



Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

Worship Services

Sunday, December 11, 2011

"Annual Holiday Choir Service"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark and The UUCR Adult Choir

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Come celebrate with the choir as we present our annual Holiday Choir Service featuring John Rutter's "Magnificat." Bring a friend for what promises to be a delightful hour of music and worship. Dr. Mark Bennett conducts the choir, and Alex Gordon will be at the keyboard. The choir will sing at both services.

Children

Child care and playschool for infants through 1st grade.

Ushers

9:15 AM - Steve Frechette and Paul Catalano

11:00 AM - Ralph Rubenstein

Welcome Table

9:15 AM - Needed

11:00 AM - Needed

Coffee Makers

9:15 AM - Needed

11:00 AM - Needed

Altar Flowers
Ruth Goldberg

Wednesday December 14, 2011

"Sanctuary: An Evening of Stillness"
7:30-8:30 PM

Escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Join Rev. Tim for an evening of stillness, silences, candlelight and reflection. With special musical guest, Marsten Parker, violin. This service will be an intimate circle worship in Fellowship Hall. Please invite a friend to join you.

Schedule of Worship Services

Sundays
9:15 and 11:00 AM

Children's Classes at 9:15 AM only; infant and toddler child care at both services.

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

Featured News

2011 Holiday Happenings at UUCR

There's a lot going on this holiday season at UUCR. Here's a list of scheduled events.

Tuesday, December 6
8:00 PM
Messiah Sing

The Reading Symphony invites members and friends of the church to attend their annual holiday concert. Come and join us for a sing-along of choral highlights from Handel's "Messiah." Scores will be available for use at the event and refreshments will be served.

Sunday, December 11

9:15 and 11:00 AM

"Annual Holiday Choir Service"

Mark Bennett and the UUCR Choir continue our holiday seasonal celebration of music. Featured this year is John Rutter's "Magnificat".

Wednesday, December 14th

"Sanctuary: An Evening of Stillness"

7:30-8:30 PM

Escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Join Rev. Tim for an evening of stillness, silences, candlelight and reflection. With special musical guest, Marsten Parker, violin.

Sunday, December 18

9:15 and 11:00 AM

"The Winter Solstice"

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-Marsten Parker, violin; 11:00 AM-The UUCR Choir.

Sunday, December 18 - Special 1:00 PM Service

"When The Holidays Hurt"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Join Rev. Tim and members of our Pastoral Care Team for a gentle service of support for anyone who finds themselves grieving a loss, challenged, hurting, or struggling in any way during this holiday season. The holidays can be such a difficult time for many of us. Perhaps we've lost a loved one, or a job, or our sense of hope. Perhaps we struggle with depression or stress or anxiety. Perhaps someone we love is ill, or we are ill. Perhaps we feel alone. We are opening our doors to anyone who hurts in any way this holiday season, and offering a safe and healing place for comfort and support. Everyone from the community is welcome. Invite a friend. Special music by Roald Wilson (Please note special 1:00 PM time)

Sunday, December 18

3:15 PM

“All Ages Caroling Party at Daniels Nursing Home”

Use your voice to bring holiday cheer to those who need a lift of spirit. Rev. Tim will lead a Christmas Caroling Party to nearby Daniels Nursing Home. We'll gather together at Daniels (59 Middlesex Avenue in Reading) at 3:15, and plan on about 20 minutes of caroling. All ages are welcome and encouraged. Please sign up in advance so we have an idea of who will be going. See the sign sheet in the atrium or call the church office at 781-944-0494.

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24

5:30—Family Service

7:15 PM—Traditional Candlelight Service

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 new or lightly used hats, mittens, gloves, warm socks, and pullovers to the 5:30 PM service for our special collection of clothing for local children in need.

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.”

Sunday, December 25
Sunday Morning Christmas Day Worship Service
One Service Only at 9:15 AM with Rev. Tim

Join Rev. Tim at 9:15 AM for a simple, meaningful Christmas morning service of contemplation and joy. Music by Alex Gordon and our guest classical pianist from Russia, Dasha Bukhartseva.

Sunday, January 1, 2011
New Years Day Worship Service
One Service Only at 11:00 AM with Meg Soens

Join Meg Soens, our Intern Minister, for a special New Year's Day service at 11:00 AM only.

Sunday, January 8, 2012
9:15 and 11:00 AM
"A Time Apart"

Our holiday season concludes with our annual opportunity to light candles for those who died during the past year. We'll also look ahead at the possibilities of a fresh New Year. This will be Rev. Tim's final service before his Sabbatical begins. Tim will preach on the gifts found in being together, and in being apart. Music: 9:15-Michael Ricca, guest vocalist; 11:00: Michael Ricca, guest vocalist and the UUCR Choir.

[New Website News](#)

We hope you are enjoying our new church website! We have a few requests:

Please remember, if you have any questions or need any help, contact the webmasters for assistance. (There is a link toward the bottom of each page for contacting the webmasters. You'll find it under "Contact Us" in the area with the dark green background.)

Please submit all news for the newsletter and other information you need to provide to the congregation to churchnews@uureading.org. There are no deadlines: Make your submission just as soon as you've finished putting it together.

Please create an account on the website. Once you have been validated, you'll be able to see members-only content such as the Member to Member bulletin board that replaced the amongUUs mailing list.

Please be sure to check out the Online Guide for the new website if you'd like to know more about what the website offers you. You can find the Online Guide here:

<http://uureading.org/online-guide>

Thanks!

Worship Notes

A Look Ahead at Our Worship Services

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Rev. Tim Kutzmark

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“When The Holidays Hurt – A Service of Support”

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Tidbits and Tour Sunday December 11

Are you new to the church? Join Rev. Tim and Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, for a short introduction to Unitarian Universalism and a quick tour of our church campus. This thirty-minute mini-introduction will give you a chance to meet Rev. Tim and Amy and ask any questions you might have. No registration necessary. We meet at the front of the church after each service.

Poinsettias for our Holiday Services

This year the UUCR will be beautifying our sanctuary for the Christmas season and throughout the first week of January with Poinsettias.

As was done the past few years, plants will not be going home. Your 10 dollar donation will be purely a gift. We will be putting your dedication in the order of service and using *combined* donations to purchase a few large lush plants. Your check should be for 10 dollars with a line item noted "Christmas dedication."

Please print this form, using this icon .

Poinsettias for UUCR

Name:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Dedication for Order of Service:

If no dedication is provided, the church office will assume there is no dedication.

Kindly staple your 10 dollar check to this order form and place in the offertory plate or mail to 239 Woburn Street, Reading MA 01867. Deadline Friday, December 9th.

For more information, please [email the church office](#).

Caring and Sharing Coordinator

December 2011

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month



The Caring and Sharing coordinator for December is Francesca Auciello. Francesca can be reached by [email](#).

Minister's Messages - December 5, 2011



Dear Friends:

The holidays are upon us! This past week, I've loved driving home at night and seeing all the bright and colored light displays on houses and in yards. This time of year, there is such a basic human impulse to chase away the encroaching dark with bursts of brightness. In ancient days, our ancestors kindled great bonfires to lure the sun to return once again. Today, we string colored lights on trees and gutters. We are not so distant from those people from the past.

There are many ways to tend to the fire in your soul this holiday season. The choir will offer their traditional Holiday Music Service this upcoming Sunday, December 11th. It is one of the most anticipated services of the year. Later that week, on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 pm, I'm going to offer a gentle, quiet, reflective evening of music, silence, and readings. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for this intimate candlelight circle service. This is a gentle and spiritual opportunity to step away from the hustle and demands of the season and remember something deeper and more lasting. I hope you'll be there, too. Sunday, December 18th is full of the seasonal spirit. Our morning worship services will celebrate the Winter Solstice, filled with the wisdom of the Earth-Based Religions. Then, at 1:00 pm that same day (Dec. 18th), we'll offer our annual "When The Holidays Hurt—A Service of Support" for anyone grieving or struggling in any way during this season. The holidays are hard for many of us, and this service is a balm for some of that pain. Sunday the 18th will end with an all ages Caroling Party at 3:15 pm at Daniels Nursing Home in Reading. We hope that kids and adults will help us bring some holiday cheer to those who need to know they have not been forgotten.

And, of course, there are the gentle and private ways we can renew our soul, even in the swirl and swiftness of the season. Take a moment after dark and step outside and just stare at the sky, that beautiful, vast expanse of ever reaching endlessness. Be still, if but just for a moment. Listen. Listen. Listen for the pulse of the universe; listen for your own heart's song. Perhaps, in this season of light, the most important lights of all are always with us, above us. The stars, shining through the dark in our almost-winter night

sky remind us that there is always reason to hope, and dream, and love. They remind us that love ever reaches onward and outward. Ancient mariners guided their ships by these same stars. Now, they burn brightly, reminding us of the pure light within each of us, guiding our way on.

See you on the (star lit) path,
Tim

PS: Saturday January 7th will be our next Unitarian Universalist Basics class. With childcare and breakfast provided, it will give you a chance to spend time with me, explore the history and beliefs of Unitarian Universalism, learn more about our church community, and get to know other folks new to the church. What a perfect New Year's Resolution: sign up for the class. You won't regret it. Contact Rosemary in the church office at 781.944.0494 or [email](#).

President's Messages - December 5, 2011 - The Great FD Experiment



Hi everyone,

This week I'd like to share with you some of the interesting Sunday morning children's religious education programming changes that the Faith Development Committee, under the guidance of our Interim Director of Faith Development, Anne Principe, have made to their teaching model this year which they are calling the "Great Experiment."

Previously the Faith Development (FD) program was based on an all-parent required teaching structure, such that if you had a child in the Faith Development program, you were required to teach. While this structure came with the assurance of built-in teachers, there were many significant drawbacks. While parents valued the FD program, not all of them were interested in teaching. As a parent of a (now) second grader, I spent 6 years as a full-time, at-home mom. During those years, I will freely admit, I was far more welcoming of an hour of quiet spiritual reflection in the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning than I was of another hour spent managing not only my own child, but a whole group of

children. Under this model, the FD Committee members felt like they needed to do a lot of "arm-twisting" to get parents to teach and didn't enjoy the stress and pressure of this process. The feeling of stress caused by the teaching obligation was felt by families as well, some of whom "opted out" of the program. Over the past few years, teaching schedules vacillated to accommodate the schedules of parent teachers, and FDC felt that the kids were suffering from the inconsistency. Also, with the growing congregation and the introduction of two Sunday morning services, the pressure to support 2 FD programs seemed unachievable under the current model and with the current teaching capacity. FD began to ask themselves "Is this program really sustainable? Is this the kind of experience we want to have as committee members? Is this the kind of teaching experience we want our children's parents to have? And most importantly, is this the kind of faith development experience we want our children to have?"

So the Faith Development Committee began to research and brainstorm alternate teaching models for the program. The model they chose was based on optional parent teaching for those parents with a high level of interest. This approach represents a paradigm shift in that it assesses what resources and gifts are already present and designs a program around them. The new teaching model was driven in part by the thought that children are best served by having a teacher who is really excited to be teaching them and in this way, the program is more sustainable because it minimizes teacher burn-out.

So the FDC removed the parent-teaching requirement and asked for volunteer-only teachers, and from there, they designed a program around the resources that were already in place. Additionally, they did not limit themselves only to parents. They invited any adult from the congregation to teach who had a calling to be with the children or who wished to influence their own faith development experience or who simply wanted another way to contribute to their experience at UUCR. This approach served FDC's intergenerational goals and mission that they specified in UUCR's long range plan "Living Our Vision" to "have more intergenerational interaction between Religious Education parents/other adults/and Religious Education youth". This approach also directly serves 2 of UUCR's Vision Goals as specified in that long range plan:

(3) Sharing Our Time: by joyfully sharing our ideas and gifts of time and talent with one another and the outside world.

(4) Mixing Our Ages: by strengthening our intergenerational activities to build our sense of connectedness across the ages.

The FDC made some other changes as well. They invited parent volunteers to teach classes other than those of their own kids, they began using a variety of curriculum to match to the grade with the desired outcome and they also streamlined the program structure by eliminating a hierarchical layer of volunteers, namely the coordinators. So, instead of having coordinators for each grade level, each FDC member who was willing became a "liaison" to a class and helped to orient the teaching team and communicate with parents. This has resulted in much better (and more accurate) data about the program, a stronger sense of oversight capacity, and a more fulfilling FDC experience.

The current FC Model is set up for grades as follows: Preschool, 1&2, 3&4, 5&6, 7, COA 1, COA 2, SHYP. There are 2 teaching semesters: Sept - Jan; Jan- June. For preschool - 6th grade, there are teams of three teachers who teach in pairs, resulting in 9-10 Sundays a semester. These teaching teams and the FDC liaison determine weekly program logistics. The curriculum is made available for teachers who only need to tweak it to meet their needs, time and interest, such that little time is required of teachers outside of Sundays. Anne and the FDC liaison are available to support teachers as needed.

To date, feedback on the new program model is positive -- teachers are excited and are feeling rewarded. They are making connections with kids other than their own, teachers are embracing the children of our church, and kids are having good experiences and forming stronger relationships with their teachers.

The Great Experiment is not over! The second FD semester is coming up. FD is currently recruiting volunteers for the second session. Do you think you might make a good FD teacher? Try asking yourself these questions: Do you think that ministering to our youth could be a rewarding and fulfilling experience for you? Are you interested in experimenting with FDC? Look for the FDC table at coffee hour this coming Sunday, December 12th, or pull our Anne Principe aside and ask her to learn more about volunteer teaching.

Best Regards,

Tracy

Adult Enrichment

Age-ing to Sage-ing: Dealing with Challenges and Finding Gifts

Thursday Morning: November 3rd & 17th, December 8th: 10:30-noon,
December 15th: 10:00am-11:30am

Ruth Goldberg, Tony Fisher & Paula Koppel, Facilitators

Loring 103

This experience based program will allow participants to explore the gifts and challenges of aging in a safe and sacred space created over four weeks. By connecting and listening closely to our minds, bodies and spirits, remaining open and receptive, the group will explore what it means to age. Life review, journaling and mindfulness-based exercises will facilitate life review and life repair providing an opportunity to further synthesize and integrate life's wisdom. 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. Registration is required so please [email the Church Office](#), call 781-944-0494, or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction To Our Faith

One-day Saturday Class (special condensed class)

Saturday, January 7, 2012, 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Loring House 103

Facilitator: Rev. Tim Kutzmark and Guest Facilitators

Are you new to the church? Would you like to meet other folks who are new as well? Would you 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? Then UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BASICS is just the thing for you. Join Rev. Tim, Meg and members of the Teaching Team for this engaging introduction to our faith. Registration is required so please email [the Church Office](#), call 781-944-0494, or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Note: This condensed one-day Saturday class will include kid-friendly breakfast, bagels and coffee for adults, and CHILD CARE to make it easier for parents with young children to attend the UU Basics class. This condensed class is also perfect for those who cannot make four evening classes but would like a basic introduction to our faith and this church.

Filling the Well in Winter - Saturday Retreat

Saturday, January 28, 2012, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Facilitator: Mandy Neff and Meg Soens

Are you feeling sapped after the holiday rush? Join us for a rejuvenating retreat at UUCR. Join us to take time out to nurture our bodies and souls. In the morning, we will bake bread, and later share it in worship. We will spend time also in reflective practices, including guided meditation and creating an image of the Holy, or That Which Sustains You. Please dress comfortably and bring a vegetarian potluck item for lunch.

Get Involved News

Buddhist Meditation Group

Buddhist Meditation Group meeting Monday, December 5

Please join us Monday Evening at 7:15 PM in Fellowship Hall for an hour of peace and mindful community. All are welcome.

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles - Open Chair

Our Chalice circles have begun, and there is always an Open Chair for someone new!

Chalice Circles are small (8-10 participants) groups, led by trained facilitators, that meet twice monthly for 1 ½ hours. The format of the group consists of a brief reading, a check in among the members, a longer reading, and a discussion of members' reactions/reflections/thoughts about the readings.

Topics over the years have ranged from world religions to more personal topics such as friendship, community, nature, etc. The Chalice Circle is a more intimate place to get to know one another at the same time as providing the opportunity to explore meaningful topics with other members of our community.

The Circles have started and will go to the end of the Church year in June.

There are lots of openings in the following Chalice Circles:

- Tuesday 4:30 – 6:00 PM

- Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 PM (phone Chalice Circle for those unable to attend a meeting)
- Saturday 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

You can [register online](#) or by contacting [Jean Hanson](#).

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

Creative Hands and Caring Hearts Group (CHACH)

The **CHACH** (Creative Hands And Caring Hearts) We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of each month. Our starting time is still 7:30 and we end around 9:30. We will continue to meet at the home of Sharyn Taitz at 1443 Main St. in Reading. We are an open and welcoming multi-generational group of women who love to create with our hands. Any craft, art or skill that can be toted to a meeting is welcomed. If you are interested in joining us, please contact facilitator Sharyn Taitz or simply drop in to any scheduled meeting. Please contact Sharyn Taitz for more information.

Yours in creativity, Sharyn Taitz, CHACH Facilitator.

[Contact Form](#)

Green Sanctuary

Christmas light recycling

Once again the Green Sanctuary Team will be recycling Christmas lights from now until January 8th. Please leave them on Loring porch. If you have other copper wire to recycle you can also leave it now, but please, no other metal recycling at this time, we have no place to store it.

The next general metal recycling is expected to take place this spring.

Questions? Call or [email Linda King](#) or call 781-944-3617.

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club - December 2011

Dear Fellow Readers, The next meeting of the LTOM Book Club will be held at the home of Mary Ellen Campbell on Tuesday, December 27 at 1:30 pm. Please choose a book by Alexander McCall Smith, read it, and describe it to the group at the meeting. Happy Holidays! - Janet

Membership

Please join us in welcoming our Newest Members

Bios for our new members can be found [HERE](#).

Mom's Group

Mom's Group

The UUCR Mom's Group will have three different offerings this year for mothers of the church to get to know one another.

Mom's Circle (registration in September is required).

The Moms Circle 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 UUCR church community and meetings run similarly to Chalice Circle Meetings.

Social Events (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be organizing social events for all mothers to attend. Dates will be announced in advance.

Mother's Book Club (open to all)

Throughout the year we will be having at least three different book discussions. You are not required to attend all meetings. Books will be announced in advance.

If any of these offerings interest you, please contact Sara Ortins for more information (781-944-2740)

Coordinator: Sara Ortins

Sundays Twice a month, 7:30-9:00 PM

Here is the Mom's Group Schedule for the remainder of this Church Year. All meetings are 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM unless noted. Please contact Sara Ortins or Alison Friedman for the meeting location.

- 11/13: Book group, 101 Loring House, "The Sibling Effect"
- 11/20 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting

- 12/2: Holiday party, home of Debbie Vince, Friday Evening
- 12/11 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 1/8 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 1/22 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 2/3: Book group, 101 Loring House, Friday Evening
- 2/12 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 3/4 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 3/18 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 4/1 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 4/29 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 5/6: Book group, 101 Loring House
- 5/20 Chalice Circle Mom's Group Meeting
- 6/9: Family BBQ, home of Rebecca Higgins, Time to be determined

Social Action

UUCR Volunteers at Greater Boston Food Bank

On November 19, seven UUCR adults and two young people from North Reading HS helped out at the Greater Boston Food Bank, a visit arranged by the Social Action Committee. The group joined 40 other volunteers who spent several hours inspecting, sorting, and packing food. The effort helped to sort 10,981 pounds of food—salvaging 80%, which provided 6,783 meals for those in need. That's 172 pounds of food sorted and 133 meals made possible, by each volunteer. The Social Action Committee hopes to organize another visit in the spring.

Social Action

Update on Reading Food Pantry donations

At the Thanksgiving services on Nov. 20, the congregation donated 26 well-filled bags of food and paper goods for our church's neighbors who depend on the Reading Food Pantry. The bags, containing everything from pasta sauce and cereal to paper towels and toothbrushes, filled a sedan--seats, trunk, and all. Members of the Reading HS Service Learning Class, who happened to be dropping off donations at the same time, helped carry everything into the pantry at Old South Methodist in Reading Center.

Charlotte Harlan of the Food Pantry sends this note: "Dear Members of the UU Church, Thank you for your Thanksgiving donations to the Reading Food Pantry. Grocery donations are so important to keeping our shelves supplied with items needed by Reading friends and neighbors in need. We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season."

Social Action

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute: Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month

On Monday, November 21, from 10:30 AM to noon at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute will kick off its 11th Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month to celebrate and recognize the amazing work taking place on behalf of survivors of homicide victims across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The event will feature city and state leaders who are striving toward improving victim services and reducing violence as well as survivors who are transforming their pain and anger into power and action. For more information, contact Maris Luse, Director of Survivors Outreach Services, marisa@ldbpeaceinstitute.org, 617-825-1917. For more about the Peace Institute and the Awareness Month, visit www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org

Social Action

UU Service Committee: Guest at your Table at the UUCR



Each year at this time, our congregation participates in Guest at Your Table—a UU tradition. By bringing home a GAYT box, we learn about how the UU Service Committee puts our shared principles into action in the US and around the world; and by placing donations in the box, we support the UUSC and the people it serves.

If you didn't receive a box at the Thanksgiving services, you can pick one up on the community table near the parking lot door in Fellowship Hall or contact Anne Mark ([Contact Form](#)). We'll return boxes and donations at Sunday services on January 8 and 15.

In 1940, a rescue mission of the new Unitarian Service Committee saved 29 children and 10 adults from Nazi persecution and brought them to the US.

Today, the UU Service Committee continues on that life-affirming path. Through advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, the UUSC (1) protects the rights of marginalized people in humanitarian crises, (2) works toward economic justice and defends workers' rights, (3) advances environmental justice (defending the human right to water), and (4) defends civil liberties.

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principles in to action the US and around the world. We'll receive our boxes at the Thanksgiving services (November 20) and return them in January.

With each box comes a copy of *Stories of Hope*, which tells more about how UUSC works to change our world for the better. The stories introduce human-rights champions like Carolina Lara, a youth leader of a movement in Ecuador that successfully lobbied to have the human right to water included in the country's new constitution. Some individuals and families make it a mealtime ritual to read one of the stories and think about how we can help. When we share our blessings with our "guests," we ensure that UUSC and people like Carolina can continue their important work. Some like to put coins and bills in their box throughout the holiday season; others prefer to write a check and put it in the box.

Thanks to the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of 0 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling our contributions.

(Thanks to www.uusc.org for some of these words.)

Our Larger Community

[Reading Symphony-Messiah Sing at UUCR on Tuesday, December 6th at 8 PM](#)

The Reading Symphony invites you to come and join us for a sing-along of choral highlights from **Handel's Messiah** on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 8:00 PM.

The performance will be held at Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading (Woburn and Summer Street), Reading, MA.

Scores will be available to use at the event. Visit the RSO website at readingsymphonyorchestra.org. USD5.00 donation at the door. Refreshments served.

Our Larger Community

[Meeting of the Reading 99% on 12/07/11](#)

Several local folks have gotten together to discuss what we can do related to socio-economic injustice and other issues. We will be meeting again in Community Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading (see [attached flyer](#)) this Wed., 12/7, 8 - 10 pm. We know that this is coming up awfully quickly, but with the holidays coming up too, we thought we'd go ahead with this meeting on short notice and hope for a good

turnout. If you can make it, we'll be delighted, but especially in view of the short notice, please don't worry if you are unable to be there. Please spread the word to anyone else who you think would be interested in joining us, either this week or in the future! If you are interested but are unable to attend this meeting, please let us know so that we can keep you informed of future activities.

Flyer

- Carolyn Whiting

Ivy Chord Concerts

Aoife Clancy & Robbie O'Connell on February 25, 2012 at 8:00 PM



Aoife Clancy & Robbie O'Connell

Luscious Celtic music & harmonies!

Saturday, February 25, 2012

8:00 pm

Tickets:

USD20 general admission

USD17 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

Read what the press has to say about Aoife Clancy and Robbie O'Connell:

"Whether she's delivering an ancient Irish ballad, an American folk classic, or an urgent contemporary song, Aoife sings with the same gorgeous naturalism as if she were experiencing the emotions in the songs for the first time." —Scott Alarik, Boston Globe
"'There is Hope' by cousin Robbie O'Connell with soft violin guitar and flute are perfect for the gentleness of Aoife's clear delivery." —Sing Out!

The Boston Globe describes Robbie O'Connell as *"a writer of timeless-sounding, emotionally powerful and often hilarious songs" and places him "among the most respected guitarists, singer and songwriters in Celtic music."*

The Springfield Union-News declares *"...he made it quite clear...that there is more to being Irish than filing stereotypes. And through his music, he's bringing an inspired vision and a new voice of Ireland to American audiences."*

[Ellis Paul on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 8:00PM](#)



Ellis Paul

Charismatic performances, approachable style and beautifully rendered story-songs

Saturday, April 14, 2012

8:00 pm

Tickets:

USD25 general admission

USD23 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

Read what the press has to say about Ellis Paul:

"There are artists who are good at their craft. There are artists who have developed and maximized their talent to a high degree. Then there are those fewer artists who seem simply to have been blessed with skills that outshine most others. Ellis Paul is one of those." —John Ziegler, Duluth News Tribune

"He's one of those few artists who can connect to the audience, making everyone in the crowd feel like he or she is actually being performed to. The sound was spot-on and the set list included some new songs from a forthcoming children's album some of which showcased subtle political lyrics. However, even Paul's songs about dragonflies still managed to sound beautiful and utterly heartbreaking." —Adam Arrigo, Northeast Performer

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