



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

February 21, 2012

Worship Services

February 26, 2012

"Creative Goodness: Grace Found in Community"

Rev. Fayre Stephenson, Guest Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

We know how important the UU communities we build are to each of us on a personal level. Is there a liberal theology that can give UUs a framework for the spiritual fulfillment we find in religious community? How does our commitment to community unify us in all of our diversity? In addition to providing some possible answers to these questions, this service will be a celebration of our unique UU religious communities. Music: 9:15 AM Joan Marshman; 11:00 AM UUCR Choir.

Rev. Fayre Stephenson is the Program Director at Ferry Beach, the Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center on the shore of Saco Bay. Before entering the ministry, Fayre worked for many years in Massachusetts as a legislative aide and as a lobbyist and writer for the legislative office of a labor union. After graduating from Harvard Divinity School, Fayre served as minister of the Foxborough (Massachusetts) Universalist Church where she is Minister Emerita. Fayre is currently serving her eighth year as Ferry Beach Program Director, a fulfilling community ministry. She is the mother of two grown sons and the doting grandmother of five grandchildren.

Ushers:

9:15 AM Eric Rizzo

11:00 AM Ann Fisher and Ralph Rubenstein

Welcome Table

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Dru Wood-Beckwith

Coffeemakers

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Nancy Harrison

Altar Flowers:

Needed

Sunday, March 4, 2012

"What Kind of Church Do We Want To Be?"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Particularly in Unitarian Universalism, different-sized churches often have different ways of relating to the world and to folks within the church. It's not just a question of size: what really matters to our church? Why do we exist? What do we want to do? How do we want to change? We'll explore some of these questions with poetry, story and sermon on March 4. Music: 9:15 AM Nathan Furst, viola and Wendy Wakeman, Handoshkin; 11:00 AM UUCR Choir.

Ushers:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Ann Mottl and Ellen Hill

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Nancy Littlehale

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Jack Goldberg

Sunday, March 11, 2012

"What Is Our Vision Of Youth Ministry?"

Anne Principe, Interim Director of Faith Development and UUCR Youth

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Join Anne Principe and UUCR Youth at either service this morning for an engaging worship centered around the vision of youth ministry. Music: 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM Barbara Bennett and Marcia Dresser, Vocalists with Alex Gordon, Piano.

Ushers:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Kitty Craig-Comin

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM 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

Planting Seeds: Focus on Food - February 21, 2012

Last week, folks from several UUCR groups that have embraced our church-wide social justice initiative met to discuss how we are doing at our new "Planting Seeds: Focus on Food" effort. It was exciting to hear about the variety of opportunities our Faith Development, Helping Hands, Adult Enrichment, Social Action, and Green Sanctuary programs and committees are creating for us to become involved in one aspect or another of this community-wide social action effort.

Halfway through the first year of our two-year Focus on Food, our children and youth are engaged with the topic. They are working regularly with youth leaders from The Food Project, our Helping Hands partner whose mission it is to "grow a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system." The Food Project strives to inspire and support others to create change in their own communities. With them, our young people have been talking about a variety of topics, including: healthy snacks and exercise, migrant farmers' rights, and where the money from every "food dollar" we spend really goes. Our Faith Development team complements the Helping Hands partnership with its own initiatives, including a commitment to healthier snacks, multi-age activities (such as this past weekend's Stone Soup), and a planned mission trip related to food for Coming of Agers.

And what is there for the adults? Social Action and Adult Enrichment committees have created opportunities for learning, giving, and change through: book and movie discussions; relationships with other organizations (e.g., Reading Food Pantry, The Food Project, The Greater Boston Food Bank); and classes (e.g., CSAs: Getting Your Share, March 4th and Hungry for Change, Thursday evenings beginning April 12th).

How is our UUCR Focus on Food affecting how you eat or think about food? Are

there activities or classes you think it would be good for us to offer? Do you need help finding ways to get involved in our community engagement work? How might you share your passion for food with others? If there is something you'd like to share, please write to me at iris.hardin@verizon.net.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Iris Hardin

Planting Seeds Coordinating Group (successor to the Community Engagement Task Force)

[Aoife Clancy and Robbie O'Connell Perform this Saturday 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 **THIS** Saturday, February 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.

[Worship Notes](#)

[Spring Plants For Our Easter Sevices Sunday, April 8, 2012 - Please Note: Greenhouse Order Deadline is Monday, March 26, 2012](#)

We are asking UUCR members and friends to help beautify Our Sanctuary for the Easter Services on Sunday April 8. Order a Tulip or Daffodil or Azaleas Plant – you choose! The flowers will decorate the Sanctuary for both the 9:15 AM and the 11:00 AM Easter Services. Please take only the plant(s) type(s) that you ordered and prepaid home after the second service on Sunday April 8! Any plants remaining after the second service will be delivered to those who are homebound the next day. We are also asking for plant dedications, in memory of or in celebration of a loved one. Please send your written dedication and plant type desired with a check attached made payable to UUCR for \$ 14.00 per plant, to UUCR, 239 Woburn Street, Reading, MA 01867. You may also place a check in the collection plate with a line note "Easter Flowers" or use the safe in the mailroom. All orders must be called into the greenhouse on the morning of Monday March 26th. This gives the greenhouse adequate time to reserve our plants.

[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 - 2/20/12

Soup for Us!

Sacred mathematics can be defined as representing a

"wholly contained and internally consistent philosophy

-- a philosophy which describes physical reality, its cosmogony and every aspect of its science."



Arithmetic is the oldest and most elementary branch of mathematics, used by almost everyone, for tasks ranging from simple day-to-day counting to advanced calculations. It involves the study of quantity especially as

the result of operations that combine numbers. In common usage, it refers to the simpler properties when using the traditional operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with smaller numbers.

I find powerful metaphors, if not actual connections, in using ancient principles and theories as a way to understand the dynamic (and mechanics) of community building. When we spend time together in a faith community, we can see that one by one -- person by person -- we enact the sacred process of becoming. And when we a Unitarian Universalist faith community, we add factors like shared beliefs, common purpose, mutual support, radical inclusion. The sum total is exponential.

If you were a part of last Sunday's interactive Time for All Ages or were to catch a glimpse of last Sunday's multi-age Helping Hands activity, you saw an old tale re-enacted in a wonderful way. Stone Soup is a story about a "stranger" who comes to a village where the people are hiding because they are hungry and the children are weak. But the stranger has a special stone that makes a wonderful soup. Of course it's better with a...carrot, onion, or a stalk of celery....perhaps the broth of water and a stone could be tastier. Perhaps if each person just gave one small piece of themselves, not only would it be enough but then each person would experience the joy of shared giving, doing and most especially...being. Eventually the stranger moves on from that village but leaves behind a powerful recipe.

And so 30 children and youth (from age 4 to 14+) spontaneous went to work creating a UUCR Stone Soup last Sunday during the usual 9:15 worship time. They snipped, sliced, diced, grated, stirred. And they cleaned, swept, washed. And they laughed, played, shared. And then others greeted, served, cleaned.

If the recipe is followed exactly, Stone Soup is very delicious!

In faith,
Anne

Adult Enrichment

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 17, 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](mailto:email@churchoffice.org) (781-944-0494) or sign up on Sunday at coffee hour.

Facilitator: Meg Soens

Dates: Saturday, March 17 – 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?

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](mailto:church@uucr.org) (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](#)

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

"Immigrant Rights: From Massachusetts to Arizona": at UUCR, Sat., Mar. 3, 10-1



Workshop "Immigration Rights: From MA to AZ" (UUCR, 3/3, 10-1)

In Fellowship Hall, UUCR, Sat., Mar. 3, 10-1: Join together as our church hosts area UUs to discuss taking action on immigrant rights.

The free workshop "Immigrant Rights: From Massachusetts to Arizona" will look at how immigrant rights is an important issue for Massachusetts UUs. At the start of his term, UUA President Peter Morales stated that immigrant rights is the civil rights issue of our time. Since then, the UUA and many UU activists have been working to help UUs stand on the side of love with immigrants. In fact, the whole focus of this year's UUA General Assembly in Arizona will be immigrant rights.

To get ready for GA and to start a statewide immigrant rights campaign, UU Mass Action (in partnership with the UUA's Mass Bay, Clara Barton, and Ballou Channing districts) will host a series of workshops across the state. At the UUCR workshop on March 3, we will

- preview the Frontline documentary "Lost in Detention," which paints a stark picture of what happens to individuals and families caught up in our country's immigration policies. (Maria Hinojosa, who produced "Lost in Detention," will give the Ware Lecture at GA this year.)
- get policy briefings by local immigrant rights organizations about the needs right here in Massachusetts
- learn more about what will be happening at this year's GA
- strategize about how we might be able to work together to stand on the side of love with immigrants in Massachusetts

To register for this free workshop, please visit

http://uumassaction.org/Immigrant_Rights and click on "Click here to register" toward the bottom of the page, or contact Anne Mark. A light lunch will be



provided.

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.

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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