



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK

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## Monthly News & Updates

August 2025 | VOL. 74  
ISSUE 7

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### Worship Services

**Aug 3:** "A Song in My Heart" - Rev. Paul

**Aug 10:** "Sing Out Love" - Rev Paul  
2nd Sunday Recipient: McDermott Elementary

**Aug 17:** Special Service - Kendi Jensen-Loving

**Aug 24:** Rev. Paul will be in the pulpit.

**Aug 31:** Worship Arts Sunday  
5th Sunday UUA Recipient: Side with Love's Action Center



### Supplies Drive!

In tandem with our 2nd Sunday Share the Plate efforts, this month we will be collecting school supplies and other items for McDermott Elementary, our Community School. Read on to learn more!

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### August Forum Topics

**Aug 3:** Program brainstorming for the 2025-26 church year.

**Aug 10:** 2nd Sunday Share the Plate Guest: Sky Brower, McDermott Elementary

**Aug 17:** Methodism - Rev. Britt Skarda

**Aug 24:** "What's on Your Mind?" - Clyde Bailey

**Aug 31:** Shared Value #3 (more details to come!)

### Volunteers & Teachers Needed!



Our RE program for children and youth (CAYRE) is growing steadily. In order to meet the current needs and welcome continued growth, we are in need of individuals willing to serve the church through our CAYRE activities. Reach out to Fin or the office and look out for more details!

## Upcoming Events

- Aug 3 - Book Exchange & Recycling Sunday**
- Aug 4 - Between the Lines Book Club (7pm)**
- Aug 6 - Young at Heart Planning Mtg. (2pm, Mehta)**  
**Aug 6 - Religious Trauma Group (6pm, Pehrson)**
- Aug 7 - Worship Arts Mtg. (5:30pm)**
- Aug 10 - Jam Session at Interfaith Center (5:30pm)**
- Aug 13 - Program Council Mtg. (5pm, Pehrson)**
- Aug 14 - Site Ops Council Mtg. (12:30pm, Zoom)**
- Aug 19 - Our House Meal Team Serves**  
**Aug 19 - UUCLR Board Meeting (7pm)**
- Aug 23 - Paganism 101 (Closed Group, Mehta)**
- Aug 24 - Indian Education Rental Resumes**
- Aug 26 - 8th Principle Monthly Mtg. (5pm, Pehrson)**
- Aug 30 - Parents' Night Out! (5-8pm)**  
**Aug 30 - REConnections Game Night (5-8pm)**

**Choir Rehearsal takes place each Wednesday at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.**

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

**UUCLR  
Calendar**

## RE-Questors Update

The new book for RE-Questors began Sunday, July 20th. The book for discussion is *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* by Maria Rosa Menocal. 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](mailto:josmeehan@sbcglobal.net)).

## Church Year Planning

*August is the time of year when we think ahead to plan out the upcoming church year.*

The Program Council will meet on Wednesday, August 13th to map out the 2025-2026 church year. This includes all events and activities, childcare needs, special services, and more. If you have calendar related ideas or information to be considered, please share it with one of our teams or send a note to Rebecca in the office.



## Paganism 101 Class

The fourth session of this class offered by CUUPS will take place in the Mehta Wing on Saturday August 23rd at 11am. If you'd like to learn more about the Coven of UU Pagans at UUCLR, please reach out to Stephanie Webb or contact the office.



## Parents' Night Out!

Mark your calendars for August 30th. Care is provided at the church from 5-8pm; please send your child with a packed dinner. RSVP is required by the Wednesday, August 27th.

**RSVP for Parents'  
Night Out!**

Vegetarian Potluck will resume on Sunday, September 14th.

## REFLECTIONS FROM REV. PAUL

### “Moving at the Speed of Church”

One of the stars I have tried to steer by in my career in ministry is, “move at the speed of church.”

Our covenantal, democracy-minded, shared-ministry-practicing, collaborative churches move slowly. However good the idea, however worthy the cause, consensus to pursue anything takes time. I see this not as a weakness, but as a strength of Unitarian Universalism: we are, collectively, an especially thoughtful and deliberative people. However diverse we are individually, however impulsive or rash or impatient or enthusiastic or motivated or determined some of us might be, as gathered congregations, we move slowly. Our traditions and institutions – and the balance of our diversity: plan-following, cautious, patient, cool, disinterested, open - make us so.



Last month, when I invited you to offer feedback to me and the Board about considering becoming a Teaching Church by having an experience of it (an opportunity presented to us by the interruption of Monica Clark-Robinson’s internship in Memphis), I was not steering by that star. The feedback from some of our most thoughtful, committed, and seasoned leaders let me know it. My proposal was too much too fast. To some, it felt financially risky for the church. To others, something this big – even if it were only a commitment for that one year – was not something to enter into precipitously, and we needed to slow down. I quickly saw that to press forward might be too stressful for all concerned, making us anxious, not united behind the project, and unable to offer Monica the high-quality internship experience that I believe we are capable of and that she deserves. I withdrew my proposal.

I would still like for us to begin a deliberate, careful discernment process about becoming a Teaching Church. Some excerpts from the UUA Internship Manual describing the specifications for an internship program are still available for you to peruse [HERE](#).

The Board and I will develop a plan for a good, careful discernment process that will help us think through, as a whole congregation, what it means to be a Teaching Church, and investigate fully what it would require of us in terms of resources. We’ll move at the speed of church, together.

Watch for further information in the coming months. I look forward to thinking this through with y’all.

Rev. Paul Beedle  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock

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### Water Communion

#### Save the date for September 7th!

Each year, we have an in-gathering on the first Sunday of September. We come together after the summer months to reconnect and reaffirm our covenant by joining our waters in a traditional UU water communion ceremony. You are encouraged to bring water from any aspect of your life or your summer experiences - don't forget to bottle some up!

[Learn more about Water Communion](#)



## UUCLR is a Welcoming Congregation

Each of us has worth and dignity, and that worth includes our gender and our sexuality. As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), we not only open our doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we value diversity of sexuality and gender and see it as a spiritual gift. We create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who we are. All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.

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## Building the Habits of Hospitality

Can you recall your first few Sundays at UUCLR? Think about the people, words, things, places, or moments that made you feel welcome. What was it that made you think, "I belong here"?

As a growing church, it's important that we - *as individuals* - remember the key moments of welcome we experienced so that we - *as a community* - bring a wealth of diverse efforts and approaches to welcoming our guests and newest members.

The Membership Committee oversees and maintains many of the efforts in place to welcome and nurture our newest members, but we all have a role to play. **Wearing your name tag on Sunday is one of the ways you can practice hospitality. Keep an eye out for individuals wearing the handwritten name tags and make an effort to exchange a smile or words of welcome.**

We all have a role to play in building this Beloved Community, even on Sunday mornings. If you have ideas or suggestions related to our church's hospitality goals and efforts, feel free to share them with the office or contact Lisa Brents, our new Membership Chair.



## It's already time to book it!

While the 2025 Buffalo River Memorial Weekend Trip feels like it was just here, we've already reserved the group campsites and the pavilion for 2026. **Now is the time make reservations for cabins and lodge rooms.** If you plan to attend this annual event in May 2026 and don't want to be in a tent, we encourage you to contact Dot at the Buffalo Point Concessions (870) 449-6206 or [SEND AN EMAIL](#). Or reach out to other lodging options in the area.

## ...More on McDermott Elementary

*So many ways to support our Community School!*

McDermott Elementary School is the recipient of the 2nd Sunday Share the Plate collection in August. In addition to any funds collected for 2nd Sunday, you are also encouraged to bring items needed by the classroom and students.

These include black and white composition books, crayons, very nice spare water bottles or new cheapo water bottles (inexpensive because they get lost easily). Facial tissue (e.g., Kleenex) and reams of white paper are also welcomed. Look for this tub in the foyer to learn more about the items needed (and those they have in excess).



In addition to these supplies, McDermott has also been requested by Bright Futures Little Rock to provide deodorant and belts! Recommended are small containers of deodorant and any size belt. Bright Futures Little Rock works to support the diverse needs of the children and youth. All LRSD schools have been assigned items to stock the Bright Futures closets for the 2025-2026 school year, we have agreed to assist McDermott in collecting deodorant and belts.

If you have questions or ideas for anything related to our budding McDermott relationship, please be in touch with Nell Matthews, Sky Brower, or contact the office.



## Board President's Message

*Submitted by Laurie Smith Prud'homme*

It is an honor to be serving this congregation in this capacity once again. We are headed in an exciting direction at UUCLR with many opportunities for growth as we build this Beloved Community.

We had a wonderful board retreat in July. In this space, the board comes together to co-create goals which we will do our best to reach in the coming church year. The board goals are informed by the expressed needs of our congregation through town halls, class discussions, and private conversations. It is our job to listen and respond through action.



Last year's goal were to welcome diverse growth among our members, reinvent lifespan RE development as population grows, and to encourage leadership and build capacity within our own congregation. We spent time reviewing these goals and the progress made.

Robust conversation was had about several things including...

- The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UUCLR
- Implementing the OWL program
- Developing an evaluation process for church staff
- Incorporating more of the traditional UU ceremonies and services for recognizing milestones
- Exploring opportunities to create "Third Space" at UUCLR
- Prioritizing the creation of Generational Community

We are working to put forth a new set of goals which we will finalize in our August board meeting. After this retreat I can tell you that our new board is fantastic with so much energy and genuine connection. I am looking forward to the year ahead!!

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, August 19th**

# 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
- Bulletin Boards (Thomson & RE Wing)
- Outer Circle - Monthly Newsletter
- New! - Parent GroupMe Chat
- Website - [www.uuclr.org](http://www.uuclr.org)
- Facebook - /UUCLR



**So many beautiful people!** If you'd like to 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!



## August Birthdays

Luke Roetzel.....	2	Linda Vanblaricom.....	14
Jan Williams.....	3	Bill Kimpel.....	16
Jordys Barr.....	4	Scotty Scholl.....	18
Jeanne Brown.....	5	Cas Rifkin.....	18
Teddy Lusk.....	5	Elizabeth Clifford.....	18
Thomas Nowlin.....	8	Patricia Keightley.....	24
Linda Holzer.....	9	Steve Warnock.....	28
Jay Mehta.....	10	Libby Bean.....	29
Rebecca Farison.....	12	Joe Meehan.....	30
Craig Molgaard.....	14		

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

**CHURCH ADDRESS:**

1818 Reservoir Road  
Little Rock, AR 72227

**WEBSITE:**

www.uuclr.org

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday-Friday, 8am-1pm

**OFFICE CONTACT:**

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



**MINISTER:**

Rev. Paul Beedle  
Contact for appointment.  
(504) 458-2254  
revpaulbeedle@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR OF RE:**

Stephanie "Fin" Judkins  
dre@uuclr.org

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

Kendi Jensen-Loving

**AV DIRECTOR:**

Chad Loucks

**WORSHIP ARTS TEAM LEADS:**

Margot Cameron & Nell Matthews

**FACILITIES TEAM LEAD:**

Michael Roetzel

**GROUNDS TEAM LEAD:**

Joanne Kriehn

**MEMORIAL WOODLANDS:**

[open]

**CARING TEAM LEAD:**

Sue McDonald

**FELLOWSHIP TEAM LEAD:**

Kater Reynolds

**MEMBERSHIP LEADS:**

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



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