



**EMERSON**  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
2799 Holly Springs Road  
Marietta, Georgia 30062

www.emersonuu.org

### January Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Services

- January 1      The Burning Bowl      A Sunday Services Committee Service  
We will ring out the old and ring in the new year with some time honored traditions of chanting and drumming, and then have the ceremony of the burning bowl, where you will have the opportunity to write down the negative aspects of the previous year and throw them into the fire, thus beginning the New Year with a "clean slate." Today's is a Sunday Services service conceived and facilitated by Kathee Williams.
- January 8      Beyond Tolerance      Rev. Jeff Jones  
Sixty plus years ago, noted Unitarian historian Earl Morse Wilbur said tolerance was one of the defining characteristics of Unitarianism. However, I see tolerance as an inherently negative word and one we must move beyond.
- January 15      Non-violent Communication      Rev. Jeff Jones  
I have been quite taken with the video series on non-violent communication made available by our Peacemaking Committee. In honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I will provide an overview and a number of real world examples for this radical way of communicating.  
Today is our Share the Basket offering which will go to the Dental Mission Trip to Panama. See Faith in Action article below for all the information on this trip.
- January 22      Pacifist Pastor, Soldier Son      Rev. Jeff Jones  
For years, pacifism has challenged me. After I share my understanding of it and my decision to affirm it, I will reflect on the latest complexity of "Pacifist Pastor, Soldier Son." Can I be a pacifist and also support my son who has joined the Army?
- January 29      Universalism: Past, Present and Powerful      A Sunday Services Committee Service  
Rev. Kalen Fristad will present this sermon. A Methodist minister for over 35 years, he serves half-time for churches in Iowa and travels the country speaking to churches on Universalism. His sermon will speak to the history and significance of the teaching of Universalism.

### 2ND Hour Adult RE (11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

- January 1      No Adult RE
- January 8      To be announced
- January 15      \*Sermon Reflections facilitated by Rev. Jeff Jones.  
\*UU Parenting Forum... "Raising UU Kids" (BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND)  
Join fellow parents & guardians to discuss aspects of parenting that are particular to UU families. From school bus discussions of "what happens to you when you die" to living UU values while respecting the religious backgrounds of others... these UU Parenting Adult Ed conversations are back by popular demand from parents!
- January 22      Sermon Reflections facilitated by Rev. Jeff Jones.
- January 29      Imbolc is a pagan celebration of the impending close of winter and its eventual replacement with spring. It's a time to reflect on darkness and hardships endured in cold months. It's also a time to recognize the small yet subtle signs of life that are starting to appear, such as the birth of livestock

and re-generation of springtime buds, and to conjure love and light for brighter days. Join Lisa Wiggins and Rik Roberts as they discuss the energies associated with Imbolc.

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**Rev. Jeff's Journal**

**Be aware, seek balance, do not be rushed!**

Happy New Year!

I am still reveling in the good work that the congregation did together in the November "Searching for the Future" weekend. I think it allowed us to look forward, generate good energy for Emerson, and come up with a good set of prioritized attributes for what we want in our future space.

In December, I was quite impressed with the presentation of the Space Solutions Taskforce at the congregational meeting. They have been hard at work, and I encourage you to look at their slide presentation that is on the Emerson web site under Committees/Space Solutions Committee (<http://www.emersonuu.org/emerson-committees/space.html>) If you need assistance logging onto the website contact the church office([office@emersonuu.org](mailto:office@emersonuu.org)).

In short, I think we are starting 2012 on sound footing.

As I begin the New Year, I have a set of goals. It is to be aware of each moment (particularly while driving), live a life that is more balanced (work less and enjoy more of life's beauty), and do not be rushed (may I suggest that you leisurely read this month's newsletter). If I take longer to respond to your emails in 2012, then know that I am succeeding!

I find that these three goals are also good goals for the Space Solutions Taskforce.

First, they are clearly becoming aware of all the options available to us. They are looking at the timing and cost of each possibility.

Second, they are also looking for balance. We have needs and aspirations and these must be balanced by monetary and time constraints.

Finally, the committee will not be rushed. Per instructions from the Board of Trustees, they will bring us their best recommendation, not one dictated by the goal of having a Capital Campaign next fall. If we are able to have a Capital Campaign in the fall of 2012, that will be wonderful, but it must not be the primary goal.

In this new year, may we all practice awareness of the life that enfolds us, may we live a life that is balanced, and when we find ourselves rushing through life, may we stop, pause, and recommit to be aware, seek balance and do not be rushed!

With a grateful heart for you all,  
Jeff

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**Committee News**

**From the Faith in Action Committee**

A Call to Action: Uniting to End Georgia's Death Penalty

Saturday, January 28, 2012

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ebenezer Baptist Church

407 Auburn Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30312

Troy Davis and his most fearless advocate, Martina Davis-Correia, always said that this fight was more than just about Troy. Let's honor their wishes by continuing the fight to abolish Georgia's death penalty.

On January 28, 2012, join Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (GFADP) and Amnesty International USA for a state-wide death penalty abolition summit to be held at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta! This summit is the first major gathering since the execution of Troy Davis which galvanized people worldwide. It will

include powerful speakers, skill-building workshops, and more! Please contact Karen Cox if you have questions or are interested in attending (mkarencox@bellsouth.net).

### **Time to return your Guest at Your Table gifts!**

On January 8 we'll close our Guest at Your Table.

In recent weeks, our Guest at Your Table boxes and *Stories of Hope* have taught us about real people engaged in struggles for justice in the United States and around the world. It has also taught us about our power to change the world when we share our blessings to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the many amazing people they partner with. Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table donation, be sure to convert your cash and coins to a check made out to "UUSC" and complete the form on the box (or envelope). We'll announce the results of our Guest at Your Table program as soon as possible. On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings through Guest at Your Table. If you miss bringing back your Guest at Your Table box on January 8, please return it to Karen Cox at your earliest opportunity.

### **January Share the Basket: Dental Mission Trip to Panama**

Once again members of our congregation including, Terry O'Shea, Debby O'Shea and Karen Abel will be going on their annual Dental Mission Trip. They will be heading off to Panama at the end of January, joining other dentists from the U.S. to work sun-up to sun-down for 5 and a half days, seeing as many people as they can. They usually see between eight hundred and a thousand people! It is hot, dusty, hard work but they love it. They pay ALL of their expenses including airfare, accommodations, food, as well as medications and equipment which is expensive to own and maintain. Emerson can help them in this important work by contributing generously on January 15, when we Share the Basket for their annual Dental Trip to Panama.

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### **Religious Education for Children & Youth**

#### **State of Emerson's Children & Youth Report**

Seems like just yesterday when the Religious Education volunteers and Director, Beth Kline, welcomed everyone "Back to Sunday School", July 31 with a chalice painting workshop followed by family/student kick-off meetings in each class the following two Sundays.

The program currently has 65 students registered with Sunday Religious Ed class teaching teams of 13 lead teachers and 21 congregant volunteers, who assist in our Nursery-Toddler classroom and our 4-7 year old Kid's 1<sup>st</sup> Hour Experience program during worship.

Highlights this fall in the RE program included:

- Chalice Kids PreK-1<sup>st</sup> graders built community while enjoying Story Basket lessons, singing and art expressions that focused on the UU Principles!
- SEEKERs 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade class studied homelessness and hunger, baked pumpkin pies together for the Thanksgiving Feast, explored how to be better friends to all and helped with Christmas tree decorating.
- Jr. Youth re-energized with LIFE's BIG QUESTIONS curriculum and their dynamic teaching team of Patty Haynes, Claude Fravien & Art Wickman! They made balloon animals at the Country Fair too.
- CRUU - Sr. High Youth – started with a river-tubing experience, helped host a Stewardship Campaign Kick-off Country Fair booth, helped at Cobb Christmas, is fundraising for this Summer's UU Heritage trip to Boston, and continue to explore the life-stories of our congregants through personal interviews.
- 14 Elementary, Jr. and Sr. Youth students + their adult chaperones attended 3 weekend Youth CONferences at The Mountain UU Learning and Retreat Center.

#### **WHAT and WHO is Emerson's CRUU?**

The CRUU (Crazy Rockin' Unitarian Universalists) is the high school youth group at Emerson UUC. Carol Conchar and Mary Beth Manning have been the co-advisors for this group since 2001 and welcomed Killian McCalla, an alumnus of Emerson's Religious Ed program and "Bridged" young adult, as an Associate Advisor in August 2010. Carol & Mary Beth received the UUA National Youth Advisors of the Year Award in 2009.

What is CRUU all about? The main focus of the program is nurturing and fostering high school youth in their personal religious and spiritual journey. Worship, community building and fellowship are major components of our program. Carol and Mary Beth design or modify curricula to teach Sunday lessons that address UU values and encourage individuality, responsibility and leadership from youth in the program.

Living in the South, our high school youth are questioned by peers about what they “do or don’t” believe religiously. The first step in addressing this challenge for high school youth is to work with them to develop their personal “elevator” (or 2 min. “lunch line”) speeches. In recent years CRUU has explored the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, World Religions, how the UU Principles can be lived in everyday life through music, film and more!

An aspect of Emerson’s RE program for Senior High youth that differs from some other UU congregations in that it takes place weekly on Sunday mornings. The group forms a community of UUs that enjoy each other’s company and look forward to getting up on a Sunday morning to share time together for discussion and fellowship.

Several years ago Carol and Mary Beth encouraged the high school youth to come up with a name for themselves and they decided upon CRUU – Crazy Rockin’ UUs! As a group, they look to the older high school youth to mentor and provide leadership to the younger or newer CRUU members. The older CRUU members help lead our weekly meetings with chalice lighting & extinguishing, check-in, and keeping the flow of discussion lively.

CRUU is more than an RE class that meets weekly. The CRUU is also a full-fledged youth group. Monthly they gather for Circle Dinners (teenager style) at a CRUU member’s home. At these dinners, they usually begin with a movie that reflects UU values and then move on to electronic and/or board games.

Sr. Youth are encouraged to participate in activities organized by EUUC’s Faith in Action committee. Some of the activities they have volunteered at include MUST ministries, Keep Cobb Beautiful, and Cobb Family Resources “Cobb Christmas”. Under the guidance of Carol and Mary Beth, the CRUU also puts together an annual youth-led worship service, a highlight for many congregants. The theme of the worship usually coincides with the curriculum topic of that given year. CRUU members regularly attend Youth CONferences at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. Last summer, several members and advisors from the group attended the UUA General Assembly in Charlotte, NC.

Currently the CRUU is fundraising by selling Fair-Trade Coffee and hosted the Annual Chili Cook-off in November to raise funds to defray the cost of CRUU members and advisors taking a UU Heritage Trip to Boston, home of our National Association headquarters and the cradle of the Unitarian faith.

The CRUU thanks our congregants, minister and its advisors for being supportive of their projects, services and program!

### **SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY and RE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE JANUARY 2012 - *Thanks to ALL our Sunday Morning Volunteers!***

Sunday, January 1:

Front Door Family Greeter 9:30-10:05: Kim Woodbury and Millie Fuller  
Nursery-Toddler Room Asst 9:45-11:05: NEEDS VOLUNTEER  
Kid’s 1<sup>st</sup> Hour Experience 10:15-11:05: Millie Fuller and Kim Woodbury

Sunday, January 8:

Front Door Family Greeter 9:30-10:05: JoEllen Carter  
Nursery-Toddler Room Asst. 9:45-12:35: Nikki Hauser  
Kid’s 1st Hour Experience 10:15-11:05: Audrey Piekut-Thaiss & JoEllen Carter

Sunday, January 15:

Front Door Family Greeter 9:30-10:05: Claude Fravien  
Nursery-Toddler Room Asst. 9:45-12:35: Susan Tomichek  
Kid’s 1st Hour Experience 10:15-11:05: Claude Fravien & Karen Cox

Sunday, January 22:

Front Door Family Greeter 9:30-10:05: Angela Miles  
Nursery-Toddler Room Asst. 9:45-12:35: Cindy Collins  
Kid’s 1st Hour Experience 10:15-11:05: Susan Weidman and Angela Miles

Sunday, January 29:

Front Door Family Greeter 9:30-10:05: Sharon Wong  
Nursery-Toddler Room Asst. 9:45-12:35: Susan Ullmann

Kid's 1st Hour Experience 10:15-11:05: Sharon Wong and Misty Holm

Please contact volunteer Kim Woodbury, our scheduler, if you would like to volunteer in our Children's programs or as a Front Door Family Greeter on Sunday mornings. If you are not available on a Sunday you have been scheduled for, please feel free to swap with other volunteers and notify Kim of the change kw072k@att.com or cyne\_enright@yahoo.com.

### **EMERSON UUC Selected to Field Test New "Our Whole Lives" Sexuality Ed Modules**

**\*\*January 8 - Parent's Meeting for "Our Whole Lives" Sexuality Education Program, 3-5pm at Emerson UUC in the Sanctuary\*\***

IF your family is looking for educational support as your 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade or 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade students start to ask questions about sexuality or most likely are talking to their peers about sexuality, OWL - Our Whole Lives Sexuality Ed might be an option to explore. Parents and guardians are invited to preview the programs for 5,6th graders and 7,8,9th graders before registering students in "Our Whole Lives" Sexuality Education programs being offered at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation this winter/spring.

"Our Whole Lives" Sexuality Ed is a series of highly acclaimed and developmentally appropriate programs being presented by trained, certified facilitators here in East Cobb. The Unitarian Universalist Association and United Churches of Christ developed the program 12 years ago and updated curriculum is being field tested during the 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade Jr. High course being offered.

Parent/Guardian attendance at the PREVIEW meeting on SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 3-5 p.m. at Emerson UUC; 2799 Holly Springs Rd. off Sandy Plains Road, as well as a signed permission slip are prerequisites for students attending these programs. Classes are usually scheduled on Sunday afternoons. Class sizes are limited and require a minimum of 9 students to form.

Registration fee of \$45 for the 8 Session 4,5,6th grade course plus a \$10 student reader that parents can order or buy locally are required for class. Class size is limited and requires 9 students to be scheduled. Each Sunday session is 90 minutes.

Registration fee is \$90 for the 13 Session 7,8th Jr. High grade course. Class size is limited and requires a minimum of 9 students to be scheduled. Each Sunday session is 2.5 hours.

For more information about OWL and parent preview meeting; contact Beth Kline, Director of Religious Education, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation at dre@emersonuu.org.

### **UU Faith Development Summit 2012...Join US**

January 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Central Time  
Check-in and light breakfast opens at 8:30 a.m.  
Hosted by the First UU Church of Nashville

Missed General Assembly last summer? Come to Nashville to get revved up about Unitarian Universalist Faith Development! Keynote: The Vision & Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation by the Rev. Sue Sinnamon, Director of Faith Development for the Southeast District of the UUA.

"Imagine the potential for churches that develop 21st century models of faith formation to respond to the spiritual and religious needs of all ages and generations. Imagine churches that provide faith formation for everyone, anytime, anywhere, 24x7x365."  
~John Roberto

But what does this mean for Unitarian Universalists who want to revitalize their RE programs, adult education and worship? In this time together we will explore what it means to be a congregation in this age of networks.

Workshops will include: Adult Youth Advisor Training, What's the Buzz, Changes in the Growth of Our Association, Baby Steps...3 Places to Focus on Building Your Children's & Youth RE Program, Compassionate Communication, Making Your Youth Sunday Sing!, and Telling Our Stories. Then stay for worship on Sunday and experience Youth Sunday in Music City! The cost is \$35.00 per person, which includes a light breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Children are free and childcare will be available.

Beth Kline, Emerson's Director of Religious Ed, will be a presenter at the Summit and will be driving to Nashville. Email Beth for more info at [dre@emersonuu.org](mailto:dre@emersonuu.org).

Advance registration is required, no later than January 22, 2012

Faith Development Summit Flyer and Faith Development Summit Registration available at:  
<http://www.msduua.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/FaithDevelopmentSummit2012-flier.pdf>

### **Save these dates for Winter/Spring CONs at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, Inc.**

The dates of the Winter/Spring CONs are as follows:

- February 3-5th, 2012 Middle School Youth (6th-8th graders)
- February 24-25th, 2012 Elementary Youth (3rd – 5th graders)
- March 16-18th, 2012 High School Youth (9th – 12th graders)

Registration packet is included as an attachment to this newsletter email or you can contact the church office for more information. ([office@emersonuu.org](mailto:office@emersonuu.org))

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### **Community News**

#### **From the Ya Ya's Women's Group**

Let's get the Ya Ya's off to a great start this year. We especially want to invite any new members and friends to our monthly meetings. This is a great place to get to know the women of Emerson and for us to know you in a relaxed environment. We had chosen the name "Ya Ya's" many years ago. If you are not familiar with the name, please read "The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood", rent the movie or just ask a Ya Ya. Our first 2012 meeting will be the second Monday in January (the ninth). We meet either in the Sanctuary or in Rainbow House Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

This is our planning session for the year. Any woman who wishes to lead a session, please feel free to speak up at the January meeting. Here is an example of Mondays already spoken for: July - a swim party and picnic at a member's apartment complex, a lovely setting for swimming, talking and eating casually around the pool; December we meet at Target and fill a stocking for a child who may not otherwise receive anything for Christmas (with Cobb Family Resources); a possible beach trip to St. Simon's Island in June or July thanks to a generous member who shares her beach home with us for a week or long weekend. Other meetings we have learned about - quilting (notice the beautiful banners in the Sanctuary); learning basic relaxation techniques to help with stress; going for a hike in a local park. We also want to save a couple meetings for check-ins, support for each other, discussions about our joys and sorrows.

We try to provide a safe place for you to explore your life and talents and to get to know one another more intimately. New members bring new ideas, energy and spirit to Ya Ya's, Hope you join us. Contact Susan Tomichek for more information ([setomichek@bellsouth.net](mailto:setomichek@bellsouth.net)).

#### **Emerson Men's Group**

The Emerson Men's Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall downstairs at Emerson. All are welcome. Contact Mark Cobb [mark.b.cobb@gmail.com](mailto:mark.b.cobb@gmail.com) for more information on the Men's Group.

#### **Emerson Book Group**

The Emerson Book Group meets the last Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome, so please feel free to join us! You don't need to be a church member to participate. Reading the book is not mandatory. Meetings are usually held at the host(ess)'s home unless otherwise noted. We share the cost of ordering a pizza. If you want to be a host at your home or for more information on the Emerson Book Group visit our page on the website at <http://www.emersonuu.org/emerson-groups/book.html> or contact Donna Stephenson at [Mionchaint@aol.com](mailto:Mionchaint@aol.com). The following is our schedule for the next few months...

January 30, 2012: hosted by Lindy Moot at Emerson...[A Prayer for the City](#) by Buzz Bissinger

About Prayer for the City from Library Journal...Bissinger is the author of Friday Night Lights (LJ 8/90), a contributing editor at Vanity Fair, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who worked at the Chicago Tribune and the Philadelphia Inquirer. After following the administration of Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell for four years, he provides a passionate account of big-city life and politics in the 1990s that puts a human face on the problems and promise of urban America. From his portrayal of the mayor's anguish in comforting the families of slain and injured police officers, which serves as a prolog, to his discussion of union negotiations, crime fighting, and economic decline in later chapters, Bissinger offers a compelling narrative. Scholars will appreciate the inside political story, and lay readers will appreciate the heroes. Highly recommended for all collections.

February 27, 2012 to be announced

March 26, 2012...Hosted by Susan Tomichuk at Emerson. Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

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**Wider UU**

The Mid-South District **Faith Development Summit** will be on Saturday, January 28 at FUUN, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville. Beginning with breakfast at 8:30 a.m., workshops will include: *Adult Youth Advisor Training, What's the Buzz – Changes in the Growth of our Association, Baby Steps...3 Places to Focus on Building Your Children's & Youth RE Program, Compassionate Communication, Making Your Youth Sunday Sing!, and Telling Our Stories.* Our keynote is **The Vision & Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation** by the Rev. Sue Sinnamon, Director of Faith Development for the Southeast District of the UUA. Then stay for worship on Sunday and experience Youth Sunday in Music City. The cost is **\$35.00** per person, which includes a light breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Children are free and childcare will be available. Advance registration is required.

Flyer: <http://www.msduua.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/FaithDevelopmentSummit2012-flier.pdf>

Registration: [https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e5f75sw2162887b2&oseq =](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e5f75sw2162887b2&oseq=)



The **HUNGRY EAR Coffee House** continues a tradition begun in the 1950s by the beat generation, shades of Jack Kerouac, Woody Guthrie and others. It is one of the oldest continuing coffee houses in Greater Atlanta! The Hungry Ear Coffee House features folk, smooth jazz and acoustic music at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation 1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, N.W., Sandy Springs, GA 30327, inside interstate 285, 1/2 mi. E. of Northside Dr. \$5 cover. Coffee, tea, soft drinks, and sweets available. Plenty of free parking. Please bring a canned food item donation for the Community Action Center.

**JANUARY PERFORMERS**

**Louis Robinson**, British singer-songwriter, teach at Ragamuffin Music in Roswell will be performing January 7, at the Hungry Ear Coffee House at NWUUC. You won't want

to miss it. [http:// www.louisrobinson.com/ music.html](http://www.louisrobinson.com/music.html)

Atlanta artist, **Pat Walsh**, originally from South Carolina, makes music that has a distinct British pop slant. His newest CD, 'Egghead', is an acoustic guitar driven pop treat, beautifully produced and recorded. While listening, other similar artists spring to mind such as Martin Newell, Donovan, and even Robyn Hitchcock. Pop fans who are familiar with George Usher's voice will also find a similar quality in Pat's. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcfdjJdlgak>

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**We wish our January Birthday Folks a month of celebration!**

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Clayton Stoores 1/3          | Donna Melcher 1/24        |
| Anne Atherton 1/4            | Terry Hammill 1/26        |
| Flynn Miles-Threath 1/5      | Kathy Rickey 1/27         |
| Susan Tiedtke 1/10           | Clay Fambro 1/29          |
| Colleen Haverkorn 1/11       | Audrey Piekut-Thaiss 1/30 |
| Christopher J. Martinez 1/11 | Laurel Wickman 1/31       |
| Amy Tompkins 1/11            |                           |
| Andrea Schorr 1/12           |                           |
| Cynthia Wiebel 1/14          |                           |