

Outer Circle

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK NEWSLETTER

October 2017 Vol. 66 Issue 10



1818 Reservoir Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227
www.uuclr.org uuclr@uuclr.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to build a beloved community through shared worship, responsible spiritual freedom, exploration and reverence.

We are a welcoming congregation, embracing our interconnectedness, engaging with others by living our principles in our community, and working to transform our world and ourselves.



Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

October will be a big month here at your church. We're dedicating our brand new playground, a beautiful place for our young to stretch their bodies and spirits, a gift made possible by Judy Rickard in memory of David Rickard and by Linda VanBlaricom in memory of Chris Kupper. We're dedicating and giving thanks for a new life among us, Daisy Keith. We're recognizing our new members. And we're dedicating our new Flaming Chalice Doors, a gift to our congregation and its future, made possible by the Robert and Elizabeth Burger family. Our doors are a work of art, with their stained glass and wood inlays, a visual reminder of our Unitarian Universalist tradition's commitment to working for freedom and justice for all beings, everywhere. I hope you'll join us for these celebrations.

We'll also be hosting Unitarian Universalists from all around Arkansas on Friday evening, October 27 and Saturday, October 28. We will stretch our hearts and minds as we learn together about the complexities of racism, an evil in our human family that hurts every single one of us. Events in our country and in our world over these past months have been painful reminders that we must do better and be better.

(Continued on Page 2)

Sundays in October

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The October Theme is "Creativity"

"Never lose a holy curiosity" – Albert Einstein

For reflection:

What does it mean to create?

From where does creativity come?

What in your experience nurtures creativity?

What can get in the way of creativity?

What are some of your creations?

Services

- Oct 1** Rev. Jan
Dedication of our new church playground in memory of Chris Kupper and David Rickard
- Oct 8** Guest Dr. Martha (Tio) Eshleman
- Oct 15** Rev. Jan
- Oct 22** Rev. Jan
Dedication of our new church "Chalice Doors" in honor of Robert and Elizabeth Burger
- Oct 29** Rev. Jan

In the Life of the Church

Board President's Note

Greetings! As predictable, September arrived with a noticeable swell of church happenings. As much as I would love to be a coastal dweller, I was reminded of nature's power that can devastate these areas.

I personally want to thank all of you that have given generously to the school pantry program — since we went over the goal this tells me this is something we really want to accomplish!

There will be a Volunteer Table set up after most Sundays and hosted by a board member, which will provide opportunities to sign up for a short-term volunteer activity — one of my goals this year is to try get more folks involved and working together. I am so excited that small group dinners are back! Many thanks to the membership team for resurrecting it, and to Selma and Jerry Blackburn for taking on the challenge of coordinating the hosts and guests.

Enjoy the Fall!
Mindy Morrell, Board President

Minister's Message (Continued from Page 1)

I've been thinking lately how much I love serving alongside you as your minister. Over these past two years, so many of you have shared with me your stories, and I hold each one close. When I'm gathering words for our Sunday worship, I'm remembering your stories and your lives and looking for wisdom that might speak to our human journeys. Each Sunday morning we are together is a kind of adventure — as we sing and laugh, as we mourn losses in our lives and in our world, as we pray and think and meditate and play together. I have the best job in the world. It is such a privilege to serve as your minister and I thank you for your trust in me.

Love and blessings to you all,
Rev. Jan



Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE) Is Coming to Little Rock

The Southern Region UUA staff will offer Dwight Brown Leadership Experience at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock, May 20-25, 2018.

The Leadership Experiences and training ground congregational leaders in Unitarian Universalism and equip them to answer a deeper call to serve. Find complete information about DBLE and nominate your leaders and staff on our website at :

www.uua.org/southern/leadership-experiences



of Opportunities

Sunday, October 1 during coffee hour, there will be the **Carnival of Opportunities** — a chance to find out what UUCLR has to offer each of us and what EACH OF US can do for the UUCLR family.

Everyone will have an opportunity to learn more about the various Program Council Teams and what they do for UUCLR and the greater Little Rock community. Each team will have a table space to share information and where you may find a volunteer opportunity that fits with your heart and talents.

Join us for fun, education and the opportunity to get involved. Information and door prizes will be there waiting for you. Refreshments will be served.

Caring and Concerns

If someone would appreciate a card when ill or a family member is ill or happy news like a baby or marriage, just let Shirley Jo Pine know and she will send a card that is appropriate for the occasion.

Contact Shirley at shirleyjpine18@gmail.com.

In the Life of the Church



The School Food Pantry Now Needs Helping Hands

After a year of participating in a backpack food program to help children have enough to eat on weekends, Faith in Action decided to expand the program to the whole family by partnering with the Arkansas Food Bank to open a School Pantry at Stephens Elementary School.

UUCLR was ready to take on this project because Rev. Jan put the funding into the operating budget as a line item, and the congregation contributed **We raised \$2,759 in new income plus the pledged \$1800 for a total of \$4559**, blowing right past the original goal of \$2700. In fact, the entire fundraising need of \$4000 has been met and there is more still coming in.

Faith in Action will place funds over the amount needed for food purchases in a non-operating account where the money may reside until we have a big need, such as a permanent solution to the transportation from the Food Bank to the school. Any money coming in dedicated to the School Pantry now will be directed to that need for the future.

As of the writing of this article, we have not held our first pantry day. The paperwork, education, learning curve, interaction with the school, and of course, the fundraising, all had to happen first.

The next step is helping hands to make the School Food Pantry successful! We need people every Friday to set up tables, sort and bag food, help with food distribution to the families, and some folks to help close up. This is the fun part of the volunteer work.

We are planning an online Signup account where you may pick your Fridays and what times and jobs you would like to do. The system will send you reminders as to your volunteer date and time and we can keep track of our volunteers.

We are not yet ready for signups, but will be soon! The link will be on the church home page on the web site at www.uuclr.org. Watch your email for upcoming announcements about how you can help feed the hungry.

It's a Fall Ball Dance Fundraiser for the School Pantry Fund

On October 20, there will be a dance for all ages at UUCLR and all proceeds will go to the Stephens Elementary Pantry Fund.

The dance starts at 7:00pm with an hour of karaoke, followed by dancing. Refreshments will be available, including wine and non-alcoholic beverages. Crossroads Liquor has donated a very nice gift basket for a raffle.

This event will be semi-formal / formal dress. The DISC teen group will be decorating for the party.

Tickets will be \$10 if purchased ahead of time and will be \$15 at the door. If you can donate a dessert or offer any other help, please contact Kris Vaughn at vaughnkris83@gmail.com

This Year's RE Classes

Classes for Young People consist of lessons and activities that focus on the monthly worship theme. The theme for October is "Creativity"

Nursery: Infants - 4 years Tender love and care offered from 9:55 until 12:15p.m.

Explorers: 5-12 years Barnum Room

Coming of Age: 13-15 years Fahs Room

Senior Youth: 15-19 years Schweitzer Room

UUCLR Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups are a form of adult small group ministry at UUCLR. They are an opportunity to develop a deeper sense of community and a chance to explore UU principles in the context of UU sources with others in an intimate setting. Groups are comprised of 6 to 12 people who meet for two hours each month. Each group is guided by a trained facilitator who supports a forum for deepening relationships, exploring ideas and growing in UU faith. Groups are formed by a combination of random assignment, available openings, and time preferences. Contact Linda VanBlaricom at lvbuu2@gmail.com or (501) 309-4858 to sign up.

In the Life of the Church

Recycle Sunday and Book Exchange

October 1

(You do not have to bring something to take something)

Please bring CFL light bulbs, 4 and 8 ft. fluorescent bulbs, empty ink cartridges, and old/outdated electronics (computers, copiers, DVD players, paper shredders, printers, TVs, VCRs, phones, stereos, radios, fax machines, and microwave ovens).

Remember to bring your aluminum cans and metal and leave on the back deck of Thomson Hall. Lance will recycle all cans and metal that are collected.



Young at Heart

Young at Heart welcomes all to our luncheon and program beginning at 12:00pm on Tuesday, **October 10**. The cost of the lunch is \$7.00 per person.

As you may know, Judy Rickard is an avid quilter. She will share her adventures in quilting, including how, what, when and why! She will bring along some of her own quilts and some pictures she has taken at quilt shows.

Please come early to help, or on time to eat, and plan to leave better informed! Everyone is welcome to attend.

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

The Between the Lines Book Club will meet **Monday, Oct. 2 at 7:00pm** to discuss:

***I Am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes**

For information: Contact Kevin Jones
501-851-4358 or kmjones1231@sbcglobal.net



RE-Questors

Discussion: The Benefits of Studying Tribal Societies

Primary Reference:
**The World Until Yesterday:
What We Can Learn from
Traditional Societies**
By Jared Diamond

10:00am Sundays in the Pehrson Room
Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be

Donate to Help Hurricane Victims

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on a recovery and relief fund.

Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members most affected by Hurricane Harvey. It will take a long time for the recovery from this disastrous storm.

Those funds will be administered by a group of leaders in the UUA's Southern Region, which includes the states across the southeast from Texas to South Carolina, and from most of Virginia to Florida.

Online contributions may be made here:
<https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods>



Vegetarian Potluck

The 2nd Sunday Veggie Potluck is on **October 8**. Plan on bringing plenty of food to share with everyone! Try some new recipes! Let's celebrate a sustainable and healthy way of eating. Help is always appreciated with set up and cleanup.

In the Life of the Church

Volunteer Opportunities

Fellowship Team Coordinator

We need a new Fellowship Team coordinator. No, this doesn't mean you have to do all the work! You would help to coordinate the people who volunteer for Coffee Hour, hold meetings of your team as needed, and coordinate some regular church events during the year. Most events already have a regular group of folks who step up every year, and there are many others who are willing to help when asked. In order to keep things running smoothly, this position serves as a point of communication between the Fellowship volunteers and the Program Council. You, or a member of your team, attends the Program Council meetings on the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm. This can be a very gratifying position working with other people in the congregation and you might bring your own creative thoughts for new Fellowship events.

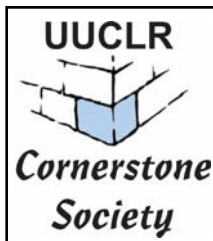
2nd Sunday Plate Beneficiary Organizer

Do you like to help non-profit groups? This is a great feel-good opportunity! Find worthy recipients for the 2nd Sunday Plate donations throughout the year.

Contact the church office if you are interested in either important position: uuclr@uuclr.org

Cornerstone Society

The UUCLR Cornerstone Society recognizes long-time members of the church who have provided generous support by their active presence, their leadership, and their commitment to the goals of the Church.



To be eligible for nomination, the member must be at least 70 years of age and must have been a member of the Church for at least 20 years. Deceased persons who meet the above criteria may be nominated posthumously.

Any UUCLR Member may submit a letter of nomination and brief biographical sketch to the President of the Board. These nominations will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and submitted to the Board for approval. Please contact any member of the Board for further information about a nomination.



October Birthdays



Happy Birthday to Members and Friends

Jeffrey Salem	10/1	Philia Hill	10/23
Nell Matthews	10/2	Timothy Mellor	10/23
Tristan Goodell	10/4	Helen Pate	10/24
Donald Mock	10/9	Roy Mellor	10/25
Kris Vaughn	10/10	Patrice	
Janet A Bowen	10/15	O'Donoghue..	10/25
Terry Bean	10/19	Lucy Anderson	10/31

Contact the church office at 225-1503 for corrections or additions.

FORUM

- Oct 1** PFLAG and the LGBTQ Community
Guest Kris Vaughn
- Oct 8** 2nd Sunday Share the Plate:
"Hurricane Harvey Pets"
Guest Kari Mogenson
- Oct 15** Theme Sunday: "Creativity"
- Oct 22** "Slave Reparations"
Guest Arlene Corsano
- Oct 29** CASA (Court Appointed Special
Advocates, 6th Judicial District,
Pulaski and Perry Counties)
Guest Darryl Capps, Exec. Director



We Need Sunday Flowers

We need flowers for October and November to beautify the Sanctuary during service. Please consider signing up to help. Think of dedicating your flowers to a loved one or friend.

Men, please feel free to sign up too. You know how to give beautiful flowers for people you love.... so sign up to bring flowers to the church group you love! The sign up board is in Thomson Hall on the bulletin board and there are lots of spaces to be filled by your generosity!

In the Life of the Church

Faith Development Offerings Led by Rev. Jan Nielsen

We will gather in Thomson Hall from 12:15 to 1:15 on Tuesdays. Feel free to bring your brown bag lunches. Newcomers are always welcome. We will finish up with the books below and new books will be chosen. Titles will be supplied soon. The series will run until June 2018.

“Listening for God”: Explorations of Short Stories

Join Rev. Jan for **Listening for God**, a monthly, “drop-in, come when you can,” noontime short story discussion group. The group will probe contemporary short fiction for insights, both spiritual and intellectual, about what it means to be human. The format is based on a long-used adult faith development model called “Listening for God” but “Listening for Life” also could be an apt title. Stories are from the volume **The Best American Short Stories of 2015**, edited by T.C. Boyle.

October 17 December 5 February 6 April 3 June 5
November 7 January 16 March 6 May 1

How Do You See It?: Explorations of Essays

Join Rev. Jan for a monthly gathering devoted to exploring contemporary essays taken from the volume, **The Best American Essays**, edited by Ariel Levy. As we read each essay on our own, we will ask, “How do I see it?” and then when we gather, we will invite one another to answer the question, “How do you see it?”

October 24 December 19 February 20 April 17 June 19
November 21 January 30 March 20 May 22

Architectural Update

Good news! The architect’s preliminary plans have been received right on schedule. We will be getting more information from them, but we want to make sure everyone is kept in the loop as to what is happening. This is so hot off the presses that we haven’t even had a meeting with the architect to discuss it.

When we have more information, the Transition II Task Force will make plans to communicate it with you. The plans will be posted in the Chapel for your review and comments.

Remember, this is part of the exploratory plans and we have not committed to do anything past the preliminary plans.

IMPORTANT... At this time we do not have any cost projections for this project.

After a thoughtful review of the needs of the congregation, the current decision has been made to continue to remain in Thomson Hall as it is still serving us well when we have more than 75 attending.

Mindy Morrell, Board President

UU Cluster - Save the Date

The Arkansas UU Cluster is being hosted by UUCLR on **October 27 and 28**. All UUs from Arkansas will be invited.

On Friday evening a discussion will be moderated by Dr. Ellen Fitzpatrick, Associate Professor of Economics at the Clinton School of Public Service. There will also be a presentation by Rev. Stephen Copley, from Faith Voices AR, an organization working on legislation at the state and federal levels for the progressive faith community.

On Saturday, “Structural Racism” will be presented by author Grif Stockley, and “White Privilege, Is It Real Or Imagined? Let’s Talk About It” with commentator Woodson Walker, lecturer on racial, ethnic and cultural diversity issues. A panel will also include Dr. John Kirk, Professor and Director of UALR’s Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity. Other panelists will be announced.

If you want to register and/or are willing to be a host for an overnight guest or guests, please sign up online at the church web site: uuclr@uuclr.org. You may also register at church on Sundays and also sign up to help with organizational tasks.

In the Life of the Church

Work Day Saturday - October 7 Start at 8:30 am

Get the Facilities Email notices:
Contact the church office
to be added

Caring Coordinator

If you know of anyone who needs assistance with meals, rides, caring phone calls or cards, please contact the office at uuclr@uuclr.org or call 225-1503. If you have an urgent need, Rev. Jan asks you to call her.



October Calendar

Sunday, October 1

9:30am Recycle Sunday & Book Exchange (Chapel)
10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00pm Carnival of Opportunities
3:30pm Rental (Chapel, RE Wing)

Monday, October 2

5:30pm Program Council
7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)

Tuesday, October 3

8:00am New Friends Gathering (Off Site)
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, October 4

5:30pm Finance Meeting (Pehrson)
6:15pm Social Justice Discussion (Chapel)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 5

10:00am The Van (Off Site)

Friday, October 6

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Saturday, October 7

8:30am Work Day
11:00am Women's Writing Group (Off Site)

Sunday, October 8

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Chapel)
3:30pm Rental (Chapel, RE Wing)

Tuesday, October 10

11:45am Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)

1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, October 11

5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 12

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)

Friday, October 13

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
7:00pm Rental (Pehrson)
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Sunday, October 15

10:00am Children-Youth Programming

10:00am Forum (Thomson)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)

10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)

11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

3:30pm Rental (Chapel, RE Wing)

Monday, October 16

5:00pm Worship Arts Team (Thomson)

6:15pm Board Meeting (Thomson)

Tuesday, October 17

4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, October 18

6:15pm Social Justice Discussion Group (Chapel)

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 19

1:00pm The Van (Off Site)

Friday, October 20

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)

6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)

7:00pm Fall Ball Dance (Thomson and Kitchen)

9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Sunday, October 22

10:00am Children-Youth Programming

10:00am Forum (Thomson)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)

10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)

11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:30pm Humanist Group (Pehrson)

3:30pm Rental ((Chapel, RE Wing)

Tuesday, October 24

5:00pm Membership Committee (Chapel)

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, October 25

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 26

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)

Friday, October 27

Arkansas UU Cluster (All Church)

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)

9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Saturday, October 28

Arkansas UU Cluster (All Church)

Sunday, October 29

10:00am Children-Youth Programming

10:00am Forum (Thomson)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)

10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)

11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

3:30pm Rental (Chapel, RE Wing)

Tuesday, October 31

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

Rev. Jan Nielsen
Office 501-225-1503
revjan@uuclr.org

Office Admin

Karen Walls 501-225-1503
uuclr@uuclr.org

Director of RE

Rachel Finley 501-225-1503
finley5@yahoo.com

Music Director

John Perez 501-225-1503
jwperez1@yahoo.com

Board President

Mindy Morrell
mindmorrell@hotmail.com

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Alexander "Scotty" Meek
a.meek@att.net

STAFF HOURS

Tuesday - Friday
Approximately 8 am - 1 pm
Call before coming
Church Phone 225-1503
E-mail: uuclr@uuclr.org

Program Council Team Liaisons

Communication	Karen Walls
Facilities	Bill Kimpel
Faith In Action	Eoin Dockter
Fellowship	Vacant
Lifespan Faith Development	Joe Meehan
Membership	Debbie Goolsby
Worship Arts	Liz Mackenzie



Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock
1818 Reservoir Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227
Phone: (501)225-1503
www.uuclr.org



Outer Circle Policy: The Church Office reserves the right to edit all Outer Circle articles for content and length. Deadline for publication usually falls on the **15th of the month** *unless holiday considerations apply*. No articles will be accepted by telephone or verbally. **Articles must be submitted in writing** in the church office by fax (423-6666) or via e-mail (uuclr@uuclr.org) by **5:00 p.m.** on the deadline date. Any articles received after the deadline may be omitted due to limitations of time and printable space.

