



Greenleaves

The Newsletter of Eliot Unitarian Chapel

Summer 2019

Celebrating 60 Years – And Today

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



Sixty years ago, our congregation was officially born in Kirkwood. While there had been some earlier activities in West St.

Louis County by our founding members, in 1959 Eliot Chapel voted to become independent of First Unitarian Church in St. Louis City. Meetings were held at the Kirkwood YMCA until our current building was purchased in 1961.

Wow, sixty years old! And sixty years strong, sixty years open, sixty years connecting, sixty years deep, sixty years young... We all know part of the story that has been written since 1959 and have contributed our part. Oh, what a story it has been and it is still being written.

There will be several celebration activities during the upcoming year. The first will be a Kick Off of the 60th Year Anniversary at the Ingathering on **September 8**. Get ready to be part of the fun!

Defeat the Deficit

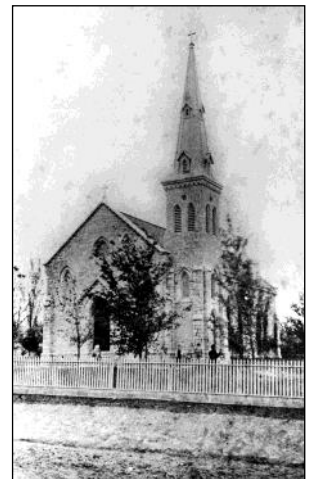
As you know from the Annual Meeting, the Operating Budget for 2019-20 includes a significant deficit. It has been decided to raise the additional money through a series of fundraisers instead of with a supplemental canvass. The money will still come from us, as members of the congregation, but hopefully it will be a lot more fun.

The first FUNraiser is this:

How would you like to have your own personal, reserved parking space at Eliot for a month? Not just for Sunday mornings but anytime you come to the Chapel; team meeting, covenant group, special event, etc. Raffle tickets (\$10) for the reserved spot for September will be sold each Sunday before and after the 10:00 am service through August 25. The Reserved Sign will be erected and the winner notified before September 1. What a great deal when it is 100° in the shade. Then we will do it again for each month through June 2020.

Watch Eliot's communications for more fun items as we go through the Chapel Year.

While our congregation is 60 years old, our beautiful sanctuary is 160 years old! Eliot Chapel was built in 1859 as Grace Episcopal Church. It, too, has gone through changes and improvements



as the congregation has, but it's as beautiful as ever. As we celebrate our anniversary this year, we'll also take time to appreciate the graceful, sheltering roof over our heads, the strong walls that hold love in, the windows that let in the light, the red doors, and ev'ry casual corner of this beloved space!

www.eliotchapel.org

Sharing Our Bounty

We share our bounty in **July** with the **St. Louis Area Diaper Bank**.

More than 1 in 5 St. Louis City families with children under 5 live at or below the federal poverty level. Nearly 10% of St. Louis City families live below 50% of the poverty line, with incomes of less than \$10,000/year for a family of 3.

It costs approximately \$1000 a year to diaper a child. This represents up to 14% of take home income of a parent working at minimum wage. It is obvious that this is a poverty issue in our region. The majority of those in need are families of Color. There are NO public benefit programs (food stamps, WIC program) that allow for the purchase of diapers.

Our collection in **August** will be shared with two organizations:

Sherwood Forest is a youth development agency that provides year-round support for children in the St. Louis area and two counties in Illinois, who live at or below the federal poverty level. The heart of Sherwood Forest's approach is a month-long residential summer camp experience for children in third grade through ninth grade. We provide evidence-based programs that reinforce and support school year learning. Sixth- through ninth-graders participate in the award-winning Leadership Training program and all who participate graduate from high school and continue their education. The Support for

Since 2004, **Cultural Leadership** has been training the future generation of civil rights leaders to be “troublemakers of the best kind.” Each year 25 to 30 sophomore and junior high school students are selected through an application process to participate in the year-long life-changing education and leadership program. Each class is an intentional racial and ethnic mix of students and the goal of the program is to help these young people recognize prejudice through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience, and provide them with the tools and skills to Stand Up, Speak Out, and Take Action



Volunteers are welcome to help count, wrap and distribute diapers at the diaper bank year ‘round. Currently, the Diaper Bank distributes 150,000 diapers a month, helping 40,000 children in our area every year.

Bottoms up!



Success program, which begins for 10th graders, is progressive and teaches kids job-related skills, builds their financial literacy and guides them through their college-post secondary education. This summer over 350 worthy kids will attend Sherwood Forest's 500-acre camp in Lesterville, Missouri.

against social injustice. The program includes monthly meetings, two weekend retreats, and a three-week transformation journey to 15

cities on the east coast and throughout the south that are significant to U.S. history and civil rights, social justice, and democracy.



In April, Eliot Chapel collected \$1,316.89 for The Open Space Council.

In May, Eliot Chapel collected \$1,412.17 for Let's Start.

In June, Eliot Chapel collected \$1,110.00 for Home Sweet Home.

Eliot Chapel Religious Education

UU Youth Midwest Leadership School 2019



Congratulations to Eliot senior high youth group members Molly Carney, Ava Smith, and Jay Nahm who will represent Eliot at the 2019 UUA **Youth Midwest Leadership School** (YMWLS) in Decorah, Iowa from July 14 to 20.

YMWLS is an intentional community of UU youth and adult advisors designed to engage youth in all leadership aspects of a UU faith community, including worship, religious heritage, individual spiritual exploration, social justice, and leadership skills development. YMWLS participation is a significant investment in the future for UU youth and congregations, since it develops strong youth leaders who can use their skills and passions to contribute to their UU congregation, the larger UU community, and other communities and groups to which they belong.

Eliot Chapel has a rich history of youth participation at YMWLS. Including this year's participants, 20 Eliot youth have experienced YMWLS since 2013. In addition, Eliot youth group alumni Colleen Lee will serve on this year's YMWLS staff as the Young Adult Spiritual Director.

Congratulations to Eliot's YMWLS "Class of 2019" on this honor and for representing Eliot at this UU experience.

Unitarian Universalist Thrive Leadership School 2019

Congratulations to Eliot youth group member Emma Prats, who will represent Eliot at the UUA **Thrive Leadership School** in Minneapolis July 17-21. Thrive is a leadership opportunity for UU youth of color and includes community building, leadership development, worship, and creating connections with other UU youth and adult leaders.



Eliot Members to Visit Our Partner Church

Eliot members Rebecca Taylor, Becky Coalson and Bill Coalson will be traveling in Transylvania the first two weeks in August, including a visit with the people of our partner church in Nyárádszentmárton. They will visit sites important to the early Unitarian Church, such as the First Unitarian Church which houses the rock upon which Francis David stood when he initially converted many to Unitarianism to start the Unitarian movement; the church in Torda where the first declaration of religious tolerance in Europe was made; the grave of the only Unitarian king; and the citadel where Francis David died in prison. They'll also see several of the amazing castles and old walled cities of Romania and the capital, Bucharest. The trip will end with time with the members of our partner church.



Folks at Eliot Chapel have the opportunity to send their greetings along by signing a card in Adams Hall on Sundays in July that will be presented to our partner church by the travelers.



FREE WORKSHOP

How to Deal with the Aging Voice

Saturday, August 10

10:00-11:30 am in Adams Hall

Not singing as well as you used to? Do you find yourself out of breath when singing or talking? There's hope! Come to this free workshop with Alice Montgomery of Webster University. The workshop is open to ALL Eliot folks, whether you're in the choir or not. Please sign up in the hallway or RSVP by August 4 to Jan Chamberlin at music@eliotchapel.org.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Adults

Attention Eliot Adults (18+)! Are you interested in a potential opportunity to participate in an Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for Adults in 2019-20? OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education program developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ which includes adult-level programming. You can [read more about this program here](#).

If participation in an adult-level OWL program feels like an opportunity of interest, Scott Stewart and Noel Burke invite you to [click here to complete a short survey](#). Your feedback will be considered as we gauge the feasibility of offering this sexuality education program for adults at Eliot next year.

Get Ready . . .

This summer, Eliot's Front Office is transitioning from ACS membership/pledge database and AccessEUC online giving to a different, new kind of church record-keeping solution called Realm®. It may not equate to the momentous achievement fifty years ago when man first stepped on the moon; however, Eliot's transition to Realm® will be equally historic.



While Realm® primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff to process daily operational tasks, it also adds more ways for guests, friends, and members to communicate and connect as a church than Eliot has experienced ever before. At the same time, Realm® leaves many of ACS' current methods in place, providing a familiar, comforting feel.

Not only will Realm® improve and facilitate the work life for our ministry staff, it also will make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community.

Realm® will serve as an excellent resource tool for the Congregation Development Coordinator to help Eliot guests and new members connect with and become part of the Eliot community.

We believe you will find Realm® easier and more intuitive to use, and that it will provide better, easier, and faster communications for group planning & meetings and for event registration. It will also provide more pledge and contribution giving options than our current database system.

Through *This Week at Eliot*, we'll give you updates over the next few weeks about the transition and help you walk through the changes after the transition.

Get ready! Eliot Unitarian Chapel is about to connect like it never has before!

Music Notes

It's been an exciting summer: singing in two choirs at General Assembly in Spokane; singing in the all conference choir at the AUUMM in Denver; and sharing this experience with other Eliot folks has made it extra special – thanks to Gail Rock, Trina Priebe, Lynn Murphy, Beth Curtiss and Gail Hintz! We are bringing home some exciting new music! (And rubbed elbows with Dr. Leon Burke, who's still a member of the AUUMM!) "What's that?" you ask. The Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries, formerly the UUMN -UU Music Network. We changed our name as of January 1, 2019. I have been fortunate to attend every conference since 1997. Much of what we sing and play at Eliot Chapel comes from these summer events. We can't wait to share!

Many thanks to all who have been leading worship and making music this summer, especially leading hymns while I have been absent. Also, thanks to those who have been helping me in the music room with updating and organizing the choral library. I appreciate everyone's efforts!

Sincerely,

Jan Chamberlin



Jan Chamberlin,
Music Director

music@eliotchapel.org

Invitation to Sing

Eliot Chapel has always had a thriving choral program, due in large part to our wonderful volunteers! This fall, our rehearsal schedule is changing. We welcome all previous singers back, and I hope some new folks will consider joining a choir! We will need singers of all voice types in all three adult choirs. Each choir will sing at both services in three-week rotations. To sign up for a choir, or if you have any questions, please contact Music Director Jan Chamberlin at music@eliotchapel.org.

ELIOT CHOIR SATB Mixed genders, all are welcome, teenagers and up. Rehearsals: Every Tue. 7:00-8:30pm. This choir will no longer rehearse EVERY Sunday morning at 9:00am. Therefore, they will usually have more freedom to sleep-in, attend either service, and teach RE if they choose! The Eliot Choir sits on the chancel during worship. They sing Sunday morning Bread Services and the two early services on Christmas Eve.

First Rehearsal: Tuesday, September 3

The Sunday morning schedule will now apply only to the group scheduled to sing in the services that day which will be, roughly, every third week:

- **8:00 am** Optional coaching, for anyone needing extra help
- **8:30 – 9:00** Warm up and practice the day's songs
- **9:30 and 11:00 Services:** SING!

All three choirs will be conducted by Jan Chamberlin. Singers may participate in more than one choir. All three choirs will prepare music to sing on Music Sunday, March 1, together with the orchestra. The chosen work is "Awakening to Blessing" by Keith Arnold, Text by Wendy Williams.

CHILDREN'S CHALICE CHOIR For children 1st-5th grade. They will meet between Sunday services in the music room from 10:35-10:55am. They will sing the prelude at both services, 4-5 times this year. If interested, please contact Jan Chamberlin at music@eliotchapel.org.
First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 15

WOMEN'S CHORALE SSA Women's Chorale also welcomes all Sopranos and Altos, teenagers and older. Will meet every Wed. from 7:00-8:30. This is an earlier time than in the past. Some will choose to gather at 6:30 for fellowship. The Women's Chorale sings Saturday evening Bread Service and the late service on Christmas Eve.
First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 4

CHAMBER SINGERS SATB Mixed genders. This is a select group who reads music well and can study their music on their own. This group will meet infrequently, usually on Sundays, as needed. Anyone interested in this group should contact Jan Chamberlin for an interview.

First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 1, 11:15-12:00 noon.

First Sunday to sing: September 15

All Choir Retreat

Saturday, September 7

Featuring Moroccan musicians for presentation and workshop: all singers are encouraged to attend this special event in Adams Hall.

10:00-10:30 am Gather, mingle, get to know people in all our choirs.

10:30 – 12:00 pm Workshop with the Aza Duo playing Berber music from Morocco. They will teach us drumming and singing.

Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch, provided.

1:00- 2:00 The Eliot Choir will rehearse for the next morning's ingathering service. Please RSVP for any part of the retreat so we can plan food and space.

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.

August Meetings

Tuesday, August 6 – Book Discussion

Tuesday, August 20 – “Creating a Household Emergency Plan” with Capt. Sean Quinn.
Coordinator – Janis Cox.

Operation Clean Stream

Saturday, August 24

Join the Environmental Justice Team for Operation Clean Stream, proudly celebrating 52 years of river stewardship in 2019! The event will take place at various locations throughout the Meramec River Watershed. We hope you will volunteer with us to improve local rivers and open spaces! There are a variety of locations still in need of volunteers. Go to openspacestl.org to register for the location of your choice.



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

- Thursday, July 25 at 3:00 pm
- Thursday, August 8 at 3:00 pm
- Thursday, August 22 at 3:00 pm

The **Pastoral Care Associates Team** will meet on **Tuesday, August 20** at 1:30 pm in the Frederick–Gray Room.



Pride in Our Park

Saturday, August 10

Join in the fun at Kirkwood's Meacham Memorial Park! There are volunteer opportunities to staff Eliot's booth and help with fun activities for the kids. You are also encouraged just to attend the end-of-the-summer fun and take part in the celebration! See the bulletin board for sign-up and further information or email socialjustice@eliotchapel.org.

Are you interested in membership at Eliot Chapel?

Rev. Jim will meet with anyone interested in membership at Eliot Chapel at 11:00 am on **Sunday, August 4**. If you have questions about Unitarian Universalism, Eliot Chapel, or are ready to sign the membership book, you are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place in the Garden Room (the former children's library near Adams Hall).

Nominate a Superhero!

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 in the coming year, let us know at frontoffice@eliotchapel.org.



Are You Up to Date?

Summer is a great time to make sure your contact information is up to date with Eliot Chapel. You can check it yourself on Eliot's website if you have an AccessEUC account or if you've downloaded the Church Life app. If your information – name, address, phone, or email – has changed recently and you need help checking, contact the front office at 314-821-0911 or email frontoffice@eliotchapel.org. You'll be glad you did!

Please Remember

Judith Glasscock and family as they mourn the death of her spouse Robert.

The family of Eliot member John McIntosh as they mourn his loss.

The family and friends of Linda Polcyn as they mourn Linda's passing.

Claire Wyneken & Patrice Crotty and their family as they mourn the loss of Claire's mother, Patricia Ann Fair Wyneken.

Staff Milestones

Anniversaries in July

Jan Chamberlin, 22 years

Myron Simms, 9 years

Rev. Barbara Gadon, 6 years

Camille Novak, 2 years

More Staff Anniversaries this Summer

Noel Burke, 2 years in June

Debby Lovell, 2 years in August

We appreciate your service on behalf of Eliot Chapel! Thank you!

Welcome

Eliot Chapel welcomes our newest members!



David, Megan, and Luca Demsky



Jill, Dominic, and Jude Pioter



Mary and John Louis, Sunny, and Cali Nestojko



Sharon Morgan

Sunday Services

**10:00 am only
Memorial Day through
Labor Day**

Eliot Chapel Clergy

Rev. Barbara Gadon,
Lead Minister on sabbatical

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

Religious Education Staff:

Noel Burke
Tim Bubb
LaTosha Crayton

Jan Chamberlin,
Music Director

Pianists:

Dr. David Nalesnik
Gail Hintz

Camille Novak, Director of
Finance and Operations

Christie Lee,
Administrative Assistant

Debby Lovell,
Communications Specialist

Myron Simms,
Facilities Manager

Ed Liebman,
Sunday Custodian

Heather Flick,
Sunday Front Office Assistant

Jeanne Olson,
Volunteer Office Assistant

SUMMER WORSHIP

July's worship theme is Freedom.

Sunday, July 21 – 10:00 am

“Our Complex Legacy of Religious Freedom” – Rev. Roger Bertschausen

Almost from the beginning, religious freedom has been complicated for Unitarians and Universalists. It still is – in Transylvania, in the US, and elsewhere across the UU world. *Music by Dr. Flo Reaves & Laurel Seidensticker, violin duets.*

Sunday, July 28 – 10:00 am

“Lessons in Welcoming” – Rev. Martin Woulfe

How has our understanding of welcoming changed over the years? Do we truly welcome all people, on equal terms, or are some more welcome than others? How can we live out the gospel of “The Larger Hope” in the modern era? *Music by The St. Louis Recorder Consort.*

The August worship theme is Exploring.

Sunday, August 4 – 10:00 am

“Pay Attention!” – Katy Miller and Jennifer and Bruce MacKenzie

Many well-known poems have been inspired by other works of art: we'll focus mainly on paintings. Projecting images of the paintings, we will read the poems and reflect on the poet's act of paying attention. And, as you'll hear in the poems themselves, it's an act with larger significance for all of our lives. *Music by Steve Jarrett, guitar and vocals.*

Sunday, August 11 – 10:00 am

“Leaving Jim Crow” – Marilyn Sue Warren

Explore an examined life through personal stories with Marilyn Sue Warren. How can exploring past turning points in our lives guide us today? *Music by Sarah Reutter and Jan Chamberlin, vocals.*

Sunday, August 18 – 10:00 am

“Stepping into Asylum Seekers' Shoes” – Rev. Dottie Matthews

As a retiree, Dottie is spending most of her volunteer hours working for immigrant justice locally at her home in Central Missouri and across the nation – specifically in finding sponsors for asylum seekers as they are released from detention. She is often asked "What can we do? What can we claim as our own role in ending – or at least mitigating – the suffering?" In this message, Dottie will share some of what she has learned about the miasma of fear and confusion that surrounds our immigration system, and will describe the conditions she witnessed inside this nation's largest children's detention center in Homestead, FL. *Music by the Tri-tones Vocal Trio.*

Sunday, August 25 – 10:00 am

“What to Do When Your House Is on Fire” – Amy Stark

Inspired by seeing Greta Thunberg's speech and school strikes for climate change, the younger generation has asked us all to do better. How can we respond? *Music by Clan Shenanigans.*

September's worship theme is Expectation.

Sunday, September 1 – 10:00 am

“Still Air: Waiting for a Changing Wind” – Eliot Young Adults

The Eliot Young Adult Group will present a service on liminality and change, and what responses have come from these experiences, some personal and some on a larger scale. *Music by Andrew Bailey, violin; Justin Batres, cello; Noel Burke, viola; Beth Curtiss, soprano; Kathryn Rouse, guitar and vocals; and Dr. David Nalesnik, piano.*