



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

Monday, December 12, 2011

Worship Services

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2011

"Earth Vespers: 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

"The Winter Solstice"

9:15 and 11:00 AM

Celebrate the Winter Solstice and explore the ongoing dance between light and dark. What will nature and the cycle of the seasons tell us about our light and shadow-filled lives? Music: 9:15-Marsten Parker, violin; 11:00 AM-The UUCR Choir.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011 - SPECIAL 1:00 PM SERVICE

"When the Holidays Hurt"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

1:00 PM

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.)

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.

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"WHEN THE HOLIDAYS HURT"
REV. TIM KUTZMARK

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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 Ukraine, 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.

Worship Notes

PLEASE WELCOME BACK DASH BUKHARTSEVA FOR THE SECOND YEAR AS SHE PERFORMS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Please Welcome Back Dasha Bukhartseva for the Second Year As She performs on Sunday, December 25th

Special music on Sunday, December 25, will be provided by Dasha Bukhartseva. Dasha's home town is Odessa, Ukraine. Dasha didn't start taking piano lessons until she was 8 years old, and then she had to practice on a paper keyboard her mother had made because they couldn't afford a piano. However, only three months later she had won her first competition. She seemed to thrive on competitions, winning one in Paris which she understood was for children, but was in fact for adults! She was invited to play at concerts designed for foreign

visitors to Odessa, which is where Janet Nussmann and Bob Cary first heard her in 2006. Other travelers heard her also, understood her talent, and spontaneously took up the cause to help Dasha get further training--and so Team Dasha was born. The following two summers she participated in the Aspen Music Festival, appeared twice on the NPR Program From the Top (a showcase for young classical musicians), and then she went to New York City to take her senior year at the School for Young Performers (where she aced her classes and was chosen to play at graduation). During this time she was also participating in the Juilliard pre-college program and studying for her college auditions. She is currently a junior at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore--and still acing her courses.

POINSETTIA DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16!

Poinsettia Deadline Extended to Friday, December 16! - Donations and Dedications Needed!

Can you help beautify our sanctuary for the holidays? We do not have enough donations or dedications yet to get our usual complement of lush plants. We have asked the greenhouse to extend the ordering deadline for us. Please consider a donation of ten dollars and writing a dedication for our holiday order of service. Donations and dedications due by Friday, December 16.

A LOOK AHEAD AT OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 18—9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

“The Winter Solstice”

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

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 p.m. Service)

“When The Holidays Hurt – A Service of Support”

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)

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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 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

"A Time Apart"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

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.

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 12, 2011



Dear Friends:

We're fully immersed in the holiday season here at church. Anne Principe, Meg Soens, and I just went down to storage to check out the manger and the stable that we will use in our interactive Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Rosalita, the sheep, is looking her age, and will get a makeover before December 24th.

If things are feeling a bit frenzied in your own life, consider joining me on Wednesday night for "Earth Vespers: An Evening of Stillness." We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for a candle lit circle service, with readings, music, silences, and ritual. There will be a focus on nature and the earth throughout.

This upcoming Sunday (December 18th) we will have our Solstice Celebration at the 9:15 and 11:00 AM services. At 1:00 pm on that same Sunday, we'll be offering our annual When the Holidays Hurt service. This gentle service of support and healing is for anyone who is feeling a loss this holiday season, or struggling with illness or other challenges. Roald Wilson and Sarah Hickok will provide special music, and we'll have readings and rituals. A bit later in the afternoon, we will have an ALL AGES CAROLING PARTY at nearby Daniels Nursing Home, 59 Middlesex Avenue in Reading. We'll gather at 3:15 in the lobby of

Daniels and then sing some favorite Christmas Carols. This is a great way for kids and families to share a bit of holiday joy with those who need to remember they have not been forgotten.

In advance of the Winter Solstice, I'm sharing these words by Barbara Rhodes that we used for our spiritual reflection this morning at our weekly Core Staff Meeting. Perhaps you could read them aloud, or meditate upon them, as you light a family flaming chalice at your supper table, or when you light a candle in dark of a near-Solstice night.

We light this flame in remembrance of our ancestors who kindled bonfires on the barren hills of winter to beg the sun to stay alive, to give it strength for its return.

We light this flame in gratitude to all those people who from the depth of history have carried the light of life to this moment, who have preserved and handed on life's beauty.

We light this flame in affirmation of the light that dwells within each of us, the light that is part of the one light.

We are not asked to look at the Light; we are asked to look at, and love, and praise, and heal the world this light illumines.

See you on the path (and at church),

Tim

President's Messages - December 11, 2011 - UUCR Marketing Team



Last Wednesday night a dynamic group of 20 or so marketing-minded UUCR'ers gathered for a Marketing Kick-Off dinner to discuss how we might best spread the word about UUCR and all the many wonderful gifts we have to share with the world. Christine Lusk, an At-Large member of the Governing Board, led us through an informed and thought-provoking

evening of shared stories and informative statistics geared at laying the groundwork for the formation of a UUCR Marketing Team. The charter of the Marketing Team has yet to be formalized but essentially it will be something to the effect of "increase UUCR visitors in order to meet the growth goal set out in our Long Range Plan, Living Our Vision, of increasing membership by 10% per year".

After a delicious dinner, including the wonderful soup and bread provided by Jen Hayes (Thank you Jen!), we spent an hour learning about marketing tools and UUCR growth history and statistics and then broke up into smaller breakout-groups to answer questions geared at evoking our marketing ideas.

Many people contributed information during the evening including Lorraine Dennis, a long-term UUCR member, former Governing Board President and current Executive Director of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Lorraine shared with us a short history of the steps UUCR has taken over the years to accommodate growth and her personal experience of the process. UUCR history highlights include: (1) Jane Rzepka, our former minister's, decision to move on from her ministry here in part because she felt that her style of ministry would inhibit our ability to grow from a Pastoral-sized church into a Program-sized church; (2) Our capital campaign and construction which resulted in our expanded campus, including our beautiful Atrium and Fellowship Hall; (3) Our calling of Reverend Tim Kutzmark as our minister due in part to his experience with and passion for growing churches; and (4) Our decision to introduce a second Sunday morning service. Christine Lusk then shared statistics from the UUA which highlighted how many visitors we would need to attract each month in order to reach our goal and a video about the revolution of social marketing tools. Then Reverend Tim shared UUCR growth statistics from the past decade. Brian Kohn, one of our Webmasters, shared with us all the website features which currently exist or could be enabled to support marketing efforts. Finally, Amy Burton, our Member Services Coordinator, shared the new weekly tools that UUCR staff will be using to get the word out about UUCR.

The highlight of the evening for me was hearing other people's answers to the breakout group questions: "What drew you to UUCR?" "Was that need fulfilled?" "What keeps you here?". Some answers given were: "I was looking for a replacement for family". "I needed community". "I needed friendship". "My need for spiritual growth brought me here". "My children needed a strong moral peer group". "Many people in the community whom I respect seem to come here". "I wanted ongoing opportunities to learn".

What's your answer to these questions? I'd love to hear them!

Best Regards,

Tracy

Website News - December 9, 2011

Rev. Tim has just created a new Sharing of Joys and Sorrows bulletin board for logged-in members and friends, only. You can find a link to it in the Top Menu, once you log in.

The webmasters will again be available after both services on Sunday to answer questions, help folks get registered, and train members responsible for entering their group's news.

And as always, 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.)

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

Archives Committee

CHRISTMAS AT OUR CHURCH 1871

Our choir's Christmas concert connects us to our congregation's Christmases many years ago. From the Reading Chronicle, 12/23/1871: The Christian Union Society [for so our congregation was known then] will hold a Christmas Tree Festival, Monday evening, Dec. 25th, at 7 o'clock, at their church [which at the time was in Reading Center]. The programme will be an interesting one, and consists of three parts, viz.: Part first, Organ introductions, Christmas chorus, by Sabbath School. Part second. A vocal concert, consisting of choice songs duets, trios and quartettes, by Miss Nellie Pinkham, Mrs. Wm. Reed, Miss Lizzie Cox, Miss Belle Dinsmore, and Messrs. F. C. Harnden, W. S. Richardson and C. D. Wright, with Miss Laura Dinsmore at the organ and piano. Part third. Distribution of Gifts. Admission ten cents.

Also from the Reading Chronicle, 12/23/1871, re our UUCR ancestress Emily Ruggles, who had a dry-goods store in Reading Center: Miss E. Ruggles, in Lyceum Hall building, has opened a holiday department, under the peculiar patronage of the child's saint, Santa Claus. The poet, inspired by inspection thereof, thus rhymes about a few of the attractions: "But just go where the toys are / Oh, 'My!' ain't it jolly and gay? / Little trunks that a fairy might envy / For packing her wardrobe away. / Fancy workboxes, desks, and decanters, / Drums, building blocks, ten-pins, and balls. / Splendid tea-sets of silver and pewter, / And at least seventy bushels of dolls." Heads of families, and branches of families will be sure to find their wants supplied and their tastes gratified by a call at Miss Ruggles'.

Buddhist Meditation Group

BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

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 **H**ands **A**nd **C**aring **H**earts) 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](mailto:Linda.King@uucr.org) 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

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

Partner Church

WELCOME NEW INT'L PARTNER; CHOCOLATE & COFFEE SALE 12/11, 12/18

The Coming of Age 2 class and the Partner Church Committee invite everyone to welcome our church's new international partner: a young Unitarian from the Philippines. Gerry is a 14-year-old high school student. His father is a Unitarian minister and a farmer; his mother is a homemaker and a farmer. Gerry's hobbies are singing and reading.

Come see a photo of Gerry and learn more about him, at the Partner Church table at coffee hours on December 11 and 18. You can also sign a Christmas card for our partner congregation in Transylvania.

We'll be selling our traditional organic, free-trade Equal Exchange chocolate bars and taking orders for coffee, to raise money for Gerry's next-year school fees. The chocolate is delicious--a great stocking stuffer or general holiday treat. Bars are 3.75 or 7.50 (USD) for 2.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

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

MISSION OF DEEDS DESPERATELY NEEDS BLANKETS

From Reading's Mission of Deeds, which distributes donated furniture and housewares to people in need in Reading and surrounding towns: "As we move into the winter months, Mission of Deeds is requesting donations of gently used or new blankets, comforters, and bedspreads. For each new bed set that we provide to our clients [which are purchased with monetary donations], free of charge, we include each of these items along with a pillow and sheets. But our supplies are running low. Each year we experience a large increase in clients in need and we expect this situation to continue in 2012."

Donated blankets, comforters, and bedspreads can be brought to the MOD warehouse at 6 Chapin Ave., Reading (781-944-9797, www.missionofdeeds.org).

Social Action

SECOND OFFERING DEC. 18: WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC CENTRE, TANZANIA

Our Second Offering at the December 18 services will go to WEECE—the Women's Education and Economic



Centre—in Tanzania. Liz Connor, daughter-in-law of UUCR members Steve and Lorraine Dennis, will speak at both services about her experience volunteering for two months with WEECE in Tanzania last summer. As the Social Action Committee learned when she attended a meeting in the fall, Liz speaks passionately about the difference that WEECE's many programs are making in people's lives. You can talk with Liz further at the December 18 coffee hours.

WEECE (www.weece.org) is a grassroots organization founded in 1999 by four dynamic Tanzanian women determined to improve the harsh economic and cultural environment women experience in Tanzania. One of the founders, Valeria Mrema (Mama Mrema), remains its Executive Director.

WEECE provides opportunity for women to

- participate in economic development through expanded access to microloans and training necessary to run small businesses;
- use legal assistance and counseling related to domestic/sexual abuse, property, and divorce, and to gain and sustain economic and social security;
- develop leadership skills to promote social justice, health, and education.

Money donated to WEECE stretches far and touches many lives. In health care alone, here are a few ways WEECE reaches out. In addition to the core education, information, and counseling programs:

- WEECE funding has built a modern health clinic in the isolated town of Nganjoni. Villagers from a wide area will use its services.
- WEECE offers trainings throughout the region on basic health issues, often in collaboration with other NGOs, and has formed "living with HIV/AIDS" support groups.
- WEECE provides treated bed nets throughout the region to protect women and their families against deadly malaria.
- WEECE has rehabilitated a traditional irrigation canal, provided training in crop rotation and diversification, and provided good seed stock to address the issues of food security and hunger.

If you'd like to donate by check, please make it out to Friends of WEECE. FOW is the US-based 501c3 group that serves as the fundraising and project evaluation arm of WEECE. By donating to WEECE through FOW, we share in the partnership between FOW and WEECE that is based in equality and the understanding of global interconnection.

Please be as generous as you can in support of this important work, which resonates with several of our UU Principles and Purposes.

Four times each year, our congregation has the chance to learn about and financially support a local, regional, or national organization that reflects our Unitarian Universalist principles and values. Usually nominated by a member of the congregation and then designated by the Social Action Committee, the group is introduced at a Sunday service, and then we give a Second Offering to further its social action/social justice work.

(Some of this notice is adapted from the WEECE website.)

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.

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 UUSC puts our shared 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 100 (USD) or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling our contributions.

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

More News

UUCR MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AT WINCHESTER HOSPITAL

UUCR Members Volunteer At Winchester Hospital

On Sunday, December 4th, about twelve members of the Choir took part in "The Tree of Lights Ceremony" at Winchester Hospital. This has become a yearly event, and is very much appreciated by the organizers. Ron Cavicchio conducted the group and George White took his keyboard for accompaniment. Everyone had a great time with refreshments following the program. The invitation for next year has already been extended. Many thanks to those who took part.

Our Larger Community

MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION PROGRAM - CLASSES AT THE UUCR



Please welcome our newest member to the UUCR, Cindy Gittleman.

Cindy is the owner of a program promulgating The Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program (MBSR), originally developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn. Cindy begins instruction here at the UUCR in our Community Hall on Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Cindy tells us that this will be a highly engaging and supportive program including guided instruction in mindfulness meditation practices, gentle stretching, group dialogue, daily home assignments, and home practice materials, including guided mindfulness practice CDs. MBSR is backed by research and well-respected within the medical community as a complement to traditional treatment approaches for people experiencing general life stress, chronic illness, cardiovascular disease, cancer, depression and anxiety, among other challenges. The program is led by Cindy Gittleman MA, CAGS, founder of Sunrise Mindfulness, LLC. Cindy was trained at the Center for Mindfulness at UMass Medical School

in Worcester. She completed the Stress Reduction Program, the Practicum in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, and the Teacher Development Intensive, an advanced training for experienced MBSR teachers. Tuition: 0 if registration completed by January 23rd, 5 after January 23rd. To learn more or to contact Cindy, please visit www.sunrisemindfulness.com.

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