

Outer Circle

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK NEWSLETTER

July/August 2016 Vol. 65 Issue 7/8



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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 Nielsen

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

One year ago this week, Roger and I arrived in Arkansas and began the work of making our home here among you. When I wrote in early May, I let you all know that, after nearly a year of looking, we had found our new home. Since our long-awaited move -in date a few weeks ago, we've been finding our way through all of those boxes we packed after you all last year called me here to serve among you. And now, as the calendar turns toward July, we have still more boxes to explore!

It is good work, the work of looking at the things we have saved and moved from place to place over the years. Some of our treasures, like my mother's cookbook and her aviation log books, went with us when we left Van Buren almost twenty years ago and stayed with us in Cambridge and Concord and West Hartford, and are still with us now, back home in Arkansas. Other things, like some of our clothes and books, found new homes along the way or will soon, as we continue to sort and give away. It's a spiritual practice, a very human endeavor, to look through the stuff of our lives and to decide what to keep and what to pass on. We're trying to pass on at least a little more than we keep.

Summer has brought bright skies to Arkansas, along with hot days and starlit nights. Summer is a time for sorting, and not just sorting the physical stuff of our lives. It is a time also to sort the less tangible, but still very real, parts of our lives – our thoughts and ideas, our aspirations and hopes. This is a season to ask questions of ourselves: What matters most? For what do I need to make more room in my life? What do I need to let go? What, when my time is done, do I hope to pass on? In the heat of a summer afternoon or

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Sundays in July and August

Join us for Sunday Worship
11:00 am

Our Summer Worship Theme is "Inspiration"

Services

- July 3** Video Sermon
- July 10** Guest Ric Hansen
- July 17** Guest Theo Segura
- July 24** Guest Eileen Krause
- July 31** Guest Jake Tidmore

August 7 Music Sunday:
Sing Along Songs

August 14 Rev. Jan

August 21 Rev. Jan

August 28 Guest Liz Mackenzie:
"Inspirational Spiritual
Direction"

In the Life of the Church

Board President's Note

I am honored to have your trust as the president of the Board for our fiscal year 2016-2017. I promise to do my best to work with the leaders that you have wisely chosen to keep us directed towards a future that will provide a safe nest where each of us can be nurtured and grow, as well as welcome others to join us. I will make mistakes, but you can be assured that I hope to learn from them. Please let me know throughout the year how the Board is doing at guiding us forward and fulfilling your needs. If you are cheering from the sideline, have ideas to help, or feeling anxiety, please share them with our minister or any of our Board members. We want to know you.

Unitarian Universalism has been a beacon to those seeking a community of peace and acceptance in a world that sometimes feels upside down. By being part of this welcoming community, we find ourselves creating the world that we know should exist where love and honor abounds for all living creatures and each person is respected as an individual. Because our hearts get full here, we are able to reach into the community with our values.

When we gather together on Sunday morning for services, we collectively pool our financial resources to put our faith into action. So rejoice in knowing that we are a generous congregation whose presence matters.

Since July 1, 2015 we have given \$2500 to buy meals for the homeless at Our House, \$340 to help those in prison through our prison program, \$600 to other UU groups in dire need of our support, \$740 to the Helping Hand fund for Reverend Jan to use as needed, and \$3800 to non-profit organizations in our community. And to top that off, we gave \$1474.00 to buy a variety of critters through Heifer Gift Fund to have a physical way to express our gratitude to Reverend Jan for being our minister.

On the Second Sunday each month, the undesignated money in the collection plates goes to a non-profit group that has been predesignated and usually speaks to the Forum earlier that day. On each Fourth Sunday, the money goes to buy food for Our House which dedicated people from our congregation prepare and serve. Fifth Sunday gives us the opportunity to help a UU group in

(Continued next column)

Kroger Donation

The church received \$177.03 from Kroger from members registering their Kroger cards. Thanks to Kay Danielson for spearheading this program! Every dollar counts to support our wonderful church and programs.

Be sure to get your Kroger Card and register it online so that UUCLR will receive credit every time you use it.

Minister's Message (Continued from page 1)

beneath a sky full of stars, this is a time to step back and to sort.

I'll be stepping back over these next weeks to take some time to sort, and to rest and renew. I'll turn to my hefty stack of summer reading. I'll write most days. I'll spend time exploring my home state and visiting friends and family. And I have promised to make time for rest. I'll also represent our congregation at the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, which this year will be in Little Rock, August 7 through 12. I'll be preaching August 14 and 21 and then I'll take a little more time for study and reflection before we begin our 2016-17 church year when we gather to celebrate Water Communion on Homecoming Sunday, September 11.

During my times away, Sue McDonald, our Caring Coordinator, and her assistant, Karen Walls, will be available to help make sure your caring needs are met and they also will know how to reach me in case of emergency. Whether I am here or away, I give my heart each day to doing what I can to be the best minister I can be for all of you.

I wish for each of you during these summer days time to step back and sort, and time to rest and renew, as you take in all the beauty and blessings of life and love.

Love to all, Rev. Jan

Board President's Note (Continued)

need. On Christmas Eve our generosity goes to the Helping Hand Fund. This all happens not only with our financial contributions, but by the help of many volunteers. Kudos to all of you for the various parts of the puzzle you fill to make UUCLR such a generous congregation. I am honored to serve here.

Cas Rifkin, Board President

In the Life of the Church

Heifer Gifts

As part of the process for choosing the Heifer animal gifts in honor of Rev. Jan's installation as our new minister, the children spent two Sundays learning about Heifer International and how animal gifts can help people all over the world.

As of Sunday, June 5th, money raised for Heifer totaled \$1474.00. Thanks for the generous donations from the congregation and thanks to the children for choosing the Heifer donations!

Game Nights



Sponsored by *UUCLR Interweave (LGBTQ and Friends)*

Bring a favorite board game, card game, etc., or just come and play along. Also, bring your drink of choice and snacks to share. Interweave members will host the game Pictionary, set up tables for playing, and be responsible for cleanup.

The next Game Nights will be on July 23 and August 20 at 6:30 pm. Please feel free to bring a friend that you would like to introduce to UUCLR, in a different and fun way!

Milestones

Most Sundays we share Milestones, Joys and Sorrows from the pulpit. Though I try to catch all of the notes, emails and texts that come my way, I sometimes miss something you may have sent. Other times, we learn of news only later, but still want to share it with all of you. We will keep a place here, in your Outer Circle, for sharing news we may have missed on Sundays.

It is with great joy that we congratulate Bill and Nancy Kimpel on 42 years of marriage! Bill and Nancy celebrated their anniversary on June 1. We wish Bill and Nancy all the blessings of life as they continue their journey together.

We share in the joy with friends of our church, Steven and Chrissy Karafit after the birth of their first child, Charles Karafit. We join them in giving thanks for the birth of baby Charles and wish them times of laughter of love as a family.

Rev. Jan



July and August Birthdays



Isabel Oliver.....	7/2	Jeanne Brown.....	8/5
Isaac Prud'homme.....	7/3	Saraj Goldberg.....	8/6
Mikey Finley.....	7/7	Linda Holzer.....	8/9
Erin Gerhart.....	7/8	Jay Mehta.....	8/10
Bailey Barnes.....	7/10	Linda Vanblaricom.....	8/14
David Simmons.....	7/10	Mary Anne Wildman.....	8/15
Rudy Rieple.....	7/12	Celia Bernheimer.....	8/16
Tamar Gerhart.....	7/14	Bill Kimpel.....	8/16
Martha Ann Nixon.....	7/17	Karen Sanders.....	8/17
Elaine Gimblet.....	7/18	Beth Clifford.....	8/18
Dorothy Meek.....	7/21	Cas Rifkin.....	8/18
Anneliese Maus.....	7/24	Scotty Scholl.....	8/18
Warigia M. Bowman.....	7/25	Michael Sanders.....	8/23
Laurie Smith Prud'homme.....	7/25	Patricia Keightley.....	8/24
Tom Rimmer.....	7/25	John McNee.....	8/24
Martha Rimmer.....	7/27	John Howard.....	8/25
Ella Lillian Jones.....	7/27	Shirley Herndon.....	8/26
Chris Gerhart.....	7/29	Liberty Vaughn.....	8/26
Judy Nelsen.....	7/29	Elaine Henderson.....	8/26
Ann Link.....	7/31	Priscilla Pittman.....	8/28
Jordys Barr.....	8/4	Joe Meehan.....	8/30

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

Girl Scouts

The UUCLR Girl Scouts troop are on Summer break, but they will be back in all their awesomeness in August! Watch for a date in the weekly email.

Share-the-Plate Report

2nd Sunday

Just Communities of Arkansas.....\$227.87

Installation - 4th Sunday

UUA Living Tradition Fund.....\$954.00

4th Sunday

Heifer Fund.....\$379.00

Treasurer's Note

When you turn in a pledge check, please be sure to indicate whether it is a pledge for the past year (2015-2016) or it is for the new year (2016-2017). This will ensure the amount is credited to the proper year.

In the Life of the Church

FORUM

- July 3** **Table Topics**
- July 10** **2nd Sunday Share the Plate:**
Ministry to the Men of the Central
Arkansas Center of the Arkansas
Dept. of Community Corrections
(Prison Literacy Project)
- July 17** **School Elections Combined with
General Elections: The Good, The
Bad, and The Ugly**
Susan Inman, Arkansas County
Election Commissions Association
- July 24** **Cultural Diversity: Unearned
Privilege**
Greg Adams

**August Forum Topics Will Be Announced
by Weekly Email**



**CATALYST
PROJECT**

Anti-Racism For
Collective Liberation

Save the Date

On Saturday, July 23 at UUCLR, plan to spend the day with trainers from Catalyst Project learning the language and methods to talk about and combat racism in our city, families and organizations.

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Catalyst Project is a political education and movement building organization committed to doing anti-racist work.

More details coming soon!

Kate Dockter



Work Days: On Vacation for the Summer!

We will be back in the Fall for leaf raking, mulching debris on the property, and other outside landscaping chores. Plan on joining us after the heat of the summer to give TLC to our beautiful church grounds and building.



Young at Heart



Young at Heart and the Vegetarian Potluck are taking a summer break - they will return in September. Have a great summer!

RE-Questors

**Should Corporations be
Treated like People?**

Primary Reference:

Corporations are Not People
By Jeffrey D. Clements

10:00 am every Sunday in the Pehrson Room

Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be.

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

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



***The Circle* by Dave Eggers**

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

In the Life of the Church



Book Exchange & Recycle Sunday, July 3 and August 7 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.



Call for Recycle Team Volunteers

The Recycle Team is in need of 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.



Girl Scouts Activity

The UUCLR Girl Scout troop gathered to plant sunflowers in the front parking lot dividers.

We anticipate beautiful flowers!



In the Life of the Church

Updates on the Doors

In March, 2012, the Endowment Committee said that there was a great desire to replace our old front doors with something attractive in the spirit of the architecture of our contemporary church and that the funds could come from the Burger Family bequest. Since that time different approaches were started to find the doors, but the goal was not achieved. In August 2015, President John McNee appointed Jane Dickey, DeAnn Shields-Marley and myself to serve on the Door Committee.

After over 20 meetings we made our report and we recommended two white oak doors. Above the push bar will be a stained glass design of radiant flames, and below the push bars will be a chalice made of inlay of different wood. We are very confident that it will compliment the contemporary look of our building and be attractive to our visitors and inspiring to our congregation.

On June 2, 2016, The Endowment Committee which oversees The Burger Fund voted to fund the actual doors.

On June 1, 2016, the Finance and Stewardship Committee approved a Wish List item for ADA approved automatic handicap door hardware for \$5,575 (tax included). The price includes the installation of the actuator (button) on the outside near the railing and for the actuator on the inside. They will not close on a child or adult. It is more expensive because we are having both doors able to open and close electronically. One door opening would work for a normal wheel chair, but not for a wide one or for all scooters.

The managers of the UUCLR Women's Southwest UU Women's Conference fund closed that account and donated the approximately \$2000 as a kick-off for the Wish List. Having the ADA auto hardware on the wish list makes a good statement about our beliefs and our ability to plan for our future.

On June 4, 2016, the board passed a motion that the Board of Directors recommend the Door Committee continue their path to purchase the doors and that a Wish List be set up to cover the cost of ADA approved automatic door hardware and other unforeseen costs for the doors.

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Fundraising Ideas for UUCLR

Yard Sale/Rummage Sale Needs Leaders



The classic rummage sale at church or the new style yard sale at someone's residence serves two purposes: it brings in money, much from area residents, and it gives us incentives to clean out our closets. The Urge to Purge our excess material possessions is a welcome sensation for most of us. People who can't let go of possessions get TV shows with names like "Hoarders" but wouldn't you rather be on "Living in Style"? Please contact Nell Matthews at uuclrnell@gmail.com or the church office at uuclr@uuclr.org. Let's get a team together.

Got an Old Car to Donate?



Nothing brings more bucks for the chitty-chitty bang than an old car. All UUCLR has to do is transfer the title into the church's name and then post a For Sale! sign to reap a nice return for the small effort. Contact Nell Matthews at uuclrnell@gmail.com to arrange a donation that you can use to get a tax deduction.

Too Good to be Threw



Do you have an item with a resale value of \$50 or more? It is just too nice to go into a rummage sale but you are really finished with it. Would you be willing to donate it to UUCLR for an online sale? Contact Nell at uuclrnell@gmail.com to see if we can have a win-win: you free up space in your home and the church gets the benefit of the resale.

Doors (continued)

So hooray! All steps are in place to go forward! We are on our way to having beautiful doors in the fall! If you believe we should have electronic door openings for those with a handicap, we hope that each of you will contribute as you are able into the Wish List account. When you do, please put Doors in your subject line of your check or on the envelope.

Submitted with enthusiasm, Cas Rifkin

In the Life of the Church



Socks! Socks! Socks!

Don't forget to bring socks!

The year is rushing by, so it is a good time to act like a squirrel and store up socks now to gift to the sockless for the winter. Drop them in the basket. In the main foyer.

You will know in your heart that you have really helped someone during a difficult time of life.

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.



July and August Calendar

Friday, July 1 Prison Literacy (Offsite)	5:00pm 4th Sunday Covenant Group (Pehrson)	10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
Sunday, July 3 8:00am Recycle Sunday and Book and Kids' Exchange (Thomson)	Friday, July 29 5:00pm Prison Literacy (Offsite)	11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00am Children-Youth Programming	String Camp (Whole Church)	12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Thomson)
10:00am Forum (Thomson)	Saturday, July 30 10:00am String Camp (Whole Church)	Monday, August 15 6:15pm Church Board Meeting
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)	Sunday, July 31 10:00am Children-Youth Programming	Tuesday, August 16 4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	10:00am Forum (Thomson)	Wednesday, August 17 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Monday, July 4 7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)	10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)	Saturday, August 20 6:30pm Game Night
Wednesday, July 6 3:00pm Membership Meeting (Pehrson)	11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	Sunday, August 21 10:00am Children-Youth Programming
Sunday, July 10 10:00am Children-Youth Programming	2:00pm String Camp (Whole Church)	10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am Forum (Thomson)	Monday, August 1 5:00pm String Camp (Whole Church)	10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)	7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)	11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	Tuesday, August 2 5:00pm String Camp (Whole Church)	Wednesday, August 24 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Tuesday, July 12 12:00pm Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)	Wednesday, August 3 3:00pm Membership Meeting (Pehrson)	Friday, August 26 Prison Literacy (Offsite)
1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)	5:00pm String Camp (Whole Church)	Saturday, August 27 12:00pm Jim and Ruth Bell 65th Anniversary Party (Sanctuary)
Wednesday, July 14 6:30pm Worship Arts Team	6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	Sunday, August 28 10:00am Children-Youth Programming
Friday, July 15 Prison Literacy (Offsite)	Sunday, August 7 8:00am Dwight Brown	10:00am Forum (Thomson)
12:30pm Set Up for Baby Shower (Thomson)	Recycle Sunday/Book and Kids' Exchange (Thomson)	10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
Saturday, July 16 2:30pm Roetzel Baby Shower (Thomson)	10:00am Children-Youth Programming	11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
Sunday, July 17 10:00am Children-Youth Programming	10:00am Forum (Thomson)	5:00pm 4th Sunday Covenant Group (Pehrson)
10:00am Forum (Thomson)	10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)	Wednesday, August 31 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)	11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	Monday, August 8 Dwight Brown	
Monday, July 18 5:30pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting (Thomson)	Tuesday, August 9 Dwight Brown	
Tuesday, July 19 4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)	1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)	
Saturday, July 23 8:00am Faith in Action Workshop	Wednesday, August 10 Dwight Brown	
6:30pm Game Night	6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	
Sunday, July 24 10:00am Children-Youth Programming	Thursday, August 11 Dwight Brown	
10:00am Forum (Thomson)	6:30pm Worship Arts Team	
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)	Friday, August 12 Dwight Brown	
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	Prison Literacy (Offsite)	
	Sunday, August 14 10:00am Children-Youth Programming	
	10:00am Forum (Thomson)	

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Edwin Markham

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.

