

Worship Services

Sunday, January 15, 2012



"Forgotten Unitarian Universalist hero: Viola Liuzzo and the March on Montgomery"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 and 11:00 AM

Years ago, on March 25, 1965, the Black civil rights movement celebrated one of its greatest triumphs when 25,000 peaceful protesters finally succeeded in marching into Montgomery, Alabama from the nearby city of Selma. One of these protesters, a white Unitarian Universalist woman named Viola Liuzzo, was murdered later that evening by Ku Klux Klansmen as she ferried marchers back to Selma. As Unitarian Universalists, we have a proud tradition of responding to the imperatives of love and justice to work with those of us who are marginalized and oppressed in society and the world. Come learn about Viola Liuzzo's story, and consider what that can tell us about ourselves and others as we continue to respond to these twin imperatives.

Children

Child care and playschool for infants through 1st grade.

Ushers

9:15 AM - Sunday Evening Chalice Circle

11:00 AM - Sunday Evening Chalice Circle

Welcome Table

9:15 AM - Needed

11:00 AM - Needed

Coffee Makers

9:15 AM - Sunday Evening Chalice Circle

11:00 AM - Sunday Evening Chalice Circle

Altar Flowers

Needed

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

Town of Reading Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Please plan to attend the town of Reading Martin Luther King Day Celebration on Monday, January 16, 2012. This important event will take place at the Reading Memorial High School. A 9:00 breakfast will be served and programming will commence at 10:00 AM. The celebration will feature music, drama, and inspiring words. Our own Acting Minister, Meg Soens will be participating.

Filling the Well in Winter - Saturday Retreat

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

Fellowship Hall

Facilitators: 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. To sign up for this wonderful enrichment, see the registration sheet in the atrium during coffee hour this Sunday or call the church office at 781.944.0494 or email uucr@uureading.org



Worship Notes

Join Us at Our Tidbits and Tour!

Tidbits and Tour planned for this Sunday January 15, 2011

Are you new to the church? Join Meg Soens, Acting Minister, 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 Meg and Amy and ask any questions you might have. No registration necessary. We meet at the front of the church after each service.

Rev. Tim Currently on Sabbatical through May 6, 2012

Rev. Tim is currently on his sabbatical through May 6, 2012. He will return to the office on May 7, 2012. During this time Meg Soens is our Acting Minister and can be reached at 781.944.0494, extension 101 for non-emergencies. Meg's emergency pastoral phone line is 781.850.3307.

January 9, 2012 - Christmas Eve Collection Thank You

Christmas Eve Collections

A hearty thank you to one and all for the donations received at our Christmast Eve Services. Because of this outpouring of generosity, sixty percent of the donations collected, \$ 1,493.60 will be sent to the UUCR Helping Hands partner, the Food Project, for the specific use of funding scholarships that will assist needy families with purchasing fresh and fruits and vegetables at the Lynn Community Supported Agriculture (CAS) Center. The remaining forty percent, or \$ 995.74, has been deposited to the UUCR "We Care" account for the specific disbursement to members and friends of the UUCR who are in need, the mission being to help our church family with the occasional gift of a food card, a retail store card, or a gas card.

Caring and Sharing Coordinator

January 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month



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

Minister's Messages - January 9, 2012



Dear Friends ,

I was deeply moved by the beautiful sabbatical send-off yesterday. There were so many good wishes, so much love, and more hugs than I've ever received before. Our Sabbatical Support Team threw a wonderful post-service party, complete with some amazing food from Afghanistan and South Africa, two of the places I'll travel to during my time away. Thank you to the members of the Sabbatical Support Team, Sharyn Taitz, Ron Cavicchio, Don Pearson, Molly Smith, and Dru Wood-Beckwith, for all their organization and care.

Before I head off tonight, I wanted to bring up a topic that you've been hearing a lot about this year, especially from Tracy Sopchak, our Governing Board President. Covenant—the promises we make to each other—is so important in a church community. How do we work together, play together, create together, care for each other together, and disagree together? And how can we recall each other to our best selves again when we may act in ways that are less than skillful or kind?

Our amazing Core Staff Team has talked a lot about this lately. And, we've created our own Core Staff Team Covenant, the promises we make to each other so we can be a warm, caring and collaborative team. I wanted to share it with you so you can see our covenant, and to further the congregation's conversation about covenants within our committees, task forces, and yes, the congregation at large.

The UUCR 2011-2012 Core Staff Covenant

Remembering that we serve a congregation that is Unitarian Universalist, a faith that is at heart covenant-based,

We affirm and commit to learning, practicing and advancing right relations in our work together, including

- Engaging in direct communications among and between ourselves
- Maintaining professional boundaries and upholding professional ethical standards with the congregation and each other
- Treating each other with respect
- Sharing weekly spiritual practice together
- Remembering and honoring the fact that our work is spiritual at its core
- Nurturing our connections to and educating ourselves about current professional trends in the larger Unitarian Universalist movement
- Honoring the work each of us does
- Nurturing the feeling of trust and empowerment
- Complimenting and celebrating each other and our team
- Seeking out and lifting up our different opinions
- Listening with openness and curiosity
- Following through on our commitments to and agreements with each other and those beyond the team
- Nurturing a sense of collective as well as individual trust

- Assuming good intentions
- Speaking for ourselves and our own experience, and in our own voice
- Placing the team and our mission of service to the church at the center of our work, rather than our individual selves and how we individually serve the church
- Sharing feedback and thoughts kindly and compassionately

This is how your staff works with each other. And this is how the staff will operate as a committed, collaborative, and creative team while I am on sabbatical.

See you on the path,

Tim

Acting Minister's Messages - January 9, 2012 - Come, Come Whoever You Are...



*"Come, come, whoever you are...
ours is no caravan of despair.
come yet again come.
Though you've broken your vow a hundred times,
come yet again, come."*

The song is so fitting for our church and our faith: Unitarian Universalism is a "non-creedal" faith, we are not bound by specific shared set of beliefs. We are, rather, a covenantal faith, gathered around promises -- a vow -- of how we will walk together as a faith community. Sometimes the covenant is explicit, perhaps through the use of an affirmation statement or covenant in worship. Sometimes the promise is purely implicit, through our reliance on the Seven Principles as a guide in our faith.

What is so striking about this simple song, though, is how it acknowledges the need we humans have for welcome, for redemption of a kind: we will make

mistakes, we will fail, we will hurt each other. It affirms, too, the need we have for invitations to return to relationships that honor each other when we have failed.

And I think this is why those images came up during the song "Come, Come, Whoever You Are." Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement he led in the 1960s laid out just such an invitation.

The Civil Rights movement was, amazingly, a non-violent resistance to the broken vows of other humans, often violently broken promises. Because the movement was non-violent, it invited folks to come back to right ways of living together. It invited Christian white people who, implicitly as well as explicitly, were breaking their Christian vows to love their neighbors as themselves. The non-violent movement invited non-Christian white folks to the same table of fellowship and right relations, those who also received the original blessing of life, but were nevertheless willing to take those blessings systematically from others. Dr. King did not look for vengeance, he did not lead people to fight fire with fire, violence with violence. Instead, he and the entire movement extended the invitation to restore right relationships, to renewed, fully human, living between white people and African American folks living in this country. And in many ways, white society and white-dominated government tried to respond to that invitation.

"Though you've broken your vow a hundred times, come yet again come." The invitation is still out there. How will we accept it today?

Director of Faith Development's Messages - January 9, 2012 - Meet me in the center!

Continued observations from the Interim Director of Faith Development:



*Relation is the essence of everything that exists.
-Meister Eckhart*

Modern science is arriving at the wisdom that many great mystics have felt for hundreds of years – that there is no thing in and of itself, separately defined. The insides of an atom and all its moving pieces only function in relationship to each other. If we are to imagine that our faith community is an atom, what is inside? What is in the middle?

As we enter a new year, mark a halfway point in an interim time, bid farewell to our parish minister as he begins a 4-month sabbatical, and not lastly, continue to consider the ways and work of transitioning from a pastoral to program church... my gosh we know there is a "there" there! But how do these events and definitions relate to each other? How do they relate to us? And perhaps most poignantly, how do they relate to me? While it may feel daunting to begin to answer these questions, we can remember all the connectivity that is already in place that holds us together like spiritual gravity.

The goals articulated in the Bridge to Tomorrow initiative is a powerful record of heart and soul searching by this UUCR community. Each person who walks through the doors into the light-filled, love-filled, spirit-filled space is also automatically drawn to the heart of our mission of engaging our world, mixing our ages, and connecting our community. And so some questions – what's next? What will you do to step forward into the space of possibility and relationships? How does what you do in your church community connect to all ages, to the community where you live, to the world which holds you? Who or might you need to reach out to in order to create more energy together than you could muster up yourself?

I welcome the opportunity to talk about these questions and the possibilities. In the meantime, I'll see you on campus!

In faith,
Anne

[President's Messages - January 9, 2012 - Auction](#)



The Starlight Soiree, UUCR's Annual Auction, is fast approaching! Don't miss this very fun evening and unique UUCR event. The Auction will be held on Saturday, February 4th in Fellowship Hall starting at 7:00 pm. For those of you who are newer to our community, the Auction is our second biggest fundraising event of the year. It is a social evening with wine and desserts and great conversation. Dressing fancy is not required but come dressed to the nines if it suits you. (I'll probably wear jeans!) Fundraising items include a live auction and a silent auction, a raffle and a sign-up. Half the fun of the evening is hearing the auctioneers rattle away on the incoming bids.

This year we are running a \$ 12,000 deficit budget, so it is of particular importance that everyone contribute in some way to the Auction. Fortunately, there are many ways to contribute. Attending the event and bidding on items is one way, but equally important is contributing a service or an item upon which people can bid.

You have a special talent, we all do. You make or do something well that you can share and you may not even realize it. Maybe you could knit a custom-ordered baby blanket or matching hat and mittens. Maybe you could offer to paint a room in someone's home or help with yard work. Perhaps you love to bake and could make a dessert once a month for a family for one year. Perhaps you could provide babysitting services for an evening. You also probably have items that you could donate. Take a look around your home. Maybe you have something that you really don't use anymore that might be useful to someone else, for instance sporting or gardening equipment. Maybe you own a second home on the Cape or in New Hampshire that you could make available for a week.

These are just some of the items and services that you can bid on if you attend the Auction, but there's a lot more.

Sign-ups are available for people to pay a flat rate for inclusion into a group activity, for instance:

- The Big Fat Greek Cocktail Party features Greek delicacies and cocktails for up to 60 people.

- The Hike of the Month puts you on the list for a monthly coordinated hiking trip.
- The International Dinner features authentic dishes from 5 different countries.

Popular Silent Auction items include jewelry, gifts baskets, hand-made soaps, custom framing gift certificates and Nia dance class certificates, just to name a few.

Popular Live Auction items include designating the topic of one of Reverend Tim's sermons for next year or helping to design a service by selecting the hymns for that week. There are several opportunities for a week spent in Maine at the second home of a church member/friend and there's a 5 room condo available for up to 3 weeks in Athens Greece that's only 1 subway stop away from city center! There are great dinners to bid on hosted by a UUCR friend or member in their home.

The Raffle With a Twist offers 50 people the chance to buy a \$ 50 raffle ticket and the winner gets to claim any Auction item.

I'm stepping up to the plate this year with a Sopchak Pool-side Candlelight Dinner for 6-8 people. Enjoy an early evening dip in our in-ground swimming pool and then relax pool-side with a glass of wine, a margarita or an iced seltzer water and enjoy the company of other UUCR friends over dinner. I'm thinking maybe grilled tuna fillet with grilled summer vegetables. Or perhaps one of my other favorite dishes to cook – Crunchy Shrimp with Couscous and Ginger-Orange Sauce or Rosemary/Pepper rubbed Filet Mignon or Roasted Pork Tenderloin with Cranberry Reduction Sauce. Or perhaps a vegetarian dish is more to your liking. For dessert, I could make an almond cake with raspberry and butter cream filling or a fresh fruit trifle. I'll let you decide from a list of menu options which I'll provide (ahead of time that is!).

Will you step up to the plate too? What unique talent, service or item can you share in support of the Auction? Dru Beckwith is coordinating the Auction for us this year and she'd love to hear from you.

See you there!

Best Regards,

Tracy

Website News - Special Website Needs - Late-January/Early-February

Please be sure to contact the webmasters by Sunday, January 15 if you will have any special website needs between now and the end of January. The webmasters will be unavailable to make any substantial additions or changes to the website, or help with entering of any complex content, during that time. Rosemary will remain available to help with the entering of regular news content during that period.

Adult Enrichment

Get Involved News

Archives Committee

100 Years Ago at the UUCR

If you walked through the doors of our church in Reading Square on a Sunday in January 1912, the order of service would have seemed both familiar and different:

Organ Prelude, Hymn, Invocation, Lord's Prayer, Solo, Morning Psalm, Hymn, Scripture Lesson, Solo, Prayer, Organ Response, Notices, Offertory, Hymn, Sermon, Hymn, Benediction, Organ Postlude

Under "Comments" in the January 1912 bulletin: "A very successful party was given to the Sunday School by the Unity Club [a women's organization] on Friday afternoon, December 22nd. A large company was present and the afternoon was heartily enjoyed by all, young and old. A full attendance is desired for the important meeting with Mrs. Wilfred A. Bancroft...January 8th. At the last meeting of the Club much sympathy was expressed for our Methodist friends in the loss of their beautiful church [destroyed by fire 12/11/1911], and it was voted to hold a sale for the benefit of their building fund, the latter part of January."

Buddhist Meditation Group

Buddhist Meditation Group will meet this Monday January 9th

The previously cancelled Meditation sitting on Monday January 9th is back on. Please join us for our first hour of meditation in 2012 from 7:15 - 8:15 this Monday night.

Amitofo, Andy

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](#)

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

[January 31, 2012 - 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.

Liberal Ladies

[Liberal Ladies Next Meeting on January 11th](#)

On Wednesday, January 11th from 10:30 AM until noon, the Liberal Ladies will be having their monthly meeting at Loring House. The theme will be sharing wedding pictures or memories of weddings attended, All are welcome.

Mom's Group

[Please Join Us at Our Next Mom's Group Book Discussion on February 3](#)

The UUCR Mom's Book Group will sponsor their next meeting on Friday, February 3, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM in Loring House. The book choice is "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave.

All women are welcome. Please join us for refreshments and a lively discussion! Many copies of the book from the library are available through Alison Friedmann.

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

UU Heritage Trip to Transylvania in April

From John Dale of the UU Partner Church Council Travel Service: "If you are thinking of coming to Transylvania with us this April, now is the time to register at www.uupcc.org/trips/html. Registration will close on January 14. This is our 3rd annual spring "budget" pilgrimage which visits the most significant Unitarian heritage sites of Transylvania and gets you to your partner village for a long weekend stay. Coupled with lower shoulder-season airfares, this trip provides a very affordable pilgrimage option for North American UUs. The trip will go. Join us!" (For more information, contact jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com or Anne Mark at amark@mit.edu.)

Partner Church

Thank you for supporting the UUCR's international partnerships

Many thanks to all who recently bought fair-trade chocolate and coffee from the Partner Church Committee! Profits from the sale came to \$ 192, which will go toward supporting our church's international partnerships. For example, this is almost one-third of the amount needed for school fees so that Gerry, our young Unitarian partner in the Philippines, can attend high school again next year.

Social Action

UU Urban Ministry Seeks Volunteer Cooks

From Kate Wilkinson, Volunteer Coordinator at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury (10 Putnam Square): "Is your small group ministry or family interested in cooking a meal for the Roxbury Youth Programs? We are in need of individuals or groups to help us with Wednesday night meals this year. Contact Rev. Kate for a list of open dates this spring. Cooking for RYP involves buying groceries and cooking a healthy meal for about 30 people." kwilkinson@uum.org, www.uuum.org

Social Action

Guest at Your Table Box Return 1/18

If you still have a Guest at Your Table box, please return it at the January 15 church service, with your donation for the work of the UU Service Committee.

You can also bring the box to Rosemary Fiori, Office Administrator, during church office hours. If you returned your box and donation on January 11, thank you!

Before returning your donation, please complete the form on the box. (Note: Gifts of \$ 100 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.

Starlight Soiree and Auction

[Save the Date - February 4 - UUCR's Awesome Annual Auction](#)

UUCR's Major Winter Fundraiser to Fund our Church Budget

The Starlight Soiree, UUCR's annual auction, will be held on Saturday, February 4. This is our major winter fundraiser to help fund the church budget. It is a wonderful event, an evening of laughs, good conversation, and excitement. Think of it as coffee hour with wine!

We will begin at 6:00 pm with the preprandial and silent auction, with the live auction beginning at 7:00. The suggested donation is . There will be sumptuous appetizers, delectable desserts, fine wine, and musical entertainment, along with the silent and live auctions. What a perfect way to spend an evening while supporting the church.

Volunteers and Donations are Needed

We are looking for donations of all sorts. Please keep an eye on the web site for more information and updates. For questions about volunteering, cooking, or donating, please contact Dru Wood-Beckwith: [Click here to reach her Contact Form](#)

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:

\$ 20 general admission

\$ 17 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:

\$ 25 general admission

\$ 23 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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