



# Outer Circle

May 2017 Vol. 66 Issue 5

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## MISSION 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

### *"Getting Ready to Die"*

One bright sunny day a few years back, my sister, Mary, and I walked a wooded trail in the mountains of

Washington State. We talked some; we walked in silence some. As we made our way back to the trailhead, we passed a group of hikers led by a young, blonde woman whose shirt caught my eye. It read "Arhus" and, in the center, was a picture of the *Dannebrog*, the Danish flag. I thought, "Arhus! She must be from Denmark – the land of so many of my ancestors, but I only nodded a polite hello. I didn't say a word.

After the group had passed, I said to Mary, "Did you see that woman's shirt? I wonder if she's from Denmark? I wanted to say something to her, but I didn't want to embarrass you." And then Mary surprised me. "You wouldn't embarrass me," she said. "I don't worry about that kind of stuff anymore. You might think this is a weird thing to say, but I am getting ready to die."

Mary is in excellent health. She's a non-smoking, seat belt-wearing, vegetarian who exercises regularly. She is full of vitality. As we talked about what she meant, I heard in her voice the wisdom I have heard in the voices of cancer survivors and others who've experienced hard times and walked some of life's roughest roads. There's no time to waste, she said, no time for missed chances, no time to try to be anything or anyone other than your true, authentic self, and certainly no time to be embarrassed over someone saying hello to a stranger. I then

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Sundays in May

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The Theme is "Experience"

*"People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built."*

– Eleanor Roosevelt

For reflection and discussion:

*What experiences in your life have helped to define who you are?*

*What lessons have you learned from your experiences?*

*What has helped you to move beyond your hardest experiences?*

*Which experiences have brought you wisdom?*

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## Services

May 7 "Who We Are to One Another"  
Our Flower Communion Service  
and a Time of Learning  
Rev. Jan

May 14 Music Sunday and Mother's Day  
Rev. Jan

May 21 Guest Tom Nowlin

May 28 Buffalo River Weekend  
Rich Roy and Margaret McLellan:  
*Sing-a-long Songs*

# In the Life of the Church

## Board President's Note

Spring is a busy time and not only for the birds and bees, but for UUCLR. I'm writing in April after our silent auction and concert by Tom Neilson and Lynn Waldron. It was a very lucrative, and fun event that raised almost \$4000.00! So many people made this a success, but at top of the list were Sue McDonald and Kater Reynolds who committed themselves to co-chair the event and began planning early eight months ago. With their encouragement, they made it easy for me to learn one of my hardest lessons, "to delegate and get out of the way." A big thank you to them, everyone who helped, and to our congregation and their spirit of support for UUCLR.

Now I am looking forward to four more incredible events for us. First is Roy Speckhardt speaking April 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>. Second is the AR Cluster educational program and the AR UU Justice Ministry business meeting at the UU Village Church in Hot Springs Village, May 5 and 6. You may register at the event if necessary. The third is an educational Leadership event on May 13. Please look for the article in this newsletter.

And fourth is our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 4. If you are a new member to our congregation, this is our annual business meeting where we receive the Annual Report about the hard work done in the past year, hear about the

state of the congregation, receive a gift from the Endowment Fund, and vote on business issues which includes a slate of officers.

This year we might also vote on the future plans for our facility. A survey was sent to every member during the week of April 17. Please make sure to get it returned by mail as soon as possible, so that we receive it no later than May 1 for it to be part of the tally. If we have a clear path after seeing the results, we hope to be able to vote and move ahead with an architectural study if that is the will of the congregation.

Anyone who is a current member for at least the prior 30 days gets to vote at the Annual Meeting. You should receive communication in the mail from us by May 21 if you are a member. If you do not receive it or the survey, please contact us immediately so that we can find our mistake before the membership roll is prepared.

We appreciate our youth, who have agreed to have a fundraiser lunch after services and before the Congregational meeting starts. Childcare will be provided. Please come—at UUCLR, the popular vote does count.

With gratitude,  
Cas Rifkin

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## Transition Team II Community Meeting Coming Up

Please join us for a Community Meeting on **May 7, 12:00pm**, right after service.

This Community Meeting will be to report the results of the recent member survey (mailed in April) and to allow for a discussion of the results. This will allow the creation of a proposal that reflects the consensus of the congregation. This proposal will be placed on the voting agenda for the church **Annual Congregational Meeting on June 4**.

While the discussion will be important, the collective vote of the poll will be the driving factor in what is put forward at the annual meeting since it represents a more accurate and democratic expression of the congregation's will.

Please plan on attending the Congregational Meeting to make your voice heard.

### *Minister's Message (Continued from Page 1)*

wished I had said something to the woman wearing the Arhus shirt. A missed chance.

My sister is wise. None of us knows how much time we have. We might say that's a dark thought, better left unspoken. It can be just the opposite: the realization that our time is limited can be liberating, even life giving. Align your actions with your most cherished values. Spend time on what matters most. Speak up. Reach out. Be kind. Take in life's joys. These days of May signal a time of new beginnings for the soul, a time for the "heart work" of getting ready to die.

See you in church.  
Love and blessings, Rev. Jan

# In the Life of the Church

## Children's Classes

### Explorers

#### Theme-based Religious Education Program

Children ages 5 to 13 attend *Explorers* on Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:55am in the Alcott room, downstairs in the RE building. We make good friends, and explore our monthly ministry themes through stories, games, art, and spiritual practices.

This month, we are working with the theme of "**Experience.**" *Please have children wear clothing and shoes that are suitable for outdoor activities. We will be spending as much time as possible outdoors while the weather is pleasant.*

### YoUuth

Teens meet each Sunday in the Schweitzer room from 10:00-10:55am. Don't forget to spend time with your *To This I Give My Heart* journals each day, or a couple of times each week if that is what you can manage. If you still need a copy, contact Rachel Finley to pick one up.

## Important Dates

### MUSIC SUNDAY on May 14th

The children and youth will be singing a piece with the adult choir. Practices with our Music Director, John Perez, have been scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. It would be helpful if you would let John Perez and Rachel Finley know that you are coming. Contact Rachel (text 501-350-8369) or John (501-580-3794) if you have any questions or to let us know if your child will sing with us. Come and help us make this our best Music Sunday yet!

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND May 28

There will be no classes for children and youth.

### YOUTH BRIDGING CEREMONY June 4

The Bridging Ceremony will be held during service.

## Treasurer's Note

When you turn in a pledge check, please be sure to indicate whether it is a pledge for the past year (2016-2017) or it is for the new year (2017-2018). This will ensure the amount is credited to the proper year.

## Starting in June: STEAMM Sundays

A Multi-Age Summer RE Program

**STEAMM=** Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Music and Movement. This summer our focus will be teaching and supporting our children as makers, creators, and doers. UUs are agents for change. We tackle challenges, solve problems, and figure things out. We exercise reason and logic, we collaborate, and we express what is in our minds and hearts to help heal the world.

Have you considered working with UUCLR children and/or teens? Our Summer program is a wonderful opportunity for adults in the congregation to work with our kids. Sign up for one date or a few. You will provide an invaluable experience for our children, and grow by leaps and bounds as a Unitarian Universalist servant leader. Sign up and note your desired STEAMM topic in the "Feedback" section of the [online form](#). Can you teach our kids how to use a sewing machine or do carpentry? Work with them to create a video about our church? Maybe you can make materials and build Spirit Play story baskets with them. There are so many possibilities. Create the activity yourself, or Rachel will work with you to create it.

You must complete the [RE Steward in Covenant Form](#) online and consent to a background check before working with children at UUCLR.



## OWL Opportunities

There are a number of OWL facilitator training opportunities coming up over the summer:

### June 9-11, 2017

K-1st/4th-6th Grades - Knoxville, TN  
Contact: (865) 523-4176

### June 19-21, 2017

7-9 and 10-12 Grades - New Orleans, LA  
Contact: [icarman@cox.net](mailto:icarman@cox.net) (504) 258-6695

### August 18-20, 2017

7-9 and 10-12 GRADES - Cordova, TN  
Contact: [dre@neshobauu.org](mailto:dre@neshobauu.org) (901) 849-9696

Please check the bulletin boards at church for more information if you are interested.



# In the Life of the Church

## UUCLR Leadership Event May 13

**Saturday, May 13, 2017**, is the date for some great leadership training sessions! These are open to the congregation and the community at large. There will be four 'sessions' – two in the morning and two in the afternoon – in Thomson Hall and the Chapel. Here's the schedule:

**10:00 am – 11:30 am**

### A. How to Protest – Part 1

How to work with national, state and local representatives and processes; What to know when you participate in a march, rally or protest; How to deal with people with whom you disagree; What else can we do?

### B. The Path to Leadership

Ever wonder how we get our church leaders? How can you make that climb up the ladder to serve in the leadership? We'll talk about the preliminary steps you can make to be better prepared for a leadership position.

There will also be a primer in how the church is governed. We'll answer those questions you've had: "Who do I go to if I want to know X?"; "What's up with this Program Council group?"; "What does the Finance Committee do that isn't done by the Treasurer and the Disbursing Officer?"; and much more.

**Lunch 11:30 – 12:30**

Please feel free to stay and continue your discussions. Bring your lunch and we will provide drinks and desserts!

**12:30 pm – 2:00 pm**

### A. How to Protest – Part 2

A continuation of the morning's discussions

### B. Transgender Relations: "Let's Get Educated!"

Members of the transgender community will present a program that will help us to understand our transgender neighbors, what they need, and how we can help.

Questions? Contact Kater Reynolds  
at [katerviola@gmail.com](mailto:katerviola@gmail.com)

## A Call for Family Pictures

We need pictures of your mothers and parents! As a part of **Music Sunday on May 14** (also Mother's Day), there will be a slideshow highlighting our mothers, parents and families.

The slideshow will start with pictures of our mothers/grandmothers, then pictures of both parents/grandparents together, and finish with pictures of our families.

These don't have to be portraits, in fact pictures of families together, doing what families do is perfect. If you are able, email your electronic images to [jwperez1@yahoo.com](mailto:jwperez1@yahoo.com). If you only have a printed picture, then drop it off at the office to be scanned or take a picture with your phone and email it to John.

## FORUM

### May 7 Unitarian Universalist history, DVD #6 of 6 - Unitarian Universalism

This film tells the story of the century-long "courtship" between Unitarianism and Universalism as a classic love story: "boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl." It details how they "courted" each other, sought out other partners, and finally consummated the merger. It discusses how Humanism helped bring the two movements closer together, and the role that Liberal Religious Education, especially Sophia Lyon Fahs, had on laying the groundwork for the merger. It then follows Unitarian Universalism through the 50 years of its existence and ends with some personal comments on what its future might hold. This Forum starts at 9:45 in order to view the entire film.

### May 14 2nd Sunday Share the Plate: Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice

### May 21 Theme Sunday - "Experience"

### May 28 Veterans for Peace Mike Vaughn

# In the Life of the Church

## Faith Development Offerings Led by Rev. Jan Nielsen

We will gather on Wednesdays in Thomson Hall from 12:15 to 1:15. Feel free to bring your brown bag lunches. Newcomers are always welcome. The series will run until June 2017.

### **“Listening for God”: Explorations of Short Stories**

Join Rev. Jan for **Listening for God**, a monthly, “drop-in, come when you can,” Wednesday noontime short story discussion group. The 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 from the volume **The Best American Short Stories of 2015**, edited by T.C. Boyle.

May 10 - *About My Aunt* by Joan Silber

June 7 - *North* by Aria Beth Sloss

### **How Do You See It?: Explorations of Essays**

Join Rev. Jan for a monthly gathering devoted to exploring contemporary essays taken from the recently released volume, **The Best American Essays**, edited by Ariel Levy. 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?”

May 3 - *My Grandma the Poisoner* by John Reed

June 14 - *Stepping Out* by David Sedaris

May 24 - *Reflections on Indexing My Lynching Book* by Ashraf H.A. Rushdy

## Special Services Coming Up



### Flower Communion May 7

Plan on bringing some beautiful, fresh flowers to share to celebrate this wonderful service.



### Music Sunday and Mother's Day May 14

The choir is working hard to prepare a wonderful program to celebrate the majesty and joy of music. The children will join the choir and there will be guest musicians who will share their talents. This is also Mother's Day and there will be a slide show honoring our mothers, fathers and families.

(See page 7 for details on how to send pictures)

## Faith in Action Opportunities

### School Food Program

If you have time to help or wish to donate either food or money, go to the church web site at [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org) and sign up. If you sign up, you will be notified on all activities and needs.

We are currently working with the Arkansas Food Bank to become a School Pantry instead of a Backpack Program, which will mean we will be able to receive food from their facility at very low prices. Students *and their households* will be eligible. All the students from Franklin Elementary School are moving to Stephens Elementary, which will mean even more students to serve. Please lend a hand!

### The Van

Help sort clothing donations in North Little Rock for The Van, which delivers needed items to the homeless. We volunteer monthly on first Thursdays at 10:00am, third Thursdays at 1:00pm. If you are interested, please contact Cas Rifkin at [casrifkin12@gmail.com](mailto:casrifkin12@gmail.com) for more information. Carpooling is an option.

# In the Life of the Church

## Congregational Meeting Coming Soon!

Be sure and put the  
Congregational Meeting date  
in your calendar:

**June 4, 2017**

## Caring Coordinator

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



## May Calendar

### Monday, May 1

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

### Tuesday, May 2

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, May 3

12:15pm Exploration of Essays  
6:00pm Girl Scouts (Pehrson)  
6:30pm LR Collective Liberation Social Action Discussion Group (Chapel)  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, May 4

10:00am The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, May 5

**Arkansas UU Cluster - Hot Springs**  
UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, May 6

**Arkansas UU Cluster - Hot Springs**  
8:30am Work Day  
11:00am Women's Writing Group (Pehrson)

### Sunday, May 7

8:00am Recycle Sunday & Book / Kids' Exchange (Chapel)  
10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### 12:00pm Transition Team II Presentation (Sanctuary)

4:00pm Rental (Chapel and Barnum)

### Tuesday, May 9

6:30am LR School Special Election (Chapel)  
11:45am Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)  
1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)  
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, May 10

12:15pm Exploration of Short Stories  
5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, May 11

10:00am FIA Backpack Team (Chapel)

### Friday, May 12

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, May 13

9:00am Leadership Event (Thomson & Chapel)  
4:00pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Sunday, May 14

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:30pm **Vegetarian Potluck (Chapel)**  
4:00pm Rental (Chapel and Barnum)

### Monday, May 15

#### OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

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

### Tuesday, May 16

4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)  
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, May 17

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Pehrson)  
6:30pm LR Collective Liberation Social Action Discussion Group (Chapel)  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, May 18

1:00pm The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, May 19

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, May 20

UU Women's Group (Off Site)

### Sunday, May 21

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
1:00pm Girl Scouts Field Trip  
4:00pm Rental (Chapel and Barnum)

### Tuesday, May 23

5:00pm Membership Committee  
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, May 24

12:15pm Exploration of Essays  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, May 25

10:00am FIA Backpack Team (Chapel)

### Friday, May 26

**Buffalo Weekend**  
UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, May 27

#### Buffalo Weekend

### Sunday, May 28

**Buffalo Weekend**  
10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
4:00pm Rental (Chapel and Barnum)

### Monday, May 29

Memorial Day

### Tuesday, May 30

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, May 31

8:30am Rental (Thomson)  
6:00pm Girl Scouts (Pehrson)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Minister

Rev. Jan Nielsen  
Office 501-225-1503  
[revjan@uuclr.org](mailto:revjan@uuclr.org)

### Office Admin

Karen Walls 501-225-1503  
[uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org)

### Director of RE

Rachel Finley 501-225-1503  
[finley5@yahoo.com](mailto:finley5@yahoo.com)

### Music Director

John Perez 501-225-1503  
[jwperez1@yahoo.com](mailto:jwperez1@yahoo.com)

### Board President

Cas Rifkin [casrifkin12@gmail.com](mailto:casrifkin12@gmail.com)

### Minister Emeritus

Rev. Alexander "Scotty" Meek  
[a.meek@att.net](mailto:a.meek@att.net)

## STAFF HOURS

Tuesday - Friday  
Approximately 9 am - 2 pm  
Call before coming  
Church Phone 225-1503  
E-mail: [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org)

## Program Council Team Liaisons

Communication	Karen Walls
Facilities	Bill Kimpel
Faith In Action	Kate Dockter
Fellowship	Mary Mesquit and Rachael Sardin
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](mailto: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.

