

Outer Circle

November 2017 Vol. 66 Issue 11

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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

Dear Friends,

These past days have brought us bright sun and cooler air, along with leaves that are beginning to come alive with the golden shades of autumn. After an unusually warm and dry stretch during those days of early fall, I thought we might not see much color this year. I saw just this week that I was wrong. Life can surprise us with its blessings.

I love all the seasons, but November is a special time for me. Thanksgiving may be my favorite holiday – I love gathering with loved ones, cooking and eating good food, slowing the pace just a bit to take time to give thanks for the blessings of life.

Thanksgiving 2017 will be a milestone for our family. Some of you know that our family has been working to fix up the farmhouse where I grew up, just north of Van Buren. It's been a long journey, but it's looking like, for the first time in a long time, we will be able to gather together in that old rock house for our Thanksgiving celebration. Our three children will be home for a few days, my cousin from Missouri will drive down for the day, our nearby family will be there and – one of our kids has even invited her friend's family to join us, too. We will be a big crowd – and it will be a day to step back and take it all in. We will miss the ones in our family who have passed on, but know they remain close in heart and a part of us, as we give thanks for the presence of family and friends.

Roger and I are celebrating another milestone in

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Sundays in November

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The November Theme is "Grace"

"I do not understand the mystery of grace — only that it meets us where we are, but does not leave us where it found us."

— Anne Lamott

For reflection:

What is grace?

When have you experienced grace?

Services

Nov 5 "All Souls Service of Remembrance"

Rev. Jan

Nov 12 Rev. Jan

**Nov 19 "Honoring the Light"
*A Celebration of the Hindu Tradition and the Meaning of Diwali***

Rev. Jan with
Jay and Paulette Mehta

Nov 26 To Be Announced

In the Life of the Church

Board President's Note

Greetings everyone!

In the aftermath of hurricanes and fires, I am mindfully taking time daily to reflect on the many conveniences I take for granted.

The busy holiday season is almost upon us and is another opportunity to reflect on the needs of many struggling with day-to-day necessities. We have finally been able to start the Stephens Elementary school pantry program and, as you have read in the church e-mail notifications, we need more volunteers. Please consider a two-hour block of time to give on Fridays. You may sign up on the church web site.

The executive committee will be meeting with the architect this month and will start the process of getting bids from contractors. We will keep you informed!

Mindy Morrell
Board President

Minister's Message (Continued from Page 1)

our lives. With our three kids out in the world, each of them working and learning and following their callings, we decided to simplify our lives a little. We've sold our family-sized house in Little Rock, and we now have a small apartment here. I spend time each week both here and on the farm, where Roger is working to care for the land. We are thankful to be doing work we love and living in this place we love, and for one another.

I am celebrating during this season of Thanksgiving the blessing that you all are to me. I am grateful to serve alongside you as your minister and, as I look around, I see abundant reasons for us to give thanks – a thriving school pantry food ministry, a beautiful new playground, new faces among us each week, our stunning new “Flaming Chalice Doors,” new members joining us on our shared journey. There is a good spirit in the air each time we gather. You all remind me just how much I love the work of ministry. Thank you all.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Rev. Jan



Exploring UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Rev. Jan Nielsen will lead our next Exploring UU Class to be held on **November 12** after service from 12:15 to 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 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.



Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE) Is Coming to Little Rock

The Southern Region UUA staff will offer Dwight Brown Leadership Experience at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock, May 20-25, 2018.

The Leadership Experiences and training ground congregational leaders in Unitarian Universalism and equip them to answer a deeper call to serve. Find complete information about DBLE at :

www.uua.org/southern/leadership-experiences

If you are interested in attending this leadership training, contact the office at uuclr@uuclr.org. UUCLR has funds for leadership development.

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 Shirley at shirleyjpine18@gmail.com.

In the Life of the Church

New! 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, November 8, 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.



The School Pantry program needs helping hands every Friday starting for food packing and distribution to families at Stephens Elementary School. We have not had many people sign up yet and the program absolutely needs your help to be successful.

Go to the link on the church home page at www.uuclr.org. Sign up for time slots and tasks that work for you. You may contact Nell Matthews as well to let her know you would like to volunteer: uuclrnell@gmail.com

Let's Live Our UU Values!

Reading Day

Once a year, volunteers sign up to read to elementary school students in their classrooms. Tuesday, November 14, is Jane Mendel Reading Day. Bring a favorite book or ask the school librarian to help you select one. Put LRSD VIPS Reading Day into your search engine to sign up for the classroom you want.

This is one volunteer opportunity I have done for years, even when working. I just got to work an hour late, but I had sooo much fun.

Nell Matthews

This Year's RE Classes

Classes for Young People consist of lessons and activities that focus on the monthly worship theme. The theme for November is "Grace"

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



Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 23

11:30 to 2:00 ~ Lunch Served at 12:30

We will be having our annual Thanksgiving church family dinner again this year. It is always a wonderful event, filled with great food, good conversation, and special holiday time spent with friends and UUCLR family members.

As in previous years, donations will be taken to cover the cost of the main dishes, which are provided (turkey, ham and a nice vegan main dish). All participants will be asked to bring a large side dish or dessert to share with everyone.

Sign-up sheets will be in the foyer so people can sign up to attend and let us know what they will bring. This way we don't end up with all desserts and no sweet potatoes, stuffing, veggies, etc. **Please sign up prior to November 20** so we know the quantity of main dishes to provide (no one will be turned away!)

If anyone wants to volunteer to help with advance planning, decorating, set up or clean up, please contact the church office

We hope you can join us this year
for a truly fabulous feast!

In the Life of the Church

Recycle Sunday and Book Exchange

November 5

(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!



Young at Heart

Young at Heart welcomes all to our luncheon and program beginning at 11:45pm on Tuesday, **November 14**. The cost of the lunch is \$7.00 per person.

We will enjoy a presentation by Kevin Jones, who will discuss his work in the judicial system. Kevin is a wonderful speaker, and a good listener as well, and he will welcome questions and discussion.

Please bring your open minds, your loving hearts, and helping hands! Everyone is welcome to attend.

Board Business

The board met on October 16 and voted on the price of a new door panel to be installed around the urinals in the men's restroom in Thomson Hall in the coming weeks. There was also a vote for Nell Matthews to investigate a variety of ways to make online donating to UUCLR easy. The Board approved Kerrie Carlock to finish the board term of Eric Meekey.

The board thanked the coffee teams who make coffee on a regular weekend basis: Barb Hill and James Thomson, Jeanne Brown and Mary Lowe Kennedy, and Kris and Mike Vaughn. The board also thanks Kris and Mike Vaughn and Miranda and Devin Keith for their work on the Fall Ball dance.

The Executive committee will meet again with the architect and plan to begin getting bids from contractors this month.

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

The Between the Lines Book Club will meet **Monday, Nov. 6 at 7:00pm** to discuss:

Ordinary Grace by William Krueger

For information: Contact Kevin Jones
501-851-4358 or 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 Potluck

The 2nd Sunday Veggie Potluck is on **November 12**. Plan on bringing plenty of food to share with everyone! Try some new recipes!

Let's celebrate a sustainable and healthy way of eating. Help is always appreciated with set up, moving food to the chapel, and cleanup.

In the Life of the Church

Volunteer Opportunities

Fellowship Team Coordinator

We need a new Fellowship Team coordinator. No, this doesn't mean you have to do all the work! You would help to coordinate the people who volunteer for Coffee Hour, hold meetings of your team as needed, and coordinate some regular church events during the year. Most events already have a regular group of folks who step up every year, and there are many others who are willing to help when asked. In order to keep things running smoothly, this position serves as a point of communication between the Fellowship volunteers and the Program Council. You, or a member of your team, attends the Program Council meetings on the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm. This can be a very gratifying position working with other people in the congregation and you might bring your own creative thoughts for new Fellowship events.

2nd Sunday Plate Beneficiary Organizer

Do you like to help non-profit groups? This is a great feel-good opportunity! Find worthy recipients for the 2nd Sunday Plate donations throughout the year.

Contact the church office if you are interested in either important position: uuclr@uuclr.org



The new Flaming Chalice doors with the artists who created the beautiful stained glass, Roberta Katz-Messenger and Steve Messenger of Katz-Messenger Stained Glass.

The doors are dedicated to Robert and Elizabeth Burger, whose fund allowed the purchase and installation.



November Birthdays



Happy Birthday to Members and Friends

Jesse Mellor..... 11/2	Peyton Kemnow 11/14
Kaiden	Ashley Blair Chism .. 11/17
O'Suilleabhain..... 11/4	Rev. Jan E. Nielsen . 11/23
Maritza Cornejo Bean 11/6	DeAnn
Rich Roy 11/7	Shields-Marley.... 11/27
Jessie Curtis 11/10	Peggy Harstvedt..... 11/28
James Thomson 11/13	Miranda Keith 11/28

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

FORUM

Sundays at 10:00am

- Nov 5** "Unburdening History in Relation to the South and Confederate Memorials and Traditions" - Guest Bobby Roberts, former Director of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) and UALR history professor
- Nov 12** 2nd Sunday Share the Plate: The Interfaith Center.
- Nov 19** Theme Sunday: "Grace"
- Nov 26** "Reproductive Rights" Guest Holly Chism Salem, Clinic Mgr. Little Rock Planned Parenthood



UUCLR Blood Drive Coming

December 10 10:00-2:00
Mark Your Calendars!



We Need Sunday Flowers

We need flowers for November and December to beautify the Sanctuary during service. Please consider signing up to help. Think of dedicating your flowers to a loved one or friend.

Men, please feel free to sign up too. You know how to give beautiful flowers for people you love.... so sign up to bring flowers to the church group you love! The signup board is in Thomson Hall on the bulletin board and there are lots of spaces to be filled by your generosity!

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 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. Details are on the church web site under "Classes."

"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 2015*, edited by T.C. Boyle.

November 7 January 16 March 6 May 1
December 5 February 6 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 2015*, 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?"

November 13 January 30 March 20 May 22
December 19 February 20 April 17 June 19

Welcome Our New Members



Barbara Gojer

Barbara Gojer is a native Texan who moved to Maumelle last year with her husband, a cardiologist working in Conway. She is blessed with two wonderful 27-year-old children, twins Sarah and Benjamin.

Barbara continues to be moved by the transcendental nature of music and treasures all of the natural beauty of Arkansas.

As someone who wants to grow spiritually, Barbara is very grateful for this lovely Unitarian Universalist community full of compassionate and curious thinkers and doers.

Ashley has lived in Little Rock for 18 years, though she was raised in a small town in eastern Arkansas. After college at Hendrix and UALR, Ashley began her career at US Able Life, where she is still employed.

Ashley's interests include crossfit, live music, travel, and most importantly, having fun with her daughters Archer (five) and Alice (three), who she happens to think are the coolest kids.



**Ashley Chism
with Daughters
Archer and Alice**

Marci Riggs was born and raised in Little Rock. After spending several years on the East Coast working in Corporate America, she returned in the 90s to begin a career in Public Service as a political consultant and later working with Governor and Mrs. Beebe at the Governor's Mansion.

She has been involved with numerous community organizations, which include the Clinton Presidential Center, the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Little Rock Visitors Foundation Board, and the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services Foundation Board. She is the mother of 3 feisty fur babies – 2 cats (Bogey and Lucy) and a Pekinese (Cash). She tells people that she has a house that she pays the mortgage on and is allowed to live in peacefully as long as she keeps the cats and dog in treats.



Marci Riggs

In the Life of the Church

Work Day

Saturday - November 11
Start at 8:30 am

Foyer window cleaning, cobweb and dirt removal with the pressure washer, possible planter building, hang a banner.... come and have fun!

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 or call 225-1503. If you have an urgent need, Rev. Jan asks you to call her.



November Calendar

Wednesday, November 1

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

Thursday, November 2

- 10:00am The Van (Off Site)

Friday, November 3

- UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
- Food Pantry (Off site)
- 10:00am Facilities Meeting (Office)
- 10:00am Facilities Team (Office)
- 6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)
- 9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Saturday, November 4

- 11:00am Women's Writing Group (Off Site)
- 5:00pm Rental (Thomson)

Sunday, November 5

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

Monday, November 6

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

Tuesday, November 7

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

Wednesday, November 8

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

Thursday, November 9

- 6:00pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)

Friday, November 10

- UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
- Food Pantry (Off site)
- 7:00pm Rental (Pehrson)
- 9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Saturday, November 11

- 8:30am Work Day

Sunday, November 12

- 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 Rental (Chapel, RE Wing)

Monday, November 13

- 12:15pm Exploration of Essays
- 6:15pm Board Meeting (Chapel)

Tuesday, November 14

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

Wednesday, November 15

- 2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE
- 6:15pm Social Justice Discussion Group (Chapel)
- 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, November 16

- 1:00pm The Van (Off Site)

Friday, November 17

- UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
- Food Pantry (Off site)
- ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)
- Rental (Chapel)

Sunday, November 19

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

Monday, November 20

- 5:00pm Trans Remembrance Day (Thomson)
- 5:00pm Worship Arts (Pehrson)

Tuesday, November 21

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

Wednesday, November 22

- 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, November 23

- 11:30pm UUCLR Thanksgiving Dinner (Dinner at 12:30)

Friday, November 24

- UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
- Food Pantry (Off site)
- Rental (Chapel)

Sunday, November 26

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

Tuesday, November 28

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

Wednesday, November 29

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

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Mindy Morrell
mindmorrell@hotmail.com

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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

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
Thanksgiving