



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

March 26, 2012

Worship Services

April 1, 2012

"Why Jesus Went to Jerusalem"

Rev. Frank Clarkson

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

April 1 is Palm Sunday, the day that commemorates Jesus entering Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate Passover. It is the beginning of Holy Week, which marks Jesus' last days and the events that led up to Easter. This sermon will explore why Jesus undertook this difficult and risky journey. How might this story inform our own lives, and help us in the living of our days?

The Rev. Clarkson has been serving as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Haverhill since August 2008. Before pursuing the ministry, Rev. Clarkson worked as a freelance photographer. Prior to serving the UU church in Haverhill, he served as the Assistant Minister at the North Parish of North Andover.

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Janee Tichy and Derek Puff

11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Dru Wood-Beckwith

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed

11:00 AM Needed

Ushers:

9:15 AM Theo Noell and Kathleen Sheehan

11:00 AM Needed

April 8, 2012

"Intergenerational Easter Sunday Service"

Meg Soens, Acting Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Join us as we celebrate the resurging power of life in many forms, as celebrated in Easter and Passover and other springtime festivals. Nature and Life seem endless, although our individual lives are not. How can we begin to understand what it might mean to die and come to life again? Come for connection, come for community, come to claim the promise of this new day. Our usual 9:15 and 11:00 AM services will feature The UUCR Adult Choir, and there

will be an interactive "Time For All Ages" for young and old alike! Our traditional Easter Egg hunt for the kids will take place after the 9:15 service.

Coffee Hour:

9:15 AM Needed
11:00 AM Needed

Altar Flowers:

Spring Flowers from our members and friends

Welcome Table:

9:15 AM Needed
11:00 AM Needed

Ushers:

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](#).

Worship Notes

Traditional Passover Seder April 7, 2012

AN INVITATION TO A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER SEDER ALL ARE WELCOME

Rabbi Bart Perlman will hold a traditional Passover Seder at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 7, 2012, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. This event will include a full Passover meal. The meal will be a roast chicken dinner with salad and matzo ball soup as appetizers, vegetable, and roast potato; also several Jewish side dishes such as potato kugel, chopped liver, gefilte fish etc.; followed by macaroons, brownies and other Passover desserts. The meal cost is \$ 27.00 per person; half price for a child who eats as a child; full price for a child who eats as an adult. To reserve a place at the Seder table please contact Louis Damelin by *Wednesday April 4th* at loudamelin@rcn.com. This RSVP deadline is necessary in order to prepare for the purchase of the full Passover meal. All are enthusiastically welcome.

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

March 2012

Caring and Sharing Coordinator for Month



The Caring and Sharing coordinator for March is Nancy. You can reach Nancy by clicking this [LINK](#).

Minister's Messages - March 26, 2012



Hello Everyone:

It has been two weeks since I arrived back home from the extraordinary and complex country of Afghanistan. My heart is filled with the many stories of courage and commitment I heard, and my mind's eye sees the faces of the many children and adults who shared moments of their lives with me. They haunt and inspire me.

When my sabbatical ends on May 7th and I return to church, I'm sure I'll share a few sermons about these beautiful people, and on my experiences in the streets, offices, and homes of Afghanistan. But I want to share one message right now.

The one thing I heard again and again from EVERYONE I met was this: "Please don't withdraw the U.S. Troops in 2014." This is something I never expected to be hearing. I went to Afghanistan anticipating complaints about the U.S. occupation, or complaints about the many civilian deaths and injuries inadvertently caused by the U.S. offensive against the Taliban. But what I heard—over and over and over—was a desperate plea begging our U.S. Government to keep the troops in Afghanistan to help the Afghan Army and Police Force secure the country from the re-emerging Taliban and other insurgents. Of the people I met, no one believes the Afghan Army and Police are in a position to ensure the security of the country without the continued presence of U.S. Troops and advisors. More time is needed. Our delegation heard it again and again: the Afghan Army and Police are simply not ready to maintain the security of the country. This is what we heard from teachers, human rights advocates, the founders of girls' schools, Members of Parliament, women business owners, radio producers, peace activists, hospital administrators, and ordinary people in the street or in restaurants.

The last ten years have brought enormous strides in the rebuilding of the country—from infrastructure to legislation to human rights. Granted, those ten years have been marked with many missteps, corruption, and setbacks. But Afghanistan is a very different country than it was in the post civil war dark days of the Taliban. In the last ten years, the city of Kabul went from being a bombed out place with no electricity or running water to a city that burns bright at night with electricity in 90% of the homes, a city where most buildings and neighborhoods have been rebuilt. Afghanistan went from a place where women were denied the right to leave home without a male relative escorting them to a place where 25% of the Afghanistan Parliament is female, and thousands upon thousands of girls

are receiving a modern education. Much remains to be done in terms of securing women's rights countrywide, but progress has been made.

All this progress will be lost—we were told—if the U.S. withdraws. In the vacuum created by the U.S. and NATO pullout, the fundamentalist and repressive Taliban will once again overrun the country, or, even worse, the situation will dissolve into a fierce civil war that will leave the country decimated and its people battered and broken. I was told on many occasions: "We won't survive another civil war if the warlords start fighting for power and control."

As one who is always hesitant to support the use of military force, as one who perpetually leans to the 'dove' side of things, I am struggling with what I heard and saw. But I must honor the trust of so many brave and ordinary Afghani people who said again and again: "Give the people of your country this message." Let's be clear— most Afghans I spoke with know that the U.S. Troop withdrawal is going to happen (most believe the withdrawal is an election year necessity for the Obama administration). Most people know the likely brutal future of bloodshed and repression they can anticipate. But still they hope their country can be given more time so it can become more secure. How I wish this were so.

It feels strange to me: even as I hold this complexity, even as I hold the sights and sounds and conflicts of Afghanistan close to heart and mind, I am preparing, now, to depart for South Africa for the second part of my sabbatical. I'll be leaving on Thursday morning for almost a month, spending much of that time working with a team of scientists who are studying a pride of lions in a remote wilderness region of the country. I expect I will not have access to the internet, so I imagine I won't be able to write and update you till after I return. As always, I'll take you with me in my heart during my adventures, and I look forward to seeing you in early May when I return to church.

Fondly, your minister,
Tim



Afghani child that Tim met in the market in Kabul



School for street children in Kabul



Village Elders in the Parwan Province

Adult Enrichment

Important Adult Enrichment: Register Today for Hungry for Change - April 12-May 17, 2012

Registration is open for this compelling adult enrichment scheduled to begin April 12.

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](#) (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:

- Sunday 7:00 - 8:30 PM
- Tuesday 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday 11:00 AM - 12:30 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](#)

Ivy Chord Coffee House

Ellis Paul will be performing at UUCR's Ivy Chord Coffee House on Saturday, April 14

Doors open at 7:15 pm for the 8:00 pm concert.

What can you do to help? Well, thanks for asking!

1. Offer to bake (yummy treats to be sold at intermission) -- ONLY 2 more bakers needed
2. Offer to volunteer. ONLY one more volunteer needed for post concert clean up crew (not a lot to do, but the regular volunteers who have been there since 4:00 are tired, so we need late evening reinforcements).
3. Buy lots of tickets online (<http://www.uureading.org/get-involved/programs-teams-and-committees/ivy-chord/upcoming-concerts>) or from Beth Murray during social hour on April 1st.
4. Offer to put up flyers, link your Facebook page to UUCR's Facebook events page, email 84 of your closest friends!



Who is Ellis Paul? I thought you might enjoy this quote from Nora Guthrie (Woody Guthrie's daughter):

"A singer songwriter is only as good as the times he reflects. In times like these, when so many nuts are running the show, it's comforting to know that Ellis Paul is actually holding our sanity on his own stage! Wise, tender, brilliant and biting, Ellis is one of our best human compasses, marking in melodies and poems where we've been and where we might go if we so choose to. Personally Ellis, I'm goin' where you're goin'!"

Questions? Contact Beth:

Beth Murray

[Click to send email](#)

Phone: 781-229-9394

Last Tuesday of the Month Book Club

LTOM Book Club meets March 27, 2012

The March meeting of the LTOM Book club will be held at the home of Nancy Morley, 1005 Main Street, Reading, on March 27th at 1:30 pm. The book selection is *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern. All are welcome!

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.

- 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

Running for Your Rights: UUCR Marathon Runner Supports UUSC



From Mark Cronin-Golomb: I am excited that I will be participating in the **116th running of the Boston Marathon** on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on April 16, 2012. This is my second year running the marathon, and my first year running in support of UUSC!

UUSC is a human-rights and social-justice organization working in more than 20 countries around the world, including right here in the United States. To learn more about this organization and its vital work, visit uuscs.org. I am sure you will see why I have chosen to support this wonderful cause.

I have a fundraising goal of \$ 2,500. If just 25 people support me at \$ 100 each, I will meet my goal! And if you donate \$ 100 or more, I will list your name on the back of my marathon shirt as a mile sponsor. Of course, your contribution of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

To support me, please visit

<http://www.crowdrise.com/runforjustice/fundraiser/markcroningolomb>

and make your gift today. Or if you prefer, you can give me cash or a check made out to UUSC.

Consider your sponsorship a proxy for running the Boston Marathon. **I will run the 26.2 miles, suffer the blisters and the anguish of Heartbreak Hill, and you get to provide compassionate support to the people being oppressed around the world.** That's a pretty good deal!

Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Mark

Social Action

Food Drive for Reading Food Pantry Sponsored by Gathering Change, Inc.



UUCR is hosting a **Spring Food Drive** for the Reading Food Pantry **through the month of April. There will be a large box at each of our sanctuary entrances on April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29,** to receive donations of paper goods and nonperishable foods for those in our church's community who rely on the pantry.

This event is being coordinated by Gathering Change, Inc., a local 501c3 nonprofit organization that raises awareness and funds for food pantries. Once again, GCI has partnered with the **Feinstein Foundation's Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger**. The Feinstein Foundation, based in Cranston, RI, will match a percentage of every pound of food or dollar collected

in the months of March and April by participating organizations. This is an opportunity to increase the funds we can pass on to the Reading pantry.

Monetary donations are also welcome!

For more information, call Judy Bousquin at 781-438-8960 or check out the websites www.gatheringchangeinc.org and www.feinsteinfoundation.org. Thank you for your support!

Social Action

Learn about the UU Urban Ministry: Annual Meeting, Thurs., May 17



Exciting things are happening at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. If you'd like to know more about this unique UU social justice ministry in Roxbury, please come to the 177th Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 17 (daytime)!

Our church is entitled to three official delegates at the meeting, and of course others are welcome to attend as well. If you'd like to attend as a delegate, please contact Anne Mark.

At the UUUM:

- Roxbury Youth Programs Afterschool provides a safe, enriching environment for young people during out-of-school hours.
- RYP Weekend is an exploration and mentoring program for elementary-school-age children.
- RYP Summer offers an "earn and learn" employment program for up to 15 neighborhood teens and fully paid summer camp adventures for more than 30 urban elementary-school-age children.
- Renewal House provides support and extensive services for individuals and families escaping from abusive living situations.

- United Souls is a support group and network for men in transition, struggling with urban life's most difficult challenges.
- Fellow UUCR members are tutoring in the UUUM's English-as-a-Second-Language and RYP afterschool programs and helping RYP students with mock college interviews. More volunteers are always needed, in these and other areas. Contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson, kwilkinson@uuum.org, 617-318-6010.

Social Action

UU Mass Action 6th Annual Advocacy Day: Wed., Apr. 25

Join UUs from across MA for UU Mass Action Advocacy Day on Beacon Hill (Wed., Apr. 25). Together, call on legislators to

- secure more funding for housing for the homeless (Housing First program)
- stop the Anti-Immigrant SB 2061 bill
- continue the fight against the Three Strikes bill

Start with the Acts of Faith Breakfast (9 a.m., UUA Headquarters, 25 Beacon St., Boston). Hear Dr. Dan McKanan of Harvard Divinity School talk about his new book *Prophetic Encounters: Religion and the American Radical Tradition*. Proceeds to support the UU Mass Action Acts of Faith Blog that tells the story of UU churches in MA living their faith in the world. (individual; group of 4)



Advocacy Day follows (10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., start at UUA Headquarters). Keynote speaker State Senator (and UU) Will Brownsberger (one of only four white legislators in MA to vote against the Three Strikes bill). Other speakers will

brief the group on the legislative issues; then attendees will visit with their legislators. (individual, youth, group of 4 (lunch provided)).

Details and registration: uumassaction.org/advocacyday. If you plan to attend, please contact Anne Mark to coordinate transportation and group registration rates.

More News

[Save The Date! Ferry Beach Weekend Scheduled For June 1st - June 3rd](#)

This year our church retreat weekend at the UUA conference center in Saco, Maine on the ocean will be held June 1, 2 & 3. This is a time for all members, and friends, of all ages of UUCR to spend a weekend just socializing with no pressing church business. Activities for children and adults are planned but if you prefer to sit and read a book the porch has comfy rockers. Perhaps you'd like to take a nature walk, there are trails across the street, or fly a kite or organize a pick up game of softball. Saturday night there will be talent/no talent show so get your act together. Stage fright, we need an audience too. Dates of registration will be announced soon.

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

Ellis Paul on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 8:00PM



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

Lori McKenna: October 6, 2012



"Poignant and profound poetry. She has an uncanny ability to paint stories of the human condition in a way that reminds us all that we are not alone." ~ Keith Urban

Saturday, October 6, 2012
8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 20 general admission

\$ 22 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

Lori is the winner of **2011 Boston Music Awards Folk Artist of the Year.**

From Good Day LA:

Lori McKenna is one of the most respected songwriters in country music. Her songs have been recorded by other artists including Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, and Mandy Moore.

John Gorka on Saturday, January 26, 2013



Energetic, acoustic folk

"Listening to him sing, one can get goose bumps all over. There are many reasons—fresh lyrics, a stunning emotional baritone, his twisted humor ..." *New York Times*

Saturday, January 26, 2013
8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 25 general admission

\$ 23 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

From Ben Wakeman, Take Me To the Bridge:

There are few contemporary songwriters that come anywhere close to the talent of John Gorka. His songs have a way of working on you long after you thought you had it all figured out. I will listen to a song that I know all the words to and can sing a long with and then one day sitting at a traffic light I realize that there was a whole other layer of meaning that I had missed.

In 1984 John Gorka won the prestigious Kerrville New Folk competition. He has over ten albums to his credit. John is a songwriter's songwriter and his songs are championed by an amazing circle of artists including Nanci Griffith, Mary Chapin Carpenter, David Wilcox and many more.

Matt & Shannon Heaton on Saturday, April 13, 2013



"Their playing is masterful and inventive, their arrangements city-smart and spacious. Still, they never forget that Irish music is, at its heart, a neighborly form meant for sharing, not showing off."—*Scott Alarik, Boston Globe*

Saturday, April 13, 2013
8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 16 general admission

\$ 14 students/seniors

[Buy tickets for this concert online.](#)

Musically speaking, the Heaton's play the heck out of their instruments (Irish wood flute/accordion, guitar/bouzouki). After years of study in Chicago, and many nights of music in Clare, Galway, and their adopted home of Boston, Irish Music Magazine's John O'Regan wrote, "their duet playing is tight, sweet, and tasteful, lacking nothing on either technical expertise or instrumental virtuosity."

As for their singing, when Matt and Shannon perform centuries-old songs, it feels current, conversational. They make traditional music relevant to American audiences. O'Regan wrote "songwise [there are] hints an older domestic sound, the familiar down home harmonies of The Carter Family and Tim and Mollie O'Brien."