environmental Justice Team for a screening of The Reluctant Radical. Recommended by the UU Ministry for the Earth, The Reluctant Radical is a documentary film featuring activist and “valve turner” Ken Ward as he confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change. Ken breaks the law as a last resort and with great trepidation, to fulfill what he sees as his personal obligation to future generations.

There will be additional background documentary footage shown and time to browse the tables of various local environmental organizations prior to the screening. The show begins at 7:00 pm followed by Q&A with principals in the film linked in via video conference. Look for additional details on the Facebook event page.

Eliot Co-Hosts Voter Teach-In Series
Eliot Chapel is thrilled to be one of three congregations hosting teach-ins to promote voter engagement and education in St. Louis County through Missouri Faith Voices. On March 24, Wellspring Church in Ferguson hosted a teach-in called "The Role of the Prosecutor." Restoration House Community Church in Hazelwood will host "Juvenile Justice: Saving Our Babies" on Monday, April 9 at 2:00 pm. Our teach-in, "Ending Cash Bail," will be held Saturday, April 21 at 11:00 am. Join us!
Immigration Justice: Sanctuary Discussions

Sundays, April 15 and 22 – 12:30 pm
Wednesdays, April 25 and May 9 – 6:00

At our annual meeting this year, we will vote on whether to become a sanctuary church for undocumented immigrants. This is a serious undertaking. If Eliot Chapel voted to become a sanctuary church, we would do the following:

- Publicly support the rights of undocumented immigrants
- Advocate to change the current immigration laws that indiscriminately target people, including those who have been living as productive members of their communities
- Formally join the St. Louis Coalition on Sanctuary, a collective of local churches working together
- If asked, offer shelter and support in our building as a “sensitive space” to someone currently under threat of deportation

To prepare for this vote, we invite you to attend one of four sessions we have planned to discuss the potential consequences and benefits of this decision. The structure of each session will be the same: Rev. Barbara will offer historical and current context for us as Unitarian Universalists. We will offer more details about the proposal and you will have time to ask questions. And we will take some time together for personal reflection about what this means to each of us and to our community.

Please sign up on the bulletin board or online at goo.gl/forms/CinwpIdg1PhOZyjw1 for one of these sessions. You may also stop by the social justice table to talk to someone from our immigration justice team any Sunday leading up to the vote. See a list of frequently asked questions about sanctuary on our website: images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2388/sanctuaryFAQ.pdf

A Night in Transylvania Potluck

Don’t miss this potluck where you’ll learn about our partner church, support our partnership and get information on the pilgrimage to Transylvania this fall. The potluck on Saturday, April 21 will start with provided appetizers and wine at 5:30 pm. The food line of potluck dishes starts at 6:00. If you want to really get in the spirit of Transylvania, you can pick up a recipe from there when you sign up after church April 15. After eating, there will be a presentation and question/answer session about our partner church and the pilgrimage there this fall. The trip, September 21 through October 4, is open to Unitarians across the USA. The tour will include 3 days and 4 nights (over their Thanksgiving holiday) with our partner church congregation in Nya'ra'dszentma'rtón, Transylvania. There is an optional 4-day pre-trip to Budapest and an optional 6-day post-trip to Maramures and Bucovina, the section of Romania bordering the Ukraine. Bill and Becky Coalson are going on the trip and post-trip and hope others from Eliot will join them. At least three are going from First Church as well. The presentation will end by 8:00.

The cost of $5 per adult (children free) covers the appetizers, wine, and other costs of the meal. The remainder of the money will start a fund to bring people from our partner church here to visit Eliot and the Saint Louis area.

Please come to the dinner even if you’re not interested in going on the trip this fall. The food will be great and you’ll have an opportunity to learn more about our partner church and Transylvania.

If you can’t wait until the potluck to get information on the trip, go to: www.uupcc.org/trip/sept-2018-thanksgiving.
Help Wanted: Inquirer Series Facilitators-Presenters

Do you like meeting people you don’t know? Are you enthusiastic about Eliot Chapel and UUism and want to tell others why? Would you be willing to help visitors to Eliot progress along the path to membership? If your answer is “yes” to these three questions, consider volunteering as a Facilitator – Presenter in the Inquirers Series.

The Inquirers Series consists of eight one-hour sessions oriented to visitors, one session held each Sunday morning at 11:00 am. The goals of the series are to introduce newcomers to the history of our church and religious tradition, to provide a safe space for newcomers to meet each other in a small group setting, and to make our church values, culture and expectations clear so newcomers can make an informed decision about membership. (The Inquirers Series was first implemented at the UU Church of Dallas, TX, to good effect.) The eight session topics are:

- Principles
- Sources and Covenant
- Brief History of UUism
- Building Tour and Eliot Chapel History
- Religious Education and Spiritual Maturation
- Worship and the Liturgical Year
- Social Justice in Action
- Pastoral Care and Small Groups
- Membership 101

The responsibilities of this role are to facilitate the small group gathering (chalice lighting, introductions and reflective question, closing reading) and to present the subject matter if a staff person or program leader is not scheduled to do so (scripts will be provided). Your maximum time commitment would be one hour every eight weeks, plus infrequent gatherings of the Inquirers Series facilitators for reflection, training and feedback. Please contact Idolina Hernandez, Ted Lau, or Jeanne Olson for more information or to express your interest in this opportunity.
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.

April Meetings

Tuesday, April 3 – The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohiliben. Discussion Leader – Irmgard Voss.

Tuesday, April 17 – Book Selection. Coordinators – Sue Webster & Peggy Lashley.

Tuesday, April 24 – Loop Trolley Ride. Coordinator – Beth Rossow.

Register now for Women’s Weekend

Make your plans to attend Eliot’s Women’s Weekend May 18 – 20, 2018 at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, IL. Spend a day or two to retreat, relax, and find community among other women. Choose from a variety of workshops and fun activities, both old and new. Learn more and register at www.eliotwomensweekend.com.

You may also register at the Women’s Weekend table in Adams Hall on Sundays.

Eliot’s Grief Support Group meets on alternating Thursday afternoons in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday, April 5 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm
- Thursday, April 19 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm

The Pastoral Care Associates Team will meet on Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 pm in Rev. Jim's office as well as on Tuesday, April 17 at 1:30 pm in the Frederick-Gray Room.

Are you interested in membership at Eliot Chapel?

You are welcome to join Rev. Jim and/or members from our New Member Team who meet monthly to discuss questions about Unitarian Universalism in general and Eliot Chapel in particular. There will also be an opportunity to sign the Membership Book. Our next meetings are scheduled for Sunday, April 22 at 10:30 am and at 12:00 noon in the Triplett Room.

Covenant Groups

There will be a Covenant Group Development Team meeting on Sunday, April 29 at 12:15 pm in Rev. Jim's office.
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.

To paraphrase a song from White Christmas, “What can you do with a general when s/he stops being a general? Oh, what can you do with a general who retires?”
Answer: they can volunteer! Eliot is very fortunate to have many of its friends and members who volunteer to help in myriad ways. The Eliot Staff wants to thank two “retired generals”: Jeanne Olson and Jim Lyon, our April Volunteers of the Month.

Within days of learning that the front office needed assistance, Jeanne volunteered to “help answer the phones, if nothing else, for a few days.” Her “few days” have become nearly every Wednesday and she does far more than answer the phones. She has helped Christie organize the front office, established a more user-friendly filing system, navigated how to transfer calls (a major accomplishment for us all), and been a cheerful “face of Eliot.” No task is too menial. She folds and stuffs letters and newsletters, sends out welcome letters to visiting guests, and provides a wealth of institutional knowledge and heartening encouragement to the new staff personnel. Her presence and assistance provided a calming environment throughout last fall and continues today.

If Eliot looks brighter now, you should thank Jim. He has put his electrical knowledge to repairing and replacing much of the exterior illumination. Take a walk through the Children’s Library and discover that it now has motion detection lighting, as do many of our bathrooms. General Jim has other tricks up his sleeves: he helps the office staff with any clerical work or runs errands to the post office or Home/Office Depot. Recently, he stopped by the office to ask if we needed any clerical help – we did. He finished stuffing and sealing the canvass packets. He knows that throughout the week, the office often needs an extra pair of hands to help with something.

“Helping with something” is what these two Five-Star Generals do every week for the Eliot Staff and we proudly take this opportunity to salute them. Thank you, Jeanne and Jim, for all you do!

In Sympathy

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

Alissa and David Rowan and their family as they mourn the loss of Alissa's mother, Jacki Cooley.
The family of Camille Herman, who passed away on February 20, 2018.
The family of Dale Eason, who passed away on March 5, 2018.
Nancy Spargo, Bob Spargo and family & friends as they grieve the loss of Nancy's son, Brian Stieglitz, who passed away on March 7, 2018.
The family of Rosemarie Teng, who passed away on March 13, 2018.
Julie Triplett, Pam Triplett and Ken Denson, and their family as they mourn the loss of their son, brother, and brother-in-law James Triplett. James passed away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

We celebrate with the Husky and Coalson families as they welcome Henry Knight Husky, born on March 9. Please congratulate proud parents Jennifer and Matt Husky, proud sister Clara, as well as proud grandparents Becky and Bill Coalson.
April Worship

April’s worship theme is Emergence.

Sunday, April 1 – 9:30 and 11:00 am
“Messiah” – Music Sunday/Easter
Dr. Leon Burke Ill will conduct selected Easter excerpts of Handel's "Messiah."
Featured musicians: Eliot Choir, Women's Chorale, orchestra and guest soloists.

Sunday, April 8 – ONE SERVICE at 10:30 a.m.
“Eliot Stronger” – Rev. Barbara H. Gadon
We know we are stronger together - so we will celebrate our strength and commitment as a chapel in one joyful service at the Kirkwood Community Center. Enjoy fun activities for children (child care for babies and preschoolers at Eliot) and a wonderful pasta buffet lunch.
Special Music: Oasis Jazz Ensemble, a 22-piece swing orchestra led by our own Chuck Schuder, to get you up and dancing.

Sunday, April 15 – 9:30 and 11:00 am
“Immigration, Sanctuary, and Community”
Rev. Barbara H. Gadon & Carly Garcia
Over the past year, we have watched deportations rise and the language of unwelcome and bigotry become bolder. Churches and religious communities all over the country have searched their souls to determine a faithful response. Many have declared themselves sanctuary communities, invoking a centuries-old role to offer shelter for the persecuted. What does it mean to be a “sanctuary church?” To each of us? To Eliot Chapel as a community? Starting this Sunday, we will begin reflection and discussion about this important decision in the life of our congregation. We will also hear a story of the human spirit from Carly Garcia, the wife of Alex Garcia, who has been living in Sanctuary for several months at the Maplewood United Church of Christ.
Featured Musicians: Owen Mitchell, violin and the Women’s Chorale

Sunday, April 22 – 9:30 and 11:00 am
“A Time to Heal” – Daniel Gould, guest speaker
With all of the issues we face as a city, state and nation. Minister Gould will discuss healing for our families that can bring our communities closer. In honor of Earth day, we will also launch our “green sanctuary” initiative to increase our commitment to the environment.
For more than 18 years, Daniel Gould has brought leadership and problem-solving skills to communities in Houston, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Birmingham, Bessemer, and Marengo County, Alabama, and in Accra, Ghana and Freetown, Sierra Leone. Mr. Gould is a youth minister and community organizer with Missouri Faith Voices and is the founder of Gaia Green Earth a multi-disciplinary firm that specializes in eco-inclusive environments.
Featured Musicians: Children’s Chalice Choir and the Eliot Choir for Earth Day

Sunday, April 29 – 9:30 and 11:00 am
“UU Sources: Humanist Teachings” – Rev. Barbara H. Gadon
Continuing our series on the sources of Unitarian Universalism: Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
Featured Musicians: Shannon & Greg Davis and the Chamber Singers