



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK

Monthly News & Updates

September 2025 | VOL. 74 ISSUE 8

Worship Services

Sept 7: Water Communion - Worship Arts Team

Sept 14: "Building Belonging" - Rev Paul
2nd Sunday Recipient: LifeQuest

Sept 21: "Peace When There is No Peace" - Rev Paul

Sept 28: Worship Arts Sunday



Save the Date!

UUCLR will turn 75 on October 5th. Mark your calendars and join us on that Sunday for a special service and a kick-off event during the vegetarian potluck after service. Read more about what's in store for this celebratory year ahead on PAGE 3.

September Forum Topics

Sept 7: Forum with REConnections - "Mystery & Awe"

Sept 14: 2nd Sunday Share the Plate Guest: Gina Bridges, LifeQuest Program Director

Sept 21: "How We Came to be UUs" - Jerry & Selma Blackburn

Sept 28: "What's on Your Mind?" - Clyde Bailey



Join the Choir!

Choir practice takes place at 6:30pm each Wednesday in the sanctuary. No try-outs required.

Vegetarian Potluck is back!

Did you know that this regular church gathering was started by a covenant group? While many attendees lend at each potluck, we're looking for other groups who might be interested in taking a turn as the "host" once or twice during the next church year. Let the office know!

**10am CAYRE Classes
resume on Sept. 7th!**

Upcoming Events

- 9/2 - Between the Lines Book Club
- 9/4 - The Van Volunteering
- 9/7 - Book Exchange & Recycling
- 9/7 - Water Communion Sunday
- 9/7 - Tech Session 1: Network Concepts
- 9/9 - Young at Heart Luncheon
- 9/9 - Tech Session 1: Network Concepts
- 9/14 - Exploring UU Class
- 9/14 - Vegetarian Potluck
- 9/16 - Our House Meal Serving
- 9/16 - UUCLR Board Meeting
- 9/18 - The Van Volunteering
- 9/20 - Grounds Workday
- 9/20 - Small Group Dinners
- 9/21 - Tech Session 2: Network Equipment
- 9/23 - Tech Session 2: Network Equipment
- 9/25 - Gathering of Friends
- 9/26 - Short Story Discussion Group
- 9/27 - Parents Night Out
- 9/28 - LUUnch Out!

View the online calendar to see times and locations of all the upcoming summer events. (uuclr.org)

Grounds Workdays

Cooler weather is coming!

The grounds committee has three fall workdays scheduled to do some cleanup, pruning, and general spiffing up of our beautiful grounds. Save the dates and come enjoy a morning of nature, homemade snacks, and fellowship with fellow church friends. Starts at 8:00am each day:

Saturday, September 20

Saturday, October 18

Saturday, November 15

Contact Joanne Kriehn for more information.



Parents' Night Out!

Mark your calendars for Sept. 27th. Care is provided at the church from 5-8pm; please send your child with a packed dinner. RSVP is required by the Wednesday, Sept. 24th.

Young at Heart Lunches Resume!

Young at Heart is a monthly gathering on second Tuesdays at 11:45 in Thomson Hall. You are invited to meet at 11:45 to enjoy a delicious lunch, coordinated by Joanne Kriehn and Jeanne Brown, followed by a program that lasts about a half hour or a bit more. Donation is \$10 to cover costs.

September 8th we will come together for multiple salad buffet, followed by a Getting to Know You program led by Cathey Simpson, for fun and fellowship. We are informal, welcoming, and open minded. We count on each other to help set up and cleanup and value working together at all levels.

Hope to see everyone there!

Submitted by Selma Blackburn

REMEMBERING 1950... ...DREAMING ABOUT 2100!



UUCLR began its journey 75 years ago on October 5, 1950. It is time to look back to celebrate our 75th and to also dream about 75 years in the future-- October 5, 2100!

The plan is to celebrate this milestone a bit differently than some of you might imagine. Rather than one single event/party/dinner, we have decided to celebrate over this church year. We will kick things off on October 5th and conclude at our Fellowship Dinner in the Spring.

During that time span, we hope that groups within the church will find a time for a mini celebration or event. Every group in the church could take time at a regular gatherings to remember some of those who came before us and contemplate who may be here in 30 years. Every committee meeting could begin with opening words that remember an event from the past. Young at Heart or Forum could devote a program to our history or brainstorm our hopes for the near and distant future.

Would your group like to decorate a bulletin board in the Mehta Wing with some memories, timeline, or photos? Do you have an intergenerational idea with art, music, drama or a special planting in our gardens? Perhaps a recurring "on this date, UUCLR _____" moment? What about a special commemoration in our Memorial Woodlands? How about a sermon or special service set in the year 2100? The opportunities are endless and only limited by YOUR imagination.

If you have ideas, please let us know and our small committee will simply act as a clearing house. We are especially looking for ideas/programming/decorations for our kick-off at the Veggie Potluck that will occur on Oct 5. Let's have some fun remembering and dreaming!

Submitted by Debbie Goolsby, currently leading the charge and building up this committee.



Water Communion - Sept. 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](#)



Board President's Message

Submitted by Laurie Smith Prud'homme

Is it too early to say Happy Fall? I am so excited about the upcoming events at our church this fall, especially the anniversary of 75 years of UUCLR! This year's anniversary will be recognized and honored in a slightly different way than in previous years with a variety of events and celebrations spread throughout the church year. Please check out Debbie Goolsby's article on the 75th anniversary in this edition of the Outer Circle. And I hope you will plan on attending as many of the events as possible as we co-create the future of UUCLR.

In other news, your UUCLR board is continuing to develop our board goals for the 2025-26 church year. At our August board meeting, we had a great discussion about our priorities (as we continued our board retreat brainstorming) and decided to focus on these goals:

1. Implementing the OWL program
2. Prioritizing the creation of Intergenerational Community within our congregation
3. Exploring opportunities to create "Third Space" at UUCLR

The board looks forward to hearing from all of you as we fine-tune the steps to achieving these goals. Please talk to us (or text or email) with your questions or thoughts about this church year, or any other ideas or dreams you may have to help us support this welcoming, loving congregation.

With love and gratitude,
Laurie Smith Prud'homme

August Board Meeting Summary

Following approval of the minutes, we heard reports from Rev Paul, Finance Committee, Program Council, Site Operations Council, and Executive Committee. We reviewed reports on the ad hoc committees including Outdoor Spaces, Governing Docs, Technology, and OWL Feasibility. In old business, we continued our board retreat discussion of board goals for the 2025-26 church years and the upcoming 75th anniversary. (These items took up the majority of our meeting time.) In new business, we reviewed the updated church rental contract and discussed some administrative policies.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, Sept. 16th



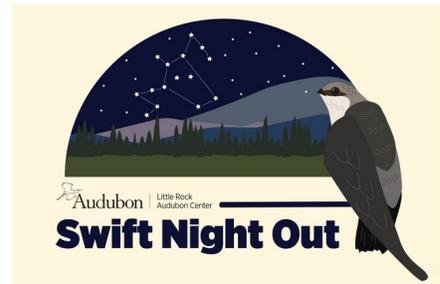
UUCLR is a Welcoming Congregation

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.

A Swift Night Out

Tuesday, September 9 - 6:00pm-7:30pm

Little Rock Audubon Center (4500 Springer Blvd., LR 72206)



A Swift Night Out is a continent-wide effort to raise awareness about and encourage interest in Chimney Swifts. Swifts will be counted as part of this community science effort. This is a free event, but donations are appreciated. The Loblolly Ice Cream truck will be joining us with one complimentary cup/cone per person. After a brief presentation about swifts, we'll gather in the parking lot to watch them swirl before they stream into our towers to roost for the night. Bring a chair and a beverage. Audubon will provide light snacks, some beverage options, and ice cream.

Contact Martha Nixon if you have questions: 501-247-7355.



Food Pantry Need: Volunteer for Phone Texting

Wanted: a person to text the McDermott food pantry families a reminder of the upcoming distribution day. The list is about 40 names long which requires about 30 minutes to complete.

The reminders can be sent out early in the week. We do not use group texting because often the clients phone plan charges per text and any responses go out to everyone.

Contact Nell or Sue if you are interested in helping with this!

Tour Reveals Hope for Homeless

Twenty-one adults and two children from UUCLR toured Providence Park Village on a sweltering day in August. Errin Stanger, the founder and CEO of this ambitious project, handed out hard hats so that we could walk around the construction site though it was a Sunday afternoon and no workers were present. Errin talked about her vision for the village and the timeline for Phase 1. An exciting upcoming event is the 3D printing of five homes. UUCLR will watch for this event which will be open to the public for viewing.



We presented Errin with a check for over \$940 that was raised in the July 2nd Sunday Share the Plate collection. If you missed Errin's Forum presentation and want to learn more about this aspiration to help the homeless in Central Arkansas, go to the webpage "providenceparkhome.com" and read Errin's story and learn how to volunteer and how you can donate.

The New Site Operations Council Convenes!

The first ever meeting of the newly created Site Operations Council (Site Ops) was held on August 14. This Council (patterned after our long existing Program Council) was created to facilitate communications between committees that deal with the needs of the church outside the realm of programming. The Council consists of Facilities/Grounds, Health & Safety, Technology, Admin/Rentals, Communications, Memorial Woodlands, and Outdoor Spaces (an ad hoc committee).

This first meeting was centered around explaining the purpose of the council, laying some groundwork and rules, and using the time for all involved to learn about the inner workings of the current committees. It became very apparent that this council will provide a much-needed means of communications between all involved. Members of the congregation are always invited to participate as an observer in our monthly meetings (third Thursday of each month at 12:30 via zoom and in person).

The past-president of the UUCLR Board serves as chair of this council, so it is my privilege to preside over the meetings of the new Site-Ops Council! If you have questions that you would like for us to consider, please submit them to debbiegoolsby@sbcglobal.net one week prior to our meeting.

Thanks to all who give so much to our community!

Submitted by Debbie Goolsby



Site Ops Council Representatives:

Facilities - Michael Roetzel

Grounds - Joanne Kriehn

Health & Safety - Sherman James & Phil Peters

Technology - Scott Lee

Rentals & Communications - Rebecca Roetzel

Memorial Woodlands - Margaret McLellan

The full Executive Committee was in attendance for this inaugural meeting of the Site Ops Council.



Kiwanis
CLUB OF PULASKI HEIGHTS

66th Annual Kiwanis Family
Pancake Festival & Silent Auction

ALL YOU CAN EAT
PANCAKES, BACON & SAUSAGE

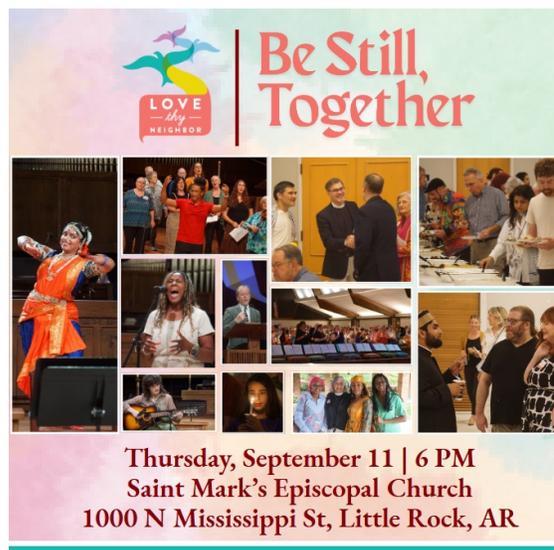
FRI SEP 12TH & SAT SEP 13TH
8AM-6PM & 8AM-12PM

Unitarian Universalist Church
1818 Reservoir Road, Little Rock

\$5 DONATION

kiwanisph.com

To benefit youth programs of the
Kiwanis Club of Pulaski Heights



**Be Still,
Together**

LOVE
— My —
NEIGHBOR

Thursday, September 11 | 6 PM
Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
1000 N Mississippi St, Little Rock, AR

Ciao for Charity

The West Little Rock Civitan Club is hosting CIAO FOR CHARITY lunch and silent auction to support the annual Christmas Party for students at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.



For more than 25 years, the West Little Rock Civitan Club has sponsored this annual celebration which includes a bowling party and Christmas gifts presented by Deaf Santa!

Attend Ciao for Charity

Buy tickets and attend the fantastic spaghetti lunch! Best spaghetti!

\$20

Guests under 16 attend free

To Go/Take Out meals are available

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday October 25, 2025

Unitarian Universalist Church
1818 Reservoir Rd, Little Rock



RE-Questors Book Update

The book for discussion is "Abundance" by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson. 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, please contact Joe Meehan (josmeehan@sbcglobal.net).

Learning About Our Church Network and Camera System

Scott Lee, chair of the Technology Committee, will be offering a series of classes designed to help members better understand our church's network and security camera system. These sessions are open to everyone, but they will be especially beneficial for those who manage the church's technology or interact with the equipment in their roles.

The classes will begin with an introduction to the basics of how networks function. This overview may also be of interest to anyone curious about how the internet, Wi-Fi, and devices communicate with one another. Later sessions will delve deeper, focusing on the specific Ubiquiti network equipment installed at UUCLR, the Dahua camera system, and how these components work together.

Sunday Sessions - 12:45pm in Pehrson:

Sep 7: Network Concepts

Sep 21: Managed vs. Unmanaged Network Equipment

Oct 12: The UUCLR Network

Oct 19: Configuring Ubiquiti UniFi Equipment

(Camera-related classes to be scheduled later)

For those who cannot attend at that time, sessions will be offered again the following Tuesday (Sept. 9 @ 1pm, Sept. 21 @ noon, Oct. 12 @ 1pm, Oct. 19 @ noon). In addition to teaching, these classes also serve as a call for volunteers. UUCLR needs multiple people who understand how our network and camera systems operate. If you are interested in helping manage this equipment—or simply want to learn the basics so you can serve as a backup when needed—this is an excellent opportunity to get involved.

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

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!

September Birthdays

September 01 - Dylan Ashcraft
September 02 - Kelly Baker
September 06 - Ken Grunewald
September 07 - Larry Young
September 08 - Tamara Denny
September 10 - Rusty Simpson
September 12 - Kay Danielson
September 14 - Karen Walls
September 14 - Debbie Goolsby
September 16 - Ken Gould
September 17 - Karen Anders

September 18 - Janice Peters
September 19 - Michael Likins
September 21 - Marvin Schwartz
September 21 - Sandy Schwartz
September 24 - Brett Pharis
September 25 - Michael Stewart
September 26 - Douglas Jones
September 26 - Ginny Greer Ashcraft
September 28 - Linda Bell
September 28 - Kayleigh Triplett
September 30 - Michael Roetzel

*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:

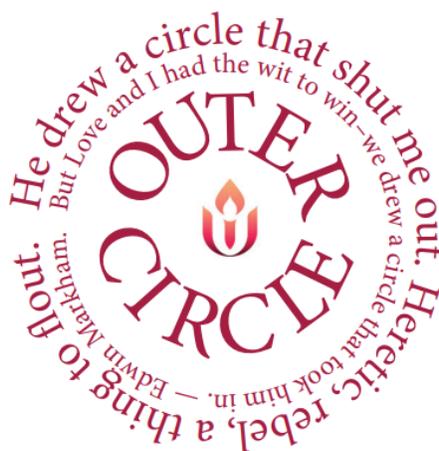
www.uuclr.org

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

FACILITIES TEAM LEAD:

Michael Roetzel

GROUNDS TEAM LEAD:

Joanne Kriehn

MEMORIAL WOODLANDS:

Margaret McLellan

CARING TEAM LEAD:

Sue McDonald

FELLOWSHIP TEAM LEAD:

Kater Reynolds

MEMBERSHIP LEAD:

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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