



*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

Dear Friends,

Over these past days, we've seen devastating flooding in Texas, and now Louisiana, after a storm disrupted so many lives and ended others. Because our neighbors need our help and the need is great, our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has established the Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund. Online contributions may be made here: <https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods> and contributions may be mailed to:

Unitarian Universalist Association  
Attn: Gift Processing  
24 Farnsworth Street  
Boston, MA 02210-1409

If you choose to mail your contribution, please include a "Hurricane Harvey" notation on your check. Your gifts will help where help is needed most.

In times of great need and also in the everyday ways we need one another in this life, I am reminded of the African proverb, *Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu*, which means "A person is a person because of other people." How true. We are who we are because of the people in our lives, both the people with whom we may be related by blood or bond and also the people around us whose name we may not yet even know. Just as it matters how I treat my partner and our children, it matters, too, how I treat the store clerk or the cranky person ahead of me in line or the stranger hundreds of miles away whose life has been upended by the waters that

(Continued on Page 2)

## Homecoming Sunday and Water Communion September 10

### Sundays in September

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The Theme is "Forgiveness"

For reflection:

*What does it mean to forgive?*

*What does it take to forgive?*

*What keeps us from forgiving one another?*

*For what, and of whom, do you need to ask forgiveness?*

*Who in your life needs to hear you say, "I forgive you"?*

Resource: "The Two Americans" by Sabrina Tavernise, *The New York Times*, August 26, 2017

### Services

- Sept 3** A Religious Rationale for Labor Unions and Worker Rights — Guest Bruce Hill
- Sept 10** Homecoming Sunday and Water Communion — Rev. Jan
- Sept 17** Forgiveness and Peace — Rev. Jan, as part of our congregation's observance of Arkansas Peace Week, September 17-23
- Sept 24** High Holy Days, Rev. Jan

# In the Life of the Church

## Board President's Note

Greeting to all! I hope the summer has been restful and everyone is recharging to get ready for this year's church activities.

I hope many of you will take advantage of the easy sign-up link on the church web site to help with the School Food Pantry this year. We want this new service program to be successful and something UUCLR can accomplish for years to come. See the articles on Pages 3 and 5 for more information.

There have been no board meetings since June. Our chosen architect has met once with the Executive Committee (plus Phil Peters as chair of Transition Team 2), and has also met one-on-one with Bill Kimpel (Facilities), Jerry Blackburn (audiovisual), John Perez, Choir Director (acoustics and choir) and Rachel Finley, DRE (children's classroom needs). We should have some basic plans to look at soon!!

Mindy Morrell,  
Board President



## Exploring UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Rev. Jan Nielsen will lead our next Exploring UU Class to be held on **September 17** from 12:15-3:00. After a simple lunch, you will be encouraged to join a lively conversation and ask questions as we explore UUism in general and the UU Church of Little Rock in particular. We highly recommend this class for anyone who is considering becoming a member of UUCLR. Lunch begins at 12:15 in the Pehrson Room.

Please register for the class by emailing [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org) and put *Exploring UU registration* in the subject line. Include your name, address, and contact info. Also, please indicate if you need childcare or have any special dietary needs for lunch that day. You may also sign up on any Sunday at the Visitor's Table.

## UU Cluster - Save the Date

The Arkansas UU Cluster is being hosted by UUCLR on **October 27 and 28**. All UUs from Arkansas will be invited. Many of you remember how much fun and educational the one was that we hosted in 2015 led by the Rev. Carlton Smith on "Coping with Change."

Please watch for the brief questionnaire that will be distributed soon. Your input will help us to make this year's Cluster meeting more successful.

If you are willing to be a host for an overnight guest or guests, please sign up on the clipboard in the foyer. More details will follow soon on the program and volunteer opportunities. Watch your weekly email for more information.

I hope you'll join us for worship on **Homecoming Sunday, September 10 at 11:00am** when we honor our tradition of Water Communion, a pouring together of the waters from the four directions that symbolize both the geography of the spirit as well as that of the land, and also our journeys of both body and spirit.

I'll see you in church.

Love and blessings, Rev. Jan

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

have fallen from the skies. I am who I am because of other people.

A cherished part of our Unitarian Universalist heritage is our teaching that how we treat one another in this life matters. How we treat one another and what we say to the people around us are not at all trivial or inconsequential matters, for our words to one another and our actions toward one another, in a very real way, become a part of who we are. This is one of the foundations for the promise we make to one another and to ourselves to "honor all beings."

I know that I am blessed to be a part of this loving community we call the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock, for you all help to make me who I am. You all teach me in ways large and small how to be a better person, and I am grateful. Here, each of us is a part of a loving community that helps to make us who we are.

# In the Life of the Church



## UUCLR Labor Day Picnic

Plan on attending 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 to please RSVP if you will attend: [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org)

---

## School Food Pantry Volunteers

It's not just money that will make the School Food Pantry successful, it is helping hands! We need people every Friday to set up tables, sort and bag food, help with food distribution to the families, and some folks to help close up. This is the fun part of the giving - you will get to see the happy and appreciative faces of the families we are helping.

**We have an online Signup account** where you may pick your Fridays and what times and jobs you would like to do. The system will send you reminders as to your volunteer date and time. Go to the church web site at [www.uuclr.org](http://www.uuclr.org) and look for the link right on the home page.

---

## Small Group Dinners Are Returning

Small group dinners are a fun and simple way to meet and get to know other members and friends of the church beyond brief encounters after services. A shared meal at someone's home provides participants the opportunity to enjoy good conversation, good food, and the potential for friendship that comes with spending an evening with a small group of others. Participants choose a month when they can host a dinner on Saturday evening **September 23 and October 21, and April 28 and May 19.** Each person or couple who hosts is invited to participate at dinners during the other months in the series.

Signup sheets will be in the foyer at church. Or contact Jerry Blackburn at 501-240-3212 or [jbmac05@mac.com](mailto:jbmac05@mac.com), or Selma Blackburn at 501-240-3213 or [sfblackburn@me.com](mailto:sfblackburn@me.com).

## Nourish: Family Sharing Circle and Potluck

Families are the primary religious educator for children. It is within the family that we experience consistent nurturing, receive values and explanations about the world, and experience attitudes toward faith and meaning-making. At every age, it is with family that we have opportunities to develop, practice, and thrive in our faith. Come, and let us sustain each other!

Nourish is not specific to any one form or stage of family, all who are interested in this family-focused experience are welcome.

The first Nourish event will be on **September 22 at 6:30** at the church. This will be a potluck format... Keep it simple! The fewer utensils required for serving and eating, the better. Minimizing clean-up is a goal here. Think pizza or finger foods!

---

## This Year's RE Classes Start September 10

Classes for Young People consist of lessons and activities that focus on the monthly worship theme. The theme for September is Forgiveness.

**Nursery: Infants - 4 years** Tender love and care offered from 9:55 until 12:15p.m.

**Explorers: 5-12 years** Barnum Room

**Coming of Age: 13-15 years** Fahs Room

**Senior Youth: 15-19 years** Schweitzer Room

---

## UUCLR Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups are a form of adult small group ministry at UUCLR. They are an opportunity to develop a deeper sense of community and a chance to explore UU principles in the context of UU sources with others in an intimate setting. Groups are comprised of 6 to 12 people who meet for two hours each month. Each group is guided by a trained facilitator who supports a forum for deepening relationships, exploring ideas and growing in UU faith. Groups are formed by a combination of random assignment, available openings, and time preferences. Contact Linda VanBlaricom at [lvbuu2@gmail.com](mailto:lvbuu2@gmail.com) or (501) 309-4858 to sign up.

# In the Life of the Church

## Recycle Sunday September 3

### Plus Book Exchange & Children's Swap

(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.



## Young at Heart

Young at Heart welcomes all to our first-of-the-church-year luncheon and program beginning at 12:00pm on Tuesday, **September 12**. The cost of the lunch is \$7.00 per person.

After lunch, Joanne Kriehn will talk with us about gardening, the whys, wherefores, and hows, and her connections to the land and Master Gardeners. Surely she will entertain questions and discussion as we gain insight into her love of gardening and her dedication to the beauty she encourages and creates there.

Please come early to help, or on time to eat, and plan to leave better informed! Everyone is welcome to attend.

## UU Women's Activity Group

The UU Women's Activity Group (UUWAG) warmly welcomes all self identifying women to join us Saturday, **September 16**, for a trolley ride. We will meet at 7th and Main in North Little Rock at 10:30am to ride the street trolley to downtown Little Rock, eat lunch, and go to the Butler Center for the exhibit *The Art of Injustice: Paul Faris' Photographs of Japanese Incarceration, Rohwer, Arkansas 1945*.

Those who want to carpool should be at UUCLR at 10:00am. If you have any questions, contact Cas Rifkin at [casrifkin12@gmail.com](mailto:casrifkin12@gmail.com).

Also contact Cas with your telephone number and email if you want to be added to the list for future events. This is a great way to make new friends or enrich friendships.

## Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

The Between the Lines Book Club will meet **Monday, Sept. 4 at 7:00pm** to discuss:

*Crisis Point* by Trent Lott and Tom Dasle

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



## RE-Questors

### Discussion: The Benefits of Studying Tribal Societies

Primary Reference:  
**The World Until Yesterday:  
What We Can Learn from Traditional Societies**  
By Jared Diamond

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



## Vegetarian Potlucks Are Back!

The 2nd Sunday Veggie Potlucks will begin this year on **September 10**. Plan on bringing plenty of food to share with everyone! Try some new recipes! Let's celebrate a sustainable and healthy way of eating.

# In the Life of the Church



## School Food Pantry Matching Fund Drive Is Starting

Whether you call it food insecurity or just plain hunger, 26% of Arkansas children have limited access to adequate food (data from Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance). UUCLR was awakened to the urgent need of school children missing meals on weekends, so working with River City UU last year, we provided weekend meals to about 30 children at Stephens Elementary School. By partnering with the Arkansas Food Bank, we can provide weekend meals for a child and their family for the same cost of about \$8. The food will include items we could not previously provide like meat, bread, milk, rice, grains, canned goods, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Rev. Jan is so committed that she included funding in the UUCLR Operating Budget. We estimate that it will require about \$6000 per school year to feed 30 families at Stephens. Your pledge dollars already are supporting \$2000 of that amount, but we need to raise \$4000 more.

You may recall the challenge presented at a Second Sunday Share the Plate to benefit the ongoing backpack program. The guest speaker pledged his honorarium and challenged us to match his gift. We raised over \$1000 through contributions and several people matched his contribution. This money will open an initial account at the Food Bank.

**Now two people have pledged to match \$2 for every \$1 donated during September.** Before the match campaign even officially began, people could not wait to contribute to the Faith in Action school food pantry campaign. September's goal is \$2,275. We are at \$214 plus \$428 in matching funds for a total of \$624. Let's blow the top off the goal!

These contributions must be over and above your pledge for our existing needs. Look for the red envelopes that say "Food Pantry Matching Donation Campaign." These donations are tax deductible, so be sure to include your name for credit for this supplemental contribution. Checks should have "School Food Pantry" on the check.



## September Birthdays



### Happy Birthday to Members and Friends

Pat Youngdahl..... 9/8	Dan Chambers..... 9/15
Inge Anderson ..... 9/11	Ken Gould ..... 9/16
Kay Danielson ..... 9/12	Janice Peters ..... 9/18
Mariamou Ngaruiya ... 9/13	Shirley Jo Pine ..... 9/18
Bob Alexander..... 9/14	Silas Daniel Curtis... 9/21
Debbie Goolsby..... 9/14	Jim Bell ..... 9/27
Karen Walls ..... 9/14	Meredith Jeremiah .. 9/27
Edith Bradberry ..... 9/15	Linda Bell ..... 9/28

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

## FORUM

- Sept 3** "Constitutional Amendment for Voter ID: Voter Suppression or Prevention of Voter Fraud" — Nell Matthews
- Sept 10** 2nd Sunday Share the Plate: LifeQuest — Leah Greenfield, Program Coordinator
- Sept 17** Theme Sunday - "Forgiveness "
- Sept 24** "Health Policy Update" — Marquita Little, Health Policy Director for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families



## Your Kroger Card Benefits Our Church

Thirty UUCLR Kroger card holders who shopped at Kroger for the months of May, June and July 2017 have contributed a \$117.28 total donation to the church. This could multiply to almost \$500 this year, or more!

If you don't have a Kroger card registered to benefit the church, contact the church office for information. Karen will be glad to explain the process. Every little bit earned helps the church, and it's easy, since so many of you shop at Kroger already!

# In the Life of the Church

## Faith Development Offerings Led by Rev. Jan Nielsen

We will gather in Thomson Hall from 12:15 to 1:15 starting in September. 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.

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

Join Rev. Jan for **Listening for God**, a monthly, “drop-in, come when you can,” 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.

September 19	November 7	January 16	March 6	May 1
October 17	December 5	February 6	April 3	June 5

### ***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?”

September 26	November 21	January 30	March 20	May 22
October 24	December 19	February 20	April 17	June 19

---

## Love Thy Neighbor: Building Bridges

On **September 7** the Interfaith Center invites all of us to “Love Thy Neighbor: Building Bridges,” featuring musical performances, speakers from several of the world’s religions, and an Interfaith Food Festival. The service starts at 6:00pm at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Mississippi Avenue in Little Rock. The fourth annual Interfaith Food Festival will follow the service, with vegetarian dishes prepared by members of the interfaith community. While no childcare will be provided, children are welcome at this event. The event is free and open to the public.

---

## Peace Week is Coming September 17-24

Arkansas Peace Week is a program of events planned in observance of the United Nation’s International Day of Peace on September 21. Arkansas Peace Week celebrates Peacemaking as a means to instill justice, build stronger communities, alleviate poverty, promote ecological stewardship, end war, eliminate the scourge of violence in our society, while seeking respect, inclusion and fair treatment of all people. UUCLR supports Peace Week and has send a plate donation to the Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice for this effort. Rev. Jan is planning a special sermon to honor this event.

Many exciting and informative events are planned throughout the week in Little Rock and in other

locales. The schedule may be seen at [arkansas-peaceweek.com/events](http://arkansas-peaceweek.com/events).

Featured are an Interfaith event at the Islamic Center of Little Rock, Monday September 18, a Peace Mural and beautification on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, with the week culminating with Peace Fest on Saturday, September 23, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. This is in coordination with the 60th Anniversary Commemoration of the Integration of Little Rock Central High School.

There will be booths for non-profit organizations to share information about promoting peace and justice in Arkansas, and there will be fun activities for children and adults. There will be an art exhibit, civil rights sites bus tours, music and video presentations.

# In the Life of the Church

## Work Day Saturday - September 9 Start at 8:30 am

End of Summer Clean Up  
in Preparation for  
Homecoming Sunday

## 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.



## September Calendar

### Friday, September 1

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

### Saturday, September 2

11:00am Women's Writing Group (Off Site)

### Sunday, September 3

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

### Monday, September 4

11:00am UUCLR Labor Day Picnic  
7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)

### Tuesday, September 5

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, September 6

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

### Thursday, September 7

10:00am The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, September 8

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
6:30pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)  
7:00pm Rental (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, September 9

8:30am Work Day  
8:30am Board Retreat (Off Site)

### Sunday, September 10

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Chapel)  
3:30pm Hindu Group (Chapel)

### Tuesday, September 12

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

### Wednesday, September 13

5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Pehrson)

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Friday, September 15

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE  
6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Sunday, September 17

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15pm Exploring UU Class (Pehrson)  
3:30pm Hindu Class (Chapel, RE Wing)

### Monday, September 18

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

### Tuesday, September 19

7:30am Election Day: School Board  
4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)  
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

### Wednesday, September 20

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

### Thursday, September 21

1:00pm The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, September 22

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
6:30pm Nourish Group (Thomson & Kitchen)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Sunday, September 24

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:30pm Humanist Group (Pehrson)  
3:30pm Hindu Group (Chapel, RE Wing)

### Tuesday, September 26

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

### Wednesday, September 27

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

### Friday, September 29

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

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

## 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  
[mindmorrell@hotmail.com](mailto:mindmorrell@hotmail.com)

### Minister Emeritus

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

## STAFF HOURS

Tuesday - Friday  
Approximately 8 am - 1 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	Eoin Dockter
Fellowship	Mary Mesquit and 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.

