



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

December 6, 2012

Worship Services

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.

9:15 AM Service

Please volunteer:

[Click here to sign up for Altar Flowers](#)

[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](#)

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 9, 2012 - 5:00 PM

"Second Sunday"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark and Anne Principe

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Relax with others for a meal* and then enjoy an opening circle of spirit and friendship, themed activity, and meaningful discussion related to this season of hope and love. Please sign up by clicking [HERE](#), or through our Director of Faith Development, Anne Principe by clicking [HERE](#). This gathering is for all ages and stages... for singles, couples, families, children, youth...you! Bring a friend. *A free will donation will be taken.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012

"What Is Spirituality?"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

We talk a lot about spirituality. Some of us are hungry for spirituality. Many of us say we are on a spiritual journey. Others of us say we are spiritual but not religious. What is spirituality? Is it real? How can you find it? Music: 9:15-The Gail Page Recorder Ensemble; 11:00 AM-The UUCR Choir

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](#).

CARING AND SHARING COORDINATOR

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



Featured

Faith Development Explorations News

THE FAITH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NEXT TERM

The Faith Development Committee is looking for a few more volunteers for the next term. Please click [HERE](#) for more details.

2012 HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS CALENDAR

Please enjoy a preview of our 2012 Holiday events on campus. Plan to join us at one of the many festive or reflective offerings we have during this yuletide time. Please click [HERE](#) to review.

ALL AGES CAROLING PARTY TO DANIELS NURSING HOME IN READING ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 9 AT 4:15

Use your voice to bring holiday cheer to those who need a lift of spirit. Join us for a Caroling Party to nearby Daniels Nursing Home prior to our Second Sunday worship. We gather together at 59 Middlesex Avenue in Reading at 4:15 PM and carol for 25 minutes. All ages are welcome and encouraged. Members from the UU church in Wakefield will also join us.



So that we may have an idea of how many carolers will be attending we ask you to sign up online by clicking [HERE](#), or sign up during coffee hour on the signup sheet in the atrium, or email the church office by clicking [HERE](#).

Worship Notes

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

Should it be necessary to cancel worship services/Faith Development at the UUCR due to inclement weather this winter, the cancellation announcement will be posted on the WBZ Storm Center. Please log on to www.wbz1030.com.

Cancellations will be broadcast via a scroll also on WBZ-TV and CBSBoston.com.

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 printing and filling-out the form you can find [HERE](#) and attaching a check for \$ 12. Please either mail your form and check to 239 Woburn Street, Reading MA 01867, place it in the floor safe in the church mailroom, or place it in the offertory plate during worship services. Alternatively, please call the church office at 781-944-0494.



The Greenhouse deadline is Tuesday, December 11th. All dedication requests and donations must be made by December 11th.

Member Services Corner - December 6, 2012 - A Bittersweet Goodbye

I write to you today with some bittersweet news to share: I will be leaving the position of Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator.

In a sudden and exciting turn of events, I have been offered a position working with an organization in the Conflict Resolution field. As some of you know, Conflict Resolution is the industry in which I am currently seeking a Masters Degree. The organization does wonderful and interesting work in Reflective Structured Dialogue- a model that helps communities and individuals discover constructive ways of speaking about divisive and challenging issues. This job offer represents a significant professional opportunity for me; one that I must follow. And while I look forward to starting a new direction in my career, I will be sad to say good bye to UUCR.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading has been a wonderful work-home over the past fifteen months. It has been a joy to engage, connect, work and celebrate within this community. You have given me the gift of warmth, curiosity and kindness. You welcomed my exuberant parade wave every Sunday and tolerated my sometimes excessive bubblyness (no easy task).

The staff at UUCR has encouraged, challenged, celebrated and strengthened my work here. It has been a privilege to work with each of them so I thank you for supporting such a wonderful group!

I look forward to a chance to share a goodbye with you all while I wrap up my work over the next few weeks, leading up to the holidays. **My final Sunday Service will be January 6th.** I would love to see you there or share a cup of tea in Fellowship Hall after the service!

Whether we are able to say good bye in person or just in our thoughts, I wish you all the best as you continue to build and engage in this amazing community. Thank you for the opportunity to share of my personality and ideas while growing and learning from everyone here.

Amy

p.s. I love hugs, high-fives, waves and notes – but if you want to make my last few weeks here really special, consider signing up to volunteer during one of our worship services. Our Christmas Eve service is in particularly dire need of ushers - we need four at both of these services! :)

<http://uureading.org/worship/worship/worship-volunteers-signup>

Adult Enrichment

MINDFULLY EATING FOR A HEALTHY HOLIDAY - DECEMBER 12, 2012

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Loring 103

The average American gains one pound every December and individuals who are already struggling with weight gain on average five additional pounds. These are often pounds that they will never lose. This evening program focuses on strategies to help manage the challenges associated with food during the holidays and will include the effective use of emotional freedom techniques and mindful eating strategies to help reduce the cravings and stress or emotion-driven eating so prevalent this time of the year.

Join Terry Courier and Paula Koppel for a Healthy Holiday Eating program on the evening of December 12 and consider participating in the educational/coaching support group that will meet for 10 sessions beginning in January. Click [HERE](#) for details on the educational/coaching support group.

Please register by signing up, by clicking [HERE](#); or by contacting Paula by phone (617-835-7087) or email by clicking [HERE](#).

NOURISHING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH FOOD AND YOUR WEIGHT

10 Sessions on Wednesday evenings beginning January 9, 2013

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Loring 103

The purpose of this group is to offer education, skill development and coaching support to individuals seeking to create a healthier relationship with food and weight. The program includes weekly 60-90 minute group sessions for ten weeks. Mindfulness-based practices (meditation, informal mindfulness practices), complementary approaches to managing eating behaviors (emotional freedom techniques and hypnosis), group discussion and education regarding nutrition and exercise are the core components of the program.

A commitment to attending all sessions is requested, as well as a fee to cover expenses for the program. To learn more about this group contact Paula by phone (617-835-7087) or email by clicking [HERE](#).

Terry Courier is a personal trainer, hypnotherapist, Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) practitioner and yoga teacher. Paula Koppel is an integrated health coach and nurse practitioner who also facilitates mindfulness training.

Please register by signing up, by clicking [HERE](#); or by contacting Paula by phone (617-835-7087) or email by clicking [HERE](#).

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY RETREAT: A DAY OF SILENCE, LAUGHTER, CREATIVITY, SPIRIT



January 12: 8 AM to 4 PM

All women of the greater UUCR community are invited to partake in a day of reflection, exploration, and sharing. Anne Principe, Director of Faith Development, will facilitate this time to come together.

Sorry, no late arrivals, early departures.

\$ 20 for members; \$ 30 non-members (to cover the cost of refreshments, lunch, and materials).

Please sign up by January 8 by clicking [HERE](#).

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 signup sheet in the Atrium on Sunday; calling the church office at 781-944-0494; or emailing Rosemary, the Church Administrator, by clicking [HERE](#).

News

Faith Development Explorations News

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS FOR ALL AGES

Coming up for All Ages:

December 9th:

4:15 PM Use your voice to bring holiday cheer to those who need a lift of spirit. Join us for a Caroling Party to nearby Daniels Nursing Home prior to our Second Sunday worship. We gather together at 59 Middlesex Avenue in Reading at 4:15 PM and carol for 25 minutes. All ages are welcome and encouraged. Members from the UU church in Wakefield will also join us. So that we may have an idea of how many carolers will be attending we ask you to sign up online by clicking [HERE](#), or sign up during coffee hour on the sign-up sheet in the atrium, or email the church office by clicking [HERE](#).

5:00-7:00 PM to light our chalice of community spirit, share a meal, a themed-activity and meaningful discussion. This one will be busy -- all will be able to add their hands to creating symbols and props for the Dec. 23 and Dec. 24 services. We'll also talk about how we bring intention and meaning into this holiday season that is too often enveloped in frenzy. Sign up here!!

December 23rd:

9:15 AM Families begin in the Sanctuary and then children/youth (and parents if desired) are "sung out" to the Atrium. All present will then be a part of a "living pageant," meaning we will create it together.

December 24th:

5:30 PM Family Christmas Eve Service with Pageant*

Sign Ups: [RSVP](#) by December 8th if you, your child/youth is interested being a part of the Pageant Crew. Here are the parts (please give 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice).

~~Director (must be available Dec. 9th 4 - 7 PM and Dec. 24th 4 - 6:30 PM)

~~Costume Manager/Designer (must be available Dec. 9th 4 - 7 PM & Dec. 24th)

~~Caesar Augustus

~~Joseph

~~Mary

~~Inn Keeper (youth or adult)

~~Shepherd

~~Wise One

~~Animal

~~Angel

~~Star Bearer

**Costumes will be passed out on Dec.9th during Second Sunday celebration (5 PM)

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

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](#).

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.

More News

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: LEADER FOR UUCR GARDEN GROUP



"A garden should make you feel you've entered privileged space -- a place not just set apart but reverberant -- and it seems to me that, to achieve this, the gardener must put some kind of twist on the existing landscape, turn its prose into something nearer poetry."

— Michael Pollan,
Second Nature: A Gardener's Education

While our church may not have the nicest lawn in town, we are justifiably proud of the landscaping of our various planting areas. Look around our grounds some time and you'll see beautiful plantings adorning our pathways and border areas. As you can imagine, these did not just plant and grow themselves. They are there as a result of the efforts of several of our members who have worked often below the radar screen for years helping our campus to look as nice as it does. Most recently, our Garden Group has been led by Whitney Perkins who has had to step away due to other commitments. We now need someone interested in putting their own "twist" on our existing landscape...to come forward to pick up Whitney's pruning shears and coordinate this committee for us. While a complete job description is available, most of the responsibility entails organizing and coordinating the efforts of a small group of volunteers who can sustain what we have and use our much-too-small budget to make some gentle improvements each year.

If interested, please contact Mark Taitz and David Kay by clicking [HERE](#) and we can give you a better idea of what's entailed.

Upcoming Events

December 6, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

December 6, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Choir (Sanctuary)

December 6, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Mom's Book Group (Lor-101)

December 8, 2012 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Choir Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

December 9, 2012 9:15 am - 10:15 am
Worship- Holiday Choir Service
(Sanctuary)

December 9, 2012 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Worship-Holiday Choir Service (Sanctuary)

December 9, 2012 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Pastoral Care Team (CH)

December 9, 2012 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Second Sundays (FH) (CH) (Sanctuary)
(Lor-101)

December 9, 2012 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm
OWL (CH)

December 10, 2012 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm
Buddhist Meditation (FH)

December 11, 2012 7:15 pm - 9:15 pm
Worship Arts Team (Lor-101)

December 12, 2012 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Liberal Ladies (Lor-101) (Lor-102)

December 12, 2012 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Mindful Eating for a Healthy Holiday (Lor-
103)

December 12, 2012 7:00 pm - 8:35 pm
Membership Team (Lor-101)

December 13, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Choir (Sanctuary)

December 13, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
PFlag (Lor-101)

December 13, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

December 16, 2012 9:15 am - 10:15 am
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

December 16, 2012 10:00 am - 11:00 am
"Tidbits & Tour" 10:15am & 12:15pm

December 16, 2012 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Worship Service (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."

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(Only items put into your cart soon after clicking on the image above, and purchased soon thereafter, will support the church.)

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