



February 2018 Vol. 67 Issue 2

1818 Reservoir Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227
www.uuclr.org uuclr@uuclr.orgMISSION
STATEMENT

We strive to build a beloved community through shared worship, responsible spiritual freedom, exploration and reverence.

We are a welcoming congregation, embracing our interconnectedness, engaging with others by living our principles in our community, and working to transform our world and ourselves.



Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

Minister's Message

"Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness."

—The Dalai Lama XIV

Dear Friends,

Here at our church, I see good things happening all around. In our gatherings for worship, there is real energy – from all ages! Even when a song may be new to us, we sing with spirit. Each Sunday, new folks are coming through our doors. We are welcoming new members. We are putting our faith into action by feeding people, both at the Stephens School Food Pantry, a new ministry for us, and also, as we have for many years, at Our House. I am touched by your care for one another. And you all care about our church – y'all get things done around here! We are a congregation because a large and mighty team of dedicated people give of who they are to help keep the flame of our church glowing bright and strong. Nearly three years now since I accepted your call to serve alongside you as your minister, I am deeply grateful to be here among all of you.

One of the ways Roger and I try to show our gratitude for what we cherish most in life is by giving in ways that support the values we most dear. We give to our church as a way to grow in our world more of what we value -- peace and religious freedom, joy and spiritual deepening, hope and love for all beings in our world. We know also that by giving to our church, we are investing in something that will outlast us and help to build a better world for our children and yours, and for generations to come.

(Continued Page 2)

Sundays in February

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The February Theme is "Spiritual Practice"

"There is not a particle of life which does not bear poetry within it." – Gustave Flaubert

"One life on this earth is all that we get, whether it is enough or not enough, and the obvious conclusion would seem to be that at the very least we are fools if we do not live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can." – Frederick Buechner

Questions for reflection:

- What helps you to find your center?
- What helps you to hear your inner voice?
- What helps you to notice the poetry or beauty in life?
- What helps you to bear the pain in life?
- What practices might help you to live more fully?

Services

- February 4** Rev. Jan, preaching
- February 11** Guest Julia Hanway from Final Exit Network
Speaking on the Human Right to Death with Dignity
- February 18** "Growing the Flame"
Rev. Jan, preaching
- February 25** Rev. Jan, preaching
Our worship will feature the recorded music of Jason Isbell's "24 Frames" and Rev. Jan will reflect on the song's lyrics in her sermon

In the Life of the Church

Board President's Note

Greetings! I hope most everyone will have attended our special UU celebration of Illumination! Please thank Rebecca Roetzel many times for putting this event together—she and her family are church treasures!

The expansion team will be scheduling interviews with contractors this month. There may be a UUA sponsored pre-feasibility study scheduled in April.

I hope many of you contributed to the Vision and Mission Tree – the Strategic Planning committee will now begin work on a draft of our new statement that we hope to adopt at the annual meeting in June—after discussions, of course!

Thanks to all of you that contribute your time in large and smaller ways—you help make UUCLR a special part of each other's lives.

Mindy Morrell, Board President

Minister (Continued from Page 1)

We, along with so many of you, are “Growing the Flame” – the flame of our Unitarian Universalist faith and the flame of this congregation we cherish.

“Growing the Flame” is the theme of our 2018-19 Annual Fund Drive. I ask each of you to do what you can as we join together right now to “grow the flame” of our faith and our church – to help our flame to grow even bolder and brighter. Roger and I are “fair share” givers here in our church. In fact, we try to give more than our fair share, because we know there will be times when not all of us can give as much as we might like. So we give a little extra, remembering the truth that “we are all in this together.” If you are not yet giving at a “fair share” level, I join your leadership in encouraging you to consider increasing your giving to become fair share giver. And if you are now giving at a fair share level, we encourage you to consider giving at the next level – if you are giving a “supporting gift” now, maybe you could give a little more and give a “sustaining gift.”

We live in challenging times. All around us we hear voices that seek to discourage the human spirit and divide humankind. Our flame here at UUCLR stands for lovingkindness and compassion, for peace and hope, and for love for all beings in our world. Be a part of growing our flame.

With gratitude and love,
Rev. Jan

Pledging Already?

Surely not! Planning and budgeting are keys to successful organizations. Therefore, the Finance/Stewardship Committee is now planning for UUCLR funding in 2018-2019. This fiscal year begins July 1, 2018. We have decided that over a three-week span we will conduct a drive for the upcoming year. It will begin February 18 and end on March 11, 2018 (see the center insert).

We will need your help pledging (mostly online but with paper forms available) so that the budget can be set and programs can be further developed. Your help is essential for us to do this in only three weeks! We will celebrate on March 17 with our Fellowship Dinner.

Wednesdays with Rev. Jan

Rev. Jan will be hanging out at the Starbucks located at 9401 North Rodney Parham (the Starbucks closest to the church) on Wednesday, February 21 from 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. She'll be there to chat with everybody who shows up. Feel free to drop in for a short time, or to stay for the whole time. Bring a friend if you like. Rev. Jan hopes to hold more of these gatherings, so watch your email for dates and locations.

SILENT AUCTION

Concert and Auction Fundraiser

Another SILENT AUCTION is coming up on **April 21**, so start putting aside some fabulous items! New, unused only please.... there will be a church rummage sale shortly after this for those other treasures you are done using. Start saving your really good items (preferably new or hardly used) to donate to this auction.

This year's concert is by jazz keyboardist Lee Tambouliau - an artist who is very well known to Little Rock jazz enthusiasts! Save the date!



Contact the office if have questions or would like to help: uuclr@uuclr.org or 501-225-1503.

In the Life of the Church

UU Women's Group February Activity

The UU Women's Activity Group (UWAG) had a wonderful time cracking codes and solving puzzles at the Mystery Mansion in January. With some help, we were able to escape the room and enjoy a delicious meal at Canvas Restaurant. The day was lots of fun and everyone looks forward to doing it again.

The February activity hasn't been decided, but we would love anyone self identifying themselves as women to plan on joining us for our next fun activity.

If you are not on the list and would like to receive notifications, please contact Cas Rifkin by email at casrifkin12@gmail.com

Facilities Work Day February 3



Please mark your calendars to join us on Saturday, February 3, at 8:30am, for our monthly work day. If the weather is inclement, we will cancel and reschedule. This will be mostly outside work this time and primarily our final lot cleanup. We'll try to not spend time picking up leaves. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Our agenda is much the same:

- Clear leaves/sticks from foyer area roofs and A/C units mounted up there
- Blow driveways/parking lots as needed, as well as areas behind the church
- Trim crepe myrtles along front of church
- Clear decks/stairs areas behind main foyer, chapel and RE foyer
- Also blow off under RE foyer deck
- Work with our Privet Hedge Patrol on removing more privet from along the creek beds behind the church
- Shred/mulch brush piles as needed (training required for first timers)

Bring loppers, rakes, gloves, blowers (preferably gas-powered). We have two blowers at the church, plus other tools. We also now have a tow-behind dump cart for use with our lawn tractor to pick up debris as needed.

Continuing the Discussion about Racial Inequality

Following the Arkansas UU Cluster discussions about racial inequality and white privilege, several people requested that we continue the conversation. The conversations will continue on the second Mondays in February, March, and April from 6:30-8:00pm.

After three months, we'll discuss the possibility of continuing. Woodson Walker—one of the excellent moderators during the Cluster who works with another similar group at Mosaic Church—will help us navigate as we learn more about ourselves in relation to racial inequality. We cannot be a change agent until we know ourselves.

In order to participate, registration is required which includes a commitment to attend all three discussions; to read the short assigned readings before each group; keep personal information about others confidential; and be committed to changing our lives. *You do not need to have attended the Cluster.*

Childcare will be provided if requested. Please sign up on our web page at www.uuclr.com or in the foyer by the deadline of February 5. We hope that this important work will be especially meaningful to you, and if it is, it will also be meaningful to our congregation and community.

Tax Letters for 2017 Donations

Letters have been mailed documenting 2017 contributions for tax purposes.

At any time, members and friends may review their giving history by logging onto ChurchDB, which may be reached on the church web site (www.uuclr.org) - on the right-hand side look for the icon for "member logon."



If you do not know your User ID or password, use the "Retrieve User ID and Password" button.

If there are any questions or if you did not receive the letter, please contact Treasurer Nell Matthews, treasurer@uuclr.org. If you need assistance accessing ChurchDB, call the office at 225-1503.

In the Life of the Church

Recycle Sunday and Book Exchange

February 4

(You do not have to bring something to take something)

Please bring CFL light bulbs, 4 and 8 ft. fluorescent bulbs, empty ink cartridges, and old/outdated electronics (computers, copiers, DVD players, paper shredders, printers, TVs, VCRs, phones, stereos, radios, fax machines, and microwave ovens).

Remember to bring your aluminum cans and metal and leave on the back deck of Thomson Hall. Lance will recycle all cans and metal that are collected and he donates the proceeds to the church. Thank you, Lance!



FORUM

Sundays at 10:00am in the Chapel

- February 4 "Girl Lost in the Desert"
Guest Cathy Frye
- February 11 2nd Sunday Share the Plate:
Heifer USA
- February 18 Theme Discussion:
"Spiritual Practice"
- February 25 "Who Do I Talk To?: UUCLR
Governance Structure"
Kater Reynolds, Past President

Black Lives of UU Little Rock

Any UUs and UU friends who identify as Black are invited to meet at the Breckenridge movie theater on Saturday, February 17, for the 12:30 showing of the Black Panther movie. After the movie, we will gather at UUCLR for discussion and light refreshments.

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

The Between the Lines
Book Club will meet
Monday, Feb. 5 at 7:00pm
to discuss:



Murder on the Orient Express
by Agatha Christie

For information: Contact Kevin Jones
501-851-4358 or kmjones1231@sbcglobal.net



Young at Heart

Young at Heart welcomes all to our luncheon and program beginning at 11:45pm on Tuesday, **February 13**. The cost of the lunch is \$7.00 per person.

Long-time church member Ruth Bell will give us her input on a couple of public issues for which she speaks out to the city board as a champion, both for the Little Rock community and of concern for the actions and propositions that affect all of us. Let's be informed, and discuss amongst ourselves!

Everyone is welcome and all are invited. Come and have a wonderful time with us!

RE-Questors

Searching for the Best Way to Live

Primary Reference:

**The Nordic Theory of Everything:
In Search of a Better Life**
By Anu Partanen

10:00am Sundays in the Pehrson Room
Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be

In the Life of the Church

Welcome, New Members!



Holly and Jeffrey
Chism

Holly and Jeffrey Salem began attending UUCLR in early 2017 and have felt at home ever since. Holly is an Arkansas native. She currently serves as the clinic manager of Planned Parenthood in Little Rock. She studied Spanish and Public Administration. Jeffrey recently moved to Arkansas and works at Tropical Smoothie. In his spare time he works on writing and musical endeavors. Together they enjoy cooking, attending concerts, and being at UUCLR.

Bill and Esthela Ventres are new to Arkansas, relocating here from Central America. Bill grew up in Minnesota and has lived his adult life in various domestic and international locations. He met Esthela almost 7 years ago. It was mutual love at first sight, and the rest is history.



Bill and Esthela
Ventres

Bill currently works as a family physician at UAMS. Esthela is studying English with the intent of entering a Master's in Public Administration program in Little Rock. They jointly attended a Catholic Church with leanings toward "liberation theology" in El Salvador, although Bill was a UU member in Tucson, Arizona, and Portland, Oregon.



Alyce and Sherman
James

Alyce James is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. In July 2016, she and her husband, **Sherman James**, moved to Little Rock from Atlanta to be near their three grandchildren, ages 7, 4 and 21 months. Prior to her retirement, Alyce worked for 35 years as a counselor in public elementary schools in North Carolina and Georgia. Her passion is interior decorating; she enjoys jazz music, travel, movies (especially comedies),

biking, reading detective mysteries, and parlor games.

Sherman is a native of Hartsville, North Carolina. He had a 44-year career as a college professor, having taught at UNC-Chapel Hill, the University of Michigan, Duke, and Emory universities. His passion is African American history and literature; he enjoys travel, biking, live theatre, parlor games, jazz music, hiking, and watching Duke and Golden State Warriors basketball.



February Birthdays



Happy Birthday to Members and Friends

Paul Clifford	1	Philip Peters	19
Rebecca Roetzel.....	1	Sharon Marcum.....	20
Eileen Wetherall.....	3	Chris Thomson	20
Owen Dockter	5	John Perez	21
Selma Blackburn.....	8	Fay Jean Royce.....	21
Alyce James.....	8	Dawn F. Harris.....	23
David McCullough.....	8	Mike Vaughn.....	23
Holly Chism-Salem .	15	Elaine Barton.....	24
Jerry Blackburn	16	Marshall Klaus.....	26

Contact the church office at 225-1503
for corrections or additions.

Helen Pate retired to Little Rock in March of 2017, when she moved here from Orange Beach, Alabama. Her decision to come to Little Rock was to be near the friends she made while living previously in Newport, Arkansas, and those made while she was an "Arkansas Traveler for Hillary" in the 2016 election. She has three children: Helen, Jr., Madison and Will, and three grandchildren.



Helen Pate

Since coming to Little Rock, she volunteers as a docent at the Clinton Presidential Center. Aside from family and friends, her interests and hobbies are traveling, reading, painting, needlework, design, and enjoying the history of architecture. This will be her second year to serve as docent during the "Wright Plus" home tour in Oak Park, Illinois. Frank Lloyd Wright has been the focus of her interest in architecture for many years. Her degree is in Interior Design, but her focus has been on low income housing.

She served as Executive Director of a not-for-profit housing corporation in Macon, Georgia, and she founded and served as Executive Director of "Rebuilding Together/Sparta-White County" (Tennessee) for 14 years. That group repaired the homes of elderly low income homeowners for free.

She visited a UU church for the first time when she lived in Orange Beach, and is delighted to be a part of this great group in Little Rock. Her goal is to become an active member, and to make new friends along the way.

In the Life of the Church

Faith Development Offerings with Rev. Jan Nielsen

We will gather in Thomson Hall from **12:15 to 1:15 on Tuesdays**. Feel free to bring your brown bag lunches. Newcomers are always welcome. We will finish up with the books below and new books will be chosen. Titles will be supplied soon. The series will run until June 2018. Stories and essays assigned for reading are on the church web site under "Classes" or in the online calendar.

"Listening for God": Explorations of Short Stories

This group will probe contemporary short fiction for insights, both spiritual and intellectual, about what it means to be human. The format is based on a long-used adult faith development model called "Listening for God" but "Listening for Life" also could be an apt title. Stories are from the volume *The Best American Short Stories of 2017*, edited by Meg Wolitzer.

February 6	March 6	May 1
February 27	April 3	June 5

"How Do You See It?" Explorations of Essays

This group is devoted to exploring contemporary essays taken from the volume, *The Best American Essays 2017*, edited by Leslie Jamison. As we read each essay on our own, we will ask, "How do I see it?" and then when we gather, we will invite one another to answer the question, "How do you see it?"

February 20	April 17	June 19
March 20	May 22	



RE Schedule for February

February 4 - All Ages Together for Blessing Bag Project

Blessing Bags are a great way for children to care for those in their community who are less fortunate, and remind the homeless that they are. During January, church members have donated items for blessing bags to give to our homeless population. Children and youth will assemble the blessing bags on February 4. Families are invited to take one or a few to keep in their vehicles to hand out to those in need. We will continue taking donations and hope to have enough to pack more blessing bags in March. Here is the list of items needed:

Gallon Ziploc bags	Chapstick
Hand sanitizers	Combs
Bottled water	New socks
Band aids	New underwear
Baby wipes	Gloves
Bar soaps	Hand warmers
Shampoo/conditioner	Granola/energy bars
Wash cloths	Tuna/cracker packs
Toothbrushes	Beef jerky
Toothpaste	Fruit/applesauce cups
Floss	(with spoon)
Deodorant	Trail mix
Menstrual care products	<i>Travel-sized toiletries work best!</i>
Travel-sized first aid kits	

February 11, 18 and 25

Explorers

Our theme this month is Spiritual Practice. Our RE groups engage in spiritual practice every Sunday, when we gather in our circle, light the chalice, do a body prayer, listen deeply to one another, and practice being together in covenant as we play games, color, and craft together. This month, we will explore some of the ways that humans intentionally connect, find meaning, and express devotion that may not be as familiar to us. Gather at 10:00am in the Barnum room.

Coming of Age

Jr. and Sr. youth will explore Universalism as a theological contrast to Calvinism. They will move on to explore Universalist thought as it came to America, followed by Transcendentalism as an encompassing framework.

Caring and Concerns

If someone would appreciate a card when ill or a family member is ill or happy news like a baby or marriage, just let Shirley Jo Pine know and she will send a card that is appropriate for the occasion. Contact: shirleyjpine18@gmail.com.

In the Life of the Church

Facilities Work Days

Saturday - February 3
Start at 8:30 am



General clean up - see full articles on Page 3
 If you want to be added to our
 Facilities email group, contact uuclr@uuclr.org

Caring and Concerns

If you know of anyone who needs assistance with meals, rides, caring phone calls or cards, please contact the office at uuclr@uuclr.org or call 225-1503. If you have an urgent need, Rev. Jan asks you to call her.



February Calendar

Thursday, February 1

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
 10:00am The Van (Off Site)

Friday, February 2

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
 UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
 10:00am Facilities Team (Office)
 6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)
 9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Saturday, February 3

11:00am Women's Writing Group (Off Site)
 1:00pm Rental (Thomson and Kitchen)

Sunday, February 4

9:30am Recycle Sunday, Book Exchange (Chapel)
 10:00am Children-Youth Programming
 10:00am Forum (Thomson)
 10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
 10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)
 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
 3:30pm Rental (Chapel & RE Wing)

Monday, February 5

5:30pm Program Council
 7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)

Tuesday, February 6

12:15pm Exploration of Short Stories
 5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, February 7

5:30pm Finance Meeting (Pehrson)
 6:15pm Social Justice Group (Chapel)
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 8

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Friday, February 9

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
 UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
 7:00pm Rental (Pehrson)
 9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Sunday, February 11

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
 10:00am Forum (Thomson)
 10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
 10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)
 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:15pm Girl Scouts (Emerson)
 12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Chapel)
 3:30pm Rental (Chapel & RE Wing)

Monday, February 12

6:30pm Racial Inequality Discussion (Pehrson)

Tuesday, February 13

11:45am Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)
 1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)
 5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

6:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Wednesday, February 14

5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 15

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
 1:00pm The Van (Off Site)
 2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

Friday, February 16

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
 UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
 6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)
 9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Saturday, February 17

3:00pm BLUU Group (Pehrson)
 4:00pm Rental (Thomson and Chapel)

Sunday, February 18

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
 10:00am Forum (Thomson)
 10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
 10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)
 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
 3:30pm Rental (Chapel & RE Wing)

Monday, February 19

5:00pm Worship Arts Meeting (Thomson)
 6:15pm Board Meeting (Thomson)

Tuesday, February 20

12:15pm Exploration of Essays
 4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)
 5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, February 21

6:15pm Social Justice Group (Chapel)
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 22

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Friday, February 23

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
 UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
 9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Sunday, February 25

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
 10:00am Forum (Thomson)
 10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
 10:00am Sunday Circle (Emerson)
 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:15pm Girl Scouts (Emerson)
 12:30pm Humanist Group (Pehrson)
 3:30pm Rental (Chapel & RE Wing)

Tuesday, February 27

12:15pm Exploration of Short Stories
 5:00pm Membership Committee
 5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, February 28

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

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STAFF HOURS

Tuesday - Friday
 Approximately 8 am - 1 pm
 Call before coming
 Church Phone 225-1503
 E-mail: uuclr@uuclr.org

Program Council Team Liaisons

Communication	Karen Walls
Facilities	Bill Kimpel
Faith In Action	Eoin Dockter
Fellowship	Vacant
Lifespan Faith Development	Joe Meehan
Membership	Debbie Goolsby
Worship Arts	Liz Mackenzie



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Outer Circle Policy: The Church Office reserves the right to edit all Outer Circle articles for content and length. Deadline for publication usually falls on the **15th of the month** *unless holiday considerations apply*. No articles will be accepted by telephone or verbally. **Articles must be submitted in writing** in the church office by fax (423-6666) or via e-mail (uuclr@uuclr.org) by **5:00 p.m.** on the deadline date. Any articles received after the deadline may be omitted due to limitations of time and printable space.

Happy
Valentine's
Day