



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK

Monthly News & Updates

March 2026 | VOL. 75 ISSUE 3

Worship Services

Mar 1: "Paying Attention"

A reflection on the practical and spiritual uses of attention.

Mar 8: "Arkansas Reads Aldo Leopold"

UUCLR joins this weekend's statewide celebration of A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold's classic collection of essays on caring for the Earth. [Read more >>](#)

Mar 15: "Of Honeybees and Things"

Technology can't solve all our problems, but sometimes the science behind it can give us unexpected new insights.

Mar 22: Seasonal Celebration Service

Worship Arts Team - St. Patrick's Day, Spring Equinox, and International Women's History Month

Mar 29: "Varieties of Spiritual Experience"

Rev. Paul will be in the pulpit.



Aldo Leopold

On the short list of great environmental thinkers, Aldo Leopold is near the top, next to John Muir and Henry David Thoreau. Leopold's famous collection of essays, A Sand County Almanac, is heralded today as one of the seminal texts of twentieth century conservation. On March 8th, join us for a very special service being coordinated as part of a statewide celebration. A full article about this Sunday event can be found in this Outer Circle.

10 am Forum Topics

Mar 1: Joint Forum & REConnections Gathering

Storytelling times when you were "crushing it".

Mar 8: Share the Plate - will feature the Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter, whose principal purpose is preservation of wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, and unique natural areas.

Mar 15: A Remembrance of Members & Friends

Coordinated by David McCullough. [Read more >>](#)

Mar 22: "What's on Your Mind?"

Hosted by Clyde Bailey

Mar 29: "Discussion of Budget Preparation"

Debbie Goolsby and other members of the Board will share about Budget preparation for the upcoming fiscal year.

A Remembrance of Members and Friends in UUCLR's Past



The Forum on March 15 will be for the purpose of remembering the long line of people who have made UUCLR what it is today. Participants will have a chance to name Members and Friends who were important to their experience at UUCLR. In our 75 year history a remarkable cast of interesting, talented, accomplished people have passed through our doors. Come help us recall the extraordinary list of memorable people and honor their contributions.

Upcoming Events

- 3/1 Book Exchange & Recycling Sunday (Mehta)
- 3/1 Baby Shower for the Moras (Coffee Hour)
- 3/2 Between the Lines Book Club (7pm, Pehrson)
- 3/3 UUCLR is a Polling Location (Mehta)
- 3/3 Zenyth's Birthday Party (Pehrson)
- 3/6 Card Playing Night (6-8pm, Pehrson)
- 3/8 RE Safety Town Hall (10am, Pehrson)
- 3/8 Vegetarian Potluck (Mehta)
- 3/10 Young at Heart Lunch (11:30am, Mehta)
- 3/11 Program Council Mtg. (5:15pm, Pehrson)
- 3/12 Site Ops Mtg. (12:30, Zoom)
- 3/17 Our House Meal Serving
- 3/17 UUCLR Board Meeting (7pm)
- 3/20 Short Story Discussion Group (Noon, Pehrson)
- 3/21 Small Group Dinners (various locations)
- 3/22 Usher Training (after service)
- 3/22 LUUnch Out! (location TBD)
- 3/24 8th Principle Team Meeting (5pm, Pehrson)
- 3/28 Parents Night Out
- 3/31 Possible Primary Run-Off Polling Location

Reminder: AARP uses Mehta each Thursday & Friday.

Outer Circle Deadline

NOTE: The deadline for submitting information to the next Outer Circle is March 29th.



Young at Heart Luncheon - 11:30am!

We are grateful to Stephanie Webb for bringing our next program to Young at Heart on Tuesday, March 10th in the Mehta wing.

Stephanie will share her views and involvement in Paganism and its relationship to UU values. Because of her demanding work schedule, we will begin our potato bar, salad and dessert lunch earlier than usual, at 11:30, instead of 11:45. Joanne Kriehn and Jeanne Brown will coordinate our meal with help from volunteers, and we will set up earlier than usual to be sure to visit and hear all she has to say about Pagans!

Looking forward to being together and learning something!

Warmly,
Selma Blackburn, Coordinator

View the online calendar to see times and locations of all the upcoming events - www.uuclr.org.

Our annual pledge drive begins March 1st.

Your pledge is vital to helping our beloved community thrive in the coming year. Pledges account for 80% of our budget. Please let us know what you plan to give to the church by filling out a PLEDGE FORM online or in person.



UUCLR's Annual Fellowship Dinner

**** Saturday, April 11 ****
Food and Fun

**to celebrate the culmination of our 26-27 Pledge Drive
and
the culmination of our 75th Anniversary year of Celebration!**

Please join us in the Mehta Wing at 5:30 for a Social Gathering with drinks and appetizers. Dinner will be served at 6:15. We will take this moment to look towards a bright future for UUCLR with what we hope will be a fantastic Pledge Drive full of heart and hope. We will also take one last look to the past as we honor our Church Elders and our past 75 years as we "Pass on the Light!"

Do not miss this opportunity for fun entertainment, food and fellowship!

RSVP to the office by April 5th.



First Friday Card Nights

Monthly card playing nights are continuing in to the new year. Look for these usually on first Fridays from 6-8pm in the Pehrson Room. All ages are welcome, as are BYO snacks and beverages. Come play with us!



AARP Foundation

TAX-AIDE

Free tax assistance for those who need it most

AARP Free Tax Service

From January 29th until April 10th, our friends at AARP will be using the Mehta Wing each Thursday and Friday to provide free tax prep for anyone with a simple filing. These service are available to all ages!

Special Thanks for the February Share the Plate



Dear Friends at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock,

Thank you for the warm welcome and generous hospitality you extended to me. It was a genuine honor to be invited into your space. I left feeling encouraged, affirmed, and deeply grateful.

What stood out most was the alignment. At Potluck Food Rescue, we are an inclusive organization. We feed people, all people, without conditions or qualifiers. No matter someone's skin color, religious affiliation, spiritual belief, sexual orientation, or life circumstance, they have value and they are not forgotten. That belief is foundational to our work.

We carry that same conviction into how we treat food. Every item we rescue has value. When food is respected as a resource instead of dismissed as waste, it becomes part of a circular system that nourishes both people and the planet. That circular approach is not only sustainable, it is deeply human. It recognizes connection over disposal, restoration over neglect.

It was especially meaningful that the sermon that day reflected these same core principles. Systems have gaps. People fall through them. Food falls through them. Collaboration and connection are what help fill those gaps. Hearing those truths spoken from a different lens but with the same ethical grounding was powerful. Different language, same truth. At the center of it all is the Golden Rule.

Thank you again for the invitation, the openness, and the shared sense of purpose. Moments like that remind me why this work matters and why community matters.

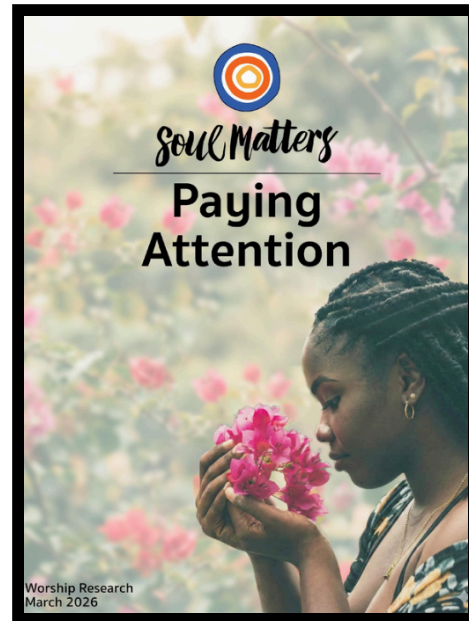
With gratitude,
Christopher Wyman
Executive Director | Potluck Food Rescue
cwyman@potluckfoodrescue.org
potluckfoodrescue.org

Conversations on Caring

Several gathered on Saturday, February 21st for the first Conversation on Caring. This is a series being hosted by our Lay Ministry Team. The first discussion was centered around HELP - reflecting on the complexities involved with helping, being helped, and how that shows up as a vibrant, yet sustainable part of our culture as a Beloved Community. Stay tuned for information about the next gathering and the topic of conversation.



March's Worship Theme:



A reflection from the first Conversation on Caring.

Submitted by Zenyth Propst

Sharing Our Lives

Whether you are new to UUCLR or have been coming for years, we are all likely to have this in common: a desire for community. New people say they are looking for community. Long-time members say they keep coming back because of the community. This caring community, full of wonderful people, is connected by our shared interests and UU values.

You make a connection and build our community every time you interact with someone at UUCLR. Having more connections in our community makes us stronger, more resilient, and hopefully happier. It deepens relationships, and it builds trust.

UUCLR is a caring community where we aim to help one another as we navigate life. The realities of giving and receiving help are complex. There can be a deep feeling of vulnerability when you ask for or receive help. It can be difficult – maybe impossible – to be this vulnerable without trust. And it is hard to trust people without feeling connected to them. Connection is key.

How can we feel more connected? Consciously build community. Come to services and activities at UUCLR. Talk to people when you are there. Share something of yourself with others. Sharing can be hard, but it gets easier with practice. And it often feels good once you do it.

And we have a bit of a mindset shift. Our UU style of help is not transactional. We do not do it to be heroes. We aim for mutual care, where companionship and being together are as important as completing a task. We do it to share our lives. Because when we say, "Can I help you?" aren't we really saying, "I'd like to be part of your life"?



REFLECTIONS: “2037”

Lots of folks who want to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this year are distressed about all the political contention and division and ... well, why can't we just have a party?



I think maybe our current crisis is the perfect way to commemorate the Declaration. It was, after all, declared in the middle of a war, in the name of a divided population. We might reflect upon how the current mood of rebellion – whether MAGA or “woke” – resembles that of the American Revolution: now as then, an insensitive elite threatens the average American’s economic security and prospects, as Ken Burns has recently reminded us in his documentary about the Revolution. And it took thirteen more years for the thirteen “independent states” to work out a blueprint for “a more perfect union.” In the interval, there was a lot of political chaos as our first attempt, the Articles of Confederation, displayed its flaws.

Now as then – not coincidentally – we hear cries of “No Kings!” But this time, with the blueprint in place, a federal Supreme Court was able to say, “No, the Executive does *not* have emergency powers to impose tariffs.” As late as 1832, the Court’s authority, hard won in its early years, was brutally challenged: legend has it that Andrew Jackson – our current president’s pet hero – said of the Court’s ruling in support of the sovereignty of the Cherokee Nation, “[Chief Justice] John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it.” And like his hero, the president scrambles to return to tariffs by another way.

We might reflect upon the origins and trajectories of our two major political parties. The Republican Party, birthed by a late popular awakening to the contradiction between the institutions of slavery and freedom, quickly became the party of wealth and power and empire, with an industrially-minded concern for things like conservation (the party of Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt). The Democratic Party (that of Jefferson and Jackson) began as a party of slaveholders and settler-colonialists, by consistently tacking toward popular consensus, much more gradually evolved into a champion of labor, immigrants, and the poor. But today, both parties are plagued with Revolutionary-era-style corruption.

Now we are engaged in a great civil conflict. It is altogether fitting and proper for us to reflect on these things.

I think that 2037 – the 250th anniversary of the Constitution – might be the time for the party, if all goes well. We might then celebrate proof that a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all are equal before the law *can* long endure.

Rev. Paul Beedle

Board President's Message

After last month's ice and single digit temperatures, I am now delighted by the warm sunshine, daffodils, and goldfinches on my bird feeders. Spring is just around the corner. For our beloved community, this is our time to celebrate our growth and plan together for the future, which includes our annual pledge drive. I have shared my history with our pledge drive and the "wealth" of emotions I used to feel, ranging from dread and shame to hope and excitement, depending on my circumstances. The pledge drive is not solely focused on money – thank goodness - because money is a complicated topic that must include discussions of privilege and discrimination and inequity. And we each have personal histories with money or the lack of it. As UUs, we are committed to caring for each other and our wider community. I hope we will continue to broaden our understanding of our pledge drive to emphasize all of the gifts that we bring to our congregation. We give our time, energy, love, organization, strength, curiosity, commitment, vulnerability, creativity, inquisitiveness, and more.

Please take a moment to read the email from the Finance Committee that was sent on Feb 28th and consider what contribution might be possible for you. The amount is not the point. The pledge – the commitment – is the point. Our pledges are one piece of the whole – leaves on the branches, strands of the web, threads in the weaving – we are all connected. Thank goodness. I am grateful for each of you and everything you bring to our beloved community. We are stronger together, and our congregation is a safe and sacred space that is needed in our world. Thank you for being a part of this beautiful gathering of souls.

With love and gratitude,
Laurie Smith Prud'homme

February Board Meeting Summary

Following approval of the minutes, we heard reports from Rev Paul, Finance Committee, Program Council, Site Operations Council, and the Executive Committee. We reviewed reports from the ad hoc committees including Governing Docs and OWL Feasibility.

In old business, the board continued the discussion of the Health & Safety team's proposal to hire an armed off duty police officer. On March 8th, Ginny, Zenyth, and Fin will facilitate a discussion during the ReConnections class to get feedback from parents and caregivers. Rev Paul reported on the Teaching Church Discernment Process. The board approved the revised Rules and Regulations document submitted by the Governing Documents ad hoc committee. Marci updated the board on the 2026-27 pledge drive.

In new business, the board approved a drive-through petition drive at our church organized by Julia Taylor and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel. Laurie requested suggestions for our GA delegates. Laurie suggested a potential change to the Nominating & Leadership committee chair process. And the board agreed to run ads about our church on the KABF radio station.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, March 17th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Smith Prud'homme, President



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.

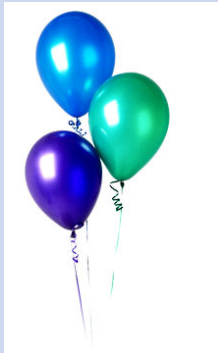
8th Principle News

The 8th Principle committee meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:00. We have four to six members attending. This month our Focus has been on participating in the community Cafe at McDermott to celebrate Black History Month. We have furnished weekly events to put in the church emails encouraging people to attend community activities focused on black history.

We exist to remind everyone of our covenant to promote racial healing.

Please let us know if you are aware of community activities you believe we might want to promote and attend. Contact Margot Cameron margotcameron@gmail.com

Our next 8th Principle meeting will be March 24 at 5pm in the Pehrson Room.



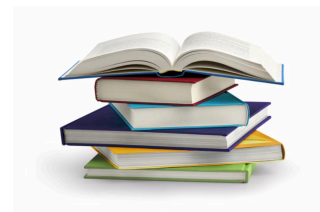
Volunteers Needed - All Church Birthday Party - April 18th

Inspired by her childhood church's annual tradition, Rebecca Roetzel will be leading this inter-generational service at the 11am hour in the Mehta Wing on Sunday, April 18th. All ages will be invited and encouraged to attend and participate. Guests will be seated according to their birthday month.

We are in need of a few more volunteers to "adopt-a-month" for this event. Volunteers are asked to decorate that month's table (any party theme!) and bring a sweet treat as the centerpiece. Contact Rebecca or simply sign up on the bulletin board sheet.

Short Stories Discussion Group

Story: *Mbiu Dash* by Okwiri Oduor
in anthology Best American Short Stories 2022
Date: Friday, March 20th
Time: Noon
Location: Pehrson Room



If you would like to join via zoom, please contact the office. The link is the same each month. Please note that this group is shifting their meeting day to **THIRD Fridays**.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

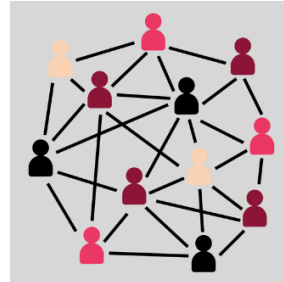
JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

One Assembly, Many Locations

We may not be gathering in one convention center, but GA remains a shared experience.

Participants across the country watch the same worship services, hear the same speakers, and take part in the same conversations at the same time. Satellite Sites and local gatherings offer face-to-face connection, while online spaces allow people to respond together in real time.



This year we are quite literally meeting the moment together everywhere, joining from wherever we are. Each location brings its own community and perspective, while remaining part of one shared Assembly.

The format changes. The sense of gathering together does not.

Host a Community Gathering for GA 2026

General Assembly 2026 will be experienced in many places at once. One meaningful way to participate is to gather locally. Alongside the Studio Site and Satellite Sites, congregations are invited to host Community Gatherings where registered participants can experience GA together. A gathering can be large or small. Some communities may organize meals and discussions. Others may simply open a room to watch worship or a few sessions together.



Community Gatherings make it possible to participate in GA while staying rooted in local community life, sharing conversation and connection while joining the same Assembly taking place online across the continent. You might host just for your own congregation, invite neighboring congregations, or welcome anyone interested in experiencing GA in community.

Stay tuned for more information about UUCLR & GA 2026

February in Photos

We began this month iced in, gathering for a zoom service on February 1st. Short as it may be, we filled this month to the brim! Sunday morning attendance numbers jumped alongside weekday participants, LUUnch Out guests, and more. We showed up at the Foodbank to volunteer as a celebration of our 75th Anniversary. We showed up at McDermott Elementary for their community night and across town for various Black History Month events. And we showed up for the first gathering of the Singing Resistance group in Little Rock. In addition to our regularly scheduled programming, UUCLR hosted a card night, a tool swap, and the first Conversation on Caring. We made space for voter registration efforts (Get Loud AR!), petition signing (Protect AR Rights), safe gatherings (Queer Collective), nature play for preschoolers (Wandering Woods Coop), a professional recording session, the AR Coalition for Peace & Justice's annual meeting, several private rentals, and the AARP tax prep folk. We also made the front page of the paper (!) and we are set to run radio spots on KABF. **Thank you for being so UU it shows!**



Have you submitted your pledge for the upcoming 2027-2027 church year?

Please do so before March 31st. Reach out to John Althoff (UUCLR Treasurer) or anyone on the Finance Committee if you have questions or concerns.

Find the form at UUCLR.ORG under the GIVING tab.



RE Safety Town Hall

March 8th, Perhson Room - 10am

Calling all Parents, Caregivers, Teachers, Volunteers, and you!

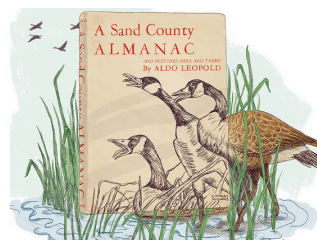
Fin Judkins, Director of Religious Education will be hosting a Town Hall meeting with participation from the Board and the Health & Safety Committee. It is open to anyone, but geared towards those who are active with our children and youth program.

Participation for parents and caregivers is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.

March 8th Special Sunday

Honoring the writings of Aldo Leopold

**A Sand County Almanac and 75 Years of UUCLR,
Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock, 1818
Reservoir Rd, Little Rock.**



As a core value, Unitarian Universalists honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it. On Sunday, March 8th, we will affirm and reflect on this value through Aldo Leopold's writings.

The Forum, at 10:00, will feature the Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter, whose principal purpose is the preservation of wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, and unique natural areas. Their goals of conservation, education, and recreation align closely with the UU value of Interdependence.

The Sunday service at 11:00 will include readings and reflections on Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, led by the Reverend Paul Beedle and others from the UUCLR community. The Second Sunday Share the Plate collection will be for the benefit of the Ozark Society Youth Grant Program.

Weather permitting, we will explore the church grounds, including the Memorial Woodland. A limited number of copies of *A Sand County Almanac* will be available.

Arkansas Audubon Society webpage for all the events of that week.

<https://arbirds.org/AASPage.aspx?pg=16>

Arkansas Reads Leopold made possible by a grant from the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

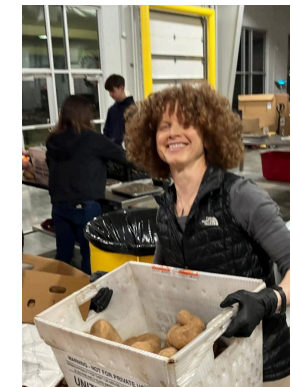
<https://www.aldoleopold.org/>

Foodbank Volunteers Make Difference

On February 3rd, almost 20 people showed up to help our community at the monthly Friends & Family Night event at the Arkansas Foodbank. The group volunteered in the Volunteer Center, where donated food products are sorted, inspected and repacked for distribution to a network of agency partners in our 33 county service area.



Thank you to everyone who supported this cause. Special thanks to Barrett Goodwin and Zenyth Propst for coordinating this effort as part of our 75th Anniversary celebratory events. The Foodbank welcomes volunteers every week - look them up if you'd like to assist with their work in the future!



Seeking the Sacred Feminine: An Exploration of the Abrahamic Faiths

Join [The Interfaith Center](#) and [Spring House](#) for an interfaith speaker series exploring how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam speak about the Sacred through feminine imagery, stories, and attributes. Guest speakers from each tradition will reflect on how God is described and experienced within their own faith and will share stories of significant women from their tradition's sacred history. Join us on March 18, April 15, and May 20 from 6-7:30 pm at 1616 S. Spring St. [RSVP & Event Info](#).



'Peace Across Faiths' Interfaith Community Dinner

Join the Central Arkansas interfaith community for an evening celebrating peace, compassion, and hope at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 26 from 5:30-8 pm. Enjoy a vegetarian meal, meet your interfaith neighbors, and hear from faith leaders in our community about this year's theme, "Stories of Compassion."

This event is free and open to the public, and childcare and security are provided. Co-sponsored by Arkansas Culture and Dialog Center, Congregation B'nai Israel, Madina Institute, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, and The Interfaith Center. [Event info](#).

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!

March Birthdays

March 01 - Archer Chism
March 04 - Justin Stracener
March 07 - Ramah Jones
March 09 - Gina Pharis
March 12 - Don Barnes
March 12 - David Prud'homme
March 19 - Bryan Miller
March 19 - Emily Mellor

March 20 - Raphael VanBlaricom
March 20 - James Triplett
March 21 - Maddie Robinson
March 23 - Nancy Kimpel
March 25 - Paulette Mehta
March 26 - Brandon Murphy
March 26 - Christie Nichols
March 29 - Jean Pennucci

*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 & Laurie Smith Prud'homme

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 & RENTALS:

Rebecca Roetzel

HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM LEADS:

Phil Peters & Sherman James

TECHNOLOGY TEAM LEAD:

Scott Lee



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