



Outer Circle

March 2016 Vol. 65 Issue 3

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.



Rev. Jan Nielsen

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

We are on the edge of spring here in Arkansas. All around me, I see the signs: jonquils, tulip trees and forsythia with their blossoms proudly declaring that winter is done. And yet, on this late February day, a cold wind blows.

Spring comes to our part of the Earth not all at once, but instead, day by day. Some days bring air that warms our faces while others can bring winds that chill us to the bone. That is how it is, too, with life: our days may bring warmth and cold, sorrow and joy, despair and delight. Whatever life brings, we are here, I believe, to live and to learn as we go, with our hearts and minds open to the journey of becoming more fully human.

Join us for worship during the month of March when we will explore together what it means to become more fully human. We'll ask questions about what gives our lives meaning and explore themes like abundance and scarcity, imperfection and perfection, commitment and apathy, death and rebirth, and more.

Change is coming to our part of the Earth, and to our lives. Spring arrives officially here in our time zone on Saturday, March 19 at 11:30 p.m. We'll already be experiencing more daylight by then; a week earlier, on Saturday, March 12, we will have set our clocks ahead (our cell phones will do the work for us!). And when we gather on Sunday, March 27, we will honor the tradition of Easter and celebrate the spirit of renewal, both of the land and

(Continued on Page 2)

Sundays in March

Join us for Sunday Worship
Our Theme will be "Humanity"

Thought for the month:

"In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings,

we pay ourselves the highest tribute."

Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993),
U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Questions for thought and conversation:

How do we know when we have enough?

What would it take for you to know that you are enough?

What in your life matters most to you?

For what would you sacrifice your comfort, or your life?

What are the things you most hope to do with the life you have before you?

When in your life have you known the gift of renewal and rebirth?

What does it mean to be fully human?

Services

March 6 Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

March 13 Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

March 20 Palm Sunday
Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

March 27 Easter Sunday
Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

In the Life of the Church

A Note from Our Board President

If you have been to church lately you will have noticed the energy and sense of joy that surrounds the activities on our campus.

Something you may not have noticed is that the church's finances are reflecting that energy and joy as well.

The annual fund drive begins March 6. The theme for the fund drive is "Starting a new day." Last year Valerie and I used the Fair Share Guide from the church website (www.uuclr.org/about/stewardship) to compute our gift. I encourage all of us to examine the Fair Share Guide. We are going to use it to decide the amount of our annual gift. I hope you will join us.

Wonderful things are happening at UUCLR and they will continue to happen for years to come if we continue to grow and possess the energy and joy we have today.

It is an honor to serve this congregation.
John McNee, President

Minister' Message (Continued from Page 1)

of the soul. March 2016 will be a time for new beginnings.

Here at your church, there is good energy in the air. You'll soon be hearing about more about our celebration of the good spirit among us, our **2016-2017 Annual Fund Drive "Starting a new day,"** an opportunity for each of us to support the good work of this gathered community. What a blessing it is to be a part of good energy, good spirit and good work, and it is a blessing worthy of sharing by giving generously to our church.

I'm looking forward to spring and to seeing you all in church.

Love and blessings, Rev. Jan

Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Fellowship Dinner is scheduled for April 16

Mark the date - more information soon!



**March 5
9:00am - noon
Join Us!**

Call to Help for Projects

We need leaf raking, mulching debris on property, other outside chores. Too big for you? There are always small jobs available.

Your Facilities Team: Bill Kimpel, Bill Goolsby, Rich Roy, Jerry Blackburn, Devin and Miranda Keith

Questions? Please contact Miranda Keith at keithmir@yahoo.com or 442-8736.



Young at Heart

Young at Heart lunch and program on March 8th will feature Jeannie Brown and a few other readers who will capture some moments to ponder and enjoy with a Reader's Theater production. While simply done, the messages and styles are worth experiencing, so do plan on joining us for the gathering at 12 p.m. in Thomson Hall on March 8th. Friends and guests are encouraged to come, too!

In addition, please be thinking about programming and meals you would be interested in doing or arranging beginning next Fall. I'd love to hear from you!

Selma Blackburn

January 2016 Share-the-Plate Collections

2nd Sunday: Habitat for Humanity.....\$217.00
4th Sunday: Our House.....\$291.75
5th Sunday: Denton (TX) UU Fellowship..\$408.70

Thank You for Your Generosity!

In the Life of the Church

Starting a New Day Annual Fund Drive March 6 - 20



We are seeing a rebirth of energy, excitement, and commitment at UUCLR. When Rev. Jan Nielsen proposed the theme for our pledge campaign to be **Starting a New Day**, the Finance and Stewardship Committee perked up with enthusiasm because this phrase captured exactly what we wanted to convey—we are moving forward with momentum. These past few years of seeking new leadership have not be static. There have been great leaders who have helped guide the congregation to better relations, forward progress in social actions, and on-going searches for meaning. But now, we are really awake to all our possibilities—we are **Starting a New Day**.

Beginning on March 6, and running for three short weeks to March 20, we are asking everyone to evaluate their financial commitment to UUCLR and sign a pledge form that **documents their status as continuing members** (to maintain your membership, you **MUST** sign a pledge form) or friends for the coming fiscal year of 2016-2017. Your pledge is just one part of what this church needs, but as the Pulpit Assistants say before the offering each Sunday, it is essential to support the work of the church.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee enthusiastically set a pledge goal of \$220,000—a target greater than any before. We are confident that this is reachable. We know that with this money we can pay our staff, including our dynamic and inspirational leader, Rev. Jan, in line with the guidelines of the UUA and similar area churches. Further, we can tell the teams who volunteer to produce worship services, classes, building and grounds upkeep, special events, and even coffee that we are not stinting in our financial support.

The **pledge form** is available at www.uuclr.org along with a **financial calculator** that helps you to evaluate what this church means to you so that you can be fiscally supportive. Further, there is a Fair Share guide table to help you select the percentage of contribution you provide on the basis of annual salary. There are two levels: *Supporting* and *Sustaining*, which adds an additional 1% to each category of giving.

The **giving guide** is the key to becoming a **Fair Share Giver**—this means you have reviewed the table and identified the recommended level of support that you should provide to qualify to check the box. The percentages are graduated to reflect understanding that discretionary cash is more available to higher income earners. UUCLR members and friends are generous and have provided good support in the past. It is time to step up to being **Fair Share Givers** so that we can continue **Starting a New Day**.

Arkansas UU Cluster

It's coming! Our next Arkansas UU Cluster will be in Hot Springs, generously hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs. (www.uuchurchhotsprings.org). The topic will be "Living Our First Principle Every Day." It will start Friday, April 29, at 5:00 (or you are welcome to come later), and it ends at 4:00pm on Saturday, April 30. Registration, which begins March 15, is \$25 and will cover three meals and snacks. Watch for more information.

Everyone is welcome to attend—this is a great chance to meet other UUs in Arkansas. If you haven't attended one and want to know more about it, please call or email our office and someone will contact you.

In the Life of the Church

Faith Development Offerings led by Rev. Jan Nielsen

“Listening for God”: Explorations of Short Stories

Join Rev. Jan for **Listening for God**, a monthly, “drop-in, come when you can,” Wednesday noontime short story discussion group. The group will probe contemporary short fiction for insights, both spiritual and intellectual, about what it means to be human. The format is based on a long-used adult faith development model called “Listening for God” but “Listening for Life” also could be an apt title. Stories will be taken from the just-released volume, **The Best American Short Stories of 2015**, edited by T.C. Boyle. We will meet from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Thomson Hall. Newcomers will always be welcome.

Mar. 9 *Bride* Julia Elliott

Apr. 13 *The Big Cat* Louise Erdrich

May 25 *You’ll Apologize If You Have To*
by Ben Fowlkes

June 8 *The Fugue* by Arna Bontemps Hemenway

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?” We will bring our brown bag lunches and gather on Wednesdays in Thomson Hall from 12:15 to 1:15. Newcomers will always be welcome.

Mar. 23 *Strange Days* by Sven Birkerts

Apr. 27 *Vision* by Tiffany Briere

May 18 *My Daughter and God* by Justin Cronin

June 1 *Difference Maker* by Meghan Daum

Socks! Socks! Socks!

It’s March and time to “march” into the store to buy socks. It really feels satisfying to put socks in the basket in the foyer knowing someone will enjoy that moment of pulling on warm socks on a cold day.



Don’t deny yourself that “feel good” moment.

Business and Services Directory

Would you like to advertise your commercial business or skills? Are you looking to hire someone or need a service? A binder is available in the office for advertising congregant’s business/service or for locating one. The ad can be up to 1/2 page, preferably landscape. Just bring it to the office administrator, Sue McDonald, and she will gladly assist you.

March RE-Questors

Discussing How Humans Came to Rule the World

Primary Reference:

The Third Chimpanzee by Jared Diamond

10:00 AM Sunday in the Pehrson Room

Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be.

You do not have to read the book to join in the discussion

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

The Between the Lines Book Club will meet Monday, March 7 at 7:00pm to discuss:



The Goldfinch
by Donna Tartt

For information: Contact Allan Ward
664-5921 or e-mail alward@ualr.edu

In the Life of the Church



Book Exchange & Recycle Sunday, March 6 Book and Children's Swap

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 every Sunday, Lance will recycle all cans collected in March.



Call for Recycle Team Volunteers

The Recycle Team is in need of one or two new volunteers. Our small team takes turns hauling home the recyclables accumulated at the church. We rotate on a monthly basis, and include the material in our recycle bin at home.

There are currently three people rotating this job, so, with one or two additions, each person would need to do this job only about three times a year. We also write a quarterly article about recycling for the Outer Circle. With four people rotating that duty, each person writes one article per year. Anybody interested in participating in this volunteer opportunity can talk to Jan Bowen at church, by phone at 803-0089, or by email at jabowen38@sbcglobal.net. Thanks in advance.



New Church Doors

Imagine walking up to the front of our church home and seeing beautifully carved wood doors with stunning stained glass art that makes a statement of who we are. The dream is steadily working into reality.

The ad-hoc committee of Jane Dickey, DeAnn Shields-Marley, and Cas Rifkin have worked on finding the chosen crafts people since September. Greenfield Millworks in Maumelle, who did the doors and woodwork for Hunt Chapel, will make the doors. American Building Specialties in North Little Rock will provide hardware so that our doors will open remotely for those with physical disabilities.

Katz-Messinger Stained Glass artists in Clinton were chosen for their creative and beautiful art designs and their history of working with churches. Because of generosity of the Burger family and others, the doors will not use operating budget money.

Once we get some thumbnail sketches from the artists, we will have focus groups to hear from you. We can look forward to autumn to see our new welcoming doors.

FORUM

- March 6** Sexuality and Our Faith (OWL) - Rachel Finley
- March 13** 2nd Sunday Share the Plate: AR Coalition for Peace and Justice
- March 20** Theme Sunday - HUMANITY
- March 27** 4th Source of Our Living Tradition: Jewish Teachings with Selma Blackburn



Exploring UU - March 6

The next Exploring UU Class will be on **March 6, from 12:30 to 2:00**. After a simple lunch, 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.

In the Life of the Church

Memorial Day Weekend UU Gathering at the Buffalo River

Join UUCLR at the Buffalo Point Campground May 27-30, 2016



Registration Forms

The registration forms for the Memorial Day trip are now available and are **due by May 15**. Go to www.uuclr.org and follow the Buffalo Trip banner on the home page.

Saturday Potluck

Saturday night Pavilion fee is \$4 per nuclear family (two adults, any number of related children or one adult, one child). Non-family guests who are over 16 years of age are assessed \$2.

Pavilion fee is payable by **May 15**. Failure to pay by May 1 will get you a talking to. Get the money in promptly so that the person with the clipboard doesn't have to produce change and waste valuable recreational time shaking you down.

The potluck begins around 5:00pm, and the time will be confirmed on Saturday morning. Bring a dish to share, drinks, place settings, and trash bag. Every person is expected to clean up after him or herself. Pack in, pack out.

Camping

Cost is \$8 per adult >18 years per night. All fees are appreciated by **May 15**, but you may show up at the last minute to camp. Just be prepared to pay when you come.



Canoeing and Kayaking

Boat rental is \$43 for either a canoe (2 people) or kayak (1 person).

Water level and safety permitting, we float Saturday as a group (approx 5 hrs). Sunday we travel together to the starting point (Maumee) and float individually back to the parked cars (approx 4 hrs). If no UUCLR leader or safety persons are available to float with the Saturday group, we will hire two guides. Everyone on Saturday will share this extra cost. Mr. Dirst usually provides a discount if we have a large group going (> 12 canoes). Boats, paddles, trash bags, and life jackets are required and provided.

See the UUCLR web site (follow the home page banner link) for a thorough list of what to bring (e.g., water, hat, sunblock, etc.). If you have your own boat, you will pay a shuttle fee (\$25). **Saturday group floaters must attend the safety meeting at 9 am at the Pavilion. Failure to attend results in refund of canoe rental, and you are on your own.** We take safety seriously because we have so many kids and inexperienced paddlers on Saturday.

In the advent of terrible weather, we may cancel the float trips. There are hiking trails galore as well as plenty of eating, talking, and communing opportunities such as the Saturday night campfire.

Questions? Contact Nell Matthews at uuclrnell@gmail.com

In the Life of the Church



March Birthdays



Michael Finley	2	Beth Bratton	21
Don Barnes	12	Nancy Kimpel	23
David Prud'homme	12	Kerrie Carlock.....	26
Katy Towbin.....	13	German Segura.....	27
Miles McCullough	19	Ren Segura	28
Emily Mellor.....	19	Tucker Steinmetz.....	28
Naveyah Finley.....	20	Jean Pennucci.....	29
Shirley McFarlin.....	21	Robert Ebert.....	29

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

Caring Coordinator

Sue McDonald is the Caring Coordinator.



If you need assistance or know of someone who needs help in any way, please contact Sue at sue6696@gmail.com or 501-442-6623.

February Calendar

Tuesday, March 1

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Wednesday, March 2

2:30pm Facilities Team (Office)
3:00pm Membership (Pehrson)
6:00pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 3

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Friday, March 4

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Saturday, March 5

9:00am Work Days - Rain or Shine

Sunday, March 6

8:00am Recycle Sunday and Book and Kids' Exchange (Thomson)
10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm Exploring UU Class (Pehrson)
4:00pm Leadership Reception (Offsite)

Monday, March 7

7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)

Tuesday, March 8

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
12:00pm Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)
1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)

Wednesday, March 9

12:15pm "Listening for God"-Explorations of Short Stories (Thomson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 10

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Friday, March 11

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Sunday, March 13

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm Exploring UU Follow-Up (Pehrson)
12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Thomson)

Monday, March 14

5:30pm Program Council (Thomson)

Tuesday, March 15

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE
4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)

Wednesday, March 16

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

Thursday, March 17

9:00am Mid-South Watercolorists (Thomson)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
6:30pm Worship Arts (off site)

Friday, March 18

Mid-South Watercolorists (Thomson)
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Saturday, March 19

4:00pm Mid-South Watercolorists (Thomson)

Sunday, March 20

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am New Member Recognition in Service
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, March 21

5:30pm Finance/Stewardship (Thomson)
6:45pm Board Meetings (Thomson)

Tuesday, March 22

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Wednesday, March 23

12:15pm "How Do You See It?": Explorations of Essays
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 24

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Friday, March 25

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Sunday, March 27

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

Tuesday, March 29

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Wednesday, March 30

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

Thursday, March 31

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Visit the church web site for the most current calendar listings: uulcr@uuclr.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

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Office Admin

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John McNee jrmcnee@aol.com

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Alexander "Scotty" Meek
a.meek@att.net

STAFF HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9 am - 2 pm
Call 442-6623 before coming
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Program Council Team Liaisons

Communication	Sue McDonald
Facilities	Miranda Keith
Faith In Action	vacant
Fellowship	Nell Matthews
Lifespan Faith Development.	Joe Meehan
Membership	Debbie Goolsby
Worship Arts	Margaret McLellan



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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.

