



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

December 26, 2011

Worship Services

Sunday, January 1, 2012

"New Years Day Worship Service"

Meg Soens, Intern Minister

One Service Only at 11:00 AM

Join Meg for a relaxed service of readings, music, silence and ritual to mark the turning of the years from old to new, and reflect on what this moment can mean for us. One service only on this day at 11:00 AM.

Ushers

11:00 AM - Anne Mark

Welcome Table

11:00 AM - Needed

Coffee Makers

11:00 AM - Needed

Altar Flowers

Holiday Poinsettias from our members and friends

Sunday, January 8, 2012

"A Time Apart"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

9:15 and 11:00 AM

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-Rose McAuley and Roald Wilson; 11:00: Rose McAuley and Roald Wilson, and the UUCR Choir.

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

A Huge Holiday Thank You

On behalf of the Malden Department of Children and Families and specifically on behalf of the nearly 80 children whose Christmas mornings will be brightened by your generosity, we

would like to thank you for opening your hearts and wallets to provide gifts and support through our annual "Undecorate The Tree" project. The truck (aka "Santa's sleigh," courtesy of Cruz Electric) arrived last Friday morning and a hard-working crew of volunteers loaded the truck with hundreds of bags of toys,



clothing and other gifts. (See photo right.) Those gifts will be delivered to the homes of the children that you so kindly "adopted" for Christmas and many Christmas wishes will come true for children who would have otherwise received little or nothing. So thank you for your kindness, for your enthusiasm for this project and for your open

hearts. This is just one more example of how UUCR is such a warm and giving community.

Sincerely,

Linda King, Sharyn Taitz, Margaret Soli and the Malden office of DCF

Worship Notes

Poinsettias

Thank you for your donations and dedications. Enjoy the beautiful display of poinsettias at our Christmas Eve Services but please remember that all plants will remain on the altar through our January 8 services at which time thriving plants will be delivered to homebound friends and members. Thank you. Rosemary

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](#). Looking ahead the caring and sharing coordinator for January 2012 will be Ann Mottl who can be reached by [email](#)

Minister's Messages - December 26, 2011



Dear Friends:

Happy Day after Christmas! I hope you had a meaningful and blessed Christmas, Hanukkah, and Solstice, wherever and however you celebrated them.

As the 2011 draws to a close, I am mindful of the unprecedented number of members and friends of our congregation who are struggling with health issues. May they be held in our thoughts and prayers.

Luckily, we have a strong and growing Pastoral Care Team who assists me in extending care and spiritual support to the congregation. Our Pastoral Care Team (PCT) is a team of trained volunteers who are committed to offering gentle listening and a caring presence, either in person or by phone.

Current members of our team include Diane Chapin (chair), John Perry, Andy Friedman, Ruth Goldberg, Dru Wood-Beckwith, Paula Koppell, Chris West, Tammy Zambo, Stephen Breen, Sharyn Taitz, Marsha Audette, Ellen Hill and Iris Hardin. They are currently following over fifty members and friends of the congregation. We are indebted to them for their open hearts and skilled care.

If you would like to be included in the loving embrace of the PCT (or you know someone who is struggling in some way and might appreciate a listening ear), please let me know (or Meg Soens, once my sabbatical has begun on January 9th), or contact Diane Chapin by [email](#) or by telephone at 781-944-8152.

Our PCT has a covenant—a set of promises we make to each other and the congregation—that guide our relationships and behavior. The PCT Covenant of Confidentiality is: “We promise to listen without judgment, to value the individual, and to honor and protect one another by not revealing what is shared.”

I am struck by the number of groups within the congregation who have created a Covenant to guide their relationships, interactions, and behavior. From our Governing Board to our Core Staff Team, from our Safe Congregation Committee to our PCT—covenants, the promises we make to each other to keep us in right relationship, seem to matter here at UUCR. As the Governing Board continues to explore the possibility of creating a congregation-wide Behavioral Covenant, I realize that the idea of covenant is already rooted in our church culture. It isn't anything new. Covenant is already here. It

just might be becoming more directly stated. Anytime we can promise each other that we will try to treat each other with respect and accountability, this is a good thing.

See you on the path (and at church),
Tim

PS: I'm changing my email address for church matters. From now on, please exclusively use revtim@uureading.org. I appreciate it.

Intern Minister's Messages - December 26, 2011



Dear Friends,

I hope your heart was touched by love and peace this past week, no matter what else is going on in your life. I hope you found a connection to the holy in some place or way. The anxiety of the Christmas frenzy was all around us. Even for those of us who celebrate a different holiday, or are simply mindfully trying to live the season in a different way, this frenzy can obscure our personal connection to what we rest in always, a world of made of one cloth with ourselves, a world of beauty and love.

I was lucky because while we can open ourselves for such a felt awareness, we don't always get help from the world beyond us. Like many of you, I attended a Christmas Eve service. My wife Celia and I took our four teenaged children back to my home church for what was probably our last Christmas Eve service together. It was wonderful, though the children of the congregation, who I hadn't seen much in the past several years, all seemed disguised as young adults, and very hard to recognize! We went to the second service, the one with carols and readings and a short homily. As we sat down together in a pew, before the processional and the service proper began, a choir member stood in the choir loft, and began to sing 'O Holy Night'.

She started softly, with beautiful, shimmering notes. It all seemed so effortless. A little surprised at the degree of the beauty, I closed my eyes. As I listened, and she sang the refrain for the first time, I realized that this was my prayer for the evening, for this Christmas.

It wasn't the words, I was hardly hearing them. I looked them up afterwards, though. The version of the carol most churches sing was written by the Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight in 1855, and it includes a beautiful anti-slavery verse that describes how Jesus came to teach love and peace and break the chains of oppression. Still, I could have told you little about the lyrics before my research.

It was my prayer because it was so beautiful. That's where the holy was for me, in that gift of pure beauty, a song that lasted perhaps three minutes...

The singer built up in an understated way to her climactic high note, the last "rejoice." Then she paused ever so slightly, and let it float gently out. I was glad I was going to be there for the rest of the service. And I knew the instant that song was finished, that the heart of the evening, the heart of the holy for me, had already been opened and shared. I was very grateful, and I wish you too moments of such joy. May each of us find doors that open for us into the heart of the holy this holiday season.

Many blessings,
Meg

Director of Faith Development's Messages - December 26, 2011 - Most Wanted



Do you want to drink from the fountain of youth? Be a spiritual guide (aka teacher) for children or youth.

Parents, grandparents, not-yet parents, never parents, been-there-done-that parents.....about a half dozen of you are invited, encouraged AND needed to continue this year's Faith Development Explorations for all ages. Some age groups are all set yet some groups need YOU to join a teaching/leadership team to ensure that children and youth have a place to ask BIG questions and have fun searching and living into the answers. Don't we all need and want this?

The Faith Development Committee has boldly acted on behalf of **children** and you when they decided that the UUCR Faith Development Program put out an authentic "call" for teachers. This means that as part of living into our expressed mission as a dynamic community of lifelong learners, each member of the community is asked to be a part of making that happen...especially for the children. That does not

mean every person should teach. This does mean that every person should use their wisdom and beloved congregational relationships to identify people who may be just the right match for any are just right for the age-based, theme-based classes and programs that have been created. How can you help?

Searching for guides who can....

...join young children (grade 1 and 2 level) in their imagination and play to go deep into a story to discover kernels of truth and possibility.

...welcome the energetic field of seekers (grade 3 and 4 level) in their determination to make FUN and purposeful sense of their place in the world.

...discover post-modern connections to Jewish and Christian scripture with savvy thinkers and prophets (grade 5 and 6 level)

...navigate the diverse sources of our Unitarian Universalist **living** faith with unfettered scholars (grade 7 level) through discussions and field trips to our neighboring places of worship

If the time is not right or the fit isn't exactly right or you're already doing something else to make this congregation a place of vibrancy and belonging, then please take a moment and consider who you know that is just watching for this match to be made.

Website News - December 23, 2011

Unfortunately, due to copyright restrictions, we will be unable to provide the December 11 worship service even to just members.

If you're a member of Facebook, please "Like" our Facebook Page. Click [HERE](#) to reach it. You'll note that we're posting much of the church news and events there. When you see something posted on the Facebook Page, could you please "Share" it with your Facebook Friends? That will help us get our message out as widely and as broadly as possible. Thanks!

Adult Enrichment

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.

More News

Buddhist Meditation Group

Buddhist Meditation Group not meeting Monday, January 2

The Buddhist Meditation Group will not be meeting Monday, January 2 due to New Year's.

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** (**C**reative **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](#) 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

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

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

[Recycling Holiday Cards](#)

Once again, I will be collecting used holiday cards for the purpose of turning them into gift tags and other items that we will sell at the Kris Kringle Fair. Please consider donating your cards after the holidays so I can continue this "creative recycling" tradition. There will be a collection bin in Fellowship Hall for the duration of January. Please also consider asking your family and neighbors to pass along their used cards to you. The more we receive, the more money we make back for the church. You do not have to do anything to the cards unless you want to remove personal notes. Please don't tear off the backs, as this often destroys the image on the front.

Thank you,
Sharyn Taitz

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

©2011 Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading