



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

November 22, 2012

Worship Services

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2012

"Over the River and Through the Woods"

Betsy Tabor, Intern Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Getting to grandmother's house can take some doing. Especially during the holidays, finding our way to "Home, Sweet Home" can feel like a tall order. Today we'll reflect on what home means to us—in our rosiest dreams, in our everyday reality and deep in our souls.

9:15 AM Service

Please volunteer:

[Click here to sign up for Busy Boxes](#)

[Click here to sign up for Coffee Maker\(s\)](#)

[Click here to sign up for Usher](#)

[Click here to sign up for Welcome Table](#)

Time	Role	Name
09:15 AM	Altar Flowers	Jillian & Sheila Freitas-Haley In memory of Eleanore J. Tupper, loving grandmother to Jillian Freitas-Haley.

11:00 AM Service

Please volunteer:

[Click here to sign up for Coffee Maker\(s\)](#)

[Click here to sign up for Usher](#)

[Click here to sign up for Welcome Table](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2012

"Who Gets A Merry Christmas?"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark and Sylvia Clarke (SEIU Local 615)

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

As we begin the holiday season, we'll step away from the colored lights and wrapped presents so central to so many of our celebrations. We'll open our hearts to see who might be lost in the shadows and fringes of December 2012. After sharing his sermon, Rev. Tim will be joined by Sylvia Clarke, leader/member of SEIU Local 615, the Massachusetts janitor's union. She'll lift up the stories of those who struggle in multiple, low-paying service jobs that offer little economic opportunity. Music: Jim Sopchak, vocals; 11:00 AM-UUCR Choir
NOTE: After the 11:00 am service, please join us for a "Community Conversation" that will allow you to explore the sermon topic and questions raised through a facilitated discussion.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012

"Annual Holiday Choir Service"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark and the UUCR Adult Choir

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Come celebrate with the choir as we present our annual Christmas Choir Service featuring Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols." Bring a friend for what promises to be a delightful hour of music and worship. Dr. Mark Bennett conducts the choir, and Jennifer Maxwell will be at the keyboard. We'll also celebrate the second day of Hannukkah by lighting the menorah. The choir will sing at both services.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

9:15 and 11:00 AM

Nursery care, playschool and all children's Faith Development during 9:15 service only.

Our full service schedule can be found on our [Upcoming Services page](#).

Please consider volunteering to help out at a worship service on our [Volunteer Signup page](#).

Featured

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING STILL AVAILABLE FOR OUR UNDECORATE THE TREE

There are still many children under the care of Malden Department of Children and Families who have not been "adopted" for our annual Undecorate the Tree project. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile project to bring Christmas to a child who would otherwise have nothing, please come to the Undecorate the Tree table during coffee hour today. There are three ways you can support this worthwhile project: you can make a donation, buy one or two specific gifts, or sponsor a child's complete Christmas.

1. As always, you can choose to sponsor a single child and make his or her Christmas wishes come true. Pick a child at the "Undecorate the Tree" table at coffee hour today
2. Can't sponsor an entire child? Buy one or two items – Come to the "Undecorate the Tree" table and choose one or two items to buy for a specific child.
3. Don't have time but want to help? Donate money – This will help those who would like to sponsor a complete Christmas for a child or a family but need additional funding to do so. Also used for buying grocery cards and gift cards for the families.

Gifts are due back to the church on Sunday, December 2nd.

You can contact Linda King [HERE](#) or by calling Linda at 781-944-3617 with any questions or if you want to get an early start.

Worship Notes

POINSETTIAS/DEDICATIONS FOR OUR HOLIDAY SERVICES

Please Contribute for Holiday Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

This year the UUCR will be beautifying our sanctuary for the Christmas season and throughout the first week of January with Poinsettias. As was done the past few years, plants will not be going home. Your donation will be purely a gift. We will be putting your dedication in the order of service and using *combined donations* to purchase a few large lush plants. Rosemary has seen these plants at the greenhouse and they are gorgeous! Please send your dedication to the church office by clicking [HERE](#) or call the church office at 781 944 0494.

Kindly mail a check to 239 Woburn Street, Reading MA 01867 or place it in the safe in the mailroom or offertory plate during worship services. The Greenhouse deadline is Tuesday, December 11th. All dedication requests and donations must be made by December 11th.

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION OF SHARING ESSENTIALS FOR LIVING EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER 2

Collection Drive Extended Until December 2nd

Our Thanksgiving ingathering collection of SHARING ESSENTIALS FOR LIVING resulted in a huge mound of items. It was powerful to witness us -- the congregation -- come together to support the homeless mission that the COA youth will participate in this December 7-8 with Ecclesia Ministries on the Boston Common. These much needed items will be collected for the next two Sundays (until December 2nd). You are encouraged to leave your donations in the bins that can be found in the narthex, the atrium, and Loring porch.

List of needed items:

****new underwear and socks**** these are needed the most!

sleeping bags

blankets

toiletries of all kinds

used adult clothing and shoes

CARING AND SHARING COORDINATOR

The caring and sharing coordinator for the month of November will be Beverly Thompson. Beverly can be reached at 978-758-0058 or click [HERE](#) to email her. Contact Beverly if you or someone you know is ill or recovering, and could use a meal, a supportive note or card, or a ride to the doctor.

Looking ahead, the caring and sharing coordinator for the month of December will be Sharlene Reynolds-Santo who can be reached at 781-942-1848 or click [HERE](#) to email her.



Website News - Please consider using Amazon.com for Holiday Shopping

The church is an Amazon.com affiliate and receives a commission on purchases made shortly after you go to Amazon.com from the link on the home page of our church website. If you're inclined to use Amazon.com for holiday purchases, would you please consider following our affiliate link, to support the church?

To have your purchase benefit the church, simply enter Amazon.com by clicking on the image below, then put the items you wish to purchase into your cart, and then complete your transaction.



You'll find this image on several pages on the website, so you'll be able to find it so your future purchases can benefit the church as well.

To help support the church when buying products from Amazon.com, please click the image above or click [HERE](#). For more information about the affiliate program, please click [HERE](#).

Website News - November 4 sermon posted to the podcast

The October 21 sermon, "[Death With Dignity](#)" has been posted to the [podcast](#). You can review prior sermons by clicking [HERE](#). You can reach all the sermon podcasts by clicking [HERE](#).

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- To join the Church News mailing list or the amongUUs mailing list, please click [HERE](#).
 - To submit news or events for the newsletter, please click [HERE](#).
 - To send messages to the amongUUs mailing list, please click [HERE](#).

Adult Enrichment

UU BASICS - SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013

Unitarian Universalist Basics

Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

What do Unitarian Universalists really believe? Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Join other folks new to the church community for this interactive and informative introduction to our faith and church community. You'll get to spend time with Rev. Tim, Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, and other special guests. Together we will learn, connect and maybe even have a little fun! We offer lunch and childcare as part of this condensed course. Registration is required so please click [HERE](#) to sign up for this session or you can also contact Amy Burton at 781-944-0494, ext. 104 or click email Amy [HERE](#) with any questions!

MEETING JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Meeting Jesus Again For The First Time

A Unitarian Universalist Perspective

Wednesday Morning Class: March 6, 13, and 27 - 10:00 AM-Noon (no class March 20)

Wednesday Evening Class: March 6, 13, and 27 - 7:00-9:00 PM (no class March 20)

Led by Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Loring House Room 103

Far too many Unitarian Universalists carry emotional and spiritual baggage about Jesus of Nazareth. Join us and explore Jesus, his life, and teachings through a liberating and affirming light. Our conversation will be informed by scholarly research and new contemporary images of Jesus.

It would be helpful to get a copy of Marcus Borg's book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time", available at libraries or on Amazon.com ([paperback](#)) ([Kindle edition](#)).

Registration is required. Limit 12 people.

Please register by signing up, by clicking [HERE for the morning class](#); by clicking [HERE for the evening class](#); signing up on the sign up sheet in the Atrium on Sunday; calling the church office at 781-944-0494; or emailing Rosemary, the Church Administrator, by clicking [HERE](#).

News

Buddhist Meditation Group

DECEMBER 10, 2012 EVENT

As a follow on to our well attended event in September, please join us for a more intimate evening with Lama Surya Das during our regular Sangha meeting on December 10. He will be speaking, chanting, and meditating on a topic more at home for our group, Pure Land-related traditions, and telling stories about his own meditative and mystical experiences with Amitabha Buddha. Lama Surya will share his reflections on the meaning and experiences of life and death, notions of afterlife, the outer-inner-and-secret/subtlest levels of Dharmakaya Buddha Amitabha.

Pure Land Buddhism is the most popular form of Buddhism in the east. It is a path to liberation through other-power, by faith in the Buddha, specifically Buddha Amitabha, the Buddha of endless light and life. If self is an illusion, then how can we arrive at liberation through the efforts of the self? By taking refuge in the Buddha, having faith in other power, faith in Buddha Amitabha, we can realize rebirth in the Pure Land.

There is limited space for this event, so please sign up early.

Registration is \$ 12 and can be done [HERE](#)

Andrew Furst

Green Sanctuary

NEW RECYCLING INITIATIVE BEGINS - RECYCLE THOSE OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!

The Green Sanctuary Team will be collecting non-working Christmas light strings for recycling. They can be left on the porch of Loring House November 25th through January 6th. Please remove large light bulbs.

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

NOVEMBER 27, 2012 MEETING

The Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club Meeting for November will be at the home of Mary Ellen Campbell, 107 Grove Street, Reading on November 27th at 1:30 PM. The book selection is "The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson. Newcomers are welcome!

Chalice Circles

TUESDAY AFTERNOON AND WEDNESDAY MORNING CHALICE CIRCLES - OPEN CHAIR



The Tuesday Afternoon Chalice Circle and the Wednesday Morning Chalice Circle are looking for you!

Chalice Circles are intentional, lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. Chalice Circles help build community connections and provide opportunities for deeper relationships and for deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning. 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.

Chalice Circle sessions consist 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 Tuesday Afternoon Chalice Circle meets the First and Third Tuesday of each month, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM. The Wednesday Morning Chalice Circle meets the First and Third Wednesday of each month, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

Please register by signing up online, by clicking [HERE](#); or by emailing Jean Hanson, the program coordinator, by clicking [HERE](#).

Partner Church

COME REACH YOUR HANDS ACROSS THE OCEANS: CHRISTMAS CARDS TO OUR UNITARIAN PARTNERS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Did you know that our church has Unitarian partners across both oceans?

On Sunday, December 2, at coffee hours, the Partner Church Committee invites you to see photos, learn more about the partners with whom we are all connected, and sign Christmas greetings to them.

Across the Atlantic is our partner Unitarian congregation in Transylvania (the ethnically Hungarian part of Romania). Led by Rev. Kornel (a quiet man who loves books and history) and their church president Lorinc (who recently celebrated his 80th birthday and his 50th wedding anniversary), this small congregation has



persevered through the Communist years and the migration of younger folks to the cities. They still worship in their centuries-old sanctuary, hung with exquisite blue-on-white embroidery.

Across the Pacific is Gerry, a high school student whose father is a Unitarian minister and whose mother also farms. Gerry's favorite subject in school is Filipino, and one of his hobbies is singing.

As we reach out to each other to hold hands for the benediction, here's a chance to reach out to our partners in faith beyond our walls. Members of the Partner Church Committee-- Ann Mottl, Anne Mark, Bill Childress, Leslie Lemerise--look forward to talking with you at coffee hour on the 2nd.

More News

INTERGENERATIONAL BOOK CLUB NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

UUCR Intergenerational Book Club

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Loring House, Room 101

Calling all animal lovers (young and young at heart alike). Join us at the next meeting of the Intergenerational Book Group (for ages 9-99) on Wednesday, December 5, 2012, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Loring House Room 101 to discuss the moving story, *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate. The book was inspired by the true story of a wild infant gorilla poached from Africa and purchased by a family to be raised as their "child" pet. When the animal became larger and less manageable he was sold to a man to put him on display in a tiny, rundown exhibit at a strip mall to be viewed by passing shoppers for years and years until...

Read it and join us for a thought provoking discussion. Light refreshments served. Please sign up [HERE](#).

For further information, please contact Diane Chapin by clicking [HERE](#) or Beth Brauer by clicking [HERE](#).

Unitarian Universalist News

SHOP AT THE CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP'S ONLINE SHOP

You've shopped with us before, and we'd love to see you again! The Church of the Larger Fellowship's shop is offering a 20% discount on all pewter and enamel lapel pins and pendants through December. 20% -- that's amazing!

Why would you want to make a purchase? Let the Church of the Larger Fellowship count the ways –

- Lapel pins and pendants make great holiday gifts
- Lapel pins and pendants are a thoughtful way to welcome new members
- Lapel pins and pendants are a fun thank you to volunteers and staff

Your purchase contributes to the good works of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, by supporting our Prison Ministry, our Military Ministry, and resources to individuals and groups worldwide! The 20% discount is good through December, and will be processed as a credit card refund.

Questions? Feel free to contact Beth Murray via email [HERE](#) or call Beth at 617-948-6150.

[Church of the Larger Fellowship's Online Shop](#)

Proceeds support the many UU ministries of the [Church of the Larger Fellowship](#).

Upcoming Events

November 22, 2012

[Thanksgiving Day](#)

November 22, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

[Choir \(Sanctuary\)](#)

November 24, 2012 8:00 am - 10:00 am

[Men's Group \(FH\)](#)

November 25, 2012 9:15 am - 10:15 am

[Worship Service \(Sanctuary\)](#)

November 25, 2012 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Worship Service \(Sanctuary\)](#)

November 25, 2012 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

[OWL \(CH\)](#)

November 25, 2012 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[COA Class \(Lor-205\)](#)

November 25, 2012 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

[SHYP \(Lor-103\)](#)

November 26, 2012 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[Intern Comm. \(Lor-101\)](#)

November 26, 2012 7:15 pm - 9:15 pm

[Men's Spirituality Group \(Lor-103\)](#)

November 26, 2012 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm

[Buddhist Meditation \(CH\)](#)

November 27, 2012 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[Rounds of Creativity, Conversation & Spirituality \(RoCCs\) \(CH\)](#)

November 29, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

[Choir \(Sanctuary\)](#)

November 30, 2012 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[RTDC Dinner \(FH\) tentative](#)

December 1, 2012 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

[Private Wedding \(Sanctuary\)](#)

December 2, 2012 9:15 am - 10:15 am

[Worship Service \(Sanctuary\)](#)

December 2, 2012 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

["Community Conversation" \(Minister's Office\)](#)

December 2, 2012 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Worship Service \(Sanctuary\)](#)

December 2, 2012 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

["Community Conversation" \(FH\)](#)

December 2, 2012 1:45 pm - 2:45 pm

[Private Family Event \(Sanctuary\)](#)

For more upcoming events, visit our Calendar by clicking [HERE](#).

Ivy Chord Concerts

JOHN GORKA ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013



Energetic, acoustic folk

***"Listening to him sing, one can get goose bumps all over. There are many reasons—fresh lyrics, a stunning emotional baritone, his twisted humor ..."* New York Times**

Saturday, January 26, 2013

8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 25 general admission

\$ 23 students/seniors

Buy tickets for this concert online.

From Ben Wakeman, Take Me To the Bridge:

There are few contemporary songwriters that come anywhere close to the talent of John Gorka. His songs have a way of working on you long after you thought you had it all figured out. I will listen to a song that I know all the words to and can sing along with and then one day sitting at a traffic light I realize that there was a whole other layer of meaning that I had missed.

In 1984 John Gorka won the prestigious Kerrville New Folk competition. He has over ten albums to his credit. John is a songwriter's songwriter and his songs are championed by an amazing circle of artists including Nanci Griffith, Mary Chapin Carpenter, David Wilcox and many more.

MATT & SHANNON HEATON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013



"Their playing is masterful and inventive, their arrangements city-smart and spacious. Still, they never forget that Irish music is, at its heart, a neighborly form meant for sharing, not showing off." — Scott Alarik, Boston Globe

Saturday, April 13, 2013

8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 16 general admission

\$ 14 students/seniors

Buy tickets for this concert online.

Musically speaking, the Heatons play the heck out of their instruments (Irish wood flute/accordion, guitar/bouzouki). After years of study in Chicago, and many nights of music in Clare, Galway, and their adopted home of Boston, Irish Music Magazine's John O'Regan wrote, "their duet playing is tight, sweet, and tasteful, lacking nothing on either technical expertise or instrumental virtuosity."

As for their singing, when Matt and Shannon perform centuries-old songs, it feels current, conversational. They make traditional music relevant to American audiences. O'Regan wrote "songwise [there are] hints an older domestic sound, the familiar down home harmonies of The Carter Family and Tim and Mollie O'Brien."