

# Outer Circle

September 2016 Vol. 65 Issue 9

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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

*"Respond to every call that excites your spirit."*

– Jalaladdin Rumi,  
13<sup>th</sup> century Islamic poet

Dear Friends,

September is a time for new directions. In my early years, I always loved the start of school and its promise of new things to learn and new people to meet. When Roger and I began our married life together, we chose a Saturday in September. Our first child arrived on a cool and clear September day and, five years later almost to the day, our youngest joined his two older sisters and made us a family of five. Nearly twenty years ago, I began my divinity school studies on a September day. Each of these milestones marked a response to a calling that shaped my life – the call to learn and to grow, the call to relationship with my life partner, the call to motherhood, the call to ministry. Each of these callings began with something unnamable that excited my spirit and would lead me in directions I could not have imagined.

Join us for worship in September and listen for what excites *your* spirit. Our worship theme for September is vocation or calling. Starting on **Homecoming Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**, we'll look at what it means to listen for those callings that might lead us, at all points along our journeys, in new directions. During Sunday worship in September, we'll begin to ask also what might be our shared calling as a congregation here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock. I hope you will add your voice to this continuing conversation as we imagine our future as a congregation.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Sundays in September

Join us for Sunday Worship  
11:00 am

Our September Theme is "Vocation"

*"Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need."*

Frederick Buechner

Questions for reflection:

*What that brings you deep gladness that you can do for the world?*

*What is your calling right now?*

*How has your calling changed over time?*

*Do you have more than one calling?*

*Do you have a calling you have not yet answered?*

## Services

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Sept 4</b>  | Labor Day - Purpose and Organization 101<br>Kater Reynolds |
| <b>Sept 11</b> | Homecoming and Water Communion<br>Rev. Jan Nielsen         |
| <b>Sept 18</b> | Rev. Jan Nielsen   |
| <b>Sept 25</b> | Rev. Jan Nielsen   |

# In the Life of the Church

## Board President's Note

Sometimes it is hard to contain my buoyed spirit after seeing the good works that are happening at UUCLR. It is just everywhere from Kater Reynolds accepting my request for her to chair the Nomination and Leadership committee, to Faith in Action planning a booth for Peace Week and supporting a movie on responsible and common sense gun laws on Sept 10, and the same day our Girl Scouts will learn with us about chickens. There is also a new group forming for parents, John Mize will be leading a Seeker's group on Sundays, and there are milestones being shared.

Devin Keith, Valerie McNee, Kay Danielson, Liz Mackenzie, Mike Finley, Rev. Jan, and Nell Matthews graciously took a week out of their lives to attend Dwight Brown Leadership Experience. Some of them used their vacation time from work to attend. It's beautiful to watch people jumping to say "Yes!" and often volunteering their help without being asked, but also people watching those wise enough to say "No" when that is the correct answer.

I also saw a lot of yeses at the Board retreat held at the beautiful home of Mindy Morrell. The Board was carefully selected in order to get a variety of ages, backgrounds and length of memberships so that there is a broad band of representation and ideas. There is no doubt about the passion each

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

On Homecoming Sunday, we'll also share in the **Water Communion** ceremony, a uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual that celebrates our shared humanity and the blessings that water can bring to our bodies and to our spirits. You are invited to bring water, either from someplace special to you or maybe just water from anywhere, to pour together as we celebrate the start of another church year together here at your church.

I plan to be outside ready to welcome you to our worship on Homecoming Sunday, a day when we will invite one another to listen for those calls that excite our spirits and to imagine ways to respond with our hearts and minds open to new possibilities.

Love and Blessings, Rev. Jan

### *Board President's Note (Continued)*

person felt for our congregation when they said yes, but while planning the retreat, I wondered if our differences would be an obstacle to smoothly working together. From our very first night when we began getting to know each other through sharing little personal insights into ourselves, I knew that the congregation was in good hands. Besides the new board members that were elected in June, we also had the additional wisdom of Dr. Phil Peters who accepted the request to fulfill Jane Dickey's term. With gentle guidance from Rev. Jan, together there was deep listening, honesty as each person spoke, space for everyone to be heard, and heartfelt respect for each other.

The weekend could not have gone smoother and a lot of territory was discussed. There was good advice from Dan Chambers who reminded us that things are very seldom as bad as they first seem. A day or two later things often look better. I think that goes hand-in-hand with when receiving a very important email, don't answer it the same day or late at night, and John McNee's rule, "Don't text except to ask someone to read their email." He reminded us that texting is too easy to type and send without giving it enough thought. Phil pointed out that people should not get upset over one action, but we should be judged by the body of our work. We all acknowledged that we will make mistakes, but that we would work together to find resolutions.

We talked about our Core Values, growth, specifications to talk to the architects, and about the challenges of growing into a Program Church. In a church our size, one Minister alone can't possibly do all of the ministry, so we will all have more opportunities to be a part of our shared ministry at UUCLR. A part of our shared ministry will include a team of lay pastoral care ministers to work with our Caring Committee and Rev. Jan. We will continue to find other ways we can all share in the ministry of our congregation. Phil also reminded us of a universal law: if we are not growing, then we are shrinking because it is impossible to stay static. How do we do it? We need to trust the process and remember how to eat an elephant..... *one bite at a time.*

With gratitude, Cas Rifkin, Board President

# In the Life of the Church

## Board Actions June 15, 2016 Board Meeting

- A Board Covenant was designed and accepted.
- Minutes of the June meeting were passed with one correction: "stated timeframe for the maintenance of the new front doors should be removed as it is hypothetical."
- Motion passed to pay for Our Whole Lives (OWL) training registration, travel and housing expenses for Caitlin Wade, Nathan Roberts, Katie Roberts, and Miranda Keith, who graciously agreed to be trained to teach.
- Motion passed that gives the Executive Committee authority to represent UUCLR and meet with architects about remodeling using specifications decided by the board.
- Motion passed to not ask Roy Zimmerman to come back to perform this year
- At-Large Board Members volunteered to make sure these jobs get carried out this year:
  - Transition Team Phase 2 – Phil Peters
  - Safety and Fire plan – Tim Carlock
  - Vision & Mission Statements – Katie Roberts

The Board enthusiastically thanks:

- Kate Dockter and Miranda Keith, co-liaisons for Faith in Action, and their team for excellent organizing of the Catalyst Project on racism.
- Karen Walls, for volunteering to oversee the project of having the floors in Thomson Hall stripped and waxed.
- Rachel Finley for organizing: "We've Got Your Back! Backpack & School Supply Drive," which produced over 10 complete backpacks.

All board meetings are open to the congregation. Please contact a board member with any agenda items no later than two weeks in advance of a meeting. Check the church calendar as to when the board meetings are scheduled.



## September Birthdays



Pat Youngdahl .....	8	Ken Gould .....	16
Inge Anderson .....	11	Janice Peters .....	18
Kay Danielson .....	12	Shirley Pine .....	18
Mariamou Ngaruiya .....	13	Silas Curtis .....	21
Debbie Goolsby .....	14	Jim Bell .....	27
Karen Walls .....	14	Meredith Jeremiah .....	27
Dan Chambers .....	15	Linda Bell .....	28
Edith Bradberry .....	15		

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

## Peace Fest 2016

### Sponsored by Faith in Action



UUCLR is sponsoring a booth at Peace Fest 2016, Saturday September 25 from 1:00-5:00 pm at Bernice Garden in Little Rock. At our booth we will offer peace themed crafts for all ages (yes, that includes adults!). Several musicians from UUCLR will be performing as well. Please come out to support them and to help staff our informational table at the event.

For more information about volunteer opportunities please contact Kate Dockter at [ksdockter@gmail.com](mailto:ksdockter@gmail.com).

More information about the event is available on line <https://arkansaspeaceweek.com/peacefest>.

## 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 September 17 and October 15 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!

# In the Life of the Church

## FORUM

- Sept 4** Ethical Choices, Part 1  
Kevin Jones
- Sept 11** Second Sunday: Lifequest
- Sept 18** Ethical Choices, Part 2  
Kevin Jones
- Sept 25** Ethical Choices, Part 3  
Kevin Jones

## Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

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



*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

For information: Contact Allan Ward  
664-5921 or e-mail [alward@ualr.edu](mailto:alward@ualr.edu)

## RE-Questors

**Discussing Do We Really Want a Meritocracy with  
Consensus Governance?**

Primary Reference:

***Listen, Liberal: What Ever Happened to  
the Party of the People?***

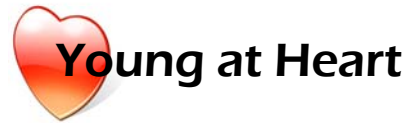
By Thomas Frank

10:00 AM Sunday in the Pehrson Room

*Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be*

## 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.



For people who are retired or otherwise available on the second Tuesday of each month, Young at Heart offers a \$5.00 noon lunch prepared and coordinated by two main participants. Jeanne Brown and Joanne Kriehn will alternate months to create menus and delicious food on second Tuesdays from September 2016 through June 2017. They invite others to help with parts of the meal. Many people help in the kitchen before and after the sessions, and all are asked to volunteer their help as they can.

After reimbursement are made for expenses, money collected is donated to the Phyllis Bartlow Fund to help defray expenses for church leaders who attend district-wide conferences and training.

We present programs after lunch in which our church members and friends have a special interest and/or expertise. Presenters have consistently shared their personal observations, insights, information, and photos as we have set out to know each other better and continue our spiritual development and growth. They have helped us to learn, to further enjoy one another's company, enrich ourselves and laugh and visit together.

Our initial church year program and lunch will be on **Tuesday, September 13, at noon** in Thomson Hall. Our lunch cost to you will be \$5.00, although this may change a bit in the future.

Please come to participate in the program featuring two members of our church who are active in the community we love. Liz Mackenzie and Jerry Blackburn will each discuss their personal religious/spiritual journeys up to their present status in the UU church, emphasizing their beliefs and answers to the "big questions" we all face, and relating their highest values and current understandings.

Please contact Selma Blackburn with questions, bring guests, and plan to come!



# In the Life of the Church



## Book Exchange & Recycle Sunday, September 4 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.



## UUCLR Key and Alarm Security Training Sessions

For about 3 years now, UUCLR has had an alarm system to protect our church property when no one is at the church. Last fall, we upgraded this system to include fire and motion sensors and 24/7 monitoring by an alarm service. This also meant 100% compliance in using the system correctly (not causing false alarms) and we've not done very well in that regard. In fact, we have recently been fined \$25 by the City of Little Rock for having too many false alarms where the Police were dispatched - after three calls, fines will rise for each occurrence. So, we're on the clock now.

The Facilities Team has studied these issues in depth and has asked, as an initial step, to conduct training for key and alarm code holders to let us better understand the system we have and how to use it. The Team has also drafted a Key and Alarm Code Policy and Procedure document that sets forth the rules and process for issuing keys and alarm codes. While this document is being finalized, the Executive Committee has approved conducting training for all key and alarm code holders, one of the requirements under the proposed policy and procedures.

In September, on-site training sessions of 30-40 minutes will be held for all current key/alarm code holders (members, friends and rental groups). This training will address Key Security, Using the Security System and Opening and Closing of Church Buildings. **Attendance for this training is required for you to retain possession of your key and alarm code.**

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## Vegetarian Potlucks

The wonderful second Sunday veggie potlucks resume on the **September 11**. Please think BIG as you prepare your dish to share. This is a chance to explore vegetarian cooking, reduce our carbon footprint, and learn some new dishes. It is also a chance to grow our generosity!

We like to be able to invite all guests and members to break bread with us at our monthly potluck. We know that many guests or visitors will not be aware that we are hosting a potluck on that day and that some of our dearest friends will also forget to bring something. So, to start the year off right, consider bringing a dish that will serve at least twice or even thrice what you might ordinarily contribute to a potluck. Remember how good it feels to be fed and how good it feels to feed others.

Thank you, Linda VanBlaricom

*Key and Alarm Training (continued)*

The training session schedule for Members and Friends of UUCLR:

Sunday, September 11, 1:00pm, Thomson Hall  
Sunday, September 18, 1:00pm, Thomson Hall

Email invitations will be sent out to key holder members and friends with the training agenda and RSVP information. Renter training will be by appointment through the Church Office.

UUCLR Facilities Team: Bill Kimpel, Jerry Blackburn, Rich Roy, Karen Walls

# In the Life of the Church

## New Church Doors Are in Production!

We are grateful to a person who, although not active in our congregation, does read our Outer Circle. This person took the time to contact us because of a concern. She thought we gave out a negative message about UUCLR to people with disabilities because we funded aesthetically pleasing doors, but relied on funding of the ADA compliant electronic hardware to the charitable response of the members.

We admit that we had not seen it from that perspective and are truly sorry that we gave out anything but positive impressions of this caring and kind community. After we answered and explained our reasoning, she was happy to hear the "good news" and thought that there might have been something behind the scene.

We explained that several people told us in advance that if we added the ADA approved hardware for doors that would electronically open and close as a Wish List item, that they would like to contribute to the hardware. Our current doors are ADA compliant, but the electronic doors will allow more freedom of ease and accommodate wider wheelchairs or scooters.

The way our accounting is set up allows people to contribute to specific wish list items, but not specific budgeted items. This also gives everyone a chance to take ownership in the ADA compliant hardware and affirm its importance.

Donations are now being accepted to purchase ADA compliant hardware for our new doors so they will open electronically. You may write "Doors" or "ADA Hardware" on the subject line of your check, put it into the collection plate, or leave it in the office. If you are using cash, you may use an envelope with your name on it, so that you can get credit for your tax deduction.

We are very excited to announce that the doors are in production! Please make your donation soon to make these new doors the best!

Thank you, Door Committee

## UUCLR is on YouTube

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to check out the online videos of Rev. Jan's sermons. You can view them on YouTube via a convenient link from



our [www.UUCLR.org](http://www.UUCLR.org) website. Just click on the words "Previous Sermons," found about half way down the left side of our UUCLR home page, to see a list of dates and titles of sermon videos you can watch, along with audio recordings of some of her earlier sermons. The sermon videos are also available via our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/UUCLR](https://www.facebook.com/UUCLR).

We hope that those of you who are unable to attend worship services for any reason will enjoy being able view Rev. Jan's sermons from your computer or smart phone. Because of copyright laws involving music and readings, we are currently just uploading sermons, rather than whole worship services.



## UUCLR at Little Rock Pride Fest Sponsored by Faith in Action

The 2016 Little Rock Pride Fest will be held on **October 16th**, 1:00-6:00 pm at the Clinton Presidential Center. The Parade line-up will be at noon at 1 World Avenue (in front of Heifer International). UUCLR is registered to walk in the parade. Please wear your Standing on the Side of Love or UUCLR t-shirts if you have them. We will have our Standing on the Side of Love banner to walk behind. Please join us to celebrate LGBT+ lives here in Central AR.

We will also have an information table set up among the vendor booths. We would welcome any volunteers to assist in staffing this booth.

If you are interested in either event or have any questions please contact Kate Dockter at [ksdockey@gmail.com](mailto:ksdockey@gmail.com).

# In the Life of the Church

## What Is the Most Asked Question?

I imagine most of you know it is: "When are we moving back to the prior sanctuary?" Strategic Planning has been working towards compiling suggestions for the Board about what an architect needs to consider when looking at UUCLR for remodeling. Meanwhile the Board is determining the best three architects to contact about looking at our needs, and one will be chosen for the exploration.

It is still the same dilemma, we don't have enough space in the smaller sanctuary to allow us to grow, but we want our special spiritual space for services. Since Reverend Jan started giving sermons, our attendance at Sunday morning services has increased 30 percent over the same previous time period. Our move to Thomson allowed us about a 40 percent increase in seats. Although it may not look as full, it is deceiving because we are in a larger space. With all of the new guests that will be coming to learn more about us this fall, we won't have enough room right now if we aren't in Thomson. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> we had approximately 13 guests.

Often it is hard to know how long it takes to get ready and drive if a person hasn't been going anywhere Sunday mornings, so it means arriving late. We want the family to be able to sit together

in the congregation and experience it live rather than be in another part of the church with only the audio/visual.

Many of our teams and committees took a well deserved break during the summer, and now we will be working on moving forward again. The Board retreat will be this month as well as our board meeting and we will continue working on the next steps: information for the architect, detailed number crunching for two services, reviewing suggestions made during our Community Conversations and looking tentatively at other locations just in case we do not get good news from the architect.

Please trust that your leaders are listening and understand, but we still want to hear from you. We have another Community Conversation scheduled September 25, but meanwhile we will do our best to keep you informed as we keep our eye on our goal. We want to be able to welcome guests so they feel comfortable knowing that there is a permanent place here for them. Diversity enriches our congregation and our arms are open for the opportunity to experience the spirit of those who identify with our faith.

Cas Rifkin, Board President



## Beading Party

It's time to start beading together. Saturday, **September 10**, from 10am to noon. If you have little or no experience with assembling jewelry, never fear. All materials and tools are available OR bring your own materials. This is a make-&-take event.

Experienced bead makers welcome. Bring beaded jewelry that needs repair. A small towel or bead tray to work on is helpful. There may be a small charge depending upon what beads or materials you select.

Dawn Harris, (501) 231-9891, 1514 Erving Ridge Loop, Cabot 72023



## UUCLR Big Inside Rummage Sale

Our big inside rummage sale fundraiser will be held on **September 16 and 17 (Fri/Sat)** from 7:00am to noon.

Volunteers are needed to help set up in the Chapel area on Thursday the 15th, sort and price items, and put out signs.

Please contact [uuclryardsale@googlegroups.com](mailto:uuclryardsale@googlegroups.com) if you would like to help or if you need a large donation item picked up! Give us your name and contact information. *No old TVs, broken or out-of-date electronics, no clothes, or dirty items, please.*



# In the Life of the Church

## New Sunday Adult RE Opportunity: Seekers



Our covenant encourages the "Quest For Truth" and to "Seek Knowledge", to the end that "All Souls Shall Grow Into Harmony With The Divine". While there is "Truth" that can be resolved by fact, and analysis from what is "False"; there are also many "Truths" that help us find meaning, mystery, wonder and connection within and outside of ourselves.

This discussion group will explore knowledge and practices that address our feelings and subjective realities, rather than only our intellects. This group will eventually formulate its own agenda and itinerary which may include discussion of books with ideas and practices and exercises to help us improve our lives, forums and/or practice groups, or may spin off classes on specific topics to meet at other times.

Will meet Sunday from 10:00-11:00am in the Emerson Room in the RE building. The first gathering will be on **September 11**. Please let John Mize know if you may be interested: [jcmize47@gmail.com](mailto:jcmize47@gmail.com)



## Open Invitation to Join the Choir

The UUCLR Choir will begin rehearsing **September 7**, the first Wednesday, and will sing at church the following Sunday, September 10, for Water Communion. Please come and be a part of this vibrant community of the church. Whether you are in your 20s, or your 70s, new to the church or have been around for years, if you are an experienced singer or have never sung in a choir before, there is a place for you in the choir.

We meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm (child care is provided), and sing in church two times a month from September through July. If you are interested call John Perez at 501-580-3794 or email [jwperez1@yahoo.com](mailto:jwperez1@yahoo.com). See you at rehearsal!

## Meet Your Church Leaders

<b>President</b>	Cas Rifkin	<a href="mailto:casrifkin12@gmail.com">casrifkin12@gmail.com</a>
<b>President-Elect</b>	Mindy Morrell	<a href="mailto:mindymorrell@hotmail.com">mindymorrell@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	John McNee	<a href="mailto:jrmcnee@aol.com">jrmcnee@aol.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Judy Rickard	<a href="mailto:jsrickard@att.net">jsrickard@att.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Liz Mackenzie	<a href="mailto:liz@lizmackenzie.com">liz@lizmackenzie.com</a>
<b>Disbursing Officer</b>	Dan Chambers	<a href="mailto:danchambers2000@hotmail.com">danchambers2000@hotmail.com</a>
<b>At-Large</b>	Tim Carlock	<a href="mailto:c6819@att.net">c6819@att.net</a>
	Roy Mellor	<a href="mailto:roymellor@gmail.com">roymellor@gmail.com</a>
	Phil Peters	<a href="mailto:janicep@comcast.net">janicep@comcast.net</a>
	Katie Roberts	<a href="mailto:kroberts840@gmail.com">kroberts840@gmail.com</a>

## Committee Chairs

<b>Endowment</b>	Fred Roberson	<a href="mailto:fred.roberson@sbcglobal.net">fred.roberson@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Committee on Ministry</b>	Sharom Marcum	<a href="mailto:sharonmarcum@att.net">sharonmarcum@att.net</a>
<b>Communications</b>	Sue McDonald	<a href="mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org">uuclr@uuclr.org</a>
<b>Facilities</b>	Bill Kimpel	<a href="mailto:bnsouth_07@att.net">bnsouth_07@att.net</a>
<b>Faith in Action</b>	Kate Dockter	<a href="mailto:bassbone.nlr@gmail.com">bassbone.nlr@gmail.com</a>
	Miranda Keith	<a href="mailto:keithmir@yahoo.com">keithmir@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Devin Keith	<a href="mailto:keithmir@yahoo.com">keithmir@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Life Span Development</b>	Joe Meehan	<a href="mailto:josmeehan@sbcglobal.net">josmeehan@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Memorial Woodlands</b>	John Hill	<a href="mailto:jphiliahill@sbcglobal.net">jphiliahill@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Debbie Goolsby	<a href="mailto:debbiegoolsby@sbcglobal.net">debbiegoolsby@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	Nell Matthews	<a href="mailto:uuclrnell@gmail.com">uuclrnell@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nominating and Leadership</b>	Kater Reynolds	<a href="mailto:katerviola@gmail.com">katerviola@gmail.com</a>
<b>Worship Arts</b>	Liz Mackenzie	<a href="mailto:liz@lizmackenzie.com">liz@lizmackenzie.com</a>

*Board meetings are always open to anyone interested in attending.*



# 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. Upcoming offerings:

Sept 14 - *The Largesse of the Sea Maiden*  
by Denis Johnson

Oct 5 - *M & L* by Sarah Kokernot

Nov 2 - *Jack, July* by Victor Lodato

Dec 7 - *Sh 'khol* by Colum McCann

Jan 11 - *Thunderstruck*

by Elizabeth McCracken

### ***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?” Upcoming offerings:

Sept 21 - *Thing with Feathers that Perches  
in the Soul* by Anthony Doerr

Oct 19 - *The Crooked Ladder*

by Malcolm Gladwell

Nov 16 - *65* by Mark Jacobson

Dec 14 - *Scenes from a Life In Negroland*

by Margo Jefferson

We will gather on Wednesdays in Thomson Hall from 12:15 to 1:15. Feel free to bring your brown bag lunches. Newcomers are always welcome. The series will run until June 2017.

## UU Documentary

*Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War* is an account of a daring rescue mission that occurred on the precipice of World War II. It tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple life-threatening missions in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped to save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe

PBS will air this Ken Burns documentary on **September 20, 8:00pm**. In the Foyer of the church is a resolution hanging on the wall to the left of the Chapel doors that honors the actions of the Sharps.

## New Kiddie Playground



The Facilities Team is in the process of planning site prep and assembly of a new little kid play area outside the of Thomson Hall by the arbor. The playground equipment is on hand and stored on site.

This will require a retaining wall, fill dirt and leveling of the area prior to installation of the play equipment. Some type of playground surface is in the planning to prevent injuries from possible falls. The area will also be gated for the safety of the children.

If you are interested in helping with the preparation or installation of the new playground, please contact the Facilities Team at [facilities@uuclr.org](mailto:facilities@uuclr.org).

# In the Life of the Church

## Welcome Luke



Mike and Rebecca Roetzel welcomed a healthy baby boy into the world on August 2nd. Luke Alexander (meaning "light giving, illumination; defender of mankind") arrived weighing 8lbs. 12 oz., at 21 inches long.

They would like to extend a huge "thank you" to everyone in the UUCLR community for the incredible support over the past nine months. A special "thank you" to those who attended the baby shower last month and for all of the generous gifts, advice and well wishes.

## Creative Writing Project



The UU Women's Activity Group is starting a creative writing project. All women are invited to join this group of writers from all backgrounds and all levels of training and experience. Each of us will write on a regular basis and will meet once a month to share and critique each other's work. This is an opportunity to write poetry, fiction, non-fiction, inspirational, memoir or other types of writing; to better understand ourselves and others; to share with family members and the world; and to leave a legacy for generations to come.

We will meet monthly on Saturday mornings from 10:00am to noon at UUCLR. Sorry, women only at least for this round of writing! Our first meeting will be **October 1**. Please come and BYOW (bring your own writing)!

Paulette Mehta



## Girl Scouts

The new season for the UUCLR Girl Scout troop begins on **September 14**, meeting biweekly on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00pm. Warigia needs at least one parent to step up to assist with either the juniors or the cadets. We have several cadets this year!!! Contact Warigia for more information: [warigia@gmail.com](mailto:warigia@gmail.com)



## UUCLR Labor Day Picnic

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual UUCLR Labor Day Picnic on Monday, **September 5 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

Meat and vegetarian items will be grilled (donations accepted) and everyone should bring a potluck side dish to share. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine - there will be non-alcoholic beverages provided.

Help is needed for setup, during the meal, and with cleanup after the dinner. Grill masters are needed!!! **Devin plans on beginning preparations on September 4** in the afternoon in order to be good-to-go on Labor Day. Contact Devin at 910-352-8948, or talk to him at church.

## Special Movie Screening

Sponsored by Faith in Action



Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a non-partisan grassroots movement to mobilize moms and families to advocate for stronger gun laws. On **September 10** at 5:00pm, Moms Demand Action will be screening a documentary, *Under the Gun*, in Thompson Hall. This event is open to the public free of charge, but donations will be welcomed.

*Under the Gun* examines the events and people who have kept the gun debate fierce and the progress slow, even as gun deaths and mass shootings continue to increase. Through the lens of families impacted by the mass shootings in Newtown, Aurora, Isla Vista, and Tucson, as well as those who experience daily gun violence in Chicago, the documentary looks at why politicians are finding it difficult to act and what is being done at the state and local levels. The film is executive produced and narrated by Katie Couric and directed by Stephanie Soechtig.

# 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](mailto:sue6696@gmail.com) or 501-442-6623.



## September Calendar

### Thursday, September 1

5:30pm Program Council (Thomson)

### Sunday, September 4

8:00am Recycle / Book / Kids' Exchange (Thomson)

10:00am Children-Youth Programming

10:00am Forum (Thomson)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)

11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

### Monday, September 5

11:00am Labor Day Picnic at UUCLR

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

### Tuesday, September 6

6:30pm Finance/Stewardship Webinar (Thomson)

### Wednesday, September 7

1:30pm Facilities Team (Pehrson)

3:00pm Membership Meeting (Pehrson)

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, September 8

6:30pm Worship Team (Thomson)

### Friday, September 9

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

### Saturday, September 10

10:00am Beading Event (Offsite)

10:00am Girl Scouts "Chickens 101" (Thomson)

5:00pm Movie: Under the Gun (Thomson)

### Sunday, September 11

10:00am Children-Youth Programming

10:00am Forum (Thomson)

10:00am New Seekers Group (Emerson)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)

11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Thomson)

1:00pm Key Training

### Tuesday, September 13

12:00pm Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)

1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)

### Wednesday, September 14

5:30pm Finance Committee (Pehrson)

6:00pm Girl Scouts

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, September 15

2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

6:00pm Visitor/New Members Reception (Offsite)

### Friday, September 16

7:00am Church Yard Sale

### Saturday, September 17

7:00am Church Yard Sale

### Sunday, September 18

10:00am Children-Youth Programming

10:00am Forum (Thomson)

10:00am New Seekers Group (Emerson)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)

11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

1:00pm Key Training

### Monday, September 19

5:30pm Finance/Stewardship (Thomson)

### Tuesday, September 20

4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)

6:30pm Board Meeting

### Wednesday, September 21

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Friday, September 23

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

### Sunday, September 25

10:00am Children-Youth Programming

10:00am Forum (Thomson)

10:00am New Seekers Group (Emerson)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)

11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

1:00pm Community Conversations

5:00pm 4th Sunday Covenant Group (Pehrson)

### Tuesday, September 27

5:00pm Membership Committee

### Wednesday, September 28

6:00pm Girl Scouts

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Minister

Rev. Jan Nielsen  
Office 501-225-1503  
[revjan@uuclr.org](mailto:revjan@uuclr.org)

### Office Admin

Sue McDonald 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

Cas Rifkin [casrifkin12@gmail.com](mailto:casrifkin12@gmail.com)

### Minister Emeritus

Rev. Alexander "Scotty" Meek  
[a.meek@att.net](mailto:a.meek@att.net)

## STAFF HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
9 am - 2 pm  
Call 442-6623 before coming  
Church Phone 225-1503  
E-mail: [uuclr@uuclr.org](mailto:uuclr@uuclr.org)

## Program Council Team Liaisons

Communication	Sue McDonald
Facilities	Bill Kimpel
Faith In Action	Kate Dockter and Miranda Keith
Fellowship	Nell Matthews
Lifespan Faith Development	Joe Meehan
Membership	Debbie Goolsby
Worship Arts	Liz Mackenzie

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



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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.

**Welcome Back to the  
New Church Year!**