



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

"Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Friends,

Why are you a Unitarian Universalist? One of the things I cherish about our Unitarian Universalist tradition is our freedom to be who we are and to think and believe as our conscience guides. I love that our way of faith honors the sacred right of all to live with integrity.

Our commitment to freedom sometimes can be confusing for folks who don't know about our faith tradition. "If you don't all share the same beliefs, how do you all get along?" people ask. "How can people with so many different ideas," they wonder, "join together to form a community of faith?" It is then that I explain that while some faith traditions are creedal, ours is a covenantal community, bound together by a common understanding of how we strive to live, both in our congregations and in the larger world. During our June worship services, we will explore what it means to be a part of a covenantal community. I hope you'll join us and maybe also bring a neighbor or a friend to church with you.

Our way of faith is rooted in the idea that we are here to walk together on this journey, giving one another room to learn and grow and maybe even change, while also standing by one another, come what may. How lucky I am to walk alongside you as your minister. May the spirit of love guide our journeys – yours, mine, and the journey we share.

Love and blessings,
Rev. Jan

Annual Congregational Meeting June 4

Sundays in June

Join us for Sunday Worship 11:00 am

The Monthly Theme is "Covenant"

"A covenant is not a contract. It is not made and signed and sealed once and for all

A covenant is not a static artifact and it is not a sworn oath

A covenant is a living, breathing aspiration, made new every day. It can't be enforced by consequences but it may be reinforced by forgiveness and by grace when we stumble, when we forget, when we mess up."

– Rev. Victoria Safford

For reflection and discussion:

Our Unitarian Universalist congregations are covenantal communities. Here at UUCLR, our covenantal values are reflected in our Affirmation of Covenant and our Closing Words.

(Continued on Page 2)

Services

June 4 Rev. Jan - Bridging Ceremony

June 11 Rev. Jan - Celebration Sunday
A day when we celebrate another year of shared ministry, and our 67th year as a congregation, 2016-2017

June 18 Father's Day - Guest Ric Hansen

June 25 Guest Scharmél Roussel
Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light

In the Life of the Church

Board President's Note

This will be my last letter as Board President. Serving in this position has been an honor, and it also has caused me to grow in important ways. The need to think constantly about our Seven Principles while making decisions based on them has made me more appreciative of our faith and more committed to it. I now find myself guided more by our values in my personal life, which makes that life richer. And through your examples, I've learned about generosity of spirit. In my first draft of this letter, I tried to give thanks by name to everyone who stepped up during the past year to support my work, but the list was too long for this space. I am truly awed by our congregation—which means you—and respect it even more deeply than I did before. I have grown in ways that surprised me because of this position's responsibilities and because of you.

Some people come to church to renew their spirits on Sunday mornings, some to bat around interesting ideas during RE-Questors or Forum, while others come for fellowship or social action, and others to give their children a safe place to be themselves through our Religious Education program. Most people come for a combination of these reasons and for many others as well. Please look at all of the ways that you are growing through UUCLR, and I hope you will realize how important it is to you too.

We have a busy year ahead of us and many decisions to make. Some of those decisions will test our commitment to our faith and our church. The choices we make as a group will not necessarily be agreeable to everyone—indeed, they cannot be, as we are all individuals—but I do hope that you will look at the larger picture of what UUCLR is and stands for, especially if you find yourself balking at a crossroads. If we choose to remodel our building, remember that remodeling is one of the biggest strains on a marriage!—so please let us enjoy the excitement of what we will have, rather than dwelling on what “could have been.”

With the leadership of Mindy Morrell as President, Rev. Jan, and the Board, we will be guided by some of the wisest minds in our congregation, and they will always be thinking about what benefits us most. I ask that you trust them and remember that they are doing their very best for the church. Please talk with them to understand their decisions, and also share your thoughts with them. We will be dancing towards our future together.

Thank you for giving me a year to put my love of UUCLR into action and for the dance.

Cas Rifkin,
Board president

Congregational Meeting

June 4, 2017

All members are encouraged to attend the annual Congregational Meeting. There will be a vote on the proposed church budget for 2017-2018 and the slate of officers. There is a proposal to be voted on by the congregation to use the McNee Fund to hire an architect to develop a preliminary plan for expansion and/or renovation of the sanctuary, renovation of Thomson Hall, and renovation and/or potential expansion of Religious Education space.

Your vote is important. To view the budget, slate and other information, go to the church web site at www.uuclr.org. There is a banner on the home page that will take you to the Annual Meeting information.

Immediately following service and before the meeting convenes at 12:45, the Youth are hosting a fundraiser lunch. Plan on joining everyone in supporting our youth programs.

Reflection & Discussion (Continued from Page 1)

Our Affirmation of Covenant

*Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest for truth is its sacrament
and service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve humankind in fellowship,
to the end that all souls shall grow
into harmony with the Divine.
Thus do we covenant with each other.*

Our Closing Words

*Go out into the world in peace
Have courage
Hold on to what is good
Return to no person evil for evil
Strengthen the fainthearted
Support the weak
Help the suffering
Honor all beings*

- ❖ *What does it mean to be a part of a covenantal community?*
- ❖ *What are the challenges and demands of being a part of a covenantal community?*
- ❖ *What do you cherish about being a part of a covenantal community?*

In the Life of the Church

Children's Classes

Explorers

Theme-based Religious Education Program

Children ages 5 to 13 attend *Explorers* on Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:55am in the Alcott room, downstairs in the RE building. We make good friends, and explore our monthly ministry themes through stories, games, art, and spiritual practices.

This month, we are working with the theme of "**Experience.**" *Please have children wear clothing and shoes that are suitable for outdoor activities. We will be spending as much time as possible outdoors while the weather is pleasant.*

YoUuth

Teens meet each Sunday in the Schweitzer room from 10:00-10:55am. Don't forget to spend time with your *To This I Give My Heart* journals each day, or a couple of times each week if that is what you can manage. If you still need a copy, contact Rachel Finley to pick one up.



Our Whole Lives Grades 4-6 June 26 - 30

UUCLR is pleased to offer Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) sexuality education this summer for children who will be entering 4th-5th grades in Fall 2017. Children entering 6th grade with a late birthday (Spring/Summer) may also be admitted.

Session dates: Monday-Friday, June 26-30

Session hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
(drop-off begins at 8:30am)

Parent Orientation: Monday, June 19
6:00pm- 8:00pm

Children participating in this session will become equipped with accurate and age-appropriate information covering human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual health and behavior, and society and culture.

Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives provides facts about anatomy and human development, while helping participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Starting in June: STEAMM Sundays

A Multi-Age Summer RE Program

STEAMM= Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Music and Movement. This summer our focus will be teaching and supporting our children as makers, creators, and doers. UUs are agents for change. We tackle challenges, solve problems, and figure things out. We exercise reason and logic, we collaborate, and we express what is in our minds and hearts to help heal the world.

Have you considered working with UUCLR children and/or teens? Our Summer program is a wonderful opportunity for adults in the congregation to work with our kids. Sign up for one date or a few. You will provide an invaluable experience for our children, and grow by leaps and bounds as a Unitarian Universalist servant leader. Can you teach our kids how to use a sewing machine or do carpentry, or make materials and build Spirit Play story baskets with them. There are so many possibilities. Create the activity yourself, or Rachel will work with you to create it.

*You must complete the **RE Steward in Covenant Form** online and consent to a background check before working with children at UUCLR. Go to the church web site and look for the STEAMM link on the left-hand side of the home page. Note your desired STEAMM topic in the "Feedback" section of the online form.*

FORUM

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| June 4 | Arkansas UU Justice Ministry
Bruce Hill |
| June 11 | 2nd Sunday Share the Plate |
| June 18 | Theme Sunday - "Covenant" |
| June 25 | "Is it More Important to Live for Today or Plan for Tomorrow?"
Jeanne Brown, Discussion Leader |

Sunday Flowers

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

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

In the Life of the Church



Recycle Sunday June 4

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.



UU Women's Activity Group

June 9 & 10: We will visit Crystal Bridges Museum. We are researching renting a van to ride together. If we know how many people are spending the night, we will look at a motel group rate. We may visit Turpentine Wildlife Refuge on the way home if there is enough interest.

July: No meeting

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

We hope that you will join us. Please email casrifkin12@gmail.com for more information.

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

The Between the Lines Book Club will meet Monday, **June 5 at 7:00pm** to discuss:



***Missoula: Rape & the Justice System in a College Town* by Jon Krakauer**

For information: Contact Kevin Jones
501-851-4358 or kmjones1231@sbcglobal.net



Save the Date! June 7

The Red Cross is coming to UUCLR **June 7 from 3:00 - 7:00.**

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 Honey Sharp at honeysharp@gmail.com, or email the church office at uuclr@uuclr.org. Sign up for a donation slot ahead of time at www.uuclr.org.

Treasurer's Note

When you turn in a pledge check, please be sure to indicate whether it is a pledge for the past year (2016-2017) or it is for the new year (2017-2018). This will ensure the amount is credited to the proper year.

RE-Questors

Discussion: *The Coming Future of Humankind*

Primary Reference:

Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow
By Yuval Noah Harari

10:00am Sundays in the Pehrson Room

Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be

Young at Heart

Our last gathering for the current church year will be on **Tuesday, June 13.** Lunch (\$7) begins at 12:00. After lunch will follow a great conversation featuring Rev. Jan.

Rev. Jan will generously bring us information and perspectives about merging Unitarians, Universalists, Humanists, others, and what that all may mean in a covenantal community like our own.

In the Life of the Church



UUCLR Choir at Music Sunday Service



June Birthdays



Happy Birthday to Members and Friends

Nancy Clark.....	6/2	Annabelle Adams....	6/11
Emerson Finley	6/4	Dan Danielson.....	6/13
Richard Clark.....	6/5	Harris Lauck.....	6/14
Caitlin Wade	6/6	Liz Mackenzie	6/14
Connor Vaughn	6/7	John Hill	6/21
Sue McDonald.....	6/7	Bish Williams.....	6/25
Helene Rush.....	6/9	Jane	
Isaac		Dickey Matson....	6/26
Pirkle-Thomson .	6/10	Patricia Holifield	6/28
Katie Roberts.....	6/10	Amy Lynn Milam.....	6/29
Scotty Meek.....	6/10		

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

Faith in Action Opportunities

School Food Program

The School Food program will be taking a break until Fall. We are in the process of transitioning to a School Pantry program status.

Under this program, the Arkansas Food Bank will provide appropriate weekend food at \$.18 per pound. This also allows us to provide food for families (4 members) instead of just to individual children. For this type of program, the Food Bank will deliver food that we order directly to Stephens Elementary and our team will pack the food for pick up.

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

A huge "thank you" to all the people who have generously donated their time and/or money to this worthwhile cause. We are truly making a positive impact in the lives of our community's most vulnerable children and their families.

Any food that remains from donations at this point will be given to The Van (see below).

The Van

Help sort clothing donations in North Little Rock for The Van, which delivers needed items to the homeless. We volunteer monthly on first Thursdays at 10:00am, third Thursdays at 1:00pm. If you are interested, please contact Cas Rifkin at casrifkin12@gmail.com for more information. Carpooling is an option.

Facilities Testimonial

by Nell Matthews
Facility Team Member



Who cleans your house, mows the grass, removes storm debris, and does big projects inside and outside? Probably you do some of it, but I bet you hire help, too. Well, UUCLR has a group of people who regularly mow the grass with both push and riding mowers, blow the walks and decks free of leaves in the fall and pollen in the spring, and tackle big projects like building a new children's playground.

Sometimes, they get a little help, like on the March 6 work day when I cleaned windows. I worked from about 10:00am to noon and only got about 30 cleaned inside and out. That's 30 out of many more. But, if I had had just one partner to help, we could have gotten the windows in both foyers, the chapel and the Thomson sanctuary done in that same amount of time.

There will be no scheduled work day in June (taking a break), so watch for future notices. There are always team members who do the mowing, trimming, flower beds, etc., during the week and you are always welcome to come by and help. If you would like to receive information from the Facilities Team, send a request to the church office to add you to the email list (uuclr@uuclr.org)



In the Life of the Church

Faith Development Offerings Led by Rev. Jan Nielsen

This group meets Wednesdays in Thomson Hall from 12:15 to 1:15. Feel free to bring your brown bag lunches. Newcomers are always welcome. June is the last month for this discussion series.

“Listening for God”: Explorations of Short Stories

Stories from the volume *The Best American Short Stories of 2015*, edited by T.C. Boyle.

June 7 - *North* by Aria Beth Sloss

"How Do You See It?": Explorations of Essays

The Best American Essays, edited by Ariel Levy. 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?”

June 14 - *Stepping Out* by David Sedaris

A Church Playground Tale.....

Jerry Blackburn gets blessed by us all for his initial idea in January 2016 of putting a Children's Playground adjacent to Thomson Hall, in conjunction with UUCLR finding a new Minister. “What a great way to show the community we are a welcoming church that celebrates our children,” he said at the time. Well, last July, Rachel sent me a Facilities request to prepare an area beside Thomson Hall for a children's playground, and the Board had approved this location. “How much would this cost?” was my first question, so I called a contractor that specializes in these things, showed him the area at church, and we agreed on basic sizing, materials and fencing. He came back with a \$15,000 estimate. At that point, we decided to try to approach this as a build-your-own project.

After a few weeks visualizing the layout on some home design software I have, the basic layout was agreed to by Facilities. The build estimate was \$4500, all volunteer labor. Only one problem remained – we had no funding approved for this. My comments went back to Rachel and the church board for determination. We were then blessed by Linda Van Blaricom and Judy Rickard with their gifts to the church to cover about half this estimate, in honor of Chris Kupper and Dave Rickard. UUCLR's board approved the rest. It was now December 2016, and we had our green light to proceed. After spending January sourcing materials and pricing, we started construction Saturday, February 18, 2017.

Four working Saturdays later, on March 18, we completed the retaining wall using 24 6'x6' timbers, connecting screws, plastic pipe and gravel for water drainage, and 20 yards of fill dirt. Without Roy Mellor and his tractor and trailer, we'd have never been done this fast! Roy, you were a savior for our schedule! Your construction crew of Jerry Blackburn, Rich Roy,



Mike Roetzel, Roy Mellor, James Thomson, Dave Roetzel, Paul Clifford, Mike Finley and me was some hard working bunch. Cutting trenches, driving rebar, lifting those heavy timbers, and cracking jokes all along the way! Great job, ALL! And, a big "hoo-yah" to our Youth for their wonderful lunch on Saturday, February 25, to keep us fueled up!

Next up was the play set installation. After covering the foundation with weed prevention cloth, Jerry, Rich and I assembled the play set equipment purchased from Sam's Club about 18 months ago. The RE hallway is now very happy to have this “visitor” finally moving on! With the play set now assembled, the mulching crew of Dan Danielson, Nan Bernardo, John McNee, Kay Danielson, John Adams, Nan Kimpel, Dan Chambers, Jerry, Rich, and I knocked out moving 16 yards of mulch on March 25.

Fencing was next. We chose a black, four-foot high, aluminum fencing that we could mount on top of the timbers, and placed the gate near the door to Thomson Hall. Rich, Jerry and I took about four days to assemble and install this fencing, finishing it on April 24.

Final cost: ~\$5100. UUCLR, your volunteers saved us \$10,000! Once again, when we have a clear focus and mission, we achieve it!! My sincere thanks to these volunteers and to our interested congregation. Now, kids, go have fun!!

Bill Kimpel, Facilities Team Liaison

In the Life of the Church

No Church Work Day in June

The Facilities Team is taking a break after some very busy months constructing the new playground AND doing all other upkeep, both inside and outside.

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.



June Calendar

Thursday, June 1

4:30pm Rental (Thomson)
10:00am The Van (Off Site)

Friday, June 2

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

Saturday, June 3

11:00am Women's Writing Group (Pehrson)

Sunday, June 4

8:00am Recycle/Book & Kids' Exchange (Chapel)
10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm Congregational Meeting
4:00pm Rental (Chapel/Barnum)

Monday, June 5

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

Tuesday, June 6

5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, June 7

12:15pm Exploration of Short Stories
3:00pm Blood Drive (Chapel)
6:30pm Social Action Disc. Group (Pehrson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, June 9

UU Women's Group (Off Site)
UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

Saturday, June 10

UU Women's Group (Off Site)

Sunday, June 11

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Chapel)
1:00pm Girl Scouts Field Trip
4:00pm Rental (Chapel/Barnum)

Tuesday, June 13

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

Wednesday, June 14

8:30am Rental (Thomson)
12:15pm Exploration of Essays
5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)
6:00pm Girl Scouts (Pehrson)

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, June 15

8:30am Rental (Thomson)
1:00pm The Van (Off Site)
2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

Friday, June 16

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

Sunday, June 18

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
4:00pm Rental (Chapel/Barnum)

Monday, June 19

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

Tuesday, June 20

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

Wednesday, June 21

6:30pm Social Action Disc. Group (Chapel)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, June 23

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

Sunday, June 25

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
4:00pm Rental (Chapel/Barnum)

Monday, June 26

8:00am OWL Camp (RE Wing)

Tuesday, June 27

8:00am OWL Camp (RE Wing)
5:00pm Membership Committee
5:30pm Rental (Pehrson)

Wednesday, June 28

8:00am OWL Camp (RE Wing)
6:00pm Girl Scouts (Pehrson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, June 29

8:00am OWL Camp (RE Wing)
8:30am Rental (Thomson)

Friday, June 30

8:00am OWL Camp (RE Wing)
UUCLR Prison Ministry (Off site)
9:30pm Rental (Chapel)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

Rev. Jan Nielsen
Office 501-225-1503
revjan@uuclr.org

Office Admin

Karen Walls 501-225-1503
uuclr@uuclr.org

Director of RE

Rachel Finley 501-225-1503
finley5@yahoo.com

Music Director

John Perez 501-225-1503
jwperez1@yahoo.com

Board President

Cas Rifkin casrifkin12@gmail.com

Minister Emeritus

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

STAFF HOURS

Tuesday - Friday
Approximately 9 am - 2 pm
Days can vary - call before coming
Church Phone 225-1503
E-mail: uuclr@uuclr.org

Program Council Team Liaisons

Communication	Karen Walls
Facilities	Bill Kimpel
Faith In Action	Kate 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) 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.

