



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

March 7, 2013

Worship Services

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013

"Bouncing Through Uganda (and Rwanda, too)"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Daylight Savings Time starts today, so remember to set your clocks an hour ahead Saturday night!

Two weeks ago, Rev. Tim returned from a trip to Uganda and Rwanda. He went to trek into the rainforests to view the rare and endangered Mountain Gorillas in their natural habitat. He found the gorillas, but while in bouncing along the dirt roads of Uganda and Rwanda, he also found something unexpected. Music at both services provided by Kevin Kealing, vocals.

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

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

Time	Role	Name
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09:15 AM	Usher	Carin Bennett-Rizzo
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11:00 AM Service

Please volunteer:

Click here to sign up for Coffee Maker(s)

Click here to sign up for Welcome Table

Time	Role	Name
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11:00 AM	Usher	Martha Moore
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11:00 AM	Usher	Marcia Kent
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SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013 - 5:00 PM SERVICE

"Second Sunday"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Minister and Anne Principe, Director of Faith Development

5:00 PM

Our next Second Sunday will be held Sunday, March 10th at 5 PM. This is a time for All Ages to come together for a time of fellowship, spirit, and sharing. There will be some fun and compelling activities and conversations to explore the many dimensions of our identity. As always, a free-will donation will be taken to cover the cost of the meal. Come one come all!!

Sign up by Thursday, March 7th (Thursday) by clicking here, or email our Director of Faith Development, Anne Principe by clicking here.

This time for all ages and stages is for singles, couples, families, children, youth...you! You are encouraged to bring a friend.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2013

"To You Much Has Been Given"

Commitment Sunday

Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

We are not self-created. We exist because of those who came before us, and the decisions they made to pass on the legacy of life to future generations. Today we'll explore the spiritual concept of 'stewardship'—taking care of this present moment so there will be a future for those who come after us. Music: 9:15 – Lorraine Dennis, Liz Lovell, and Molly Smith (vocal trio); 11:00 AM- UUCR Choir. *Today is Commitment Sunday, the day we make our pledge for the church year starting July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.*

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

UU BASICS - MARCH 16, 2013

Saturday, March 16, 2013

8:30 AM-12:45 PM

Would 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? Do you want to feel more connected and involved? Then UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BASICS is just the thing for you. Join Rev. Tim and our UU Basics Teaching Team for this engaging introduction to our faith and this church.

NOTE: The Saturday morning option includes bagels and coffee.

Registration is required so [please click here to sign up for this UU Basics session](#), or contact our Church Administrator, Rosemary, by telephone, at 781-944-0494.

LOOKING FOR A COMMITTEE TO CALL HOME?

Are you Committee-less? Are you looking for a place for your talents and energy at our UUCR? Are you wondering about what Committee opportunities are afloat here at the UUCR? Please find two great opportunities for your involvement, below:

1. Are you a hospitable kind of soul? The Membership Team cordially invites you to attend our next meeting on **Wednesday, March 13 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM** in Loring House. Please come and meet Lisa Treadwell, our new Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, and members of our team in a smaller group setting. Light refreshments will be served. The Membership Team assists our congregation in building and maintaining a welcoming, inclusive and dynamic community. If you are looking to get involved at UUCR in easy ways with a time commitment that fits your schedule, please attend this meeting.
2. Are you interested in growing our Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered inclusivity here at the UUCR? The Welcoming Congregation Committee calls its first Meeting To Talk Boston Pride and how to Be LGBT Welcoming on Thursday, March 14th at 6:00 PM in Loring House Room 101. We plan and march annually behind our fabulous banner at Boston Pride. Our first meeting will be run by our new chair of Welcoming Congregation, Rebecca Griffin. Rebecca is an energetic rainbow soul who ran through the streets of Boston last year handing out UUCR church cards during the parade walk and who staffed our City Hall Plaza table of UUCR literature. We need your ideas and your energy. Join us on **Thursday, March 14th at 6:00 PM** in Loring House Room 101 and bring a bag dinner.

WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO THIS SUNDAY MARCH 10

Looking for A Quick Snapshot for this Sunday? Here is a 1 2 3!

1. This is clock changing weekend. Remember, spring forward Sunday at 2 AM, or at least before bed on Saturday night. Put a stickie on each clock in the house!
2. Faith Development makes pancakes this Sunday after being sung out. Children begin in the sanctuary in worship and then are sung out to the atrium and will be seated at the pancake cafe.
3. Second Sunday is *this* Sunday from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM - This is a fun & unique gathering for all ages. We'll have a meal and share our thoughts. The Annual Budget Drive Committee folks will share at this event.

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. The outgoing church message will also be changed to indicate the cancellation of services at 7:00 AM on Sunday morning. Please call the main church number at 781 944 0494 and listen to the outgoing message. Finally a church newsblast will be issued with the same alert. Please listen or watch WBZ, call the church, and check your incoming email.



The caring and sharing coordinator for the month of March 2013 is Sue Wondolowski. Sue can be reached at 781-872-1274 or [by email by clicking here](#).

YOU ARE INVITED TO A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER SEDER SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2013

An Invitation To All Members, Friends, And Visitors of UUCR and the Reading Community to a Traditional Passover Seder - All Are Welcome

Rabbi Bart Perlman will hold a traditional Passover Seder at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 30, 2012, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Doors will open at 5:30 PM.

During the Seder, Rabbi Bart will be using matzo and wine, and the articles on the Seder plate. Rabbi Bart will make up a Seder plate for each table. If you have your own Passover Seder plate Rabbi Bart would love to see it!

After the Seder participants will enjoy a full Passover meal. The meal will be a roast chicken dinner with salad and matzo ball soup as appetizers, vegetable and roast potato; also several Jewish side dishes such as potato kugel, chopped liver, gefilte fish, etc; followed by macaroons, brownies and other Passover desserts.

The meal cost is \$ 27.00 per person; half price for a child who eats as a child; full price for a child who eats as an adult.

To reserve a place at the seder table: Please make your check made payable to Louis Damelin; and send it to 5 Gedick Road, Burlington, MA 01803. Your check must be received by Tuesday, March 26 so that Rabbi Bart and Lou Damelin can finalize their catering order.

This event has taken place at the UUCR for many years and is a wonderful and meaningful rich tradition. Rabbi Bart always extends a warm welcome to all UUCR members, friends and visitors making this a special evening.

If you have questions you may call Lou Damelin at 781-272-4755. You can [contact Lou by email by clicking here](#).



PLANT ORDERS NEEDED FOR OUR EASTER SERVICES SUNDAY MARCH 31, 2013

We Have ONLY 4 Plant Orders and our deadline is 10 days away!

We are asking UUCR members and friends to help beautify Our Sanctuary for the Easter Services on Sunday March 31. Order Tulip or Daffodil or Lily or Azaleas Plant(s) – you choose! The flowers will decorate the Sanctuary for both the 9:15 AM and the 11:00 AM Easter Services. We are also asking for plant dedications, in memory of or in celebration of a loved one. Please indicate your dedication on the attached form, where requested. If this dedication part of the order form is left blank, Rosemary will assume that there is no dedication.



These plants are lovingly grown at a Massachusetts greenhouse and stunning every year. The hardy azaleas as well as bulbs can eventually be transported to your yard. (Please take only the plant(s) type(s) that you ordered and prepaid home after the second service on Sunday March 31. Any plants remaining after the second service will be delivered to those who are home bound the next day.)

Please use the attached form and attach a check made out to UUCR for \$ 15.00 per plant, and leave the form and check in our grey safe in our copy room, or drop into the collection plate on Sunday, or mail the form to Rosemary Fiori, Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, 239 Woburn Street, Reading, MA 01867. All orders must be called in to the greenhouse on the morning of Monday March 18th. This gives the greenhouse adequate time to reserve our plants.

Please call Rosemary at 781-944-0404 if you have any questions!

[Click here to open the form for donating spring plants for Easter Services.](#)

DO YOU LOVE SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR?

Calling All Folks Who Enjoy Coffee Hour Every Sunday!

Please drop off all items in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen marked "Sunday Coffee Hour" Thank you!

Our resident Barista and front line Sous Chef of all things crackers, Bill Grace, reports that the kitchen coffers are in need of the following items for donation:

1. Fish crackers! The delightful little orange fishies so enjoyed on Sundays by our children are all gone. Please help us restock.
2. Hi Test caffeine! Do you enjoy a cup of Jo every Sunday? Then perhaps you would consider helping us restock our supply of coffee. Please consider bringing in a can of Regular coffee please (we do not need Decaf) as our supply is near depletion and the budget line item for this in-demand beverage is exhausted for this church year.
3. Apple Juice - a bottle or two for the children to enjoy on Sunday mornings

Minister's Messages - A Message from Dakota Raine

Dear Friends:

As you probably know, we are moving into our operating budget drive time, with Commitment Sunday coming up in just 11 days, on March 17th. That is the day we make our financial commitment to the church with a grand celebratory worship service.

During worship these last few weeks, we've had several members share testimonials, answering the question "How has being a member of this church changed your life?"

Below are the words Dakota Raine, a newer member of the church and a current member of the Operating Budget Drive team, recently shared.

- Tim



My name is Dakota Raine About seven months ago I had a life changing moment; I made a choice to join the UUCR. Let me share something personal with you, that led me here. I used to stayed home most of the time except for work, it was hard to leave and difficult to be social. I'd frequently want to cancel plans that I had made.

Four years ago, Jean Hanson invited me to join a chalice circle, the first Sunday night meeting I walked into a home not knowing a soul and felt welcome. Wow!!!

A year and a half ago I joined Brian Kohn's Chalice Circle; more feelings of acceptance and accepting were stirring. I didn't dread going out on Sunday nights, I wanted to go. The topics of discussion and the openness of sharing touched me deeply. My world was expanding.

Which lead me to this beautiful church about a year ago. By the time summer rolled around I couldn't stay away, I came every Sunday all summer. And in September, Rev Tim returned. Hearing Tim speak was the turning point, the point of no return, the moment I knew I wanted to belong. Me, who has never joined any group, let alone a religious one.

I no longer dread leaving my home; I'm filled with joy coming to Sunday services, classes and volunteering. It's not just Sunday that has changed, it is everyday. What I hear in sermons, songs and with friends I am reminded of all week.

I am even on the Annual Budget Drive Committee!

Commitment Sunday is March 17th, the day when we all make our annual financial pledge to the church. *This* is why I choose to financially support our church through a yearly pledge, and to volunteer my time to you, the members of this church community. Our upcoming Operating Budget Drive needs everyone. I hope you will join me in sustaining our church community for another year.

I hope all of us will remember what our church means to us – past, present and future.

Director of Faith Development's Messages - Adults Love Luxury



In my last newsletter piece, I made the suggestion that it's okay for generation gaps to feel a little scary. How true this is! Every day we are faced with the changing speed of life. With this comes inevitable shifts in expectations and behavior, by all of us. Add to that, the commodity of time and woah! We can feel behind, disoriented, or discouraged. From a distant, the material abundance of our lifestyle might obscure a glimpse into what is really priceless and timelessly sacred to us.

Two weeks ago, an activity took place in the Faith Development program that acknowledged the current cultural mandate to make experiences fast and efficient. This program also acknowledged the human need to make experiences meaningful and worth it. It was an event conceived by a couple Faith Development leaders over the course of weeks and emails, and even notes on napkins, that would bring together many adults with this year's Coming of Age youth. In the past, mentors committed to a full-year of mentoring with youth -- sometimes one on one, and sometimes one mentor for several youth. This is a rich tradition and a crucial element in one's faith and personal development -- that is, to receive guidance and wisdom by elders in their faith community. Yet the question is being asked and explored in many ways -- what if we don't have time but we want to be a part of preserving this sacred tradition?

In order to respond to the sincere desire and real limitations that are in our midst, the Speed Meet and Greet emerged. Adults in the congregation were invited and RSVPs were collected. Eleven adults made cheerful commitments! Meanwhile, the youth prepared by reflecting on questions that ranged from "what's your favorite subject in school?" to "if I had the power to change anything in the world, it would be..." Youth brought in tasty desserts and were coached for conversation skills. Fellowship Hall was set up with a circle of ten cafe tables (with table cloths), name plates, personal display items, a deck of fun questions, pens and intake sheets for asking Big Questions like, "do you think there is more or less compassion in the world than when you were young?" Adults pre-gathered in a circle of chairs (aka, "The Pit").

Then the bell rang and Round One began: *For one minute, share responses to fun question #1.*

Then the bell rang again: *For three minutes, share your response to one of the Big Questions.* Once more the bell rang and: *The room is quiet while youth took notes.*



When time is compressed by intention, we have a chance to prioritize what's important. We don't take too much time to think or be perfect or to say, "let me get back to you." What results is a fun and authentic way to get to know each other and get closer and have fun while we're doing it. We have a chance to see the real us.

The Speed Meet and Greet was all that and more. We know that for some, it was just enough. We know that for others, it was a reminder that more is possible. More time is needed to get to know each other and be delighted by each other's stories, perspectives, and wisdom. This Faith Development exploration is an example of adaptive and innovative thinking that responds to real needs and real desires for us to connect in meaningful ways. These are the 21st Century skills that have emerged as critical to our survival and what is also referred to as **thrival**. Each generation creates a legacy -- for better and for not-so-much. Each generation makes their mark by finding their own voice while creating new and vital ways to stay connected from one age to the next.

Adults love luxury because we know the poverty of time, resources, relationships, and spirit. We adults we have a sacred role in sharing what that looks like for us. Children may be surprised to find out that we too love getting a new pair of sneakers!

President's Messages - State-of-the-Church



I'm happy to report to you that UUCR is a thriving, vibrant and welcoming spiritual community. We were built upon the stewardship legacy of our forebearers who created the spiritual home which we enjoy today. Now is our time to steward this treasure and ensure that it is here for many years to come.

There are so many aspects of our church which truly shine. We have a gifted minister who continues to inspire and challenge us week after week and continually draws in new people. We have a strong and diverse palette of programs and events. There is a palatable feeling of welcoming and caring in our church which newcomers continually comment on when I greet them. We have a committed finance and property team and a visionary governing board, leading us toward sustained prosperity and sustainable growth.

This year marks my 5th year serving on the governing board and my second serving as president. When I started on the board in September of 2007, my son Miles was 3 years old, still in preschool, had wispy, curly, blonde hair and napped for 3 beautiful hours a day. Now he's 9 years old, halfway through 3rd grade, has straight, dirty blonde hair and would stay up until midnight every night if I didn't see to it that he go to bed on time.

As I watched and fostered Miles' growth over these years, I also have grown as a Unitarian Universalist and as a leader and I have watched and helped foster UUCR's growth. Since 2007, we have grown in many ways. We have more members; we have a greater capacity to comfortably welcome people on a Sunday morning with the introduction of a second service; we have a larger staff; our annual pledge total has markedly grown, our organization structure and infrastructure are far more developed and our impact on the world is greater.

In fact it is during times - when I feel our impact on the world - that I am particularly proud to be a part of this community. There are two times in particular that come to mind and interestingly, both were in the Reading Memorial High School Auditorium and Reverend Tim was at a microphone. Some years back, I attended the Reading Drama Club's performance of The Laramie Project which depicted Laramie Wyoming's reaction to the gruesome murder of a gay college student. As Tim introduced the performance, I felt very proud to be part of a community which openly takes a stand to promote and affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

Just recently I attended Reading's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration where my son was singing with his school chorus. In the audience were many families of Miles' classmates with whom I am friendly, although none of them are UU. Sometimes they ask me about my faith and I give them the latest version of my elevator speech and they usually crinkle up their eyebrows with vague confusion as if my explanation created more questions than answers. That morning, Reverend Tim represented our faith and talked about how Martin Luther King

Jr. promoted equality and civil rights for all people, but that he also promoted peaceful means of conflict resolution. In the wake of recent episodes of mass violence, I felt proud to be a part of a community that stands on the side of love. Perhaps Tim's speech helped the eyebrows of my friends to become a little less crinkled as they came to understand our faith a little better.

Throughout these years, I have developed a deep appreciation for the importance this church community plays in the lives of her congregants and I am continually moved by how much of themselves people freely give to steward our spiritual home. I think of Sue Conley, quietly working away in the background for years receiving our pledges and processing our checks. I think of Anne Mark working to digitize our archives so that our history can be preserved, supporting our partner church in Transylvania and running the Attic Treasures at the upcoming Spring Fling. I think of Blair Howell maintaining and improving our sound system, helping with Worship Services and supporting our Faith Development Director as part of her Advisory Team. I think of Bill Grace attending every annual business meeting, serving coffee, sweeping floors and ensuring that our property is well maintained.

In fact, it is often Bill Grace that I think about when I envision the role that I'd like UUCR to play in the life of my son, in 10 years when he graduates from high school, in 20 years when (with any luck) he's graduated from college and living on his own, in 30 years when (with even more luck) he's happily married and has had a few children of his own. Will Unitarian Universalism still be a part of his life? Will he bring his children up in the same faith? What will he have taken away from his experience here? I hope that what he takes away is a deep understanding that he, and every human being, no matter how different from him they may be, is inherently good and is an irreplaceable component of a humanity that is continually evolving until there is justice and compassion for everyone and until we learn to live on our planet in a sustainable way.

I'm working to make sure that UUCR is here for Miles now and in 30 years when my son has, no doubt, supplied me with a beautiful little brood of incredibly well-behaved grandchildren. I have a little fantasy that in 80 years, my son will be like Bill Grace, quietly, consistently and cheerily contributing to the experience of others and helping some 9 year old boy to fill his cup of hot chocolate at coffee hour.

Have we achieved the sustained prosperity and sustainable growth that I spoke about earlier which will ensure that my hopes for my son are achieved? No. Not yet. But we have outlined our path forward through the next couple years to navigate past some barriers which currently stand in our way. There are 4 areas in particular which require our financial stewardship: 1) our staff is not fairly compensated and is not large enough to truly support our needs; 2) our campus is not being adequately maintained due to minimal funding; 3) our programs aren't funded well enough to have any sustained impact on our community and 4) are investments are inadequate to ensure our long-term financial wellbeing.

The governing board is spending this year and next laying the groundwork to address these 4 barriers for the long term. But all of us can make a difference today. If you are newer, you can step up by making your first-ever pledge. If you've pledged before, you can help by increasing your pledge by 5% over last year.

My husband Jim and I are increasing our pledge by 5% this year. I hope you will join us by considering an increase to your pledge too.

Best Regards,

Tracy

Adult Enrichment

AGE-ING TO SAGE-ING: A DAY LONG RETREAT TO EXPLORE CHALLENGES AND GIFTS ASSOCIATED WITH GROWING OLDER - APRIL 20, 2013

Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Day Long Retreat to Explore Challenges and Gifts Associated with Growing Older

April 20th 10am-4pm (please bring a bag lunch) Community Hall

Ruth Goldberg, Laura Cavicchio & Paula Koppel, Facilitators

This experiential based program will allow participants to explore the gifts and challenges of aging in a safe and sacred space created over a day long retreat. By connecting and listening closely to our mind, body and spirit, remaining open and receptive, the group will explore what it means to age. Journaling and mindfulness based exercises will facilitate life review and life repair, providing an opportunity to further synthesize and integrate life's wisdom. We will also explore memorial services in the UU tradition and practical preparations related to funeral arrangements. We hope men and women of all ages will consider joining us on this meaningful journey certain to be filled with surprising gifts and insight. If you participated in last winter's program, we'd love to have your presence and trust that you will find new things to learn and explore.

Please sign up for Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Day Long Retreat to Explore Challenges and Gifts Associated with Growing Older - April 20, 2013 - by clicking [here](#).

UU BASICS - MAY 18, 2013

Saturday, May 18, 2013

8:30 am - 12:45 pm

Would 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? Do you want to feel more connected and involved? Then UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BASICS is just the thing for you. Join Rev. Tim and our UU Basics Teaching Team for this engaging introduction to our faith and this church. NOTE: The Saturday morning option includes bagels and coffee. Registration is required, please call or email the church office at 781-944-0494 or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour

News

Choir

MARCH CHOIR SCHEDULE

17 Rev. Tim Where Your Heart Is, There Your Treasure Will Be:

Commitment Sunday

Anthem I: Many Gifts, One Spirit, Allen Pote

Anthem II: Brudmarsch Från Jämtland (Wedding March from Jämtland), Anders

Öhrwall

24 Rev. Tim Passover Service

Anthem I: Ani Ma'amin, Traditional Jewish, Arr. by, John Leavitt

Anthem II: Shehecheyanu, Charles Collins

31 Rev. Tim Easter Sunday (9:15 & 11:00)

Anthem I: Festival Sanctus, John Leavitt

Anthem II: Jesus Christ is Risen Today (#268)

All invited to sing!

Fellowship

FERRY BEACH WEEKEND 2013 FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY IS 5/31, 6/1 AND 6/2!

Mark your calendars and save the dates for our annual weekend together at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine. Registration will begin towards the end of March and the prices are the same as last year. We will publish registration information on the website and will have sign-ups during coffee hour.

You don't want to miss this special weekend where our church community relaxes and has fun together at the beach!

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Vince at 978-790-4446.

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

LTOM BOOK CLUB - MARCH 26, 2013

Hello fellow readers, The next meeting of the LTOM Book club will be on March 26th ,1:30 pm, at the home of MaryEllen Campbell, 197 Grove Street, Reading. The book selection is Fall of the Giants by Ken Follett. The book follows royals and commoners through World War I and revolution. Below is a painting of Marie Theresa of Austria. She had eleven daughters,one of whom was Marie Antoinette, the teenage queen of France. See you on the 26th! Janet



Membership

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Bruce Bacon

I grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles, in a house that, upon reflection, was alarmingly similar to the home seen on the Brady Bunch. My prior company relocated me to Atlanta, then back to Los Angeles and finally to the Boston suburbs. I currently manage the human resources function for Hood (the dairy processor) and do my best to keep away from the free ice cream that is occasionally stocked in the break room freezer. I have two children. Sam is twenty three years old and just graduated from the University of South Carolina. He is currently applying to graduate schools and hopes to follow his old man in the field of human resources. Elle is nineteen and attends Auburn University. She is a Spanish major with plans to teach at the high school level. Unfortunately, after twenty six years of marriage, my wife and I are going through an amicable divorce. The separation resulted in my move from Wayland to Reading this past December. When I can't finagle a trip down South to see my kids, I spend my time walking my beloved dog, Ballou. I also have played guitar, at an amateur level, in various bands since I was fourteen years old.



Marcia Kent

I have been coming to the UUCR for the past five years as a member of the Mayflower Chapter of Rug Hooking and the Reading Society of Craftsmen. I have always found church members to be helpful and friendly. So it became easy for me to begin attending Sunday services and to consider becoming a member. My husband and I live in Wilmington and I recently retired from a long career in nursing. I am enjoying retirement filled with time to hook rugs, knit, needle felt, garden and read books. I grew up attending the Episcopal Church and for the past 25 years I have been following a path of meditation. This fall I joined the Buddhist Meditation group at UUCR and enjoyed the recent day long retreat. I look forward to becoming a member and participating in a community with those who share my values.

Erica Lakin

I am excited to become a member of UUCR. My children, Matthew (8) and Ali (6), are excited to be standing by my side, holding my hands, on New Member Sunday. Over the past 2 years, I discovered that UUCR is great place for my blended Jewish/Catholic family. I enjoy the variety of topics presented during Sunday services and my kids look



forward to their Faith Development classes. As for my background, I grew up in Reading, attended the University of Connecticut (go Huskies!), and returned in 1999 when myself and husband, Peter, bought a house in town. Presently I work part time as a pharmacist for Mass General Hospital. If I am not working or taking Matthew and Ali to basketball/gymnastics/jujitsu classes, you can find me in running sneakers hitting the streets of Reading, competing in a triathlon, or hiking locally or in the White Mountains.



Pat McGovern

I have been a follower all my life since high school. All my friends were Catholic so I went to church with them and when I was 18 I joined the church. I didn't go thorough religious education, I became a Catholic in name only. I did marry a Catholic boy and brought up my children Catholic. I took many courses and was very active in the Church, but there was always something missing. I even knew when I used to say the Apostle's Creed, I could never say I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, I knew I believed in something more meaningful. So here I'm taking this journey to this amazing place, the UU church of Reading. I so identify with the song "Come, Come who ever you are wonderer, worshiper, lover of leaving, our's is no caravan of despair." I found a place that takes me as I am. The UU Principles are who I try to be. I live in a family with diverse religious beliefs. My husband, my daughter and her family are Catholic. My son and his family whom we live with, are Jehovah Witnesses. Because I believe in the UU Principles I accept and encourage them to take their journey to their spiritual growth and to take a free and responsible search for their truth and meaning. So on this day, I'm free to be Me and follow no one. For today I'm a Unitarian Universalist.



Megan McQueeney and Jared Bly

Megan recently moved into the area and began attending the UUCR this past spring. She and her fiancé just became engaged over the Christmas holiday and they live in Haverhill with their two cats. She joined the church choir for the holiday concert and stayed on for the regular services and is excited to continuing to become involved with church activities. For fun, Megan enjoys listening to music, painting, and road trips. Jared just moved to Haverhill in October and is having fun getting to know the area. He enjoys cooking and learning new techniques in the kitchen as well as hiking in the summer. Jared grew up near the beach in Rye, NH and is planning his upcoming wedding and, more importantly, a honeymoon on Cape Cod.

Melissa Plowman

I am, first and foremost, a mother of two beautiful and curious daughters - Kylie age 5 and Natalie age 2. My husband Nate and I, with our girls, travel frequently to our home states of Maine and Vermont to be with our families whom we are very close to. While family is extremely important to who I am, I also really embrace my life as a career woman. I received a master's degree in counseling psychology from Boston College in 2003 and have been practicing as a licensed mental health counselor at the Triumph Center, here in Reading. I love to cook and spend time boating on the lake during summers.



Janée Tichy and Derek Puff

We live in Reading with our two children, Astrid (6) and Zalen (4). Before moving to Massachusetts in 2004 we lived in southern California and were married in 2003 in Maine. We are both originally from the East coast. Derek has a doctorate in Biomedical Engineering and works as a software developer at a startup biotech company. Janée has a master's degree in Social Work and is currently in a post-master's program in School Adjustment Counseling. While we live in an old home where Derek works on projects and Janée likes to cook and garden, mostly we take pleasure in spending time with our creative and energetic children. At the UUCR, we have enjoyed meeting like-minded members, taking time to reflect and learn, and are looking forward to making a deeper commitment to the community.



Meike Gourley

I was born in Muenchen, Germany. I studied Islamic Arts and Archeology, Arabic, PreHistory and Archaeology of the Middle Ages in Bamberg where I met my husband Donald who was a 2nd LT in the US Army at this time. We have two kids, Jacob and Henry (5&2) and one cat "Ernest". In August 2012 we moved to Reading and my husband is now for two years a MBA student at Babson college. I am a stay at home mom. My hobbies are hiking, biking, swimming, ice and inline skating and riding horses. Am interested in foreign languages, ancient history, intercultural communication, organic and holistic farming and healthy living.

Membership

MEET LISA TREADWELL, NEW MEMBER SERVICES & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR (MSC)

The Membership Team cordially invites you to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, March 13 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Loring House. Please come and meet Lisa Treadwell, New MSC, and members of our team in a smaller group setting. Light refreshments will be served.



The Membership Team assists our congregation in building and maintaining a welcoming, inclusive and dynamic community. Some of us greet on Sundays, others help at UU Basics Classes and most of us assist on New Member Sundays. The work of welcoming and providing hospitality takes many! If you are looking to get involved at UUCR in *easy* ways with a time commitment that fits *your* schedule, please join us. [For more information & to RSVP, contact Michele Catalano, Team Leader, click here.](#)

Pledge Drive

ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE GATHERINGS

On Commitment Sunday (March 17) the UUCR congregation will come together to pledge our annual financial support for our church. In preparation for Commitment Sunday, the church is sponsoring gatherings to share food, drink and discussion about the challenges and hopes for UUCR. Please come to one of the events and join a thought provoking discussion about our roles in the past, present and future of UUCR.

Friday, March 8, 7:30 PM - The home of Tracy and Jim Sopchak, 642 Haverhill Street, Reading. Food and drinks.

[Please signup for this gathering by clicking here.](#)

Sunday, March 10, 5:00 PM - Fellowship Hall, as part of Second Sundays. We'll share a meal and fellowship, sharing memories of our church.

[Please signup for this gathering by clicking here.](#)

Welcoming Congregation

GOT PRIDE?

**The Welcoming
Congregation
Committee calls its first
Meeting To Talk Boston
Pride and Be
Welcoming: Thursday
March 14th at 6:00 PM
Loring 101**

Welcoming Congregation
Committee is the church
committee whose mission
it is to make the UUCR a
welcoming, comfortable
and safe place for
bisexual, gay, lesbian and
transgender persons in
every aspect of



congregational life. We are a committee that seeks to accomplish our mission within the UUCR congregation through education and an emphasis upon the affirmation of the dignity of all persons. In the larger community, we provide awareness and we advocate for all persons when rights or dignity are at stake.

In deed and action, we sponsor Reading PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) which meets in Loring House on the second Thursday of every month from 7:30 to 9 or 9:30 pm. This is a support group open to the church and community. We plan and march annually as the awesome Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading contingent behind our fabulous banner at Boston Pride an activity that promote our church's visibility and commitment to inclusivity, equality, and respect. We also staff a post Pride Parade walk table at Boston City Hall where revelers and community can approach our UUCR table and find out all about who we are. This June will be our 5th year of marching at Boston Pride and we want to march with you! If you are saving the date Boston Pride is Saturday June 8th this year. For scheduling purposes, this is NOT Ferry Beach Weekend (which is the weekend before) and it is NOT Father's day weekend, which is the weekend after.



Our first meeting will be run by our new chair of Welcoming Congregation, Rebecca Griffin. Rebecca is an energetic rainbow soul who ran through the streets of Boston last year handing out UUCR church cards during the parade walk and who staffed our City Hall Plaza table of UUCR literature.

The first meeting should be fun as we think about what the 5th year mark means for our

presence at Pride and how we want our table at City Hall Plaza to present to the Community. Join us on Thursday, March 14th at 6:00 PM in Loring House Room 101 and bring a bag dinner.

More News

IN SEARCH OF A WOMEN'S MISSING COAT

Perhaps you noticed that the woman's black coat that you wore home from church last Sunday, March 3, was, in fact, not the one you wore *to* church? Perhaps you noticed the pewter pin on the left shoulder that did not look familiar? Ann Fisher is in search of her woman's black coat. Please check the closet and if you find that you inadvertently took home the wrong coat call Rosemary in the church office at 781.944.0494 and we can arrange a coat swap. The coat left behind here at the UUCR is a woman's black London Fog Brand with buttons.

More News

COMMUNITY MEETING ON GUN VIOLENCE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH

On Sunday, March 24 you are invited to First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston, for a special presentation on gun violence. The presentation will begin at 12:30 PM with a showing of the documentary "Living for 32," chronicling the life and work of one of the survivors of the Virginia Tech massacre, followed by a discussion and talk by John Rosenthal, founder of "Stop Handgun Violence." Mr. Rosenthal is recognized as a highly influential expert on this issue. Please plan to join us for this educational opportunity! First Church Boston is located near the Copley T-stop on the green line with parking at the Boston Common Garage, 0 Charles Street.

More News

A FEW GOOD MARCHERS - MARCH 17, 2013

This year, for the third year in a row, there will be an alternative parade in South Boston on St. Patrick's Day. The traditional St. Patrick's Parade in South Boston has always excluded Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered groups. An organization called "Veterans for Peace" seeks to remedy this lack of inclusiveness by holding a second parade that kicks off about one mile after the "official parade." The date for this march is Sunday, March 17th with a start time of 3:00 PM. The parade route is a little more than 4 miles; last year it took about 1 ½ or 2 hours to march. There will be a Duck Boat and trolley available for those unable to walk the distance of the parade.

Assembly of marchers begins between 2:00 PM and 2:30 PM. Assembly begins at "D" Street and West Broadway in South Boston. (Look for white "Veterans For Peace" flags.)

The Hope is that this year there will be a larger religious contingent (including many Unitarian Universalists) made up of congregations and other religious organizations that support peace and LGBT equality. Organizers believe that a peace parade is in the tradition of St. Patrick, who said, "Killing cannot be with Christ". Veterans for Peace also believe that a parade that is inclusive of LGBT groups is in the spirit of the modern celebration of St. Patrick's Day, where "everyone is Irish" for the day. It is the goal of Veterans for Peace to have one inclusive and welcoming parade. VFP is working to end this last vestige of institutional exclusion, bigotry, discrimination and homophobia on the streets of Boston. Join Veterans for Peace in this goal! Please march with VFP carrying a banner or sign from the UUCR!

Contact Rosemary in the church office at 781.944.0494 if you think you would like to carry our awesome Rainbow Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading banner. Rosemary will happily supply the banner and walking pole. Think about rounding up some folks to be our UUCR-inclusive self and green for the day.

Unitarian Universalist News

ALL ABOUT THE DISTRICT

What is the Clara Barton and Massachusetts Bay Districts of Unitarian Universalist Congregations?

The Massachusetts Bay District is the organization of 55 Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Greater Boston area. The Clara Barton district is the organization of 64 Unitarian Universalist Congregations in the central and western Massachusetts and southwest corner of Connecticut areas.

How Does the Clara Barton and Massachusetts Bay Districts Serve our Congregation?

The CB/MBD assesses the needs of and provides resources for UUCR congregational leaders

to help them become agents of transformation in our congregation. The district brings an outside perspective for UUCR to learn from broader religious, cultural, and academic contexts. The CB/MBD activates the capacity and potential of the UUCR to become communities where individuals may grow spiritually throughout their lives and learn how to live in respectful covenantal relationship with one another. The CB/MBD offers support, training, lectures, collegiality, to lay leaders, ministers, Faith Development educators, church staff and all UUCR members.

Upcoming CB/MBD Events of Note:

Pastoral Care for Youth - Saturday March 16th - 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM - First Unitarian Universalist Church of Providence

Navigating Differences In Our Beloved Community - Navigating Difference in the Beloved Community - Sat, 04/06/2013 - 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM at the First Parish Church UU, Northborough with Presenter: Meck Groot, Justice Ministries Coordinator. In this workshop for religious professionals, congregational leaders and social justice teams, participants will consider what differences matter to them and to their congregation identify the ways they evaluate and react to difference explore attitudes and practices that promote authenticity, connection and inclusion across difference outline strategies they can use to bring this learning into their work as congregational leaders.

Hold That Date! CBD/MBD - Annual Meetings/Districts Assembly on Sat, 04/27/2013 - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Join hundreds of Unitarian Universalists at the United Congregational Church of Worcester for an afternoon of celebratory worship, vigorous conversation, and rampant optimism about the future of our faith. This experience will be centered around worship featuring live music, multimedia inspiration, and preaching from two of our districts' most respected ministers. Revs. Carolyn Patierno and John Gibbons will bring stories about how their congregations broke through common barriers to achieve real and lasting growth in soulfulness, spiritual practice, justice-making and size.

Evaluating Congregational Ministries on Sat, 05/11/2013 - 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM with Rev. Sue Phillips, District Executive

This workshop will explore mission-centered models of staff evaluation in the context of a congregation's shared ministry. This learning experience is designed for Committees on Ministry, Boards (and other lay leaders directly involved in staff supervision), and Ministers who supervise church staff.

Unitarian Universalist News

YOUTH TRAINING FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

The UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) is advancing the mission to engage the next generation of Unitarian Universalists! Your gifts to the UUA have helped to create amazing service learning trips and trainings for youth, including this summer's National Youth Justice Training (NYJT) program. This year's NYJT builds on the success of the summer 2012 youth training. NYJT is a transformative three-week experience for high-school-aged youth that will take place in Boston, MA from June 30–July 21, 2013. The program will include interactive social justice education and real-world internships, grounded in Unitarian Universalist values and practices. Interested? Apply now or forward this information to a young person in your life who is committed to justice! Visit UUCSJ.ORG to apply

Unitarian Universalist News

REPRESENT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Can YOU Represent UUCR at our General Assembly?
June 19-23, 2013 in Louisville, Kentucky**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. If you are interested in being one of the five delegates from the UUCR then, please contact Rosemary in the church office at 781 944 0494 before Sunday, March 10th.

Our Renters

FIBROMYALGIA RECOVERY WORKSHOP - UNIQUE HEALING STRATEGIES

Loring House, Saturday, March 23, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Unique workshop for Fibromyalgia patients stuck in their recovery, practitioners who want to know how better to help their clients, and loved ones who support their significant others. We will cover all the treatments, techniques, and tools that you need to know about. Once you have this information you can move forward to reduce your pain and suffering. Call Betsy at 623-251-7547/617-043-5570 to RSVP. Limited Class size must RSVP in advance of class.

Upcoming Events

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

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

March 8, 2013 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
"Social Gathering" @ Sopchak's Home

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

March 10, 2013 9:15 am - 10:30 am
FD Pancake Breakfast -(FH) / K

March 10, 2013 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
"Social Gathering"- (CH)

March 10, 2013 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

March 10, 2013 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Pastoral Care Team (CH)

March 10, 2013 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Second Sundays (FH) (CH) (Sanctuary)
(Lor-101)

March 10, 2013 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
COA Class (Lor-205)

March 10, 2013 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
SHYP (Lor-103)

March 11, 2013 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Handicraft Group (Loring-101)

March 11, 2013 4:15 pm - 5:15 pm
Zumba (FH)

March 11, 2013 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm
Buddhist Meditation(CH)

March 12, 2013 7:15 pm - 9:15 pm
Worship Arts Team (Lor-101)

March 13, 2013 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
"Meeting Jesus for the First Time" (Lor-
103)

March 13, 2013 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Liberal Ladies (Atrium)

March 13, 2013 7:00 pm - 8:35 pm
Membership Team (Lor-101)

March 13, 2013 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
"Meeting Jesus for the First Time" (Lor-
103)

March 14, 2013 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Mothering Connection (Lor-205)

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

Ivy Chord Concerts

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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