



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

February 6, 2012

Worship Services

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Sunday

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

On this Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Sunday, our acting minister Meg Soens and the youth of Coming of Age One will explore the story of Ethelred Brown, the first black Unitarian minister in the U.S., and how his story illuminates the seven principles of our faith, and the importance of our living tradition. Music: 9:15 and 11:00 AM The Clogston-West family. *After service today why not join us for a Tidbits and Tour? 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.*

Ushers:

9:15 AM David Oakes and Norma Richard

11:00 AM Ralph Ruben stein and Janet Riley

Altar Flowers:

Nancy Bond and Family

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Coffeemakers:

9:15 AM The Mom's Group, Deb Vince, Rebecca Higgins

11:00 AM Needed

February 19, 2012

Sunday, February 19, 2012

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

"The Grounds of Hope"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

"Don't be afraid. I'm here. It's all right." These classic words of reassurance may not exactly be the same words you or I might use as we comforted a fearful loved one, but the language, of faith and hope, would be the same. Where do these words come from in each of us? What are the grounds of your hope and faith? Join Meg Soens in an exploration of these questions on Sunday February 19th. Music: 9:15 AM Mary Gould, Vocalist, 11:00 AM 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

Starlight Soiree Is A Smashing Success!

Almost 100 people attended the annual Starlight Soiree Auction on Saturday, and with generous and spirited bidding on the many fabulous donations, we raised over \$ 22,000 for the church! Wow!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun and worthwhile event - for your donations, for help in setting up and cleaning up, for cooking, baking and serving, for your beautiful music, and most of all for your generous bidding.

We still have openings on some of the sign-up events and we will be filling up those slots at coffee hour in the next couple of weeks, so stop by if you missed out on anything.

With much appreciation,

Dru Wood-Beckwith, Soiree Chair

Join The Liberal Ladies on February 8, 2012

Liberal Ladies will be having their monthly meeting Wednesday, February 8th at 10:30 AM in Loring House . Roald Wilson will be there to demonstrate several of his very unusual instruments that he has collected over the years. He not only collects them, but also learns to play them, and it will be very entertaining to hear his presentation. All are welcome.

Worship Notes

Join Us This Sunday For A Tidbits And Tour!

Please join us for a Tidbits and Tour on Sunday, February 12 at 10:15 AM and 12:00 Noon. 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.

Caring and Sharing Coordinator

February 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month



The Caring and Sharing coordinator for February is Samantha. Samantha can be reached by [email](#)

Director of Faith Development's Messages - February 6, 2012 Math and Machinery

Continued observations from the Interim Director of Faith Development: Some basic math and machinery!



Did you know that this past Sunday marked our halfway point in the church year? The typical church year is 40 weeks long. From the perspective of Faith Development for children and youth, marking time in this way is a significant way to plan for our volunteer teaching ministries. Each group will have had two, three person teaching teams for half a year at a time.

This way of organizing ensures that each group of children can develop familiarity and important comfort with a few adults at a time. And those adults will enjoy those relationships while knowing their sacred commitment is time limited. As we mark this halfway point in our church year and the passing of the torch to the next team of teachers, we have a chance to share our perspectives on what kind of experience each child or youth is having in our Faith Development Programs and congregational life. And each team has had an "FDC Liaison" who has personally made a commitment to ensure the readiness of the adults, the inclusion of children, the communication with families, and the suitability of the curriculum.

By the end of the church year, children who attend Faith Development explorations regularly -- from age four up to and including grade 7 -- will have averaged 25 hours of classroom-specific time. After the children gather in the Atrium to meet up with their peers and teachers, after they walk to their FD space, they settle into a circle with a classroom ritual. After a story/theme and activities of the day, they walk back to Fellowship Hall to rejoin their parent/caretaker. So now those 25 hours of age-specific Unitarian Universalist curriculum is now at most 11 hours.

While at first these numbers might suggest a picture of diminishing returns – not so! An entirely different system of measurement is intuitively within us if we take just one step back and consider what kind of experience our children have when participating in our intergenerational community life. They develop relations with peers and adults, grounded justice, equity, and compassion – by definition. They learn from their slightly older role models what it means to become a leader because something important "calls" to them, not for the goal of extra credit or for a winning record. They learn how at any age, they can be a friend to a

younger one simply by saying, "do you want to be my partner?" They learn over time, even if it takes a while, that a congregation is a very special place of belonging open to anyone who wishes to partake in the quest for truth, justice, and peace....while agreeing to strive to be our best selves along the way.

All of this is a formula that might be reasonably compelling on paper. This is not merely transactional arithmetic and we are not really a precisely tuned machine. We do believe in the mystical power (and result) of strength and joy in numbers. We do believe that each of us finds our way to be a unique and purposeful cog in the many wheels of congregational life.

All of this takes mystical flight when experienced. We are greater than the sum of our parts.

In faith,

Anne

Adult Enrichment

Food for Thought - February 12, 2012

Join us as we view the film Food, Inc. and discuss the questions raised by the film.

In Food, Inc., filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that has been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA.

Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation), Michael Pollan (The Omnivore's Dilemma, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin, Food, Inc. reveals surprising—and often shocking truths—about what we eat, how it's produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here.

Date: Sunday, February 12th - 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Facilitator: Kristine Blum

Nurturing Our Relationships - Feb. 15, 29 - Mar. 14, 28

A four-part workshop for couples in committed relationships.

Overview

We all know the statistics about marriage and divorce. Is it possible to sustain a committed relationship over the long haul? In this program of fun, interactive workshops, we will focus on what couples can do to keep their relationships strong. How do our UU identity and faith community provide a nurturing environment for interpersonal relationships? How do our UU principles inform our partnerships? We will look at the stages of a couple's life together and explore personality styles, skillful conversations, managing difference, maintaining passion and rituals of caring.

This program is for couples of all sexual orientations who have made vows or pledged to spend their lives together. This workshop series does not provide couples therapy; couples with serious relationship issues should speak to their minister or another counseling professional.

Length: Four sessions

Dates:

Wednesday evenings

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

February 15th and 29th, March 14th and 28th

Capacity: A minimum of four couples is necessary to hold the class, and a maximum of ten couples can participate.



Facilitators: Ann and Tony Fisher

Ann and Tony have been married for thirty years and been active UUs even longer. Ann is a clinical social worker with experience leading couples' workshops. Tony is a ministerial candidate at Andover-Newton Theological School.

For information or to sign up, email [Ann](#) or [Tony](#), or call 781-942-1634.

Review All Our New Adult Enrichments!

It's "second semester" Adult Enrichment time! Take a long look at all our engaging Adult Enrichment Offerings for the seasons of winter and early spring here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading.

New offerings include "Nurturing Our Relationships" in February and March and a review of the film "Food Inc." on February 12th.

Please look at all our offerings today and grow with UUCR this winter and early spring.

<http://uureading.org/learn/other/adult-enrichment-news>

CSAs: Getting Your Share - March 4, 2012

Heard about CSAs (community supported agriculture) but not sure of what they are? Looking to join a CSA but not sure which to sign up for? Matthew Himmel of local food cooperative World PEAS will talk about CSAs and how they benefit local residents, communities, and farmers.

Date: Sunday, March 4th, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Speaker: Matthew Himmel

Facilitator: Ann Fisher

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to Our Faith - March 10, 2012

Overview


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 our acting minister Meg Soens for this engaging introduction to our faith. Registration is required, please call or [email the church office](#) (781-944-0494) or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Facilitator: Meg Soens

Dates: Saturday, March 10 – 8:30 AM-12:45 PM

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 class will be led by Meg Soens, our acting minister.

What's for Dinner? - March 18, 2012

Join us as we discuss the book *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and learn how  our eating choices affect not only our health, but the health of the environment that sustains life on earth.

In this groundbreaking book, author Michael Pollan turns his own omnivorous mind to the seemingly straightforward question of what we should have for dinner. The surprising answers Pollan offers to the simple question posed by this book have profound political, economic, psychological, and even moral implications for all of us. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* promises to change the way we think about the politics and pleasure of eating. For anyone who reads it, dinner will never again look, or taste, quite the same.

Date: Sunday, March 18th, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Facilitator: Kristine Blum

Hungry for Change - April 12-May 17, 2012

Overview

Hungry for Change explores the true meaning of the phrase "you are what you eat." This 6-week discussion course challenges participants to examine their roles, not only as consumers of food, but also as creators -- of food, of systems, and of the world we all live in. Each session includes readings, short assignments and accompanying discussion questions that address the impact of individual food choices on a range of issues, including ecosystem health, the treatment of factory and farm workers, and the global economy. Hungry for Change helps participants commit to lasting change by developing and sharing personal Action Plans with each session.

Purpose:

- To explore the interconnected nature of food systems and our relationships to them.
- To examine the impact our food choices have on our health, the health of others and the health of our planet.
- To consider the ethical and political implications of our current food system and our personal food choices.

Length: Six sessions

Dates:

Thursday evenings

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

April 12 - May 17

Capacity: Space is limited to 12 participants.

Fees: fee for the course covers the discussion book.

Facilitator: Tricia Schwartz

Don't Let These Adult Enrichments Pass You By!

Did you know that we have an entire rich line up of adult enrichments planned for our second semester at the UUCR?

Enrichments that are on the horizon include a viewing of the film "Food, Inc." on Sunday, February 12 at 12:30 PM in Loring. Also just around the corner is a 4-part workshop for couples in committed relationships entitled "Nurturing Our Relationships." This course starts on Wednesday evening, February 15th.

Enjoy a review of our entire Adult Enrichment offering for our second semester.

Unitarian Universalist Basics: An Introduction to Our Faith - May 19, 2012

Overview

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 our minister Rev. Tim for this engaging introduction to our faith. Registration is required, please call or [email the church office](#) (781-944-0494) or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Facilitator: Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Date: Saturday, May 19 – 8:30 AM-12:45 PM

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 class will be led by Rev. Tim Kutzmark, our minister.

Get Involved News

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

Ivy Chord Coffee House

Aoife Clancy and Robbie O'Connell Perform February 25, 2012

Brighten up your winter with Celtic singers Aoife Clancy & Robbie O'Connell, performing at our very own Ivy Chord Coffee House on Saturday, Feb. 25. Their music will warm your heart! Doors open at 7:15 pm. The concert starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased at UUCR's website, or email [Beth](#) or call her at 781-229-9394.

Let Beth know if you are able to bake and/or if you can put up a flyer.

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

Book Club to Meet February 28

The Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club will meet at the home of Joyce Miles, 43 Hathaway Road, Wilmington, Ma. on February 28th at 1:30 PM. The book selected to be discussed is, *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. Happy Reading!

Mom's Group

Please Join Us at Our Next Mom's Group Book Discussion on February 24

The UUCR Mom's Book Group will sponsor their next meeting on Friday, February 24, 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

Social Action

[Thanks for Supporting UU Service Committee through Guest at Your Table](#)

Again this year, the UUCR community has generously supported the work of the UU Service Committee through the Guest at Your Table program. Thank you! Together, members and friends donated \$ 1014.32, which will translate into real-world efforts toward human rights and social justice in the US and around the world, especially environmental and economic justice, civil rights, and the rights of marginalized individuals in humanitarian disasters.

Social Action

[UUCR Hosting Immigrant Rights Workshop: Can You Help?](#)

On Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., our church will host a UU Mass Action - UUA Mass Bay District workshop called **Immigrant Rights: From Massachusetts to Arizona**. As hosts, we'll be providing beverages and light food for workshop attendees and helping them with any needs or questions that come up throughout the day.

If you can donate a food item (e.g., sandwich fixings, crackers, bagels, veggies, fruit), juice, or soda, or if you can act as a host/hostess for part or all of the event, please [contact Anne Mark](#).

Immigrant rights will be the focus of this year's UUA General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. To get ready for GA and to start a statewide immigrant rights campaign, UU Mass Action is holding workshops across the state (http://uumassaction.org/Immigrant_Right). For details, and to sign up to attend the workshop at our church, check upcoming newsletters.

Our Larger Community

Time To Register For Sawyer Nursery School



Spring is the time of year when families of preschoolers begin making plans for nursery school in the fall. If you or someone you know (friend, neighbor, relative, acquaintance) has a child who will be at least 2.9 years old by August 31, 2012, do urge them to consider UUCR's own Sawyer Nursery School. Sawyer is a flourishing little operation that celebrated its 50th anniversary last March. It offers a Tuesday/Thursday morning program for 3 year olds, a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning program for 4 and 5 year olds, and the option of a weekly 'Lunch Bunch' extended day for all. It is a happy place for children, led by experienced, well-trained and loving staff members. To schedule a tour, contact school Director Deb Harvey at 781-944-9581 or sawyer_nursery_school@verizon.net.

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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