



2020-2021 Interns at Eliot Chapel

This year, Eliot Chapel will serve as one of four teaching congregations to four UU students who are currently enrolled at Eden Theological Seminary. This is a new initiative, launched in cooperation with three other UU congregations in Illinois and Missouri. Together, we will provide opportunities in preaching, religious education, pastoral care, etc., beginning this month. **Now, meet the students!**



Dee Evans

Born and raised in Chicago, I became a doctoral level psychologist working mainly in the forensic division of mental health for the state of Illinois. After retirement, I cared for my husband until he passed. A while after that, I entered Eden Theological Seminary. I am entering my third year of seminary and hope to graduate in June.

I love to read on almost all topics—except mathematics. Before the pandemic for fun, I took tap dancing lessons and worked out at the gym. I love the arts and attended operas and plays in St. Louis. Although I went to St. Louis often, I

live on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River and hang out with my friends who are mostly in the Metro East area.



Matthew Villareal

My name is Matthew Villarreal, and I am currently a student at Eden Theological Seminary and a graduate of Doane University with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. I have been on a long spiritual journey from a conservative Christian background to a long spiritual journey that eventually led me to Unitarian Universalism, where I could appreciate all faith traditions without being confined to the insights of any one of them. I look forward to helping a congregation find new spiritual insights through the help I will offer.



Sabrina Trupia

Sabrina is a second-year student at Eden, happy to be part of the UU collective of interns who will serve at Eliot! I am originally from Palermo, Italy but have lived in Edwardsville for 12 years now. I have a PhD in Chemistry and before seminary I used to work in St. Louis as a Senior Scientist in biotechnology at AB Mauri which is the parent company of Fleischmann's yeast. My spiritual journey has taken me from Roman Catholic to UU without passing through other protestant denominations. I also have Buddhist influences and a fun thing I did last year in Seminary was to learn enough Hebrew to get in trouble...so now I occasionally attend (virtual) evening Shabbat services. I am super excited to start this new journey and to meet all of you along the way!



Cory Lovell

Before moving to St. Louis four years ago, I'd lived in Far West Texas, San Francisco, Vermont, and Upstate New York. I've worked as a bartender, a firefighter, a filmmaker, in the art world, in literary promotion, and on the loading dock of a department store. I've lived a lot of different places and done a lot of different things but absolutely nothing could have prepared me for the transformative change in my life brought on by the relationships I've forged at Eden Theological Seminary, in pursuing Unitarian Universalist ministry, and in the direction toward justice, love, and purpose that the Divine Spirit leads me on. I am so excited to continue that transformation while learning and worshipping alongside all the congregants of Eliot Unitarian Chapel, Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, First Unitarian St. Louis, and Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Church in Springfield, IL.