



Windows

NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

A REGIONAL CHURCH SERVING COMMUNITIES NORTH OF BOSTON - WELCOMING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES,
RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS, CULTURAL ORIGINS, DIFFERING ABILITIES, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS

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WORSHIP SERVICE

Date	Sunday December 23, 2007 10:30 AM	Monday December 24, 2007 5:30 PM and 7:15 PM
Sermon	“The Darkness Before the Dawn” Rev. Tim Kutzmark	Christmas Eve Services 5:30 PM Family Service 7:15 PM Traditional Candlelight Service Rev. Tim Kutzmark
Children	Pre-k and up begin in Sanctuary. Multiage Church School Program in Community Hall. Playschool in Sawyer with Jenn. No SHYP. Religious Education Greeter: David Oakes	Christmas Eve Services 5:30PM Family and 7:15 PM Traditional. For the Family Service at 5:30 please bring warm winter items that will be sent to the people of Pine Ridge Reservation.
Ushers	Pat Claffey and Anne Mark	5:30 PM: Needed 7:30 PM: June Haskell
Altar Flowers	Poinsettias offered by our Members and Friends	Poinsettias offered by our Members and Friends
Coffee Hour	Nancy and Tony Ortiz	No Coffee Hour at either the 5:30 or 7:15 pm Christmas Eve Services
Welcome Table	To Be Announced	5:30 PM: Linda Deveau and Eileen Cummings 7:15 PM: No after service need
Greeters	Lorraine Dennis and Sharlene Reynolds Santo	5:30 PM To Be Announced 7:15 PM Ann Fisher and Fran Sansalone
Paper Recycler	Nancy Bond	Nancy Bond

Sunday, December 23 - 10:30 AM “The Darkness Before the Dawn” Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Poet Rainer Maria Rilke wrote: “Darkness from which I come, I love you more than all the fires that fence out the world . . . darkness holds it all . . . all power, all sight . . . I have faith in the night.” As we pass through the Winter Solstice and the longest night of the year, join us for a service reflecting on the spiritual gifts of darkness and night. Special Solstice-themed music provided by Ryan Patterson and Clyde Hardin, Sharyn Taitz and Al Mosier, Beth and Al Murray, and Roald Wilson.

**Sunday, December 23 – 1:00 PM (rescheduled due to the storm this past December 16th)
“When The Holidays Hurt” – A Gentle Service of Support”**

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

Join Rev. Tim for a gentle service of support for anyone who finds themselves grieving a loss, or challenged, hurting, or struggling during this holiday season. The holidays can be such a difficult time for many of us. With all the colors, and lights, and songs and parties, it can be hard to find a quiet place that acknowledges some of us are struggling. Perhaps we've lost a loved one, or a job, or our sense of hope. Perhaps we struggle with depression or stress or anxiety. Perhaps someone we love is ill, or we are ill. Perhaps we feel alone. Perhaps we don't celebrate Christmas because it is not part of our spiritual tradition. We are opening our doors to anyone who hurts in any way this holiday season, and offering a safe and healing place for comfort and support. Everyone from the community is welcome. Special music by Roald Wilson (Please note special 1:00 PM time)

Monday, December 24, 2006

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - At 5:30 and 7:15 PM

Join us on this sacred evening of story, carols, and hope renewed.

5:30 PM Family Service—An interactive child-friendly service suited to families and children who might need to wiggle a bit. The service will include traditional candle lighting and passing of the flame, as well as the telling of the Nativity Story. UUCR Choir will sing. *As an opportunity to help our children reach out beyond themselves this season, we are requesting that each child bring with them an item of clothing that will be collected as part of the service and donated to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota: Please bring fleece or wool socks, Sweat Shirts or Fleece tops any size new or gently used, hats, gloves, scarves or mittens for adults or children.*

7:15 PM Traditional Candlelight Service—Join us for a reflective service of carols and readings, ending with the traditional candle lighting and passing of the flame. The UUCR Adult Choir will offer selections, including the long-standing choral benediction of the “Hallelujah Chorus.”

NOTE: The offertory at both services will be donated to Cangleska, Inc., an organization that operates the only battered women's shelter on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Cangleska assists families with payment of their utilities. Pine Ridge, home to members of the Native American Lakota Sioux Tribe, is considered one of the poorest counties in the United States. All money collected will be sent to Cangleska, Inc. to help purchase heating and fuel during the long winter months. Checks can be made payable to Cangleska, Inc., with the notation “Utilities Fund.”

Sunday, December 30, 2007 10:30 AM

“The Personal Epiphany”

Tony Fisher, Worship Arts

Children: Pre-K and up begin in Community Hall for Multiage Church School Program. Playschool in Sawyer with Jenn. No SHYP. Religious Education Greeter: Mary Gould

Ushers: Needed. Altar Flowers: Poinsettias Will Adorn Our Altar. Coffee Hour: Needed.

Welcome Table: To Be Announced. Greeters: To Be Announced. Recycler of the Week: Judy Riley

Our most profound religious experiences, or epiphanies, can have the power to change the way we think and act. How then can we align the non-rational aspect of 'mystical' events with a religion that holds up reason as the light on the pathway to truth?

Sunday, January 6, 2008 10:30 AM

“Bridges and Beginnings – A Service for the New Year”

Rev. Tim Kutzmark and Guest Vocalist, Michael Ricca

Join us as we begin the New Year with a celebration of the year just ended, of those who have passed into the mysteries of death, and of the unfolding gift of life itself in a brand new year. We'll have special music, an opportunity for each of us to memorialize our loved ones who died in 2007, and Rev. Tim will share a message to point us all towards the hope of the future. Joining Rev. Tim this morning is vocalist Michael Ricca, who returns to UUCR to share reflective songs. Michael Ricca has appeared off-Broadway, and in Boston at the Huntington Theater Company and the SpeakEasy Theater Company. Most recently, he played to sold-out crowds at Scullers Jazz Club in Boston. The UUCR choir will also sing. NOTE: Please bring back your “Guest At Your Table Boxes” today

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

In this season of light, color, and gentle joy, may the spirit of hope and renewal—however you understand or experience it—touch your life and the lives of those you love. May your sadness be tempered by the caring touch of those who love you. And may the Great Mystery that holds us all envelope your heart and mind with some promise of peace.

As Maya Angelou writes:

*It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps
quietly in the corner.
Floodwaters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.*

*Hope is born again in the faces of children.
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they
walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth, brightening
all things,
Even hate, which crouches breeding in
dark corridors.*

*In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.*

*We tremble at the sound We are thrilled by
its presence.*

It is what we have hungered for.

Someday, may it be so. See you on the path.

Tim

PS: I hope to see you at one of our two Christmas Eve Services. They are always special moments of song and story. And don't forget our January 6th service to welcome in the New Year will give you a chance to remember and light a candle for loved ones who have died.

PPS: Chalice Circles begin meeting in January. This is perhaps the best opportunity at our church to connect with others and explore the important questions in life. We all search for meaning and a sense of belonging. Chalice Circles, our small group spiritual reflection groups, is one simple way to discover some of this. If you haven't signed up to participate, give yourself a true gift and do so today. Contact the church office at uucr@uureading.org or 781-944-0494 for more information.

FELLOWSHIP HOLIDAY COFFEE HOUR!

Due to snow, freezing rain, and high winds on Sunday December 16th, the Fellowship Committee and Holiday Open House Hosts decided to reschedule and revise our Holiday Open House Event. The Event has now been moved to December 23, as a Holiday Coffee Hour right after church. Join us then for special treats and conversation in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there.

AMONG OURSELVES

Pat Johnston is continuing her medical treatment. She is about to enter a challenging phase of the treatment. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. Please consider dropping her a note or card of encouragement to 19 Barbara Lane, Reading, MA 01867.

SANTA'S SLEIGH!



For the fourth year in a row, the people of Cruz Electric in Woburn provided a delivery truck to take the "Undecorate the Tree" presents to the Malden office of DSS.

Santa's elves, who carried all of the gifts out of Community Hall and loaded them on the "sleigh" include: Eric Tuvell; Eric Barras; Rose Mini of DSS; Judy Bousquin; Justin DiMichelle and Ricky Anderson from Cruz Electric. (not shown: Meghan Young).

A very hearty and sincere "thank you" goes out to all of you who provided gifts, collected gifts, packed gifts, and helped load them. To provide this service for 102 children is a mammoth task and we so appreciate all who helped in this project. Also a special thanks to Cruz Electric who provided the truck and manpower to deliver these gifts to the DSS office in Malden. Linda King and Margaret Soli

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - UUCR AUCTION SOIREE ON HORIZON

Happy New Year! As the holiday season moves swiftly into the 2008, please pen in Saturday, February 9 at 6pm for the annual UUCR Auction. The auction promises something for everyone and gives you a chance to enjoy some time in our NEW community hall with friends you know and new acquaintances you'll meet while enjoying a night of great food (the soiree is back!) and an auction for a good cause - our church.

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT UUCR

Please pass the following information to anyone outside of our church community who might be interested: Part-time Facilities Manager: Liberal Church (Unitarian Universalist) in Reading, MA seeks friendly, responsible, and skilled presence to maintain and oversee church campus buildings and grounds, and keep them in condition suitable for use by the congregation for worship, classes, meetings, special events, and rentals. Will supervise weekly cleaning crew. Janitorial duties, some basic painting, and light repairs required. Demonstrated customer service, time management, and basic computer (email) skills, and familiarity with electrical, heating, air conditioning, and plumbing systems. Salary/hours: \$15/hr, 15 hr/wk. 1 week paid vacation. Flexible hours. Sunday morning availability a must. Full job description: www.uureading.org. Cover letter, resume, and references: fmsearch@uureading.org. No calls please. Deadline for resumes: December 13, 2007.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

NEW UU CLASS TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

Are you new to the church? Would you like to meet other folks who are new as well? Have you been here a while but would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or get to know some new people in a fun, small group setting? Are you thinking about becoming a member of UUCR? Then the NEW UU CLASS is just the thing for you. Join Rev. Tim for a four-week exploration and introduction to our faith. The class will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays: January 15, 22, 29, and February 5 from 7:00—9:00 PM. Registration is required, please call the church office at 781-944-0494, email us at uucr@uureading.org or sign up in the new atrium.

WHAT DO I WANT TO DO WITH THE SECOND HALF OF MY LIFE

Are you at a point in your life where you're stepping back - taking stock of where you've been and thinking about what lies ahead? Are there interests that you yearn to pursue? Are there changes - big or small - that you want to make? Is the life you're living in alignment with your passions and principles? Join with others for a morning of personal exploration. Using exercises involving private reflection and group conversation, we will clarify values, articulate dreams and make commitments aimed toward creating lives of passion and purpose. Facilitator: Ann Fisher Saturday, January 12, 2008, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon. Registration is requested. You may sign up during coffee hour. Sign up sheet available in atrium. Or call the office at 781-944-0494 or email Rosemary at uucr@uureading.org

REGISTER FOR CHALICE CIRCLE!

The Chalice Circle program is designed to foster connections and caring, provide an avenue for personal growth and spiritual development and ultimately strengthen the foundation of our community. Contact Nora Buckley at 781-944-7591 or by email nbuckley4@comcast.net

COACHING YOUR TEEN TO SUCCESS – 7 SIMPLE STEPS TO TRANSFORM RELATIONSHIPS AND ENRICH LIVES

This series of workshops will teach parents how to use coaching techniques to improve their relationship with their teens. The program will focus on assisting parents to develop more confidence in their ability to support their teens progress in becoming respectful, accountable and contributing adults. This workshop series will take place on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm in Loring House - Room 103. This workshop will be presented on January 22nd & 29th and February 5th, 12th & 26th. Materials fee is \$15.00 for the cost of the book, which participants will use for the duration of the series. Sign up during coffee hour or by emailing Marsha Finkelstein at marsha@movingbeyondcoaching.com The workshop series is facilitated by Marsha Finkelstein, a new member of the UUCR. Marsha is co-active life coach and has many years experience working with teens and parents.

SOCIAL ACTION

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOX RETURN DATES JANUARY 6TH AND JANUARY 13TH

Please continue to share with the UU Service Committee “guest at your table” throughout Christmas and New Year by placing donations in your GAYT box, and return it to church at the January 6 or 13 service. If you didn’t receive a box, you can still pick one up at the Welcome Table in the atrium or contact Anne Mark (amark@mit.edu, 781-944-8769). The UUSC is our faith’s social justice organization, working with and for people in the US and around the world.

UU SERVICE COMMITTEE HOLIDAY CARDS: THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who bought UUSC holiday cards the last few Sundays. Of the \$12 price of each pack of cards, about \$8 goes to UUSC programs—so UUCR members and friends have helped the UUSC put about another \$208 to work toward social justice in the world.

UUA RESOURCES ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Unitarian Universalist Association supports comprehensive immigration reform and has endorsed the New Sanctuary Movement. For more information and to see a video of UUA president Rev. Bill Sinkford speaking at an immigrant rights’ rally, please visit <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/immigration/index.shtml>. (If you don’t have Internet access, contact Anne Mark (above) for a copy of the written material.)

Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: Feb. 22-24, 2008 in San Jose, CA

Building on the success of the February 2007 national conference, Congregational Services of the UUA invites you to join congregational leaders from around the country to explore the dynamics of creating multiracial, multicultural congregations. The 2007 conference reinforced how essential it is for Unitarian Universalists to continue with this important work as we seek to build just and inclusive communities through our commitment that is rooted in Unitarian Universalist identity, theology, and values. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.uua.org/events/multiracialmulticultural/index.shtml>.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

- **Sunday, Dec. 23**– Pre-k through Grade 6 begin in Sanctuary. Multi age Church School follows in Community Hall until 11:45. Playschool with Jenn in Sawyer. No Senior High Youth Group.
- **Saturday, December 22** – Youth Adult Committee leads an all church Solstice Worship Service from 5 – 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a light potluck dinner and Party. ***PLEASE BRING A WINTER DECORATION TO TIE ONTO THE SOLSTICE WREATH, BELLS TO RING FOR THE SERVICE and A TRADITIONAL FOOD TO SHARE AT THE PARTY.***
- **Monday Dec. 24th** – Christmas Eve Service 5:30 Family, 7:15 Traditional. For the Family Service at 5:30 please bring warm winter items that will be sent to the people of Pine Ridge Reservation. Sunday, Dec. 30 –Children begin in Community Hall for Multiage Religious Education Program. Playschool with Jenn in Sawyer. No Senior High Youth Program.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS!

- Saturday, December 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the church Sanctuary the Youth Adult Committee and Senior High Youth Program will be leading a wonderful Solstice Service. The service is open to all! Please join us afterwards for a Solstice Celebration in Fellowship Hall.
- For the Solstice Service please bring a winter symbol to tie onto our Solstice Wreath and bells to ring enthusiastically during the service. For the Solstice Party please bring a traditional food item or drink to share. The Service is from 5 – 6 p.m. The Party begins in Fellowship Hall after the service and ends at 7:30 p.m. See you Saturday for a Service of Renewal and Love!

On Sunday, December 23 the children will begin in the Sanctuary for a brief solstice story. During the multiage program that follows in Community Hall the children will paint and decorate the figures for our Christmas Eve Family Service. There are Wise men and Shepherds, an Angel, Mary and Joseph and of course, Baby Jesus. They will paint and use other materials to bring these wood figures to life!

The Family Christmas Eve Service is Monday, December 24 at 5:30. This is a wonderful interactive service for people of all ages. Join us for the Nativity Story, Christmas Carols and the passing of the light. Please bring fleece or wool socks, Sweat Shirts or Fleece tops any size new or gently used, hats, gloves, scarves or mittens for adults or children. These items will be donated to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. We will be taking a collection during the service for fuel assistance for the Native American residents of Pine Ridge Reservation. Please send your tax-deductible check or money order made out to Cangleska, Inc. For year round support of the people of Pine Ridge Reservation visit <http://www.friendsofpineridgereservation.org/>. They are always looking for books and other materials that are simple to purchase or we may have around our homes.

The Christmas Eve Traditional Service will be at 7:15 p.m. We will be taking a collection during the service for fuel assistance for the Native American residents of Pine Ridge Reservation. Please send your tax-deductible check or money order made out to Cangleska, Inc. For year round support of the people of Pine Ridge Reservation visit <http://www.friendsofpineridgereservation.org/>. They are always looking for books and other materials that are simple to purchase or we may have around our homes.

Sunday, December 30 the children will begin in Community Hall for a fun multiage program.

Our Traditional Resolution Stars are coming up! Reflect on your dreams of last year and begin the thoughtful process of looking forward into the New Year. What do you want to accomplish? How do you want to live on the planet? How do you want to treat others and how do you want to be treated by others? Resolution Stars are a great way to start the New Year!

How Can This Be? In the December 10, 2007 edition of TIME magazine, on page 22, the state of Massachusetts ranks lowest for children of low-income families in the country. When it comes to health and education for low-income children, our state is the worst according to a new report using data from 2003. Go to the Annie E. Casey Foundation at <http://www.aecf.org/> to download and read the report. With the most saturated Unitarian Universalist church population in the country, how can we let this happen?! “It is surprising,” says report co-author William O’Hare about the plight of poor kids in rich states. “There is a crucial sense of community lacking in the metropolitan areas.” So Unitarian Universalist families, what can we do? I bet, A LOT! “tis the season to reach out...”

New Orleans! The Senior High Youth Program held its first New Orleans Planning Meeting Committee. “It will be a week-long trip of creating a relationship with the community in New Orleans, educating ourselves about the culture and the current situation, and most importantly offering our assistance and support through labor.”, as written in the parent letter that is being sent this week to parents of SHYP youth. The youth are planning this trip and creating their itinerary. They will travel and work in New Orleans during April vacation, possibly leaving on Friday, April 18th. After the holidays look for our Blog on the church website! (Thanks, Chris!) You will be able to follow along with our process and plans.

Congratulations 8th Grade O.W.L. The 8th grade O.W.L. class celebrated their expertise on Sunday, December 9 at the end of the program event! Parents and youth faced each other during the traditional STD Jeopardy Game. Congratulations 8th graders and thank you facilitators Donna Colebrook, Sue Hildreth and Steve McCrory!

BITS AND PIECES

UUCR CONTACT LIST

- Minister - [Rev. Tim Kutzmark](#), 781-944-0494, extension 101 (pastoral emergencies: 781-718-8378)
- Director of Religious Education - [Aileen Dashurova](#), 781-944-0494, extension 108
- Religious Education Assistant - Valerie Robison, 781-944-0494, extension 108
- Choir Director - Dr. Mark Bennett, 781-944-0494, extension 161
- Organist - George White, 781-944-0494, extension 161
- Administrator - [Rosemary Fiori](#), 781-944-0494, extension 100
- Office Assistant - Sharon Nichols, 781-944-0494, extension 100
- Infant Care Provider – Jennifer DeSantis, 781-944-0494, extension 108
- Governing Board President, [Lorraine Dennis, 781-944-2249](#)
- Caring and Sharing - [Nancy Ortiz](#), 781-942-1847, or Beverly Everett, 978-683-5654, call for assistance in an emergency (meals, rides or other assistance)

BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP

Please join us for an hour of peace and mindful community every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in (Old) Community Hall. The Buddhist Meditation Group at UUCR is led by our very own Rev. Laurie Thibault, Priest of the Buddha Heart USA (www.buddhaheartusa.org). The hour consists of simple and enjoyable meditation practices that offer great benefit for the body and the mind. No meditation experience necessary. Please contact Rev. Laurie Thibault at lthibault27@hotmail.com or 781-944-3243 or Andrew Furst at a.furst@comcast.net or 978-276-0212.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Sunday, December 30, 2007
Sunday, January 13, 2008
Sunday, January 27, 2008

A RECIPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

What an easy way to pick up that affordable and unique Christmas gift. UUCR chefs contributed more than 75 mouth-watering recipes to the UUCR Cookbook. Its sales have generated more than \$500 so far to help defray the expense of our new kitchen. Copies (\$10 each) will be available at coffee hour through the holiday season. If you miss the opportunity at coffee hour, contact Fran Sansalone (781) 944-2444, fran.sansalone@gmail.com to get your copy.

SINGLE FRIENDS 1ST ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE DINNER



Mon., Dec. 31st 7-9 pm at New Beijing Chinese + Japanese Steak House located at 1250 Osgood St./Route 125 North Andover, Ma. 978-689-9500 serving authentic Chinese and Japanese cuisine. Full Sushi bar. All dinners cooked to order. Karaoke 9 p.m. RSVP Janet @ 781-944-4215 for questions and reservations.