

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK

Monthly News & Updates

June & July 2025 |
VOL. 74 ISSUE 6

Summer Worship Services

June 1: "Living Love Through the Practice of Freedom"

June 8: "All the Colors" (PRIDE Sunday)*

June 15: Worship Arts Team Sunday

June 22: Summer Solstice Celebration (CUUPS)*

June 29: "Reflections in Baltimore" (Rev. Paul)

July 6: "Being Good Neighbors" (Rev. Paul)

July 13: "Being Educated" (Rev. Paul)

July 20: "Being at Home" (Rev. Paul)

July 27: Worship Arts Sunday

*On June 8th and 22nd, the children will be sharing some things from CAYRE Camp during Time All Together.



2025 Annual Meeting

UUCLR hosted another successful congregational meeting on June 1st. Thank you to all who helped prepare and host this important annual event!

Above: Debbie leads the installation of our newest elected officers.

The Annual Report is FULL of great information and reports! You can view a digital copy or pick up a hard copy in the church foyer.

[View the 2025 Annual Report](#)

Summer Forum Topics

June 1: UU Shared Values - Justice - Tony Mansell

June 8: Share the Plate: "Lunch on Me" - LRSD Lunch Debt Repayment Effort with Nell Matthews

June 15: Get Loud Arkansas - Kathy Webb



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

June 22: "What's on Your Mind?" with Clyde Bailey

June 29: Alliance for Grief and Loss - Greg Adams
(Arkansas Children's Hospital)

July 6: REConnections & Forum will join for discussion
about Safety: Safe people, places, feelings, things, etc.

July 13: Share the Plate: "Providence Park" - Errin Stanger

July 20: TBD

July 27: "What's on Your Mind?" with Clyde Bailey

PRIDE Month!

*UUCLR is showing up at events
happening this June.*

The Faith in Action & 8th Principle
teams are recruiting volunteers to
represent UUCLR at upcoming Pride
events in Little Rock. Please be in
touch with Sue or Margot (or the
office) if you'd like to get involved.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information about
SOMA Pride - Saturday, June 7th.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information about
Pride in the Park - Sunday, June 8th.

Upcoming Events

June 1 - Annual Congregational Meeting

June 2 - Between the Lines Book Club (7pm)

June 3 & 6 - CAYRE Camp Session 1

June 7 & 8 - PRIDE Events

June 8 - Book Exchange & Recycling Sunday

June 17 & 20 - CAYRE Camp Session 2

June 17 - UUCLR Board Meeting (7pm)

June 22 - Summer Solstice Celebration

June 28 - Paganism 101: Class 3 (11am)

June 28 - Parents' Night Out! (5-8pm)

June 29 - Pulpit Assistant Training (12:30)

July 6 - Book Exchange & Recycle Sunday

July 7 - Between the Lines Book Club (7pm)

July 26 - Parents' Night Out! (5-8pm)

**NOTE: Some events are on break for the summer.
This includes LUUnch Out!, Young at Heart, the
Short Stories Group, and Small Group Dinners.**

Choir will resume mid-July.

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

**UUCLR
Calendar**



Solstice Celebrations

There will be multiple opportunities to
celebrate the summer solstice thanks
to our active Coven of UU Pagans.

Join us on Sunday (6/22) for a
special 11am service and stay for an
extra bit of togetherness after coffee
hour. Stand by for details on a Friday
evening gathering as well (6/20)!

For those registered, please note that
June's Paganism 101 class will take
place at the church on June 28th.



Parents' Night Out!

Due to popular demand and our
amazing fairy godparents, PNO will
not be taking a break during the
summer months.

Mark your calendars for June 28th

RE-Questors Update

The new book for RE-Questors began Sunday, June 1st. The book for discussion is "On Freedom" by Timothy Snyder, an exploration of the true meaning of one of our core values. 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).

and July 26th. Care is provided at the church from 5-8pm; please send your child with a packed dinner. RSVP is required by the Wednesday prior to each event.

**RSVP for Parents'
Night Out!**

REFLECTIONS FROM REV. PAUL

As shared in the 2025 Annual Report

Tense times in the country often produce boom times in the churches – and that more or less sums up 2024-2025. Our membership continues to grow, with our religious exploration program leading the way. We are responding collaboratively and creatively, with new patterns of building use, heightened awareness of best practices to ensure everyone's safety, and lots of love. Prospects for UUCLR's future look bright! This report offers a summary of my work during this church year as well as plans shaping up for the coming one.



Our Priority Challenges

We have made progress on the three priority challenges our congregation identified before I arrived:

- * Attract young families and young adults
- * Attract a more racially/culturally diverse membership
- * Develop hybrid programming capacity

As noted, the most noticeable progress is in the numbers of young families who have come to feel at home at UUCLR, as members and leaders. Much of this comes from inviting our friends, warmly welcoming all newcomers, and working visibly for love and justice in the wider community. Less obvious is the progress we've made this year identifying and upgrading our infrastructure to support hybrid (that is, combined in-person and remote/online) programming, including both equipment and organizational capacity. Reforms to our governing documents, upgrades to our internet infrastructure, and the addition of a Site Ops Council (parallel to the Program Council, but focused on the maintenance and development of our physical property) all promise to put us in a better position to support hybrid programming.

Our Shared Ministries

Our subscription to Soul Matters - materials for small group ministry, RE, and worship - has enriched our covenant groups, RE programs, and Sunday services. They make life easier for leaders in each of those ministries with their rich, curated resources.

The Lay Ministry Team (listening and spiritual support) and Caring Team (practical help and support) provide excellent care of members and friends, as do our members generally through informal ministries of friendship among us.

In the area of Social Justice & Community Partnerships, our new partnership with our neighborhood's McDermott Elementary School, along with our ongoing commitments at Our House and other partners, promise to expand our involvement with our neighborhood and wider community. And our 8th Principle Team continues to support our members and friends in learning about and working for racial justice.

My Professional Growth & Denominational Service

Denominational Service – This year I took up a role with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) as Vocational Advisor for a seminarian/ministerial candidate.

Professional Development – In March I again attended my UU ministers' study group's annual retreat in California. I continue attending monthly online sessions of a course exploring "modern mystics." I plan to attend General Assembly in June, the Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries conference in July, and then Living Legacy Project's Mississippi Pilgrimage in October.

Rev. Paul Beedle
Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock

A Note from Faith in Action...

May has been a busy month for our volunteers.

The Food Pantry team moved all its belongings from Stephens Elementary to McDermott, our neighborhood school, on the 27th. This included a large freezer. Some of the staff told me that they were VERY happy and appreciative of our helping their families. Thanks to all that helped. (*Photo of new pantry space.*)



The highlight for the team in June is participating at the SOMA Pride Festival and march. Saturday, June 7 from 10:30 to 5:00 there will be a huge festival with lots of vendors and food trucks. This event is celebrating the LGBTQ+ community and all its allies. UUCLR will have a booth at the festival and will have people marching and cheering. If anyone is interested in participating at either, please contact me at sue6696@gmail.com.

Respectfully,
Sue McDonald, team leader



A Note from Fellowship...

The 'school year' wrapped up for the Fellowship Team with lunch before the Annual Meeting on June 1. We certainly don't want folks to be hungry while important church business is being decided!

There is nothing special currently scheduled for the summer but we will do some fun things for sure. Maybe another ice cream sundae bar after church - "Eat dessert first"! What other activities would you like to see happen?

Please share your thoughts with me.

Kater Reynolds
katerviola@gmail.com
501-952-5951

Photo from Rev. Paul's Installation on Oct. 6th, 2024



A Note from Worship Arts...

Pulpit Assistant Training

Pulpit assistants play an important role in our Sunday morning services!

If you are interested in serving as a PA, please join us on Sunday, June 29th from 12:30-1:30 pm in the sanctuary.

If you have trained as a PA in the past, we would love to have you join us for a refresher. Rev Paul will lead the training, and we are excited to add new PAs to our services. If you have any questions, please talk to Rev. Paul or Laurie Smith Prud'homme from the Worship Arts team.

We look forward to seeing you!

A Note from the 8th Principle Team...

Everyone is invited to attend the monthly 8th Principle gatherings. These occur every 4th Tuesday of the month at 5pm in the Pehrson Room. Please join us for the upcoming summer meetings: June 24 and July 22.



Also, please join us at our UUCLR booth at Pride in the Park on Sunday June 8! This event is organized by LR Black Pride and will take place at MacArthur Park in the afternoon.

Contact Margot Cameron for more information about these 8th Principle happenings.

What is the 8th Principle?

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our

Rain & Shine at the Buffalo River



Interest for this annual trip was surging, but so was the river!

This year we had 50 people sign up to attend the Annual Buffalo River Memorial Weekend Trip! Due to rainy weather, however, the group that gathered was slightly smaller and the river was closed on Saturday because of scattered thunderstorms.



A great time was had by all in spite of the rain. Attendees enjoyed a happy hour at the Inn nearby, shared meals in the Pavilion, some great music, and relaxed time for play and conversation. The sun came out on Saturday afternoon - a perfect chance to play in the water by the rock beach.

Thank you to Zenyth and James for your many efforts in coordinating this year's trip!



If you are interested in attending next year - as an overnight camper or day guest - look for an RSVP later this summer. For those wishing to stay in a cabin, be sure to make the call and get your spot reserved ASAP! Look for a stand-alone email with more specific information about this annual event.

New RE Programming!

CAYRE Summer Program Dates

UUCLR has developed two day-camp experiences for this summer: **June 3rd & 6th, and June 17th & 20th**. These Tuesday/Friday programs will incorporate art, music, nature, and talents from within our congregation. Care for school-aged kids will be provided from 8:30-3:30. Children 0-5 years old are welcome to attend a half-day, from 8:30-12:30. There's still time to register for the second session: [CLICK HERE!](#)



If you'd like to help out or donate supplies, please be in touch with the office. If you'd like to make a financial contribution, visit the church's [giving page](#) and select the drop down option: "Give to UUCLR Summer Camp".

Photos below are images from our first camp day - sharing circles, drumming, and a picnic on the deck!



Board President's Message

Submitted by Debbie Goolsby, as printed in the 2025 Annual Report

This year serving as President of the UUCLR Board of Directors has flown by and while I feel like we accomplished so much, it also feels like we have so much left to do! We have let our love and kindness persevere even though, in this current climate, a heavy cloud has fallen over all of us. That is one of the reasons I love UUCLR because it is a place of community, renewal and inspiration.

We, the Board, began our year in June of 2024 at an overnight retreat at Camp Mitchell. This time together allowed us to get to know each other better and make plans and dreams for the upcoming year. We settled on emphasizing Welcoming Diverse Growth, Re-inventing Lifespan RE Development, Congregational Development, and Sunday Morning Offerings. Strides were made in all areas, but these topics all require long time commitment and development.

We were able to have one session with a DEI facilitator and we continue to strive to look inward and reflect on our messaging on walls, bulletin boards, newsletters, etc. This work will never be done. We have spent time trying to expand our Lifespan RE through the sphere of covenant groups, Forum topics, RE Connections, and working to launch an Our Whole Lives program. We have begun experiencing some welcomed growing pains with the recent influx of families with children. Our upcoming "summer camp" sessions are generating lots of good energy. Growth is good, but it comes with some needs to be sustainable. We hope to offer more opportunities for leadership training next year to give new members the confidence to help us sustain the growth we are experiencing. Our new Time and Talents brochure has helped new members plug in and become part of our fabric. This year also saw the re-emergence of a Covenant of UU Pagans group. It has been a year of good growth!

Rev Paul's Installation Ceremony was a highlight of the year. It was wonderful seeing the clergy from near and far gathering to help us celebrate the solemn promise made by the congregation and Rev Paul to support and nurture each other. My gratitude goes to the many people who participated and made it a beautiful and special day.

There are MANY in our community who give so much of their selves to make UUCLR a warm and welcoming place. I know we are doing something right when a newcomer visits and thanks us for being a place they feel welcome. We should all take pride in that fact. Thank you for a wonderful year and I appreciate all of you so very much! With love and appreciation, Debbie



May Board Report

The UUCLR Board's May meeting took place on 5/20/25.

Present: Laurie Smith Prud'homme, Debbie Goolsby, Elaine Henderson, Miriam Thompson, Rev. Paul Beedle, Sherman James, Zenyth Propst, Marci Riggs, Marvin Schwartz. **Visitors:** Gene Meili

Business Highlights:

- Debbie moved that Laurie Smith Prud'homme assume the position of President Elect for the remainder of 2024-25. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Marci moved that we donate the \$2,000 left over from Stephen's Pantry, plus the \$2,000 matching amount from a member of the congregation, to the Little Rock School District to go toward their school lunch deficit. Debbie seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- Rev. Paul presented information on the possibility of our church hosting Monica Clark-Robinson as an intern from September 1, 2025 – June 1, 2026; her internship at Church of the River in Memphis was cut short because the minister is resigning. We will vote on the matter at our next Board meeting.
- David is stepping back from the Outdoor Spaces Committee. A new Outdoor Spaces Committee will be formed, and Debbie is working on recruiting members.
- On behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, Marci moved that we give staff bonuses as recommended by Rev Paul. The motion was approved unanimously. Laurie moved that we give Rev. Paul a bonus. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, June 17th



New Member Recognition

We are excited to welcome Brandon Murphy (*far left*) as an official member of UUCLR! Also, a shout to Lisa Brents (*far right*), who will be leading our Membership Team! Keep an eye on the bulletin boards in Thomson Hall for more information about our newest members.

Triple Recognition Milestone of Outgoing Committee Leads

On Sunday, June 1st during the 11am service, Debbie Goolsby led a surprise recognition of three committee leads who are stepping down at the end of this church year. After many dedicated years of service to UUCLR, Cas Rifkin (Membership), Bill Kimpel (Facilities), and Sue McDonald (Faith in Action) will be passing their batons to new leadership in each of these areas.



Over the years, these individuals have ushered us through major periods of change in our congregation, our building, and our world. We are grateful for all their dedication, love, and stewardship!

In honor of these three individuals, the June 1st morning offering of about \$800 was donated to The Van. If you'd like to make a designated contribution as part of this gift, there's still time! [Visit the giving page](#) and select "Give to Van" from the drop down menu.

Below: a standing ovation during the Time All Together in honor of Cas, Bill, and Sue.



Are you getting all the news you need?
[We have several ways of communicating!](#)

Friday Email Blast
Sunday Morning Email Blast
Sunday Order of Service Insert



So many beautiful people! Look for a revised church directory in July, complete with some new directory photos. If you'd like to submit or take a photo for your directory listing, please contact the office. Thank you, Membership Team, for your work to keep our records up to date!



June Birthdays

Ann Owen.....	1
Ginny Slothour-Hudnall.....	1
Catherine Miller.....	4
Sue McDonald.....	7
Jessi Jo Johnson.....	9
Isaac Pirkle-Thomson.....	10
Lauren Lusk.....	11
Dan Danielson.....	13
Scott Lee.....	14
Liz Mackenzie.....	14
John Adams.....	15
Marnie Golden.....	20
John Hill.....	21
Kim Godfrey.....	26
Anna Kyle.....	29
Amy Milam.....	29

*See a birthday that is missing or incorrect?
Please let Membership or the office know!*

July Birthdays

Marci Riggs.....	1
Aaron Bean.....	2
Fox Durham.....	2
Marilyn Lewis.....	3
Barrett Goodwin.....	6
Trudy Lusk.....	6
Sarah Schreiber.....	6
Rick Owen.....	8
Miriam Thompson.....	8
Rudy Rieple.....	12
Marlena Grunewald.....	16
Gary Jolicoeur.....	17
Martha Nixon.....	17
Elaine Gimblet.....	18
Lance Scott.....	23
Anneliese Maus.....	24
Margo Pirkle.....	25
Tom Rimmer.....	25
Laurie Smith Prud'homme.....	25
Martha Rimmer.....	27
Stephanie Webb.....	29

CHURCH ADDRESS:

1818 Reservoir Road
Little Rock, AR 72227

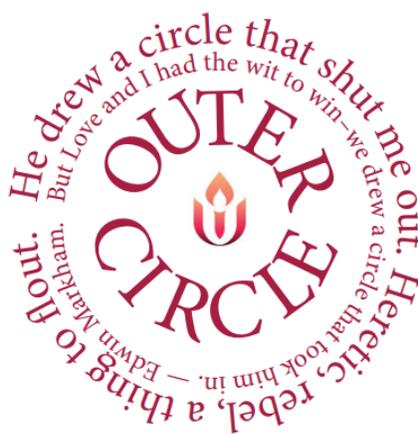
MINISTER:

Rev. Paul Beedle
Contact for appointment.
(504) 458-2254

WEBSITE:
www.uuclr.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday-Friday, 8am-1pm

OFFICE CONTACT:
Rebecca Roetzel
Church Administrator
(501) 225-1503
uuchurchlr@gmail.com



revpaulbeedle@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF RE:
Stephanie "Fin" Judkins
dre@uuclr.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Kendi Jensen-Loving

AV DIRECTOR:
Chad Loucks

WORSHIP ARTS TEAM LEAD:
Laurie Smith Prud'homme

FACILITIES TEAM LEAD:
Bill Kimpel

GROUNDS TEAM LEAD:
Joanne Kriehn

MEMORIAL WOODLANDS:
Sharon Marcum

FAITH IN ACTION & CARING TEAM:
Sue McDonald

FELLOWSHIP TEAM LEAD:
Kater Reynolds

MEMBERSHIP LEADS:
Cas Rifkin & Lisa Brents

FORUM COORDINATOR:
Jan Bowen

RE-QUESTORS COORDINATOR:
Joe Meehan

RECONNECTIONS COORDINATOR:
Zenyth Propst

CUUPS COORDINATOR:
Stephanie Webb

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:
Rebecca Roetzel

HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM LEADS:
Phil Peters & Sherman James

TECHNOLOGY TEAM LEAD:
Scott Lee



[Our Company](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock | 1818 Reservoir Rd | Little Rock, AR 72227 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!