



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

December 20, 2012

## **Worship Services**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2012**

**"The Dance of Dark and Light"**

**Rev. Tim Kutzmark**

**9:15 AM and 11:00 AM**

Celebrate the Winter Solstice and explore the ongoing dance between light and dark. What will nature and the cycle of the seasons tell us about our light and shadow-filled lives? Music: 9:15 and 11:00 -Barbara Bennett, vocals. At the 11:00 AM service we'll celebrate the Child Dedication of Luke Thomas Wondolowski.

Click [HERE](#) to see a video invitation to this weekend's worship.

### **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	Poinsettias from Our Members and Friends
----------	---------------	------------------------------------------

### **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](#)

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011 - TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Join us for this sacred evening of story, carols, and hope renewed.

**5:30 PM Family Service**—An interactive child-friendly service suited to families and children who might need to wiggle a bit. The service will include the telling of the Nativity Story and our annual pageant. The UUCR Choir will sing. *As an opportunity to help our children reach out beyond themselves on Christmas Eve, we are requesting that each child please bring a non-perishable food item to the 5:30 PM service for our special collection for local food pantry.*

**7:15 PM Traditional Candlelight Service**—Join us for a reflective service of carols and readings, ending with the traditional candle lighting and passing of the flame. The UUCR Adult Choir will offer selections, including the long-standing choral benediction of the "Hallelujah Chorus."

### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

We will be having a special offertory collection at our Christmas Eve Services.

Proceeds from the collection will benefit the Charahi Qaumbar Refugee Camp and The UUCR We Care Fund.

60% will be used to purchase warm clothing, shoes, and blankets for the children living at the Charahi Qaumbar Refugee Camp in Kabul Afghanistan. Rev. Tim visited the camp during his sabbatical last winter to see firsthand the desperate need these children face, living in unheated tents and tarp-covered shacks. Last winter, seven children froze to death during the night.

The other 40% percent will be given to our established UUCR fund, "We Care" for disbursement to members and friends of the UUCR who are in facing challenging financial times. This fund is a tangible embodiment of our commitment to care for one another in a beloved community where all are welcome, all are held and all are loved. This fund is administered in a confidential manner by Rev. Tim, and is used to assist members of the church with the occasional gift of a food card, a retail store card, or a gas card. Please let Rev. Tim know if you know of someone who is in need of assistance or if yourself are in need by contacting Rev. Tim in confidence at [revtim@uureading.org](mailto:revtim@uureading.org) or 781.944.0494 and extension 101/Rev. Tim's confidential voicemail

If you will be donating by check for our Christmas Eve Services kindly make checks payable to "UUCR" line item note "Christmas Eve". Donations may be placed in the offertory plate during Christmas Eve services or mailed to: UUCR, 239 Woburn Street, Reading MA 01867

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2012**

**"Responding To What Life Gives Us"**

**Betsy Tabor, Intern Minister**

**9:15 AM and 11:00 AM**

We are wired to open our hearts and give to one another. Join us in this service about the spiritual practice of everyday giving. Music: Bill Grace Vocalist 9:15 and 11:00 AM

**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**

**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.



**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.

## Minister's Messages - December 20, 2012



Dear Friends:

The Mayan Calendar predicts the world will come to an end tomorrow, Friday. For many of the families living in Newtown, CT., it seemed like their worlds ended one week earlier, on last Friday morning. Please continue to hold the children and families of that town in your thoughts and prayers, and the children and families in many places in the world who face violence and death on a regular basis.

If you were unable to be with us last Sunday, please read or listen to me sermon entitled "[Peace on Earth, Good Will To All](#)" (by clicking [HERE](#)). It is a meditation on the events of last week, and also a strong call for our country to address the complicated issues of gun control, access to mental health services, and our culture that glorifies and worships violence.

Tomorrow night is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year.

I hope you are able to step outside tomorrow night, or at least look out the window, and meditate upon the gifts of the winter season.

Perhaps, too, you might contemplate the wisdom of this Solstice Prayer by Tess Ward:

From the rising of the midwinter sun to its setting,  
Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, O Shining One.  
Make me short on mean thoughts, long on offers words of comfort.  
Make me short on being driven, long on paying attention.  
Make me short on focusing only on my own, long on looking beyond.  
Make me short on obsessive lists, long on spontaneous acts of kindness,  
Make me short on mindless activity, long on time to reflect.  
Make me short on tradition as a habit, long on rediscovery and re-owning.  
Make me short on limitation, long on expansiveness.  
Make me short on rushing and tiring, long on walking and wondering.  
Make me short on false, festive jollity, long on stilling and rooted joy.  
Make me short on guilt, long on being merciful to myself.  
Make me short on being overwhelmed, long on sowing seeds of peace as I set forth  
this day.

I wish you and yours a safe Solstice and a blessed Christmas season.

See you on the path,

Tim

PS: There is a wonderful solstice poem called "[The Shortest Day of the Year](#)" by Susan Cooper. Listen to her read these beautiful seasonal words on YouTube by clicking [HERE](#).

PPS: Enjoy more seasonal cheer, "[Lord of the Dance](#)", by clicking [HERE](#).

---

### **Website News - Late Autumn 2012 Sermons posted**

Two sermon transcripts have been posted to the [Sermons blog](#).

- The December 2 sermon, "[Who Gets A Merry Christmas?](#)".
- The December 16 sermon, "[Peace on Earth, Good Will to All](#)".

Three sermons have been posted to the [UUCR podcast](#).

- The November 25 sermon, "[Over the River and Through the Woods](#)".
- The December 2 sermon, "[Who Gets A Merry Christmas?](#)".
- The December 16 sermon, "[Peace on Earth, Good Will to All](#)".

You can review prior sermons by clicking [HERE](#). You can reach all the sermon podcasts by clicking [HERE](#).

---

- 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**

### **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](#).

### **NOURISHING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH FOOD AND YOUR WEIGHT - BEGINNING JANUARY 9, 2013**

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](#).

## **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!

## **News**

### **Faith Development Explorations News**

#### **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS FOR ALL AGES**

Coming up for All Ages:

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

## **Choir**

### **BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S A CEREMONY OF CAROLS - AUDIO PODCAST**

From all of us who make music, may we wish you the very best of times with all of those you love. To make your season a little brighter we would like to share with you our performance of Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols.

[Click to download](#) in MP3 format (22.67MB)

Greetings & Happy Holidays from Mark Bennett, Jennifer Maxwell and all the members of the UUCR Choir! Best wishes for all good things to come to each of you in the New Year!

## **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**

### **LTOM BOOK CLUB - NO DECEMBER MEETING - NEXT MEETING JANUARY 29**

Dear fellow readers, Because the last Tuesday of December is Christmas, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 29th at the home of Janet Bringola, 9 Marla Lane, Wakefield at 1:30 PM. We will discuss two books. The first is *The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton and the second book is *Peaches for Father Francis* by Joanne Harris. I hope your holidays are filled with joy. See you all in January.

## **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.

## **More News**

### **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](http://www.wbz1030.com) Cancellations will be broadcast via a scroll also on WBZ-TV and CBSBoston.com.

## **More News**

### **MISSING TABLE**

Have you borrowed or seen a small oak table that belongs in the narthex at church?

Bill and Carolyn Grace purchased and finished this little table specifically for a small area of our Woburn Street entryway several years ago when our elevator was installed. It was part of the refurbishing of the narthex and we would love to see it back in its place. We think that it went missing this past September.

If you have any information please call Bill and Carolyn Grace at 781-944-9353 or let the church office know [HERE](#)

## Upcoming Events

December 20, 2012 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Choir (Sanctuary)

December 20, 2012 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm  
Choir Party (FH)

December 23, 2012 9:15 am - 10:15 am  
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

December 23, 2012 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

December 24, 2012 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Family Christms Eve Service (Sanctuary)

December 24, 2012 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm  
Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

December 25, 2012  
Christmas Day

December 29, 2012 8:00 am - 10:00 am  
Men's Group (Lor-K)

December 30, 2012 9:15 am - 10:15 am  
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

December 30, 2012 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

December 30, 2012 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
SHYP (Lor-103)

January 3, 2013 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Mom's Book Group (Lor-101)

January 3, 2013 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Choir (Sanctuary)

January 6, 2013 9:15 am - 10:15 am  
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

January 6, 2013 10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
FD Teacher Bruncheon (CH)

January 6, 2013 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

January 6, 2013 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
Pastoral Care Team (CH)

January 6, 2013 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
COA Class (Lor-205)

January 6, 2013 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
SHYP (Lor-103)

January 7, 2013 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Handicraft Group (Loring-101)

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."

Support our church by purchasing items from Amazon.com by clicking on the image below.



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

Click the image below to see specially-selected UU- and UUCR programs-related Amazon.com products.

