

# Quarter Circle

December 2017 Vol. 66 Issue 12

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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.*



Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

## Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

For these days of December 2017, I am sending a reflection I first shared years ago. People through the years have asked me to send it again when the winter holiday season again comes around. Here it is, for all of you, with my wishes for joy in this season and always:

Someone said to me, *"It seems that as soon as Thanksgiving is over, the pace of everything seems to speed up."* This can be a time when already overscheduled people try to add a few more "things to do" and "places to be" to their already overstuffed calendars. And then a season of celebration and renewal can become a time we try to "just get through." The way I see it, though, we humans were not intended to "just get through." I believe we were made for joy.

Rabbi Harold Kushner tells the story of a group of tourists who went on safari in Africa. *"They had hired several native porters to carry their supplies while they trekked. After three days, the porters told them they would have to stop and rest for a day. They were not tired, they explained, but 'we have walked too far too fast and now we must wait for our souls to catch up to us.'" Even when the calendar doesn't signal a holiday season, most of us have times in our day-to-day lives when we "walk too far too fast."* We push ourselves to do, and do some more, as we give time and energy to our families, to our work and to our volunteer commitments.

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## Sundays in December

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The December Theme is "Wonder"

*"Wonder is the beginning of wisdom." – Socrates*

### Questions for reflection:

- What do you most wonder about – in our world, in your own life?
- Where has your wondering led you to wander?
- What have you learned from your times of wondering?
- Can you remember a time when something in our world led you to pause and take notice?
- What experiences in your life have led you to look around in wonder?

## Services

- Dec. 3 "The Wisdom of Wonder"  
Rev. Jan, preaching
- Dec. 10 "Wondering and Waiting: A Sermon for the Advent Season"  
Rev. Jan, preaching
- Dec. 17 A Winter Celebration of Light: Honoring the traditions of Hanukkah, the Winter Solstice and Christmas  
Rev. Jan, preaching
- Dec. 24 11:00 a.m. A Casual Service of Stories and Songs for Christmas, featuring music from the harp played by Pam Gibson  
Rev. Jan leading worship
- 5:30 p.m. A Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings and Carols, featuring the music of our Choir  
Rev. Jan, preaching
- Dec 31 Wassail Service

# In the Life of the Church

## Board President's Note

As we come to the end of the calendar year it is a common practice to pause (woof woof) and reflect about our accomplishments and challenges.

As I reflect on the last several months as board president I realize how much stronger my bond has become with the church. As I have attended more regularly and had many more interactions with church members and friends, the church feels more like family than it has in a long time.

So... I encourage those of you that attend occasionally to consider attending a bit more and hopefully experience an increased connection as I have.

I wish everyone a safe holiday season!

Mindy Morrell  
Board President

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

## Board Business

The board wishes to express thanks to Cas Rifkin and all those who volunteered their help to make the recent UU Cluster at UUCLR a complete success. Special thanks to those who made the delicious food, Rich Roy for providing musical entertainment, Jerry Blackburn for his audiovisual expertise, and Karen Walls for administrative skills and support.

The board also wishes to acknowledge the great work being done by Valerie McNee and Sue McDonald as they take on the task of organizing and digitizing the UUCLR archives.

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## Coffee Hour Helpers

We need two coffee hour volunteers for second Sundays. What is Sunday service without a chance to visit friends over a fresh cup of coffee? You may sign up in the foyer or contact Mindy Morrell at [mindymorrell@hotmail.com](mailto:mindymorrell@hotmail.com).

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## UU Women's Activity Group

The UU Women's Activity Group (UUWAG) plans activities every month. All women are welcome to join us to get out and about and see gallery shows, have lunch together, and much more. If you are interested in participating, please contact Cas Rifkin at [casrifkin12@gmail.com](mailto:casrifkin12@gmail.com).

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

But we can get so busy taking care of everything on our lists that we neglect our souls.

It can be all too easy to buy in to the prevailing culture's obsession with "busyness." We tell ourselves we have no time to stop, no time to rest, no time to take a walk, or to read, or to sit in silence. Any of those ways we might restore our souls can sound optional, like good things to do, when there's time. But restoring our souls is not optional. We need to rely on the wisdom of our souls to guide us as we live, and work, and love. And we won't find joy in the holiday season, or in life, unless we stop here and there and let our souls catch up to us.

I have learned that I need to carry the wisdom of the native porters with me, not just during

the winter holidays, but everyday. This doesn't come easily for me. I have to remind myself, and ask others remind me, to take time to let my soul catch up to me. As Rabbi Kushner reminds us, "*In Hebrew, the verbs referring to God's resting and being refreshed are shavat, 'He stopped,' from which we get the word 'Sabbath,' and yinafash, literally 'He got His soul back.'*"

In these days of December, do something radical: take some time to stop and wait for your soul to catch up to you. Take some time to restore your soul. These are not days to "just get through." These days, and all days, are for finding joy as we live.

Wishing you moments of joy and peace,  
Rev. Jan

# In the Life of the Church


## BAKE SALE



### Youth Bake Sale

The second youth bake sale will be held on Sunday, December 17, right after service. Come find some delicious treats and support our youth.

If you can donate a fresh baked item (large or small), please let Rachel know what you will bring : [uudre.rachel@gmail.com](mailto:uudre.rachel@gmail.com).



### The School Food Pantry Now Needs Helping Hands

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](http://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](mailto:uuclrnell@gmail.com)

## Let's Live Our UU Values!



### Southwest UU Women's Conference

The SWUW Conference is being held this year in Austin, Texas  
**February 23-25, 2018**

#### BE THE SPARK: KINDLE THE FLAME

Keynote Speaker: Texas State Representative  
Donna Howard

Featured Musician: Kiya Heartwood  
Featured Minister: Rev. Meg Barnhouse

More Information: <http://www.swuuw.org/>



### Decorate the Church for the Holidays!

Your Worship Arts Team asks for everyone to bring a potted poinsettia during the second and third weeks of December to be used to beautify the church for the holidays!

Red and white poinsettias are preferred. Please leave them in the foyer.

### Concert and Auction Fundraiser

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

Contact Kater Reynolds or Sue McDonald if you have questions or concerns.

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

### Kroger Cards Work!



Thirty UUCLR households who shopped at Kroger and used their Kroger Cards between August 1 and October 31, 2017, have resulted in a **\$108.94** total donation to the church. If you would like to participate in this program, you need to register your card online and choose UUCLR as your donee, then every time you purchase something at Kroger, the church receives a small donation.

And don't forget to use AmazonSmile as your point of purchase for your Amazon Prime account. By selecting the UUCLR Endowment Fund as your donee, every purchase sends a small donation to the fund.

These donations all add up over time. If you would like assistance with set up of these accounts, please contact the church office.

# In the Life of the Church

## Recycle Sunday and Book Exchange

December 3

(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, **December 12**. The cost of the lunch is \$7.00 per person.

A bit of extra help with setup and cleanup would be appreciated, with so many extra events and goings on at this time of the year.

Please come and join the celebration of the season with music and some special surprises! Everyone is welcome, and all are invited. Come and have a wonderful time!

## Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

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

***Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng**

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*



## 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](http://www.uua.org/southern/leadership-experiences)

If you are interested in attending this leadership training, contact the office at [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org). UUCLR has funds for leadership development.



## Vegetarian Potluck

**The 2nd Sunday Potluck has been cancelled for the month of December.** The next potluck will be on Sunday, January 14.



# 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.

## Save the Date! December 10



The Red Cross is coming to UUCLR **Sunday, December 10, 10:00 to 2:00**. It will be held in the Chapel.

We are looking for **25 donors and approximately 4 volunteers**. No physical ability is needed in order to volunteer and it's very simple. If you would like to donate, volunteer in any capacity, or have any questions please contact Sue McDonald at [sue4423@gmail.com](mailto:sue4423@gmail.com).



## We Need Sunday Flowers

We need flowers for December, January and February. 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!



## December Birthdays



### Happy Birthday to Members and Friends

Nan Bernardo .....	12/1	Carol Silverstrom....	12/16
Jade Elledge.....	12/7	Clyde Bailey .....	12/16
Rebecca Nelsen ....	12/12	Roger Jeremiah.....	12/21
Jonathan Doram....	12/13	Ava Elledge .....	12/26
John Mize .....	12/16	River Collins.....	12/30

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

## FORUM

### Sundays at 10:00am

- Dec. 3 "What the City of Little Rock is Doing About Crime"  
Guest Mayor Mark Stodola, City of Little Rock
- Dec. 10 2nd Sunday Share the Plate:  
Women and Children First
- Dec. 17 Theme of the Month: "Wonder"
- Dec. 24 No meeting
- Dec. 31 No meeting

## End of Tax Year Pledge Donations

The end of the tax year is almost upon us. No telling what the tax reforms will bring us in the future, but for now, if you want to make a contribution to UUCLR for this calendar year, having it arrive at UUCLR by **December 15** would be greatly appreciated. Some people contribute appreciated stock.

The best procedure is to contact Fred Roberson at [fred.roberson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fred.roberson@sbcglobal.net). Fred donates his services to the church in handling these transactions through his position with a financial institution. Fred will walk you through the steps to transfer the stock to UUCLR efficiently and so that your name is associated and you receive credit. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT. There are several steps that must be taken. Thanks for your support. Nell Matthews, [treasurer@uuclr.org](mailto:treasurer@uuclr.org)

# 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.

December 5    February 6    April 3    June 5  
January 16    March 6    May 1

### "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?"

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



### Exploring UU Class

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Rev. Jan Nielsen will lead our next Exploring UU Class to be held on **January 14** after the 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](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.

### Religious Education Schedule

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

#### 10:00 RE Classes for Young People

##### Explorers: 5-12 Years

This small group learning ministry for children explores or is informed by UUCLR's monthly ministry theme. The theme this month is Wonder. During this winter holiday season, we will hold our engagement with religious and cultural traditions in a sense of wonder as we make room for the universal truths to be found. Because we value diversity in learning and teaching styles, young people may engage through stories, games, drama, art, or science on any given Sunday. Gather in the Barnum Room.

##### Coming of Age: 12 Years and up

This small group learning ministry for older children and teens is learning all about Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist history as they develop their own religious identity. These young people bring our liberal religious heritage to life and build community with one another through games, role play, and discussion. Meet in the Fahs room.



### Christmas Eve Service

Do not miss the Christmas Eve service this year at 5:30. The choir will perform before the service starts. There will be special soloists and instrumentalists, candle lighting and lots of carol singing.

# In the Life of the Church

## Facilities Work Days

**No Work Day in  
December!!!**



**Saturday - January 6  
Start at 8:30 am**

## 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.



## December Calendar

### Friday, December 1

10:00am UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
1:00pm Facilities Team (Office)  
1:00pm Food Pantry (Off site)  
6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, December 2

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

### Sunday, December 3

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)  
12:15pm Girl Scouts (Emerson)  
3:30pm Rental (Chapel & RE Wing)

### Monday, December 4

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

### Tuesday, December 5

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

### Wednesday, December 6

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

### Thursday, December 7

10:00am The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, December 8

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
1:00pm Food Pantry (Off site)  
7:00pm Rental (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Sunday, December 10

10:00am Blood Drive (Chapel)  
10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Chapel)  
1:30pm Mandolin Society (Thomson)  
3:30pm Rental (Chapel & RE Wing)

### Monday, December 12

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

### Wednesday, December 13

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

### Friday, December 15

UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)  
1:00pm Food Pantry (Off site)  
2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE  
6:30pm ARTEC Support Group (Pehrson)  
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

### Saturday, December 16

5:30pm Rental (Thomson Hall)

### Sunday, December 17

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

### Monday, December 18

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

### Monday, December 19

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

### Wednesday, December 20

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

### Thursday, December 21

1:00pm The Van (Off Site)

### Friday, December 22

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

### Sunday, December 24

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
5:30pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

### Monday, December 26

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

### Wednesday, December 27

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Friday, December 29

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

### Sunday, December 31

10:00am Children-Youth Programming  
10:00am Forum (Thomson)  
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)  
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:15pm Girl Scouts (Emerson)

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

