

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading**  
**An Introduction to the Church and Programs**

**239 Woburn Street, Reading, MA 01867**

**Phone: (781) 944-0494**

**[www.uureading.org](http://www.uureading.org)**

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading is a growing regional church serving communities north of Boston. A vibrant and spiritual community, we welcome people of all ages, religious backgrounds and beliefs, cultural origins, differing abilities, political views, sexual orientations, and gender identity. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading is a “Welcoming Congregation”—which means we promote inclusiveness for everyone, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.



*Come Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World*

**Our Mission**

Together we search for spiritual truth and meaning as we celebrate life within a dynamic, caring community. We live our principles through worship, social outreach, lifelong learning and shared ministry, creating a better world for ourselves and future generations. We welcome all to join us.

**Leadership at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading**

Our Unitarian Universalist congregation is a self-governing entity. The congregation controls its own finances and property, and selects its leadership and form of governance. Our minister is called to partner with us by a vote of the congregation.

Semi-annual meetings are held in the fall and spring, at which time voting members of the congregation gather to elect Governing Board members and other officers, to hear reports of ministry groups, approve the budget and act on any special issues. Additional meetings may be held at the recommendation of the Governing Board to address concerns as they arise.

In short, the leadership of the congregation originates from the members themselves, and is carried out in collaboration with our professional staff and committed lay leadership. In order to facilitate informed and skilled leadership within our congregation, leadership development opportunities are offered regularly during the year.

### **Governing Board**

Our Governing Board consists of the President, Vice President for Programs, Vice President for Finance, Vice President for Planning, and five at-large members.

The work of the Governing Board is to set policy and to support the work of the staff and committees of the church. They have fiduciary responsibility for the congregation. Part of their job is to ensure the congregation is living out its mission. They listen to the congregation, understand how our church is being called to act in the world, and then provide leadership to get us there. The Board also creates an operating budget for the church for presentation at our Annual Meeting each spring, which the church members approve. All Governing Board members attend a daylong retreat at the start of the church year to set the year's goals and then meet once a month. Typically each member is part of a Board subcommittee with responsibility for one of the goals. The current Governing Board President is Tracy Sopchak, 781-944-5264, [tsopchak@comcast.net](mailto:tsopchak@comcast.net)

### **Staff**

*Minister: Rev. Tim Kutzmark*

Rev. Tim has been a minister for over eleven years, serving a vibrant congregation in Richmond, Virginia and working as a chaplain at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, before being called by the congregation to be the 31st minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading. Tim is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, a former staff member at Harvard Business School, a skilled meditation instructor and certified teacher of Yoga, and a former professional magician. He has a passion for children's ministry, and loves to include children and youth in the life of the congregation.

*Intern Minister: Meg Soens*

Meg is in her second year of a two-year internship, the final step in her training to be ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Meg comes to

our church after a long and successful career that included work as a securities analyst, motherhood, and several years of activism on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and families in the public schools of her town.

*Church Administrator: Rosemary Fiori*

Rosemary has managed the administrative affairs of the church for over five years with care, skill, and a dedication to service. An accomplished professional prior to coming to the church, she previously served as the Supervisor of a local YMCA. First and foremost is Rosemary's dedication to children, youth, and adolescent causes. Rosemary has been a New York City Fresh Air Fund host for over 15 years and a youth facilitator for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered teens in New Hampshire for years. For her own teens-in-residence, she spends countless hours in attendance at jazz concerts, youth symphonies, gallery showings, and impromptu jams as audience, chaperone, cheerleader and critic. A fun-feminist (not an oxymoron) and a supporter of liberal causes and social justice, she has a long affiliation with the National Organization for Women.

*Interim Director of Faith Development: Anne Principe*

Anne is a credentialed religious education professional, with many years of service in area congregations and the community working with children, families and groups. In each position she has guided the formation and strengthening of vibrant faith development experiences and programs grounded in spirituality, community building, and faith in action. She is an ordained interfaith minister through the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine.

*Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator: Amy Burton*

Amy brings a warmth and energy to her role of welcoming and helping visitors and new friends find a place within the congregation. A graduate of Simmons College, with experience managing projects in the medical research field, Amy is also currently pursuing graduate work in Conflict Resolution.

*Facilities Manager: Marc Evans*

Marc is an accomplished Facilities Manager, with years of experience in a variety of settings. He can handle anything from simple repairs to interfacing with the most complex heating or air conditioning system.

*Choir Director: Dr. Mark Bennett*

Mark has been with our congregation for over six years. An accomplished conductor, voice teacher, and composer, Mark finds enormous satisfaction in his work with the UUCR Choir and musicians and finds even greater fulfillment in bringing out the best in amateur singers and musicians---often more than they themselves realize. He reminds members that singing is for everyone in the congregation, not just a select few

*Accompanist: Alex Gordon*

A graduate of Harvard College, Alex completed his graduate music performance degree in Modern American Music at The Longy School. Known for his gentle and warm demeanor, Alex is proficient in a variety of musical styles, but is especially drawn to jazz. Alex once spent 9 months at a Buddhist Monastery, studying with renowned Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron. He is delighted to now be a part of UUCR, with all its spiritual and musical possibilities.

*Child Care Providers: Karyn Carmichael, Lynne Flammia, Terry Hill*

We are blessed to have skilled and caring early childhood education professionals to watch over our littlest ones. Karyn, Lynne, and Terry work full-time in early childhood education. With their skills and dedication, they create a warm and inviting atmosphere in our Sunday morning child care and play school program.

*Bookkeeper: Cindy Salloway*

Cindy has many years' experience managing the finances of various organizations, including The Church of the Larger Fellowship, the largest congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Administrative Operations**

Under the guidance of the Governing Board, several lay-led teams support the operational responsibilities of the congregation. The Finance Council, working with the Treasurer and Bookkeeper, facilitates the creation and periodic review of the budget. The Personnel Committee ensures a positive relationship with our staff. Our Nominating Team invites people to serve on the Governing Board. Finally, various task forces are created as needed when the Governing Board identifies a particular need. Rosemary Fiori, our Office Administrator, is the staff person who oversees much of the day-to-day administration of the church.

### **Adult Enrichment and Spiritual Programs**

Central to Unitarian Universalism is a life-long exploration of religious truth, meaning and experience. UUCR is a community committed to this continuous journey. The Adult Enrichment Team plans and organizes programs that encourage personal and spiritual growth and lifelong learning. We offer many different classes, workshops and retreats. Our minister leads several programs a year. Our Intern Minister may teach some courses; skilled members of the congregation facilitate other programs. See the church newsletter or website for full details on the upcoming schedule. Programming includes meditation classes, workshops on spiritual growth and personal development, classes about world religions, Unitarian Universalist identity, parenting, and daylong spiritual retreats. All programs are open to UUCR members, friends and youth, as well as anyone who would like to attend. You may register by signing up after church, or by calling or emailing Rosemary in the church office at 781-944-0494 or [uucr@uureading.org](mailto:uucr@uureading.org). A full listing of our upcoming programs can be found in our newsletter and on the website ([www.uureading.org](http://www.uureading.org)).

### **Buddhist Meditation**

This Buddhist Meditation group meets for an hour of peace and mindful community on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in the UUCR Sanctuary. Please contact Andy Furst at 978-276-0212 or [a.furst@comcast.net](mailto:a.furst@comcast.net). For more information, please see: <http://readingsangha.wordpress.com>.

### **Building and Grounds**

Our church campus is maintained by the work of our Facilities Manager, Marc Evans, in collaboration with Rosemary Fiori, our Church Administrator, and a committed and hard-working team of volunteers, who do everything from simple carpentry to plumbing repair, and touching up the paint to putting sand on the parking lot in the winter. We also have teams that maintain the grounds by weeding, pruning, planting, watering, and periodic ground cleanup days. If any of this would be of interest to you, talk with Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator. Please contact Amy at 781-944-0494, extension 103 or email Amy at [mvc@uureading.org](mailto:mvc@uureading.org).

### **CHACH**

Measure twice, cut once! Join this creative group of women and men to sew, knit or talk. This is a great place to get help with your projects and

inspiration from others. Contact Sharyn Taitz [SharT8z@comcast.net](mailto:SharT8z@comcast.net) (781-942-7011) for more information.

### **Chalice Circles**

Are you looking for meaningful spiritual conversation, and a chance to get to know yourself and others? Chalice circles consist of six to ten people who meet twice a month to build connections and to explore their values and beliefs. Chalice circles will include a reading followed by discussion on a particular theme. Anyone who is interested in deepening his or her connections to the UUCR community while exploring aspects of our lives that provide deeper meaning and purpose is welcome. Both newcomers and long-time members will find opportunities for spiritual growth and stronger ties with one another. You can join a Chalice Circle at any time during the church year. There is always a place for you. Contact Jean Hanson if you would like more information at [sullivanhanson@verizon.net](mailto:sullivanhanson@verizon.net) or 782-779-1382.

### **Child Dedications and Namings**

Unitarian Universalists believe that children are born with “original blessing.” There is no original sin to be washed away; rather, we join to celebrate and bless their innocent new life. We welcome children into our church community with a beautiful ritual of Dedication and Naming. During this special moment in a Sunday service, the minister offers a blessing using the four elements of life (earth, air, water, and fire), and shares a prayer based on the meaning of the child’s name. The family of the child dedicate themselves to the spiritual nurturance of this precious life, as does the entire congregation. Child Dedications can also be created for older children.

### **Church Newsletter**

The best way to know what is going on our church is to receive our bi-weekly electronic newsletter. This will provide you with a full description of upcoming services, classes, and events. To subscribe, ask Rosemary in the church office to enroll you and she will immediately! Service with a smile! Call Rosemary at 781.944.0494 or email Rosemary @ [uucr@uureading.org](mailto:uucr@uureading.org).

### **Dinners from 5 to 9**

Two or three times a year we organize “Dinners from Five to Nine”. Usually these are just for adults, although sometimes families with children participate as well. Guests meet at the home of a sponsoring family. Each

guest brings something for the meal: a salad, dessert, or side dish. It's an evening of spontaneous fun and a wonderful opportunity to get to know other people in the church.

### **Faith Development and Programming for Children and Youth**

Faith Development offers programs that, from children's earliest years through high school, engage our young people in the exploration of faith, spirituality and meaningful relationships. Our curriculum unfolds in an environment of celebration and inquiry that encourages young people to explore our Unitarian Universalist values and shape their Unitarian Universalist beliefs.

On Sunday morning, our 9:15 AM service offers full children's faith development and exploration classes. Nursery care and play school are available for the youngest members in our community, staffed by professional child care providers.

For kids K-6, classes are taught by trained volunteers, and are grouped by age. These classes are full of activities, stories, and experiences that explore spirituality, religion, and Unitarian Universalist values. Our seventh graders have a special program (Neighboring Faiths) where they spend some time on campus and other time visiting area churches, mosques and other places of spirituality or worship in order to learn what other religious traditions believe and practice. The Coming of Age years begin in 8th grade with sequenced programs that explore the sources of Unitarian Universalist values and spirituality, personal identity and peer relationships, and a culminating rite of passage year. Teens participate in the Senior High Young Program which meets most Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:30 P.M. for sharing, worship, spiritual exploration, and social justice initiatives. **If you have any questions about our programming for children and youth, contact Anne Principe, our Interim Director of Faith Development, at 781-944-0494 extension 108 anytime or email her at [fdd@uureading.org](mailto:fdd@uureading.org).**

### **Ferry Beach Weekend**

Each June, some members and friends of the church head up to Ferry Beach, a Unitarian Universalist retreat center in Saco, Maine. This is a weekend of fun, food, stories, crafts, games, and plenty of sand and surf. Watch the church newsletter for more information on when to sign up to join us.

### **Fun and Fellowship**

We have a wide variety of programs and activities that will let you meet and interact with other church members. This is how we weave the warm bond of connection and community. From potlucks to movie nights, from a talent show to a game night, there are lots of opportunities to have fun together.

### **Getting Involved/Sharing Your Talents and Gifts**

We embrace the belief that every member and friend in the congregation has unique gifts that can enrich spiritual growth and promote health and healing in our world. Each of us has much to contribute to build and sustain a vital congregation. We want to help connect members and friends to opportunities of interest, and we will also help members and friends of the congregation discover their gifts and talents for ministry. Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, is just the person to help with this. Please contact Amy at 781-944-0494, extension 103, or email Amy at [msc@uureading.org](mailto:msc@uureading.org).

### **Green Sanctuary Team**

The Green Sanctuary Team works to support the full expression of the Unitarian Universalist's Seventh Principle: to "affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Current efforts are focused on advancing the church's candidacy to become a certified "Green Sanctuary," which means we have addressed sustainability issues on a congregational as well as personal level. With wide congregational support, our team works to develop and implement programs across a range of areas, including justice and sustainable living. Ongoing activities and one-time events support environmental awareness at the level of the individual, the church community, and the larger community.

### **Helping Hands**

The Helping Hands Outreach Program is a unique and important part of our church community, allowing us to reach out beyond our walls and put our faith into action. A generous donor has contributed \$10,000 yearly to establish an outreach fund for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading. The overall intent of the project is to educate the entire church community about the work of local non-profits that are in alignment with Unitarian Universalist values, to enter into a one year working partnership with a selected local non-profit, and to have multi-generational opportunities for service and meaningful experiences. The way we do this is special, and created in a way to engage our children into the larger life of the church



community. In the words of the donor: the goal of this fund is “to help children and adults learn the value of giving and to gain a first hand experience in understanding and promoting UU principles locally.” This year, our new Helping Hands partner is The Food Project, an amazing non-profit that focuses on a three-part mission: Youth, Food and Community. Youth: The Food Project has built a national model of engaging young people in personal and social change through sustainable agriculture. Our own Coming of Age members will get first-hand experience in this. Food: Food from The Food Project’s 37 acres in Massachusetts is distributed through Community Supported Agriculture aimed at providing fresh produce to those that might not otherwise be able to afford it. Community: The Food Project also helps others in the community grow their own food through community programs and training resources. We welcome anyone interested in gardening, hunger/justice, or “youth, food and community” issues, to join in planning, coordinating, or assisting with the upcoming projects. There are many different short-term opportunities and fun ways become involved. Just contact Amy Burton, Member Services Coordinator ([msc@uureading.org](mailto:msc@uureading.org)) and she’ll be happy to have you join our Helping Hands Team.

### **How To Become a Member**

Becoming a member of the church is an important decision. It carries certain responsibilities including the expectation that you will participate in activities and programs, share your talents with us by volunteering to be part of a ministry team or committee, volunteer to usher on Sunday morning a few times a year, and offer your financial support through a yearly financial commitment. Several times a year, our minister and the Membership Committee offers the class “Unitarian Universalist Basics—An Introduction to Our Faith.” This is a chance to learn about our Unitarian Universalist history and beliefs, as well as what it means to be a member of the church. We encourage everyone who is exploring our church to attend one of these sessions. You will have fun and get to meet other people who are new to the church. We officially welcome new members at a special New Member Sunday service three times yearly. The entire congregation participates in the formal welcoming ceremony.

### **Ivy Chord Coffee House**

Our church is home to the famous and eclectic Ivy Chord Coffee House—featuring the best of folk music. Our line up for 2011-2012 will include Patty Larkin on November 19, 2011, Aoife Clancy and Robbie O’Connell on

February 25, 2012 and Ellis Paul on April 14, 2012. Purchase tickets online at <http://uureading.org/ivyhord.htm>

### **Keeping You Safe at Church**

The Safe Congregation Committee is designed to promote the physical, interpersonal and emotional safety of our church community. This committee works to proactively address issues that involve safety in any form. Of special attention is the safety of our children and youth, and the church has various policies and procedures in place to protect the most vulnerable among us. They are a non-judgmental, validating, and empathetic forum designed to hear members' concerns. The Safe Congregation Team strives to promote right and respectful relations within the church as well as serve as a liaison to other committees to facilitate honest communication in our efforts to maintain our church as a nurturing, free, safe congregation. We invite all church members to contact the Safe Congregation Team if they have an issue, concern, or question that relates to issues of safety. Rosemary, in the church office, can put you in touch with the team. Just call her at 781-944-0494, or email at [uucr@uureading.org](mailto:uucr@uureading.org).

### **Kris Kringle Fair**

One of the biggest events of the year, just about everyone gets involved in the huge Holiday Fair and fundraiser for the church. Usually held the first Saturday in November, the church campus is transformed into the largest and most popular church fair in the area.

### **Liberal Ladies**

The Liberal Ladies extends an invitation to every woman in our church community to share experiences, programming and wonderful conversions and lunch in our Loring House the second Wednesday of every month at 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information contact Ruth Goldberg at 781-944-6386 or email at [jacobgoldberg11@comcast.net](mailto:jacobgoldberg11@comcast.net).

### **Membership Team**

The Membership Team strives to make Sunday guests welcome by greeting you and helping you to find your place in our congregation. Come to our Welcome Table for information and to receive a nametag. Attend a brief Introduction to Unitarian Universalism, take a quick tour of our campus, attend the "Unitarian Universalist Basics" class, or come to a newcomer/membership event. Find out about these events in our church newsletter or website. Look for our adult programs that will help you grow

as a Unitarian Universalist. We want to help you develop your gifts and find a meaningful place among us. If you have any questions about the church or about membership, feel free to contact our minister or our Member Services Coordinator (Amy Burton, at 781-944-0494, extension 103, or email Amy at [msc@uureading.org](mailto:msc@uureading.org)).

### **Memorial Services**

We can help you celebrate the life of a departed loved one, with a service that is personal and meaningful to you and your family. At a time of loss, please contact our Minister, the Rev. Tim Kutzmark, at both of these numbers: 781-944-0494 (church) and 781-718-8737 (home pastoral emergency line). It is important to leave a message at both numbers in order to reach Tim most quickly. The office will also assist you with planning for a reception or gathering after the service. Please call Rosemary in the church office at 781-944-0494. We have a helpful Memorial Service Planning Guide to assist you.

### **Men's Group**

The Men's Group is open to all men at the church. They meet once a month, generally on the fourth Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. While most of our meetings are focused on discussion topics relevant to men's issues, we also plan a variety of social events. For more information, please contact David Kay at 781-944-2924 or [dkay54@verizon.net](mailto:dkay54@verizon.net).

### **Men's Spirituality Group**

The Men's Spirituality Group is facilitated by Rev. Tim Kutzmark and meets monthly throughout the church year. This group offers a setting for the deepening of your spiritual life. Each gathering includes a period of guided silent meditation, followed by a heart-centered discussion on a specific topic regarding the spiritual life. For more information contact our Member Services Coordinator (Amy Burton, at 781-944-0494, extension 103, or email Amy at [msc@uureading.org](mailto:msc@uureading.org)).

### **Moms' Group**

The Mom's Group offers a Moms Circle which is a group of women in a mothering role who meet on a regular basis in an atmosphere of safety and support for the purpose of engaging in facilitated discussions exploring issues of interest to the group and providing an avenue for personal growth, spiritual development, and community connections. Meetings are twice a month on Sunday evenings in the home of one of the members. Meetings

are facilitated by members of the church community. The Mom's Group also plans social events that are open to all. The Mom's Group is also the host for a Mother's Book Club of three book discussions per year open to all. Books will be announced in advance. For more information, contact Sara Ortins at 781-944-2740 or [sortins1@verizon.net](mailto:sortins1@verizon.net).

### **Music Programs**

*Adult Choir:* UUCR's Adult Choir is an integral part of our worship services, supporting congregational singing and presenting choral anthems in a wide variety of musical styles. The choir also offers a special Christmas Music Sunday in December. Although choral experience and the ability to read music are helpful, the only prerequisite for joining the choir is the desire to carry a tune (or to learn how to!). New members are always welcome!

*jUUnior Choir:* UUCR also offers a children's choir program for first through fourth graders. The children rehearse occasionally after the 9:15 AM service and children's Faith Development classes have ended. For more information, contact Amy Burton, our Member Services Coordinator at 781-944-0494, extension 103, or email her at [msc@uureading.org](mailto:msc@uureading.org).

*Special Musicians or Vocal Soloists:* Are you a musician or vocalist with the talent and desire to share your gift of music during a worship service? We feature special musicians each week at the worship service when our choir does not sing. We'd love to know about your interest.

### **Partner Church**

The Unitarian Universalist church of Reading has partnered with a small village congregation of Alsojara, Transylvania since 1990. We exchange letters and visits with the minister and the small, elderly ethnically Hungarian congregation. We also support students at the Unitarian seminary in Transylvania. The Partner Church Committee coordinates activities related to maintaining, nurturing and fostering relations with our partners in Transylvania. This committee meets once a month in the evening at Loring House. For more information, please contact Anne Mark at 781-944-8769 or [amark@mit.edu](mailto:amark@mit.edu).

### **PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)**

The Greater Boston PFLAG Chapter of Waltham, Massachusetts lists the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading as an official host site for

meetings at Loring House. We are proud of our many-year host site participation. "PFLAG" or The Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meet on the second Thursday of every month from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Our PFLAG meeting is comprised of family members, parents, and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons who come together to listen, support, and to provide educational and informative materials. We have many pamphlets and a book lending library available at meeting. Our meeting also provides an opportunity for sharing and support in an environment of respect and dignity. Our group recognizes that there are many homophobic and non-accepting conditions in society that make a PFLAG meeting a welcome place to talk freely. We are here to share our personal stories and collaborate on how we can enlighten ourselves, embrace diversity, while loving our friends and family members.

Sometimes attending for the first time can be a challenging first step. If we can make this easier in anyway by a confidential phone conversation or a private email, please do not hesitate to contact us. The long-time facilitator for the meeting is Martha Moore who can be reached at [moore944@comcast.net](mailto:moore944@comcast.net) Walk-in's are always welcome. Loring House is a grey Victorian home located next to our church parking lot and the official address for mapquest is "211 Summer Avenue, Reading MA 01867. On meeting night we hang a rainbow colored flag from the front porch of Loring House. If you are looking for information or have questions before the meeting please feel free to email our experienced facilitator Martha Moore at [moore944@comcast.net](mailto:moore944@comcast.net) or speak directly to Rosemary Fiori, our church administrator, who also has many years of experience supporting the LGBT community (781-944-0494 or [uucr@uureading.org](mailto:uucr@uureading.org)). All inquiries are kept in confidence.

### **Program Council**

The Program Council is made up of representatives from each of the church ministry teams or committees. They meet every other month to discuss and plan program priorities for the congregation, and for leadership development training. The Program Council helps coordinate the day-to-day programs of the church, including the scheduling of events and facilitating collaboration among the various ministry teams and committees. They also work with the Governing Board to implement the goals of the congregation.

## **Support to our Members and Friends**

### **Caring and Sharing Team**

Caring and Sharing is a group of volunteers who are willing to assist church members and friends with rides, meals, and other practical support during times of illness or other critical need. You would be welcome to call the church office to put your name on the list of those available to help. If you are experiencing a challenging time, please let us know so we can support you.

### **Pastoral Care Team**

We have a trained group of volunteers who offer pastoral support to those facing challenges in their lives. These volunteers work closely with our Minister, and are an extension of our Minister's pastoral care. These individuals are trained in listening skills, confidentiality, and boundary setting within the context of pastoral care. The Pastoral Care Team provides a supportive presence during crisis or transition. The team brings a variety of life experiences, interests and skills to their ministry.

### **Social Action and Social Justice**

We believe that working for Social Justice is an expression of our Unitarian Universalist faith in action. We address many different social justice issues at a local, regional and global level. Come and inspire us! If there is a social justice or social action issue you feel strongly about, this is the place where you can get the support and encouragement to put your passion into action.

Here are some of the things we do:

#### **Direct Action:**

Join us for hands-on involvement in social action projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Jericho Road Project (working with non-profit agencies in nearby Lawrence), Walk for Hunger, Reading Food Pantry, serving dinner at a homeless shelter, The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Dorchester, the Food Project, or a beach clean-up day. The UU Urban Ministry invites participation in the Roxbury Youth Programs—an after-school program focused on helping youth develop the academic, interpersonal and leadership skills that will

empower them to be leaders in their families, schools and communities.

**Educational Forums:**

Join us for after church or weeknight educational programs on important issues. Past forums included Ethical Eating, Environmentally Sustainable Living, Economic Justice, Hunger and Distribution of Food, Racism, Classism, Ipswich River Preservation, Protection of Whales and other Sea Mammals, Water Rights, Middle East Peace, Individuals and Families with Developmental Disabilities, and Homelessness.

**Advocacy and Witness:**

We get directly involved in issues such as Marriage Equality, Economic Justice, and Environmental Sustainability. Join us for everything from postcard writing campaigns to visiting our elected officials, from marching in the streets to standing in protest on a picket line. Through UUMASS Action, our denomination's statewide lobbying and advocacy organization, we can make sure our progressive religious voice is heard on Beacon Hill.

**Special Offerings:**

Through our church members' generosity, we have provided financial support for organizations doing important work such as Catalyst Foundation (working with orphaned youth in Vietnam), UU Urban Ministry (working with inner city youth), Mission of Deeds (a local organization providing household items to previously homeless families and individuals), Precious Cause (a fund to raise money for SOS Children's Village for AIDS orphans in Botswana, Africa), Foundation for International Community Assistance Village Banking (helping women in Haiti finance small businesses), KIDS IN AMAZON (school supplies for kids in the rain forest, and Skate Afghanistan (a youth outreach program in Afghanistan).

**Ways to be involved in Social Action:** You can be involved as little or as much as you would like, from helping out with a one time event to becoming an active committee member. Contact Amy Burton, our Member Services Coordinator to get involved (781-944-0494 or [msc@uureading.org](mailto:msc@uureading.org)).

## **Social Networking and Media**

We will soon have an active Facebook community and Twitter communication.

## **Sunday Morning Services**

At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, we gather as a spiritual community on Sunday mornings. We offer two services. The first service begins at 9:15, and the second service at 11:00. Our Sunday worship services are diverse in theme and style. There is congregational and choral singing and instrumental music as well. There are inspiring, thought-provoking sermons and readings, prayer and meditation. We often share meaningful rituals. You can light a candle to mark important milestones or moments in your life. The participation of children and young adults is an important part of our Sunday worship as well.

Both services supply meaningful and enriching worship, but there are differences between the two services. *Our children's classes for grades K-7 are offered at the 9:15 AM only*, so families with kids tend to come to the earlier service. All children and youth from preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are present in the sanctuary with their families for the first part of worship service. Before the sermon begins, the young people leave to attend their faith development classes where they worship and learn in an atmosphere filled with wonder and creative activities.

Both services usually have similar themes and sermons with different musical offerings. The earlier service tends to be infused with more energy, and the later service is often more meditative. Occasionally each service will be different. For those occurrences, we advertise weeks ahead the special nature of each service.

## **Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to our Faith**

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 fun, interactive, and informative introduction to our faith and church community. You'll get a chance to spend time with Rev. Tim and other coordinators to ask all your questions. We offer a condensed one-day Saturday class with breakfast and childcare provided, and a more extensive four-part weekday class. For a schedule or to sign up for the next class, contact Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator at 781-944-0494, extension 103, or email Amy at [msc@uureading.org](mailto:msc@uureading.org).



### **Website**

Our website is [www.uureading.org](http://www.uureading.org). Here you can view the latest copy of our biweekly newsletter, listen to or read prior sermons, and see the schedule of adult programs and other upcoming events.

### **Weddings**

Our beautiful sanctuary is the ideal location for your ceremony. If you require general information about the availability of the sanctuary and the possibility of a reception contact the office at [uucr@uureading.org](mailto:uucr@uureading.org) or 781-944-9494. We have a Wedding Guide that we can send to you to help with your wedding planning at UUCR. Please contact Rev. Tim Kutzmark at [revtim@uureading.org](mailto:revtim@uureading.org) if your special date will require the services of our minister.

### **Worship Arts Team**

The Worship Arts Team works closely with the Minister to plan, support, and lead all worship experiences at UUCR. From readings and rituals during services to the flowers that adorn the chancel, they help to create an environment that supports spiritual reflection and growth. We are always looking for folks who enjoy reading or speaking publicly to join us, or if you are more of a behind-the-scenes type, you can help with the creative planning of services and set up. We are a group that laughs a lot, enjoys one another's company, and loves creating worship that speaks to the heart and mind.