

For lay and ordained leaders of UU congregations

# Our hearts and our doors will remain open.

Celebrate the gifts of our religious community in times of sadness as well as joy.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS  
NEWS

Unitarian Universalists Respond to Tragedy in Knoxville

A shooting on the morning of July 27, 2008, which came during a performance of a children's play at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC) resulted in the death of one TVUUC member and one member of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church (located in Farragut, Tennessee) who was visiting TVUUC for the performance. Six adults were also injured but no children were harmed during the melee. The gunman was tackled by congregants and eventually taken into police custody.

In the wake of this tragedy, Unitarian Universalists have rallied to offer ministry and support to the affected members of both Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations.

**UUA.org Features and Reporting**

- [UU Values Affirmed in New York Times Ad](#) (August 12)
- [Overflow Concert Helps Reunite Knoxville Church Following Violence](#) (August 4)
- [The UU Trauma Response Ministry—Playing a Key Role in Knoxville's Recovery from Tragedy](#) (August 3)
- [Order of Service](#) for TVUUC Rededication Service (August 3)
- [Homily of Rev. Chris Buice](#)—from TVUUC Rededication Service (August 3, posted Aug. 13)
- [Words of Healing and Reconnection from Annette Margolis](#)—from TVUUC Rededication Service (August 3)

LOVE is the SPIRIT of this CHURCH

"Love is the Spirit of this Church" banner in front of the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville.

Paper cranes created by the First through fifth graders at Webb Lower School in Knoxville as part of their 2007-2008 peace project. The big hanging from the bottom of each string of five cranes reads "Our Wish for Your Peace, Hope, Love and Good Health." Webb Lower School 2007-2008 Peace Project.

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Worshipping as One Community

Worship Resources

[Opening Words](#)

[Chalice & Candle Lighting Words](#)

[Prayers](#)

[Poems & Meditations](#)

[Homilies & Reflections](#)

[Closing Words](#)

[Hymns from Singing the Living Tradition](#)

[Hymns from Singing the Journey](#)

[Other Hymns & Songs](#)

[Words from Singing the Living Tradition](#)

[Other Published Resources](#)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS  
NEWS

The Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry—Playing a Key Role in Knoxville's Recovery from Tragedy

August 3, 2008

When tragedy struck last Sunday at the [Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church](#) in Knoxville (TVUUC), word reached members of the staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) within minutes. One of the first calls for assistance went to the [Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry](#) (UUTRM), an organization gathered in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001. Co-founder Rosemary Bray McNatt, who serves as minister of the [Fourth Universalist Society](#), New York City, recalls, "There was no organized liberal religious response mechanism following tragedy... and there needed to be." And so McNatt, along with other clergy who had trauma ministry experience—including the Revs. Susan Suchoki Brown, Lisa Presley, Danita Noland, Aaron Payson, and Joel Miller, formed UUTRM.

UUTRM was on the scene after Hurricane Katrina, and their presence remained in the Gulf Coast for months thereafter. They have served in other situations where a trauma response team is necessary, and in the case of the Knoxville shootings, McNatt, Suchoki Brown, and Presley were deployed to the scene by Payson, who coordinated the initial response. McNatt and Suchoki Brown were designated as Incident Commanders and arrived on the scene by Monday morning. Presley arrived later on Monday, and other trauma responders followed.

Lisa Presley, who serves as Interim Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin.

Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, a Member of the UU Trauma Response Ministry

Rev. Lisa Presley, a Member of the UU Trauma Response Ministry

We have the resources you need: news, pastoral letters, media coverage, worship resources, and more, as UUs respond to tragedy in Knoxville.

<http://www.uua.org/news/knoxville>