



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

January 2, 2012

Worship Services

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

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...

[Read more about the item above...](#)

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

January 2012

The Caring and Sharing coordinator for January is Ann Mottl. Ann can be reached by [email](#).

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

Member Services Corner - January 2, 2012 - Thank you Holiday Decorating Team!

You have surely noticed the beautiful decorations, poinsettias and plants that adorn our sanctuary this holiday season. The plants were made possible by several collected donations from the congregation. To those of you who donated to this effort, thank you!

I would like to take a moment to offer a very special thank you to this year's *Holiday Decorating Team*. **Donna Dudley and Jenna Doucette** donated their time to help put up the holiday decorations and provide inspiration and direction for our plant order. They have also helped to keep those plants alive by providing watering and care over the holiday weeks. We are so appreciative to Donna and Jenna for taking time out of the bustling holidays to help make the church look festive! Of course, their work was inspired by the caring efforts **Bill and Carolyn Grace**, who have decorated the sanctuary for many years. I know we all feel so grateful for the many ways the Grace's brighten our community with their kindness and creativity.

And so I offer a warm **thank you** to all those who make UUCR merry and bright this time of year. If you are interested in joining the Holiday Decorating Team next year, please feel free to contact me via [email](#) or phone!
Happy New Year!

Amy Burton

Member Services & Volunteer Coordinator

Adult Enrichment

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 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** (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

January 31, 2011 - Major Pedigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson

The book selection for the month of January is *Major Pedigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. We will meet at the home of Ruth Goldberg on January 31 at 1:30 p.m. New people are welcome. If you are a regular member and can't make it, please notify Ruth.

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.

- 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

Guest at Your Table Box Return: Sundays 1/8, 1/15

Please return your Guest at Your Table boxes and donations, for the work of the UU Service Committee, at the January 8 or 15 church services (or to Rosemary Fiori, Office Administrator, during church office hours).

Before returning your donation, please complete the form on the box. (Note: Gifts of 0 and up qualify for a matching gift from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, NY.)

By donating to the UUSC, you'll participate in its transformative work in the US and around the globe, partnering with local organizations to advance economic justice, environmental justice (esp. right-to-water issues), civil liberties, and the rights of marginalized people in humanitarian crises.

What does this mean in practice? Here are a few of the many ways the UUSC translates support from GAYT donors into tangible projects to advance human rights (from www.uusc.org):

- **\$20 pays for training in survey collection** for a worker member of the Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center to collect data from poultry-processing workers on their wages, working conditions, and the most serious issues facing them on the job. The center will use these surveys to launch an organizing campaign against a local poultry plant.
- **\$25 can inspire future leaders in the Middle East and northern Africa** by helping a youth activist to print and distribute five Arabic-language copies of *The Montgomery Story*, a comic book about Martin Luther King Jr.'s use of nonviolence during bus boycotts in Alabama.
- **\$40 helps 30 families in Myanmar** bring their crops to market successfully. Participating in revolving loans allows farmers to buy food and meet basic needs while waiting for their harvest, when they will be able to sell their rice at a better and fairer price.
- **\$75 helps workers in Arkansas**, enabling the Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center to conduct outreach and education projects tailored to specific challenges faced by poultry-processing and construction workers.
- **\$100 spreads the word by paying for 25 copies of STITCH's *Women, Labor, and Leadership* curriculum**, which trains women workers in organizing and empowers them to make an impact through their unions. STITCH is a network of women unionists, activists, and organizers that educates women workers about gender, globalization, and unionism, and connects women in Central America and the US so that together they build their voices for economic justice.
- **\$170 supplies water-testing strips** and chemicals for one month to members of indigenous communities in San Marcos, Guatemala, to carry out water-quality monitoring of rivers downstream from the GoldCorp mine.

Thank you for considering a donation to the UUSC in the new year!

Social Action

[Service-Learning re Immigration: UUA/UUSC BorderLinks Trips](#)

From the UU Service Committee (UUSC): In preparation for "Justice GA" [our faith's summertime General Assembly] in Phoenix, AZ, the UUA's Faith Without Borders program (FWB) and the UUSC have organized three service-learning trips to the US/Mexico border with their partner organization, BorderLinks.

Through education, meetings with partners, service opportunities, and theological reflection, participants will grow in understanding the human-rights issues at stake on the US/Mexico border and return to their homes informed and inspired to be leaders for immigration justice.

BorderLinks has deep experience designing programs and guiding groups, including UUs. They will make arrangements for accommodations, meals, transportation, and translators. The UUA will set the faith-context for the journey and provide UU theological reflection.

For more information: <http://www.uua.org/international/engagement/travel/190290.shtml>

Dates: January 24-27, April 20-23, May 25-28

Social Action

[MLK Day Event at UU Urban Ministry: A Day of Reflection and Celebration](#)

You are invited! Sunday, Jan. 15, the UU Urban Ministry will open its doors to honor the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (First Church in Roxbury, 10 Putnam St.). The event is free.

2 p.m.: Following the Dream toward a Just Community: "The Letter," a film about a controversy over newly arriving Somali refugees in a small city in Maine. Panel discussion featuring Miriam Gas (Refugee Immigration Center), Abdulkadir Hussein (ACEDONE), and Ron Marlow (MA Office of Access and Opportunity).

5 p.m.: Light supper

6 p.m.: Hope Out Loud: Performance of spirituals, gospel, jazz, dance, and spoken word by Boston Community Choir, Peter Terry, First Parish in Concord Children's Choir, Fred Woodard, Regie Gibson, Barry Gaither, Spiritual Life Dancers, Erica Vigeland.

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 renter 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