

# Outer Circle

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK NEWSLETTER

July-August 2017 Vol. 66 Issue 7/8



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

## 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.*



## Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

*Rev. Jan K. Nielsen* Here in my study at the church, I've been sorting books and also files I've made over my years of ministry – collections of stories and poems and readings that I've saved for worship services to come.

As I sort, I am looking toward sermons for our next year of ministry together. I'm also making a reading stack that will guide my summer study time. Some of you have asked me to share what books my stack includes – and also what I've read lately and what might be in progress now. Here's a sampling:

*Upstream: Essays by Mary Oliver*

*Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*  
by Anne Lamott

*The Rain in Portugal: Poems by Billy Collins*

*LaRose by Louise Erdrich*

*Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff*

*Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living by Krista Tippett*

During July, I will be away for rest and time with family. I'll return to our pulpit for a couple of Sundays in early August before I step away for a few weeks to finish up some study time projects. As I read and reflect, I will be thinking of you – your lives, your stories and your questions as well as our conversations and our hopes for our

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Sundays in July and August

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The Summer Theme is "Spirit"

*"I cannot tell you any spiritual truth that deep within you don't know already. All I can do is remind you of what you have forgotten."*

— Eckhart Tolle

*"Being true to yourself really means being true to all the complexities of the human spirit."*

— Rita Dove

## Services

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>July 2</b>    | Guest: William David Kendrick<br>"Living with HIV"          |
| <b>July 9</b>    | Guest: John Willis  |
| <b>July 16</b>   | Guest: Michelle Crandell<br>UALR Social Sciences Department |
| <b>July 23</b>   | Guest: April Ambrose  |
| <b>July 30</b>   | To be Announced   |
| <b>August 6</b>  | Rev. Jan  |
| <b>August 13</b> | Rev. Jan  |
| <b>August 20</b> | Guest: Professor Jay McDaniel                               |
| <b>August 27</b> | To be Announced   |

# In the Life of the Church

## Board President's Note

Greetings! I am honored to begin my year as church president. I have truly appreciated all the words of support!

After being a member for almost 35 years and wearing various hats over those years, I realize that this church has been an integral part of my life and it is finally time to serve at this level. This past year we have had strong, caring and thoughtful leadership from Cas Rifkin, Rev. Jan and John McNee and I will strive to continue that leadership.

We have some important decisions ahead of us this fall and the challenge of getting most everyone to support whatever is decided.

In the coming year please don't hesitate to share your thoughts and questions with me or other board members throughout the year. I will strive for good communication among us all.

I hope you all have a safe summer with some time for leisure and family time. Please come to church when you can this summer and support the work of the Worship committee that have put together the Sunday programs. See you at church!

Mindy Morrell  
Board President

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

congregation's future.

Mark your calendars now for our **Homecoming Sunday on September 10**, when we'll mark the beginning of our congregation's 68th year of ministry here in Little Rock. It will be a day of celebration, a day you won't want to miss.

May the summer bring you time for rest and renewal, time to work hard at something you love to do, and time to experience and explore places near and far, especially this amazing place we call home.

Love to all, Rev. Jan

## Why Gender Neutral Bathrooms?

In case you are wondering about the Gender Neutral signs on the bathrooms at UUCLR, I can give three answers: short, historical, and personal. The short answer is UUCLR is full of sophisticated people who would like as many people to be as comfortable going to the bathroom in public as it is at home.

Historically, public bathrooms have been gender neutral and it is only a social convention that there be separation of some sort (race, sex, class, religion). The Romans had large public toilets that everyone used together, and it was not until a French ball in 1739 that the sexes were separated. In the United States separate toilets for men and women was not codified until 1887 in a Massachusetts bill "An Act To Secure Proper Sanitary Provisions in Factories and Workshops".

Personally my first encounter with unisex bathrooms was at General Assembly in Louisville in 2013. Being a large convention center the changes were not architectural but just signs placed in front of the bathrooms. As a white cis male it was unexpectedly uncomfortable at first. Starting with a hunt for 'normal' bathrooms, transitioning to feeling exposed using the urinals in the closest bathrooms, and finally working out to use the stalls when possible. But eventually it came back to the norm I think we all go through when first learning to use public restrooms: go in, relax and don't make others people anxious, take care of your business, wash your hands, get on with the rest of your day.

The stance of the UUA is available here: [www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/bathrooms](http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/bathrooms)

## Upcoming UU Events

**Southern Region UU Fall Conference 2017**  
November 10-11, Dallas, TX

**Courage for Racial Justice, Courage for Collective Liberation**

Workshop with Chris Crass, co-hosted by MidAmerica and Southern Regions of the UUA, February 17, 2018, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE)**  
May 20-25, 2018, Little Rock. C.A. Vines 4-H Center west of Little Rock. It is a beautiful and private setting. This is a great opportunity - plan on attending!

# In the Life of the Church

## The Generosity of Our Church

Since January 2017, generous donations from the members and friends of UUCLR have contributed to the following groups:

\$236.47	UUCLR Girl Scouts
\$940.98	UUCLR School "Backpack" Fund
\$415.00	Lucie's Place
\$284.00	UUCLR Prison Literacy Program
\$454.00	St. Francis House
\$221.70	Welcome Table Community Center
\$372.00	Audubon Arkansas
\$1,011.55	Our House (4th Sundays)

Our House receives the monthly plate donation every 4th Sunday. The 2nd and 5th Sunday plate collections change monthly.

If you have a suggestion for a group to receive the 2nd Sunday plate, contact Warigia Bowman at [warigia@gmail.com](mailto:warigia@gmail.com).

For 5th Sundays, the Program Council chooses the group. You may contact Mindy Morell to share your suggestion for a recipient: [mindymorell@hotmail.com](mailto:mindymorell@hotmail.com)

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## Facilities News

### Are You a Master Gardener?

The Facilities Team is seeking a skilled garden/landscape designer to help create a long-term plan for beautifying the church grounds. If you are interested in using your skills to help with this project or simply want to help with the maintenance, please contact the office: [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org) or 225-1503. Here's your chance to make a big impact on our beautiful property!

### Upcoming Projects

In July, the Team plans on painting the men's restroom in Thomson Hall, installing partitions between the urinals, and replacing the ventilation fans in both restrooms. In August the main foyer will be painted. In the Fall, there are plans to paint the front outside of the church from the Chapel around to the front of Thomson Hall. If you are interested in helping with any of these efforts, you should be on our Facilities email list for notifications/discussion. If you are not on the list and want to be added, contact the office: [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org).

## Homecoming and Water Communion



We're inviting everyone to "come on back home" to UUCLR on September 10 for the beginning of the 2017-18 program year. We'll also honor the uniquely Unitarian Universalist tradition of Water Communion as we pour together waters collected from our journeys over the summer, whether journeys of land or journeys of the spirit.

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## STEAMM Sundays Needs Teachers

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. Can you teach our kids how to use a sewing machine or do carpentry? 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. Go to the church web site and look for the STEAMM link on the left-hand side of the home page. Note your desired STEAMM topic in the "Feedback" section of the online form.*

## A Big Thank You

Thanks to the UUCLR members who travelled to New Orleans to participate in the UUA General Assembly. The official voting delegate members were Cas Rifkin, Michael Finley and Linda Van Blaricom. We appreciate you representing our church at this important event.

# In the Life of the Church



## Recycle Sunday July 2 and August 6 Plus Book Exchange & Children's Swap (You do not have to bring something to take something)

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, microwave ovens).

Remember to bring your aluminum cans and metal and please leave **on the back deck of Thomson Hall, not in front of the building.**

Lance will recycle all cans and metal that are collected.



## Recycling Requests

The recycling team has recently been noticing a lot of **unacceptable or contaminated items** being placed in the large recycle bins in Thomson Hall and the RE entry hallway. This burdens the wonderful volunteers who collect the recycle bin contents in having to dig and sort nasty stuff.

Remember:

- 1) Cans and other food containers **must be clean... rinse them out!**
- 2) While cereal boxes and the like can be recycled, liners **must be discarded in trash**
- 3) Shredded paper **must** be in a clear plastic bag

### RECYCLING "NO-NOS"

*No small propane canisters, plastic bags, Styrofoam, window glass, wire or plastic hangers, light bulbs, mirrors or ceramics*

For additional info, visit [regionalrecycling.org](http://regionalrecycling.org).

## UU Women's Activity Group

**July:** No meeting

**August 25 or 26:** There will be a painting class. More information is being gathered.

We hope that you will join us. Please email [casrifkin12@gmail.com](mailto:casrifkin12@gmail.com) for more information, or if you would like to be added to the email list for updates on planned events.

## 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](mailto:shirleyjpine18@gmail.com)

## Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

The Between the Lines Book Club will meet on Mondays from 7:00-8:00pm on these dates:



**July 3: *Call The Midwife* by Jennifer Worth**

**August 7: *Sisters Weiss* by Naomi Ragen**

For information: Contact Kevin Jones  
501-851-4358 or [kmjones1231@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmjones1231@sbcglobal.net)

## RE-Questors

### Discussion: Should We Edit the Genetic Code?

Primary Reference:

*A Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution*  
By Jennifer Doudna and Samuel H. Sternberg

10:00am Sundays in the Pehrson Room

*Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be*

*You do not need to read the book to join the discussion*

## Sunday Flowers

Please consider committing to bringing flowers for July and August to beautify the Sanctuary during service for the coming months. Think of dedicating your flowers to a loved one or friend.

The signup board is in Thomson Hall by the bulletin board and there are lots of spaces to be filled by your generosity!



# In the Life of the Church



## UUCLR Labor Day Picnic

It's not too early to mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual UUCLR Labor Day Picnic on Monday, **September 4 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

Meat and vegetarian/vegan items will be grilled (donations accepted) and everyone should bring a potluck side dish to share. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine - there will be non-alcoholic beverages provided.

Help is needed for setup, during the meal, and with cleanup after the dinner. Grill masters are needed!!!



Contact the office if you would like to help organize this very popular and fun event: [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org)

## Faith in Action Opportunities

### School Food Program

The School Food program will be taking a break until Fall. We are in the process of transitioning to a School Pantry program status, which means we can serve families, not just single children. We are also looking at obtaining some UALR students and other volunteers to help with the food distribution at the school on Fridays. We need many hands on the ground!

We hope to start holding fundraisers during the summer to support our school food pantry program. Stay tuned for more information.

If you want to sign up as a volunteer, visit the church web site at [www.uuclr.org](http://www.uuclr.org) - there is a link on that page for signups.

### 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.



## July & August Birthdays



### Happy Birthday to Members and Friends

Isaac Prud'homme.....	7/3	Jeanne Brown.....	8/5
Mike Finley.....	7/7	Saraj Goldberg.....	8/6
Emilie Rowland.....	7/7	Linda Holzer.....	8/9
Erin Gerhart.....	7/8	Jay Mehta.....	8/10
Bailey Barnes.....	7/10	Linda Vanblaricom.....	8/14
David Simmons.....	7/10	Mary Anne Wildman....	8/15
Rudy Rieple.....	7/12	Bill Kimpel.....	8/16
Tamar Gerhart.....	7/14	Celia Bernheimer.....	8/16
Martha Nixon.....	7/17	Karen Sanders.....	8/17
Dorothy Meek.....	7/21	Elizabeth Clifford.....	8/18
Anneliese Maus.....	7/24	Cas Rifkin.....	8/18
Warigia Bowman.....	7/25	Scotty Scholl.....	8/18
Laurie SmithPrud'homme..	7/25	Michael Sanders.....	8/23
Tom Rimmer.....	7/25	Patricia Keightley.....	8/24
Ella Jones.....	7/27	John McNee.....	8/24
Martha Rimmer.....	7/27	John Howard.....	8/25
Judy Nelsen.....	7/29	Liberty Vaughn.....	8/26
Chris Gerhart.....	7/29	Elaine Henderson.....	8/26
Ann Link.....	7/31	Shirley Herndon.....	8/26
Jordys Barr.....	8/4	Priscilla Pittman.....	8/28
		Joe Meehan.....	8/30

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



## Blood Drive News

Thanks to organizer Honey Sharp and her team of helpers, UUCLR had successful blood donations from ten volunteers, and others tried. Blood donations save lives and we thank everyone who participated.

The next blood drive is scheduled for December 10, 2017. Mark your calendar!



Young at Heart is taking a break and will resume at the beginning of the new church year in September.

If you might like to do a talk, a slideshow, or other type of educational presentation for the group, please contact Selma Blackburn at [sfblackburn@me.com](mailto:sfblackburn@me.com).

# In the Life of the Church

## July/August Calendar

### Saturday, July 1

8:30am NO WORK DAY  
11:00am Women's Writing Group  
(Pehrson)

### Sunday, July 2

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)

### Monday, July 3

5:15pm Program Council  
7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club  
(Pehrson)

### Tuesday, July 4

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Thursday, July 6

10:00am The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, July 7

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

### Sunday, July 9

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, July 11

1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group  
(Emerson)  
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, July 12

5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)

### Friday, July 14

Prison Ministry (Off site)  
7:00pm Rental (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Sunday, July 16

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Monday, July 17

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

### Tuesday, July 18

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

### Thursday, July 20

1:00pm The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, July 21

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

### Sunday, July 23

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, July 25

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

### Friday, July 28

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

### Sunday, July 30

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, August 1

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Thursday, August 3

9:00am Facilities Meeting  
10:00am The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, August 4

Prison Ministry (Off site)  
4:00pm String Camp (whole church)  
6:30pm ARTEC Group (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, August 5

8:30am NO WORK DAY  
9:00am String Camp (Whole Church)  
11:00am Women's Writing Group  
(Pehrson)

### Sunday, August 6

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)  
1:00pm String Camp (Whole Church)

### Monday, August 7

4:00pm String Camp (Whole Church)  
5:15pm Program Council  
7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club  
(Pehrson)

### Tuesday, August 8

9:00pm String Camp (Whole Church)  
1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group  
(Emerson)  
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, August 9

4:00pm String Camp Concert  
(Thomson)  
5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)

### Friday, August 11

Prison Ministry (Off site)  
7:00pm Rental (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Sunday, August 13

10:00am Children-Youth  
Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, August 15

#### OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

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

### Thursday, August 17

1:00pm The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, August 18

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

### Sunday, August 20

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Monday, August 21

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

### Tuesday, August 22

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

### Friday, August 25

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

### Sunday, August 27

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, August 29

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, August 30

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Pehrson)  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Visit the church web site for the most current  
calendar listings: [uuclcr@uuclcr.org](mailto:uuclcr@uuclcr.org)

# In the Life of the Church



## NO SCHEDULED CHURCH WORK DAYS IN JULY OR AUGUST



There are special projects planned during the summer and regular landscape maintenance is ongoing (it never ends!) If you would like to help, see Page 3

## Worship Arts Needs Speakers!

Do you know someone who would be a great speaker to invite to our pulpit? Perhaps someone who heads up a social action organization or a non-profit group? Do you want to be a Guest Speaker? Everyone has at least one sermon in them!

The Worship Arts Team is seeking Guest Speakers for summer Sunday Services in July and August. Please contact Liz Mackenzie at 501-562-6877 or send email to [Liz@LizMackenzie.com](mailto:Liz@LizMackenzie.com).

## FORUM

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>July 2</b>    | Brainstorming Session  |
| <b>July 9</b>    | 2nd Sunday Share the Plate:<br>Arkansas Community Organizations      |
| <b>July 16</b>   | DVD: "Selma - The Bridge to the Ballot", Southern Poverty Law Center |
| <b>July 23</b>   | "KIVA, A Micro-Lending Non-Profit"<br>Guest Donnal Walter            |
| <b>July 30</b>   | "Facts You May Not Know about Vegans"<br>Guest Rhonda Reid           |
| <hr/>            |  |
| <b>August 6</b>  | Indivisible Arkansas<br>Guest Terrie Root                            |
| <b>August 13</b> | 2nd Sunday Share the Plate:<br>Audubon Arkansas                      |
| <b>August 20</b> | "Mental Health Q&A"<br>Guest Michelle Crandell                       |
| <b>August 27</b> | "Mindfulness"<br>Guest Elaine Kemp<br>(The McNee's Daughter)         |

## 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.



## Using Your Kroger Card Pays Off

Twenty-six UUCLR households who shopped at Kroger between February 1 and April 30, 2017, have contributed a \$105.54 total donation to the church. There are surely more families than this who shop at Kroger stores and probably have cards already. All you need to do is go online and register the card number with UUCLR as the donor and your regular purchases will help the church. Need help? Contact the church office.

## 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

Mindy Morrell [mindymorrell@hotmail.com](mailto:mindymorrell@hotmail.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

Days can vary - 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 & Rachael Sardin
Lifespan Faith Development	Joe Meehan
Membership	Debbie Goolsby
Worship Arts	Liz Mackenzie



Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock  
1818 Reservoir Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227  
Phone: (501)225-1503  
www.uuclr.org



**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.

