



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

Monday, March 12, 2012

Worship Services

Sunday, March 18, 2012

"Sermon on the Amount"

Rev. John Gibbons

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

After 22 years in Bedford and more than 30 in the UU ministry, I've seen the gamut of church fund-raising. Ice-fishing derbies, I caution you, do NOT work and especially not this year. I'll share more of what doesn't work, a little about what does work, and in any case - since I'm from out-of-town and have no personal investment in your stewardship efforts - I'll tell you the truth. Please come anyway.

Today is Commitment Sunday, the culmination of the UUCR Annual Budget Drive, during which we all make a financial commitment to sustain our church for another year. Reflect on what sustains your fire of commitment to our church, and then make your pledge. UUCR Choir sings at both the 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM.

About Our Guest Minister:

John Gibbons came to Bedford in 1990 after a decade as minister to the Unitarian Congregation in Mendon and Uxbridge, MA. Ordained in 1980, he is a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School and holds an undergraduate degree in religion and political science from Tufts University. He is married to Sue Baldauf, a family therapist; and they have one son, Eric. In previous lifetimes John was a public school teacher, union organizer, counselor at a halfway house for teenage girls, apprentice to a Mexican curandera (healer-woman), and a salesman of pansies and parsley. He is very involved in Bedford and metropolitan Boston, active in organizations such as the Human Relations Council of Bedford, the AIDS Task Force, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, the Tuckerman Coalition, and the Interfaith Alliance. He also participates actively in the life of the Unitarian Universalist Association, as a past chair of the board of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a former president of the UU Partner Church Council, and the UUA's first Ambassador to the Transylvanian Unitarian Church. John regards the church as the last, best and most improbable hope for humanity.

Ushers:

9:15 AM Worship Arts

11:00 AM Ralph Rubenstein, Worship Arts

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

The Budget Drive Committee/Michele Catalano

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM The Budget Drive Committee
11:00 AM The Budget Drive Committee

March 21, 2012

"Earth Vespers: Mid-week Spiritual Service"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

7:30-8:30 PM

Please plan to join us for this very special mid-week spiritual service!

Join us for this nature-focused evening of spiritual reflection, ritual, and community connection. This meditative service is a perfect way to explore your own earth-based spirituality and connect to the wisdom of the natural world through readings, music, meditation, and silences. Why not bring a friend?

March 25, 2012

"Listening"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Unitarian Universalists place a high value on beauty, especially natural beauty, and on the individual, so we tend to be creative and prize self-expression. However, listening is beautiful in its own way, too and is at the root of love and tolerance and civility. What does listening really involve, and how can we learn to do a better job?

9:15 AM Trish Bechtol and Committee on Ministry
11:00 AM Leslie Raymond and Committee on Ministry

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed
11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Needed

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed
11:00 AM Needed

Schedule of Worship Services

Sundays

9:15 and 11:00 AM

Children's Classes at 9:15 AM only; infant and toddler child care at both services. Our full service schedule can be found on our [Upcoming Services page](#).

Featured News

What's for Dinner? - This Sunday: March 18, 2012

Join us after worship services this Sunday from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM in Loring House, Room 103, as we discuss the book *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and learn how our eating choices affect not only our health, but the health of the environment that sustains life on earth.

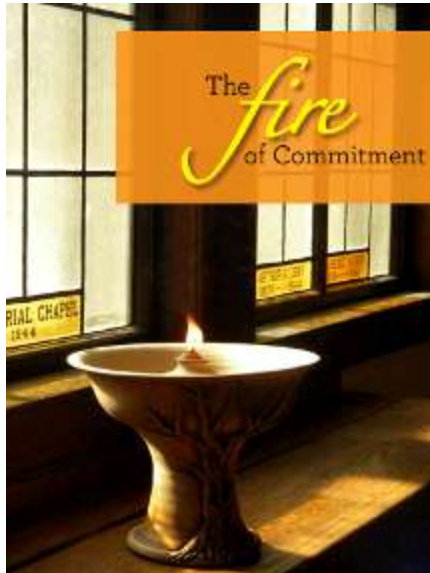
In this groundbreaking book, author Michael Pollan turns his own omnivorous mind to the seemingly straightforward question of what we should have for dinner. The surprising answers Pollan offers to the simple question posed by this book have profound political, economic, psychological, and even moral implications for all of us. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* promises to change the way we think about the politics and pleasure of eating. For anyone who reads it, dinner will never again look, or taste, quite the same.

Date: Sunday, March 18th, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Facilitator: Kristine Blum



Join Us On This Sunday: Commitment Sunday



This Sunday, March 18, 2012 is Commitment Sunday. With your generous financial support, we can continue to keep our spiritual mission alive. Let's grow the "Fire of Commitment" together.

Liberal Ladies Meet On This Wednesday March 14th Please Join Us!

Liberal Ladies will be having their next meeting on this Wednesday, March 14th in Loring House from 10:30 to noon. The program will feature Janet Nussman who will speak about her trip to Sumatra. It should be a very interesting presentation as Janet and her husband, Bob, tend to get away from the usual tourist attractions. All are welcome.

Worship Notes

March 25, 2012

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY!

Did you know that 85% of the people who ever visit a Unitarian Universalist Congregation do so because someone invited them to visit? Don't keep the warm and welcoming community here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading a secret. Why not share our Unitarian Universalist faith with someone you know? Sunday, March 25 is "BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY." Acting Minister, Meg Soens and the Worship Arts Ministry are creating a service perfect for first time visitors. Please extend an invitation to someone you know.

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Tidbits and Tour - Come Join Us!

Are you new to the church? Join Meg Soens, Acting Minister, and Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, for a short introduction to Unitarian Universalism and a quick tour of our church campus. This thirty-minute mini-introduction will give you a chance to meet Meg and Amy and ask any questions you might have. No registration necessary. We meet at the front of the church after each service.

Wanted: Spring Plants For Our Easter Services Sunday, April 8, 2012 - Please Note: Greenhouse Order Deadline is Monday, March 26, 2012

Can you help beautify our Sanctuary for our Easter services? The office reports that we do not have a single dedication or purchase of an Easter plant for our services. The greenhouse orders close 2 weeks from this Monday. Ordering is easy! Just send a slip of paper or an email to the church office with your name and a check for .00 for each plant ordered. Specify how many tulips, daffodils, or azaleas you are requesting. Write "Easter plants" on your check notation line. Take the plants home that you specifically ordered after the second Easter service on Sunday, April 8. You may mail your check, place it in the collection plate, or insert it into the mail room safe. For your ordering convenience, we also have bright purple order sheets in the atrium at our sign up table. Stop by at coffee hour this Sunday and order.

Traditional Passover Seder April 7, 2012

AN INVITATION TO A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER SEDER ALL ARE WELCOME

Rabbi Bart Perlman will hold a traditional Passover Seder at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 7, 2012, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. This event will include a full Passover meal. To RSVP and receive information on the cost of meal donation please contact Lou Damelin by *Wednesday April 4th* at loudamelin@rcn.com This RSVP deadline is necessary in order to prepare for the purchase of the full Passover meal. All are enthusiastically welcome.

Rev. Tim Currently on Sabbatical through May 6, 2012

Rev. Tim is currently on his sabbatical through May 6, 2012. He will return to the office on May 7, 2012. During this time Meg Soens is our Acting Minister and can be reached at 781.944.0494, extension 101 for non-emergencies. Meg's emergency pastoral phone line is 781.850.3307.

Caring and Sharing Coordinator

March 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month



The Caring and Sharing coordinator for March is Nancy. You can reach Nancy by clicking this [LINK](#).

Minister's Messages - March 12, 2012 - Sabbatical Message

Hi Everyone:

I'm back safe and sound from a truly extraordinary experience in Afghanistan. Despite the heartbreaking and tragic series of events of the last two weeks, we found ourselves welcomed warmly by the many Afghans we met and spent time with. I'm just off the plane, so I'll write more extensively next week. But let me say the experience far exceeded my hopes and expectations. The dynamics impacting the country are complex and vast, but the time spent in the country provided a good face-to-face introduction to the people, history, present, and future of that amazing place.

I was part of a three-person delegation, and our skilled and knowledgeable guide and translator shaped an intense and comprehensive visit (and kept us perfectly safe throughout). Highlights include visiting a refugee camp where a number of children had recently died due to the severe cold and lack of heat and food. We met with the camp's Council of Elders in a smoky mud hut to learn about the conditions and also to engage in spirited conversation about the recent Koran burning incident. The next day, after passing through exhaustive security measures, we met the former spokesperson of the Taliban Government who is now heading up Afghanistan's Peace and Reconciliation talks. His predecessor in the role had been assassinated, and he stepped in to lead the country's effort to broker peace with the Taliban. Other highlights include talking with a current female member of Parliament, and then attending a session of the Afghanistan Parliament; meeting key women human rights advocates and activists who, despite unfathomable odds, have been working for many years to address rights of women and children; meeting a former female judge who now runs a legal rights advocacy agency for women and children; visiting a school and training program for some of Kabul's estimated 60,000 street children; talking with people who have lost arms and legs due to land mines or other war injuries; meeting the Director of Afghanistan's version of NPR; and traveling several hours north of Kabul to visit the beautiful and historic Panjshir Valley (where the Afghani mujadeen freedom fighters decimated Soviet Troops, and where, prior to 9/11, the Afghani Northern Alliance fought off Taliban incursions).

Throughout I was acutely aware of what a rare opportunity I was having. In the entire time we were moving freely about Kabul City, we saw only one other Westerner!

I'll write more next week.

Warmly,
Tim



Fatima Aqbary - Her husband was killed by the Taliban and she was beaten and jailed. She now runs a school for girls and also trains war widows to form and run their own small businesses



Afghani girls studying in school (something previously banned by the Taliban)



Tim and Afghani Soldier in front of the bombed Royal Palace in Kabul



Children in Afghanistan refugee camp

President's Messages - Commitment Sunday Reminder



I hope to see you at church on Sunday March 18th which is Commitment Sunday. That's when we'll gather to celebrate and renew our commitment to our wonderful church home and pledge our financial support.

You should have received a brochure and letter in the mail last week. Please read through these materials and consider what role UUCR plays in your life and how you are able to support it with your financial pledge. Then come to church on March 18th with the pledge card provided to you in that packet.

We need to raise \$ 450,000 this year during our annual budget drive in order to support our annual operating budget which, with our growing congregation and expanding programs, has passed \$ 500,000 for the first time. Your brochure provides a pie chart showing the breakdown of income and expenses related to this budget. There are 3 areas which I'd like to bring to your attention in particular, where additional funds are imperative in our ability to effectively maintain our church staff and campus.

- We do not currently pay our minister and other staff members average/fair compensation.
- Our central office staff must rely on an ancient telephone and computer system which greatly impedes their effectiveness.
- We have put-off much needed building maintenance on all 3 buildings in our campus for years.

Our mission calls upon us to not only support and maintain our existing programs and resources but to grow them and reach beyond our doors to the world outside, sharing our unique perspectives and gifts. Your generous gift will enable us to do so. This year, consider how your pledge may support these program and initiatives:

- Our Faith Development Program is growing in strength and numbers with more children and families becoming involved in the program.
- Our Social Action Program directly impacts the lives of others in our community and world, including our 2-year food-focused 'Planting Seeds' initiative.
- Plans are in the works to develop Public Relations mechanisms to get the word out about all the wonderful goings-on here at UUCR and to develop a Marketing Team who will reach out to particular demographics, letting them know about the tremendous resources available at UUCR.

It is our shared responsibility to make this church operate and provide the programs and resources that we all need and through which we can nurture our spirits and help heal our world. How much money you contribute is entirely up to you but I do ask that you consider the fact that we need to exceed last year's average pledge amount of \$ 2,250 to reach our goal. If you are currently pledging under this amount, please consider increasing your pledge as close to \$ 2,250, as you are able. If you are currently pledging over this amount, please consider increasing your pledge by 10% to ensure that we are able to meet our goals.

Our faith and varied experiences touch us in so many ways. In preparation for our collective offering, we invite you to reflect on what fires your commitment to this wondrous place.

Best Regards,

Tracy

Website News - Church Newsletter

This is the third in a series of news articles providing insight in the technical aspects of our church's new website and associated services.

The church newsletter, "Windows", is published as a PDF file weekly during the church year, and less frequently over the summer. It contains the worship schedule for as many as three weeks, staff and leadership news, adult enrichment offerings, and the full text of all current news articles related to church programs, teams and committees. (The newsletter is always available in its most up-to-date version online.)

At the beginning of each week, the church publishes "The Week Ahead" as a PDF file, including the worship schedule for the next week, summaries of recent staff and leadership news, a list of adult enrichment offerings, short summaries of news articles related to church programs, teams and committees that have been added to the newsletter over the previous week, and the church calendar for the next week. "The Week Ahead Newsletter" is sent by email to the Church News mailing list, with links to "The Week Ahead" PDF file, to the online newsletter, and to the full version of the church newsletter, containing the full text of all current news articles, which is also in PDF format.

At the end of each week, the church publishes "Weekend Update" as a PDF file, including the worship schedule for the weekend, and short summaries of any news related to activities that weekend. "Weekend Update" is also sent to the Church News mailing list.

Frequent contributors of news are provided training and credentials so that they can enter their contributions themselves. If you'd like to be a contributor and enter your own content on the web, please schedule a short training session with the webmasters. You can also find training online [HERE](#). Infrequent contributors of news can email the text of the notice to churchnews@uureading.org.

Adult Enrichment

Important Adult Enrichment: Register Today for Hungry for Change - April 12-May 17, 2012

Registration is open for this compelling adult enrichment scheduled to begin April 12.

Overview

Hungry for Change explores the true meaning of the phrase "you are what you eat." This 6-week discussion course challenges participants to examine their roles, not only as consumers of food, but also as creators -- of food, of systems, and of the world we all live in. Each session includes readings, short assignments and accompanying discussion questions that address the impact of individual food choices on a range of issues, including ecosystem health, the treatment of factory and farm workers, and the global economy. Hungry for Change helps participants commit to lasting change by developing and sharing personal Action Plans with each session.

Purpose:

- To explore the interconnected nature of food systems and our relationships to them.
- To examine the impact our food choices have on our health, the health of others and the health of our planet.
- To consider the ethical and political implications of our current food system and our personal food choices.

Length: Six sessions

Dates:

Thursday evenings

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

April 12 - May 17

Capacity: Space is limited to 12 participants.

Fees: fee for the course covers the discussion book.

Facilitator: Tricia Schwartz

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to Our Faith - March 17, 2012

Overview

Are you new to the church? Would you like to meet other folks who are new as well? Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Do you have questions about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist? Are you thinking about becoming a member of UUCR? Then UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BASICS is just the thing for you. Join our acting minister Meg Soens for this engaging introduction to our faith. Registration is required, please call or [email the church office](#) (781-944-0494) or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Facilitator: Meg Soens

Dates: Saturday, March 17 – 8:30 AM-12:45 PM

This condensed one-day Saturday class will include kid-friendly breakfast, bagels and coffee for adults, and CHILD CARE to make it easier for parents with young children to attend the UU Basics class. This class will be led by Meg Soens, our acting minister.

Don't Let These Adult Enrichments Pass You By!

Did you know that we have an entire rich line up of adult enrichments planned for our second semester at the UUCR?

Enjoy a review of our entire Adult Enrichment offering for our second semester.

Get Involved News

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles - Open Chair

Our Chalice circles have begun, and there is always an Open Chair for someone new!

Chalice Circles are small (8-10 participants) groups, led by trained facilitators, that meet twice monthly for 1 ½ hours. The format of the group consists of a brief reading, a check in among the members, a longer reading, and a discussion of members' reactions/reflections/thoughts about the readings.

Topics over the years have ranged from world religions to more personal topics such as friendship, community, nature, etc. The Chalice Circle is a more intimate place to get to know one another at the same time as providing the opportunity to explore meaningful topics with other members of our community.

The Circles have started and will go to the end of the Church year in June.

There are lots of openings in the following Chalice Circles:

- Sunday 7:00 - 8:30 PM
- Tuesday 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 PM (phone Chalice Circle for those unable to attend a meeting)
- Saturday 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

You can [register online](#) or by contacting [Jean Hanson](#).

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

The **CHACH** (Creative Hands And Caring Hearts) We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of each month. Our starting time is still 7:30 and we end around 9:30. We will continue to meet at the home of Sharyn Taitz at 1443 Main St. in Reading. We are an open and welcoming multi-generational group of women who love to create with our hands. Any craft, art or skill that can be toted to a meeting is welcomed. If you are interested in joining us, please contact facilitator Sharyn Taitz or simply drop in to any scheduled meeting. Please contact Sharyn Taitz for more information.

Yours in creativity, Sharyn Taitz, CHACH Facilitator.

[Contact Form](#)

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

LTOM Book Club meets March 27, 2012

The March meeting of the LTOM Book club will be held at the home of Nancy Morley, 1005 Main Street, Reading, on March 27th at 1:30 pm. The book selection is The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. All are welcome!

Mom's Group

Mom's Group

The UUCR Mom's Group will have three different offerings this year for mothers of the church to get to know one another.

Mom's Circle (registration in September is required).

The Moms Circle is a group of women in a mothering role who meet on a regular basis in an atmosphere of safety and support for the purpose of engaging in facilitated discussions exploring issues of interest to the group and providing an avenue for personal growth, spiritual development, and community connections. Meetings are twice a month on Sunday evenings in the home of one of the members. Meetings are facilitated by members of the UUCR church community and meetings run similarly to Chalice Circle Meetings.

Social Events (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be organizing social events for all mothers to attend. Dates will be announced in advance.

Mother's Book Club (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be having at least three different book discussions. You are not required to attend all meetings. Books will be announced in advance.

If any of these offerings interest you, please contact Sara Ortins for more information (781-944-2740)

Coordinator: Sara Ortins

Sundays Twice a month, 7:30-9:00 PM

Here is the Mom's Group Schedule for the remainder of this Church Year. All meetings are 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM unless noted. Please contact Sara Ortins or Alison Friedman for the meeting location.

- 3/4 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 3/18 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 4/1 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 4/29 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 5/6: Book group, 101 Loring House
- 5/20 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 6/9: Family BBQ, home of Rebecca Higgins, Time to be determined

Pledge Drive

The Fire of Commitment: Michele Catalano

When my husband Paul and I came to UUCR, the fundamental reason was simple—it was all about faith. For us, it was about engaging in a spiritual journey and search for meaning in our lives. Being part of a liberal faith community was a gift we wanted to give our children as they approach the coming-of-age years.

This year, I joined the Faith Development Team because I believe providing a strong spiritual foundation for our youth is a vital part of our church community. It's a privilege to work with great kids, caring and committed teachers, an innovative curriculum and an experienced and dedicated staff.

This exciting work has helped me on my journey. In guiding our youth, I explore and challenge my own thoughts, perceptions and beliefs, which ultimately leads to my own personal growth and growth as a parent. I've discovered that nothing brings more joy than getting to know our amazing youth and what speaks to them on their journey. Nothing brings more tears of joy than the Coming of Age 2 and Senior High Bridging services. Nothing brings more hope and happiness than knowing we have found a spiritual home for our family.

Please join with me in igniting all that is important to you at UUCR by participating generously in Commitment Sunday.

Pledge Drive

The Fire of Commitment: David Gould

I find great comfort and spirituality in the common ground I share with UUCR principles and the people within our community. I find my spirituality continually evolving over time and UUCR is a comforting place where I can always return to no matter where I am on my journey.

It is a great joy for me to actively participate with church programs such as Coming of Age. It means a lot to me to support and share with our youth during this amazing transition in their lives. What I get back in return is truly amazing, both watching them grow, but also gaining new perspectives for myself that I never had growing up as a young boy. Our recent trip to CityReach program to work with people in need of help is a perfect example. During this overnight social action, our youth fed, clothed, supported and learned from homeless individuals in a way that was safe and supportive, yet intimate and real.

For many years now UUCR has been a shining light that supports me during difficult times and shares in my joys. I am thankful and happy to generously support the UUCR's ever growing mission and our community.

Pledge Drive

The Fire of Commitment: Dan Jacobs

I grew up in a community where your religion defined who you were, who was like you, and who was outside your community. The message I took away was that organized religions were only about who they included and excluded. That bias stayed with me for nearly 40 years, during which time I didn't identify as Jewish or anything else. Years later, I felt like I needed to hide my divorce just like I hid my religion as a kid.

I first came here with Jane about 3 years ago, still burdened by my bias against organized religion and by my apprehensions about being Jewish in any place called a church. But the first song I heard here "How could anyone

ever tell you" made a big and lasting impression, and soon the idea of becoming deeply connected with other souls seemed like a real possibility.

Three years later, Jane's UUCR community has become mine as well. This community really is more accepting and welcoming than others I've seen. What's different here is that we try to use our awareness of narrowness and exclusion to open our hearts and find commonality with the goodness in everyone. For me, that means home. And that's why I'm so excited to contribute to this community that gives us so much

Social Action

Renewal House Volunteer Training: Sat., March 24

From Rev. Kate Wilkinson, Coordinator of Congregational Outreach and Volunteers at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury: "Do you want to know more about our shelter [Renewal House] and outreach programs? Do you have questions about domestic violence and working with survivors? Join us for a one-day training for Renewal House volunteers. This is a great way to get more acquainted with our shelter and to see how you might join us to make a difference." The training will take place Saturday, March 24, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury (10 Putnam St.).

For more information, contact Rev. Kate at 617-318-6010 x214 or kwilkinson@uuum.org.

Social Action

Interview with Mandy Neff re Immigration Curriculum

Saturday, March 10, at 4 p.m. (or afterwards), listen to <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/revcarltones> and hear an interview with Mandy Neff, UUCR member and First Parish in Cambridge Director of Religious Education, speaking about her new immigration curriculum for children, "With Justice and Compassion." Rev. Carlton's ongoing show, "Journey Toward Phoenix," is a six-month production for UUs concerned about immigration issues and/or preparing for Justice General Assembly in Arizona, June 20-24.

Social Action

"America's Endless Wars": March 25 at UU Medford

The UU Church in Medford (147 High St.) invites everyone to attend a public talk by Professor Andrew J. Bacevich, "America's Endless Wars" (Sunday, March 25, 2:30 p.m.). Professor Bacevich teaches international relations at Boston University and is a retired career officer in the U.S. Army. He is the author of several highly regarded books on U.S. foreign policy, including *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*, *The Limits of Power: The End to American Exceptionalism*, and *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War*.

Social Action

Immigration Rights -- You Can Help!

On Saturday, March 3, UUCR was host to a workshop on immigration rights presented by UU Mass Action. More than ten Mass Bay District churches were represented at the workshop, and together we previewed the Frontline documentary "Lost in Detention," which paints a stark picture of how individual civil and human rights are being violated in the execution of policies at both the national and state level. We also learned that the struggle for

immigrant rights has become an even more important issue for Massachusetts now that anti-immigrant forces are working to get an Arizona-like bill passed in our state.

We began to strategize about how UUs might be able to work together to stand on the side of love with immigrants in Massachusetts and work against such a bill.



One thing that you can do immediately is to sign and send a postcard to the Middlesex County sheriff and let him know that you are opposed to the current policies and tactics of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office (ICE), which is in the business of finding and deporting undocumented people regardless of their family situations here in the States.

UUCR's Social Action Team has printed UU Mass Action postcards for you to sign and will make them available in Fellowship Hall after services. If you have any questions about the issue or about what's happening at the UUA's General Assembly in Phoenix AZ this year (Justice GA--focused on racial, economic, and especially migratory justice), feel free to talk with Tony Fisher, Pat McGovern, or Mandy Neff.

Social Action

[Second Offering Thanks: Razia's Ray of Hope](#)

Thank you, thank you, to all who contributed to the recent Second Offering for Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation. Our congregation donated \$ 1538.50 to support the school for girls in the village of Deh'Subz outside of Kabul, Afghanistan. Patti Quigley (RRH executive director who spoke at the February 19 church service) reports, "This is enough money to send 6 girls to school this year!"

More News

[Save The Date! Ferry Beach Weekend Scheduled For June 1st - June 3rd](#)

This year our church retreat weekend at the UUA conference center in Saco, Maine on the ocean will be held June 1, 2 & 3. This is a time for all members, and friends, of all ages of UUCR to spend a weekend just socializing with no pressing church business. Activities for children and adults are planned but if you prefer to sit and read a book the porch has comfy rockers. Perhaps you'd like to take a nature walk, there are trails across the street, or fly a kite or organize a pick up game of softball. Saturday night there will be talent/no talent show so get your act together. Stage fright, we need an audience too. Dates of registration will be announced soon.

Our Larger Community

Ferry Beach Weekend - Request for Photos

Do you have pictures you've taken at UUCR Ferry Beach retreats over the years? May I borrow them for a couple of months? I am planning to set up a laptop between services, starting in April (probably not until after Easter), presenting a slideshow of images of UUCR folks having fun at Ferry Beach. If you could, please copy some pictures (as many as you want) onto a CD or DVD and bring them to church. I go to the early service, but I'm sure we can figure out a way to get the images into the slideshow. Thanks.

Andy Gatchell

[Contact Form](#)

Our Larger Community

Time To Register For Sawyer Nursery School



Spring is the time of year when families of preschoolers begin making plans for nursery school in the fall. If you or someone you know (friend, neighbor, relative, acquaintance) has a child who will be at least 2.9 years old by August 31, 2012, do urge them to consider UUCR's own Sawyer Nursery School. Sawyer is a flourishing little operation that celebrated its 50th anniversary last March. It offers a Tuesday/Thursday morning program for 3 year olds, a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning program for 4 and 5 year olds, and the option of a weekly 'Lunch Bunch' extended day for all. It is a happy place for children, led by experienced, well-trained and loving staff members. To schedule a tour, contact school Director Deb Harvey at 781-944-9581 or sawyer_nursery_school@verizon.net.

Ivy Chord Concerts

Ellis Paul on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 8:00PM



Ellis Paul

Charismatic performances, approachable style and beautifully rendered story-songs

Saturday, April 14, 2012
8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 25 general admission

\$ 23 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

Read what the press has to say about Ellis Paul:

"There are artists who are good at their craft. There are artists who have developed and maximized their talent to a high degree. Then there are those fewer artists who seem simply to have been blessed with skills that outshine most others. Ellis Paul is one of those." —John Ziegler, Duluth News Tribune

"He's one of those few artists who can connect to the audience, making everyone in the crowd feel like he or she is actually being performed to. The sound was spot-on and the set list included some new songs from a forthcoming children's album some of which showcased subtle political lyrics. However, even Paul's songs about dragonflies still managed to sound beautiful and utterly heartbreaking." —Adam Arrigo, Northeast Performer

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