



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK

Monthly News & Updates

APRIL 2025 | VOL. 74 ISSUE 4

April Worship Services

Apr. 6th: "Living Love Through the Practice of Joy"

Reflections on this month's Soul Matters theme: Joy

Apr. 13th: "The Joy of Confusion"

The story of the Christian Holy Week is filled with confusion and fear, but the characters find strength to carry on in moments of joy.

Apr. 20th: Easter Sunday & Earth Day

This special service will be coordinated by our Worship Arts Team.

Apr. 27th: "The Joy of Creating"

Rev. Paul will reflect on the ways creativity can make us feel more alive.



Fellowship Event

April 11th - 6:00pm

It's almost time to celebrate another successful pledge drive season - a time when members of this church support the future growth and endeavors through their financial contributions.

We will gather for a meal and entertainment on Friday, April 11th at 6:00 pm in the Mehta Wing. All are welcome, but please **RSVP by April 7th.** Childcare is provided.

If you are able to help with set-up, the meal service, or clean-up, please contact Kater, our Fellowship Team Chair. katerviola@gmail.com

April Forum Topics

Apr. 6th: Buffalo River Trip: Past and Present

Come share your favorite memories of the UUCLR Buffalo River Memorial Day trip and learn more about the 2025 trip.

Apr. 13th: 2nd Sunday Guest

The plate recipient for April will be Solid Stance, a nonprofit formed within the Unity Martial Arts community, with the goal of providing training and stability to at-risk members of our community. www.solidstance.org

Apr. 20th: UU Shared Values: Generosity

Hosted by Rich Roy

Apr. 27th: "What's on Your Mind?"

Hosted by Clyde Bailey

Upcoming Events

April 6th - New Member Recognition

April 6th - 1st Sunday Book Exchange & Recycling

April 7th - Between the Lines Book Club (meets on the first Monday of each month at 7pm in Perhson)

April 8th - Young at Heart (11:45 in the Mehta Wing) Rev. Paul is the speaker. The menu is an annual "Spring Picnic" with fried chicken and lots of sides. The cost is \$10.00 and the fellowship is fantastic!

April 8th - Night Bloomers Garden Club (Pehrson)

April 10th - Gathering of Friends (offsite location)

April 11th - Annual Fellowship Event (Mehta Wing)

April 12th - Paganism 101 (1:30pm in the sanctuary)

April 13th - Vegetarian Potluck (Mehta Wing, after service. Bring a dish to share!)

April 19th - Grounds Workday (9-noon)

The projects will be privet patrol in the back, fertilizing and weeding the back flower beds, and painting the arbor in front of Thomson. Muffins, juice, and fruit will be provided.

April 19th - Small Group Dinners (offsite, 6:30pm)

April 20th - Freethinkers (Mehta Wing, 1:00pm)

April 25th - Short Stories Discussion Group (meets the last Friday of each month at noon in Perhson)

April 26th - Parents NightOut!

April 27th - LUUnch Out!

April 27th - Town Hall Meeting (after service)

View the online calendar to see times and locations of all the upcoming April events.

RE-Questors Update

The current book for discussion is "Generation of Vipers" by Philip Wylie, a classic critique of the American way of living. We meet on Sunday mornings at 10 AM in the UUCLR library. You do not have to read the book to join in the discussion. If you would like more information or an invitation to participate online, contact Joe Meehan (josmeehan@sbcglobal.net).



The Spring Equinox event was a hit with a meditation, crafting, kite flying, kids activities, and a beautiful potluck spread. The next CUUPS event will celebrate Beltane - stay tuned for details!



The Paganism 101 course begins on April 12th at 1pm in the sanctuary. Registration for this 10-session course will close after the first session.

<https://www.cuups.org/CUUPS-Chapters>



Annual Buffalo River Memorial Day Trip



It's time to make plans to gather at the river this May!

The annual Buffalo River Memorial Day trip is May 23-26. There will be lots of outdoor fun and fellowship. Indoor lodging and camping spots need to be reserved as soon as possible. Questions? Please contact Zenyth (zenythp@msn.com) for more information.

This annual gathering holds a wide range of flexibility for guests of all ages and abilities. There is a pavilion available for those who would like to socialize, relax, play table games, etc. There will be a group of non-floaters who will hang out by the river on Saturday during the main float time - this is perfect for swimming, shallow-water play, sand-castle building and more.

A pancake breakfast is provided by James Thomson on Saturday morning. Saturday evening we gather for a potluck (+grilling) and fellowship. A short, earth-centered service will take place after breakfast on Sunday near the pavilion.

Children & Youth RE Programs

Fish, fish, got your wish! The numbers in our CAYRE program have more than doubled in the last six months. We regularly have 15-25 kids participating in Sunday morning RE activities, special events, and Parent's NightOut! We are in immediate need of individuals interested in helping out with CAYRE. Read on to learn more about the programs and the current needs.



10am - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During the 10am hour, care is provided in the nursery and in the big classroom downstairs. The elementary-aged kids are currently exploring a UU LEGO curriculum under the energetic leadership from Sarah Hyndman. Jr./Sr. aged students meet with Mike Roetzel for a discussion topic (or sometimes join in with the LEGO fun).

We are in need of a nursery volunteer each Sunday for both the 10am and 11am hours. We are also in need of an additional teacher, and 3-5 volunteers who are trained to assist with the downstairs classes as a helper or a substitute.



11am - EXPLORATION HOUR

You may have noticed that kids are being invited to the front during Time All Together. This is an effort to re-engage the kids during the service for a brief time before they exit to the RE wing. Spending time in the 11am service helps them learn the rhythm and allows them to hear the words and music we share as part of worship.

We are in need of volunteers who are willing to supervise the forest play or quiet play activities from after TAT until the end of the 11am service hour. It is most helpful if volunteers can assist once a month or once a quarter.

REFLECTIONS FROM REV. PAUL

“The Dunning-Kruger Effect”

Last week my colleague the Rev. Lynn Unger – poet, dog-trainer, and all-around deep thinker – shared a short essay in a public Facebook post, titled “On Beyond Dunning-Kruger,” a thoughtful reflection on the recent extraordinary behavior of the Executive branch’s “principals committee.” Here is an excerpt:



“How do you get to the place where top secret plans for a live military action are being bandied about in a group chat that somehow includes the editor-in-chief of a prominent journal that has pieces pretty much every day about what a disaster your administration is?”

The mind boggles. The mind also remembers the Dunning-Kruger effect. As you probably know, David Dunning and Justin Kruger discovered that the people who scored in the bottom quarter of a group on a series of tests tended to rate their ability as above average. If you only know a little bit, you don’t know enough to realize what it is that you don’t know.

But I think in the case of the current administration we have [something] worse...an extreme version of Dunning-Kruger ... If for years you have been in the position to surround yourself with people whose job it is to suck up to you, you will come to believe that you just know best about everything because you are blessed with a unique intelligence. You are never wrong! And when it is objectively obvious that you are wrong, well, you either didn’t say or do the wrong thing that you said or did, or reality is somehow different than what it appears to others. ...

[This extreme effect] looks like Trump changing the expected path of a hurricane on a map with a sharpie, or suggesting that you can cure COVID with a UV light or by injecting bleach. It also looks like Trump declaring that he is the expert on airplanes, forest management, water management, technology, safety, steam-powered catapults, the solar system, the 14th Amendment, horse racing regulations, the economy and windmills. ... It looks like [Hegseth,] a man who once served in the military but whose primary qualifications are being a good-looking talk show host, being in charge of what happens with our enormous military power. It looks like [RFK Jr.,] a man whose major claim to fame is his family name, being in charge of health policies in spite of the fact that he is committed to believing things that science has thoroughly debunked. It looks like Elon Musk declaring the success of a rocket launch that literally went up in flames. Again.

The Dunning-Kruger effect says that those who know the least assume that they know the most. The [extreme Dunning-Kruger effect] declares that those who rise to authority on the basis of their wealth and power will assume that they not only know everything, but also that they can do anything without having to deal with the consequences of their actions. Those affected by the Dunning-Kruger effect will fail to seek out advice from those who are actual experts. Those affected by the [extreme Dunning-Kruger effect] will *fire* all the experts, since they are clearly not needed now that the geniuses are in charge.

All of us are subject to the Dunning-Kruger effect—we can’t actually grasp the magnitude of what we don’t know. But there is a very special, highly dangerous, kind of stupid that comes with the [extreme version], when those in charge are so impressed with themselves that they wreak the most absurd kind of havoc and call it a brilliant success.”

To which I can only add: I don’t know much about the Dunning-Kruger effect, but I know what I don’t like.

Rev. Paul Beedle
Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock



Board President's Message

As we enter the month of April, we will be celebrating all the great things we have done together in this past year and celebrating the plans and goals for the upcoming year. We will be concluding the work of our Pledge Drive and defining our hopes, dreams and goals that will be presented at our Annual Meeting. I hope each of you will participate in a Town Hall where you will have the chance to add your ideas as we work through and finalize our budget process. What we can do in the next year will be decided on the pledges that each of us makes now to fund our future goals. If you have not submitted your pledge yet, I hope you will take care of that right away and help make this process easier for the folks who are tasked with this project for the benefit of us all! And, come celebrate with us on Friday April 11 at 6pm as we share a meal, enjoy each other and anticipate the coming year together!

As always, please accept my deepest gratitude to all of you who work tirelessly on behalf of us all,

-Debbie Goolsby



March Board Report

The UUCLR Board's March meeting took place on 3/18/25 and centered around the upcoming pledge drive.

We lifted up the good work of our 8th Principle committee which has many projects in the works! We are looking forward to the Outdoor Spaces Forum on March 30. A statement for Live Streaming Policy was adopted by the board to help guide us in that realm and will be submitted to our AV staff.

It was noted that the number of children in RE has really jumped (almost overnight!) and is causing us some great growing pains. Your Board is actively reviewing our RE and Lifespan programs to update things and help with the growth we are experiencing. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our children's programming, so please let Fin know if you can volunteer, even if it is only once a month! There has also been great growth in the RE Connections group!

Please feel free to ask Debbie or any board member if you have questions.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, April 15th

Caring Concern: Rel Corbin

For those of you who knew Rel Corbin, former UUCLR member, we are sad to share of his passing on March 1st. If any of you have contact information for his wife, Nina, please share it with the office so that we can send condolences from the church. His obituary is available at Arkansas Online.

www.arkansasonline.com/obituaries/2025/mar/13/rel-corbin-2025-03-13/



Photo from the UUCLR archives entitled "Groundbreaking, Rel Corbin, 1987"

It's been 2 years since a tornado changed our woodlands.

On March 30th, 45 people gathered on the deck during Forum to discuss ideas and considerations of how we can embrace the devastation of the back woodlands. The open space provides new opportunities to demonstrate our shared values and support the church's growth and longevity. A committee is in place to guide us in our next steps of creating a master plan for this space. Continued thanks to all of you who showed up in the days and months following the tornado of March 31st, 2023, and to all those who contributed financially to off-set the unexpected expenses incurred on the heels of a major building renovation.

The following photos were taken in 2023.



Change is in the Air

An update from your governing documents review team...

The governance group has been working on updating the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, and the Rules and Regulations. These documents are the basis of the historical formation of UUCLR (Articles), the current structure (Bylaws), and the nuts and bolts of management (R&R). Starting last fall, Nell Matthews, Kater Renolds, Marci Riggs, and Laurie Smith Prud'homme have met multiple times to go over the documents line by line and even word by word, debating the need, the meaning, the efficacy, the purpose and the proper home.

We started with these premises.

1. Articles of Incorporation must be submitted to Secretary of State. We want to include only what is required by law. After this version is approved (requires Congregational vote), we should not need to rewrite again.
2. Bylaws –to organize the management of the business of the church in such a way as to provide sufficient flexibility to not require frequent rewrites which require Congregational votes.
3. Rules and Regulations: Describes the day to day running of the church. Much of what was in Bylaws was moved to Rules and Regulations. Can be changed by vote of Board.
4. Policy and Procedures: Describes specific issues e.g., leave for staff, restricted funds; or projects e.g., leadership training; or events, e.g., pledge campaign, fundraising events.

After the Board has a chance to review these documents, two town halls, on April 27th and on May 4th at 12:30 pm will be held to discuss the changes. Copies of the revised documents will be available. The final versions of the Articles and the Bylaws will be presented to the congregation for approval at the June 1 Annual Meeting.





Growing Community

**RSVP for April 11th
by contacting the
office or using the
link in the Friday
email blast.**

A Note from Finance & Stewardship

As spring comes roaring in, your Finance and Stewardship Committee is very busy preparing for the next fiscal year. We are working on creating a budget but we need your help to complete it. If you have not submitted your pledge for the next fiscal year (begins July 1, 2025), please do so as soon as possible. It is the amount of pledges that helps us determine how much each committee can spend next year and how many special projects the church can commit to. So please be generous in your pledging!

Every spring we celebrate with a Fellowship Dinner to note the end of the pledge drive and to come together and enjoy each other's company. [This year's Fellowship Dinner is on Friday, April 11 beginning at 6:00 PM.](#) Childcare will be available from 5:45-8:00pm. Our fabulous choir director, Kendi Jensen-Loving will be coordinating the entertainment! A catered meal will be provided by our fantastic Fellowship Team under the direction of Kater Reynolds.

Finally, look for information coming soon regarding several town halls that we will have to review the proposed budget and other items to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Marci Riggs, Finance Officer, on behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Committee.



Register or Donate

Walking for Leanna

On May 10th in Hot Springs, there will be a walk raising awareness of Angelman syndrome and essential funds for Angelman research and family support programs. You are personally invited to join in the cause by the Bean family and their daughter, Leanna, one of our regular RE kids.

April Birthdays

Margaret McLellan.....	1
Valerie McNee.....	3
James Scribner.....	4
Ben Savana.....	6
Rose Govar.....	10
Andrew Kessel.....	13
Vicky Kessel.....	13
Indra Reyes.....	13
Bill Goolsby.....	14
Lisa Brents.....	16
Fin Judkins.....	21
Ava St. Ana.....	23
Cindie Alwood.....	24
April Ambrose.....	27
Joanne Kriehn.....	27
Teresa Knight.....	28
Greg Barr.....	29

Faith in Action

Visit our website, read the Sunday insert, and check the weekly Friday email to keep up with news and happening such as these...

8th Principle Team Updates

Our House Monthly Meal

Weekly Food Pantry

April 5th Hands-off Protest

CHURCH ADDRESS:

1818 Reservoir Road
Little Rock, AR 72227

WEBSITE:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday, 8am-1pm

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Kendi Jensen-Loving

AV DIRECTOR:

Chad Loucks

BOARD PRESIDENT:

Debbie Goolsby

PAST PRESIDENT & WORSHIP ARTS:

Laurie Smith Prud'homme

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Bill Kimpel

FAITH IN ACTION & CARING TEAM:

Sue McDonald

FELLOWSHIP CHAIR:

Kater Reynolds

MEMBERSHIP LEADS:

Cas Rifkin, Lisa Brents

FORUM COORDINATOR:

Jan Bowen

RE-QUESTORS COORDINATOR:

Joe Meehan

RE-CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR:

Zenyth Propst

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:

Rebecca Roetzel

HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM LEADS:

Phil Peters & Sherman James

TECHNOLOGY TEAM LEAD:

Scott Lee

The Outer Circle is a monthly publication of UUCLR news and updates. If you would like to submit content for the next OC, please provide it to Rebecca in the office by April 25th.

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