



1818 Reservoir Rd
Little Rock, AR 72227
(501) 225-1503

email: uucr@uucr.org
web: UUCLR.ORG



Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock

FEBRUARY SERVICES

February will be a month full of meaningful services and important milestones for UUCLR.

First, on February 4th, we'll have a service honoring Black History Month where our youth and other guest performers will present a reader's theatre about the Children's Crusade March that took place in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963. Local pianist, singer, and musical director Christian Waldron will be our musical guest as well.

On February 11th, Rev. Paul will lead the service, with a sermon titled, "A Medieval Love Song." During the Middle Ages, Christian mystics interpreted a short passage from *The Song of Songs* in a big way; their insights are still relevant for spiritual practice today.

The last two services in February are all about us: about who we at UUCLR are and who we want to be. We'll have created our collective vision and will vote to call Rev. Paul in the service on February 18, and will have our Canvas Kick-Off service on February 25th.

LAY MINISTRY TEAM

The Lay Ministry Team provides a confidential presence to anyone who might be experiencing stress, grief, illness, or other life challenges. Contact Laurie Smith Prud'homme at 501-773-1559 or by email laurieprudhomme@icloud.com

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Join us for Sunday Worship at 11:00am

SERVICES

- February 4** Honoring Black History Month
- February 11** "A Medieval Love Song"
Rev. Paul Beedle
- February 18** Congregational Meeting to Call
Rev. Paul
- February 25** Canvas Kick-Off

FORUM 10:00 AM

- February 4** Visioning the Future of UUCLR with Rev. Paul, Debbie Goolsby (Pres-Elect) and John Althoff
- February 11** 2nd Sunday Share the Plate— Food Jobs Work - Providing culinary workforce training to people with barriers to employment.
- February 18** "Annual UUCLR Buffalo River Float Trip" with Zenyth Propst
- February 25** "What's on Your Mind?"
Open discussion with moderator Rudy Rieple

OUR MISSION: 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 principles in our community, and working to transform our world and ourselves.





REFLECTIONS — REV. PAUL BEEDLE

“VISIONING TOGETHER”

Our visioning workshop / Town Hall meeting on January 21st was very well attended and productive – thank you to all who participated and to Rebecca Roetzel for her expert facilitation!

I have been comparing the “WE EXIST TO...” responses with the list of CONCERNS. I’ve noticed a few things:

| (5) # | VISION (“WE EXIST TO...”) Top 5 | CONCERNS Top 5 | (3) # |
|----------|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| 30 | UUCLR community | Interracial diversity | 17 |
| 29 | Social Justice | Content of Sunday services | 13 |
| 29 | Spirituality/spiritual growth | Growth/expansion | 12 |
| 24 | Worship | Retaining/recruiting youth | 11 |
| 22 | Wider community | Maintaining lay creativity/ momentum | 11 |



(The numbers in this table reflect how many dot-votes each VISION or CONCERN received – participants could place 5 dots on the VISION board and 3 on the CONCERNS board.)



It makes sense that the UUCLR community ranks higher than the wider community; to give to or serve the wider community, we have to have something to give from, and something good for new folks to find here when they visit.

Social justice ranks higher than worship, and that makes sense because it is a path to addressing concerns for interracial diversity, growth, and retaining/attracting youth. When we are active and visible in the wider community, we encounter more opportunities to develop relationships across racial and generational lines.

Spirituality and spiritual growth rank high, and that makes sense as it is a source of renewing members’ creativity and energy for the church’s ministries.

Worship ranks high, but so does concern about the content of services. What’s that about?

I offer these observations as “starters” for the several conversations we will have in the coming weeks. Feel free to raise your own “starters” when we meet, and also feel free to ask, “Rev. Paul, in your *Reflections* article you said _____. What did you mean?”

“It is a solemn thought that almost no one – if he is truly eminent – knows what he means.”

—J. M. Barrie

Rev. Paul Beedle

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Board President's Message

Thank you to everyone who attended the visioning workshop/Town Hall meeting on January 21. And thank you to Rebecca Roetzel for her wonderful facilitation of our gathering!

I am so inspired by the dreams you shared for our future, as well as the focus on caring for each other and those in our wider community who might find a place at UUCLR. I hope you will continue to attend one or more of the visioning opportunities in the next few weeks, bringing your questions, thoughts, and concerns. *(see column to the right)* Engage in dialogue with Rev. Paul as we join in this sacred work of envisioning our collaborative ministry in Central Arkansas. This is an exciting time, and I am grateful to each of you for your time and energy. Every voice is important.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

With gratitude,
Laurie Smith Prud'homme, Board President

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF UUCLR

We have begun the process to visualize a future with a settled minister. Members are asked to join in one or more of the gatherings scheduled to ask questions and offer input.

Sunday, February 4 | Forum 10:00-10:50am
Mehta Wing

Rev Paul, Debbie Goolsby and John Althoff

Monday, February 5 | 12:00 -1:00pm
Pehrson Room

Brown Bag Lunch with Rev Paul and Debbie Goolsby

Tuesday, February 13 | 6:00-7:30pm
Mehta Wing

All members gather to discuss the results of the January 21 "Town Hall" and reflect on our vision and alignment with Rev Paul. Last opportunity for questions/discussions. Led by Rev Paul and Rebecca Roetzel. Rev Paul will excuse himself at 7pm.

| |
|--|
| <p>Sunday, February 18 CONGREGATIONAL VOTE AT NOON IN THE SANCTUARY</p> |
|--|

JANUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Following approval of the minutes, we heard reports from Rev Paul, Finance Committee, Program Council, Executive Committee, Health & Safety, and 8th Principle.

In old business, we reviewed the calendar of events for the upcoming ministerial discernment process and ways to ensure the congregation is aware of the various opportunities to participate, including the congregational vote on **February 18 immediately following the morning service.**

In new business, the board voted to officially thank Bill Kimpel, John Althoff, and Michael Roetzel for their time and effort in repairing the church deck. And Nell reported on plans for the upcoming pledge drive which begins on February 25 and runs through March.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Smith Prud'homme, Board President

TOM NEILSON



FREE Valentine's Day Concert Wednesday, February 14th



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK
1818 Reservoir Road • 501-225-1503

Doors open at 6 pm • Music begins at 6:30 pm
Refreshments and Childcare Provided



MUSICAL SATIRE & SOCIAL COMMENTARY

Winner, Kerrville Folk Festival (2009)

Winner, South Florida Folk Festival (2007)

Just Plain Folks Int'l Awards: Best Political/
Social Commentary Album (2020), and Best
Traditional Folk Album (2020)

Nominated for UN Nelson
Mandela Award for Lifetime
Achievement in Peace &
Justice (2015)

Winner, Independent
Musicians Award - Song of the
Year for Social Action (2015)



Scan to listen

FREE concert funded by a grant from
A Still Small Voice 4U Foundation
through *AFM Local 1000*



FINANCE REPORT

You should have received your year-end statement of contributions to UUCLR either by email or snail mail. If you have not, please contact Nell Matthews right away. Several people have already found omissions or errors arising from the move to the new database.

You can at any time look up your own contributions for any time period by going to the new church database, Breeze. Go to uuclr.breezechms.com and log in. You will need to set up your account if you have not already done so—select “create account” and search for your name. Once you have access, select "People" and type your name in the search bar. When you see your profile, select "Giving" from the left hand column. Enter the dates you wish to include. You will see a list of all your contributions and the fund to which you contributed. You can send your record to your email or print it out by selecting the pull down menu in the upper right corner that says "Download as Excel".

If you have any questions or need to make corrections regarding your donations, please contact your Finance Officer, Nell Matthews, at uuclrnell@gmail.com.



NIGHT OUT FOR PARENTS

...while Fairy Godparents watch the children is offered on the last Saturday of each month from 5:00 to 8:00. This month it is **February 24** and the registration deadline is **February 21**, so that the Fairy Godparents can make plans.

You may sign up on Sunday morning in the foyer. If you love children and would like to help support our families with children as a Fairy Godparent, please contact Cas Rifkin at casrifkin12@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND TRIP

Where: Buffalo Point, Buffalo National River

When: May 24 - 27

To reserve a cabin or lodge unit please contact James Thomson at (501) 225-2891 (leave message) or email arjazzman@sbcglobal.net. Get your reservations in as these units go fast! If you want to camp, UUCLR will have some campsites reserved. More information will be forthcoming soon! **Come to Forum on February 18 and learn more about this trip.**



YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 13 at

11:45am is our next Young at Heart gathering. Join us for a delicious lunch (\$8 suggested donation) and visiting. After lunch, we will have an educational/entertaining program. Please come early to help set up and stay afterward to help clean up if you can! I hope to see you there!

Selma Blackburn, Coordinator

FEBRUARY GROUNDS WORK DAY

There will be no February Work Day as the chances of bad weather are high during this season of the year. Watch for the March Work Day announcement. Questions? Contact Joanne Kriehn at (501) 580-4523.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Members and Friends!

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Paul Clifford | 1 | Horace Morgan | 14 |
| Rebecca Roetzel | 1 | Jerry Blackburn | 16 |
| Jeremy Lusk | 2 | Mary Lou Basham .. | 17 |
| Eileen Wetherall | 3 | Lynn Smithwick | 18 |
| Selma Blackburn | 8 | Phil Peters | 19 |
| Alyce James | 8 | Sharon Marcum | 20 |
| David McCullough ... | 8 | Chris Thomson | 20 |
| Shana Arauja | 14 | John Perez | 21 |

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Never Too late to Donate to Our Food Pantry

Generous donations continued to roll into UUCLR throughout January in support of the food pantry that we sponsor at Stephens Elementary School. The Christmas Eve offerings brought in \$730. Additional donations directed to the food pantry in December brought \$1,100 more. The January appeal and Second Sunday offering brought \$2,180 more for a total of \$4010.



Food Pantry Volunteers

The pantry reached a new high of 95 families served on January 12. Because of the snow and ice, school was not in session on January 19. Nevertheless, we served 42 families. Volunteers worked for a total of four hours in the cold, picking up food at the foodbank at 8:30 AM then packing 50 bags in the deserted cafeteria before handing out to those who showed up for the late opening at 11 AM.

You may make a donation at any time to support the pantry. Either go online to Vanco or Breeze and select School Food Fund or Food Pantry or indicate on a check or envelope "food pantry". All volunteers are always welcomed to help. See Sue McDonald, Margot Cameron, or Nell Matthews for more information.

Nell Matthews, Food Pantry Coordinator

FAITH IN ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

2nd Sunday Share the Plate

We choose a worthy non-profit organization and donate our 2nd Sunday Share the Plate collection for the month. If interested in this program, contact Dylan Ashcraft at ashcraftjd@gmail.com.

Stephens Elementary School Food Pantry

Every Friday at 8:30am our Pantry Team picks up food from the Arkansas FoodBank and distributes it to school families at the school. Contact Nell Matthews at uuclrnell@gmail.com

Potluck Food Rescue

Our new outreach is the Potluck Food Rescue in NLR. There are 3-4 UUCLR volunteers that either pick up from restaurants or sort and clean veggies on a weekly basis. Questions? Contact Sue McDonald at sue6696@gmail.com.

The Van

Members volunteer at The Van warehouse in SW Little Rock to sort donations. The Van is a grassroots non-profit that helps those without shelter. Contact Cas Rifkin at casrifkin12@gmail.com.

Our House Monthly Meal

Volunteers cook, deliver and serve a monthly meal at the Our House shelter. Contact Kevin Jones at kmjones1231@sbcglobal.net

Can Recycling at the Church

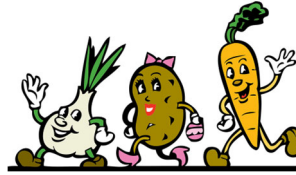
Bring your aluminum cans on Sundays for recycling (just cans!). Lance Scott picks them up and makes \$\$\$ that he donates to the church. He also finds cans all over town that he saves and sells. **Put them in the new deck box** behind the arbor in plastic bags, please! Paper bags get wet and disintegrate. Thank you, Lance, for your Faith in Action!

FELLOWSHIP TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Your Fellowship Team is looking for a few more members. We throw a few parties/gatherings each year as well as handle the food and drink needs of other church events. Not many meetings and you can choose which events to help on. Or would you like to do something to help out that doesn't involve any special skills OR meetings? How about being a cleanup angel? You just need to stick around for coffee hour and help clean up the coffee mugs and drinks table. Contact Kater at 501-952-5951 katerviola@gmail.com.

VEGETARIAN POTLUCK

Our next vegetarian potluck will be on Sunday, **February 11**, immediately following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share that will serve 8-10 people so we'll have enough for everyone, especially new visitors! The Exploring UU Class will convene right after food is served (*see page 8*).



Come early and help set up or stay after and help clean up. Many hands make light work! Join us!

CLASSES AND GROUPS (ADULT)

BETWEEN THE LINES BOOK CLUB (ON SITE)—FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00PM

The book for discussion on **February 5** will be *Bell Canto* by Ann Patchett. Between the Lines attendees meet in person at the church. If you are interested in joining the discussion, contact Mindy Morrell at (501) 951-7773 or mindymorrell@hotmail.com.

RECONNECTION—SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM (RE DOWNSTAIRS)

This gathering is for those in their 20s to 40s who are looking to connect with like-minded peers. Each week attendees engage in open discussion about current events and life's persistent questions. The class is currently meeting in the Sr. High room downstairs in the RE.

RE-QUESTORS—SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM (ON SITE AND BY WEBX)

RE-Questors meets every Sunday at 10:00 am in the Pehrson Room or on WebX to discuss a chosen book. The new book is *America: Underwater and Sinking* by James B. Lockhart III. You do not need to have read the book to join the discussion. To receive updates, contact Joe Meehan at josmeehan@gmail.com

SHORT STORIES DISCUSSION GROUP

The Short Stories discussion group meets on first Fridays at noon in the Pehrson Room and on Zoom. The stories are selected from the *Best American Short Stories of 2021* by Jesmyn Ward. The **February 2** story will be *Love Letter* by George Sanders. Join us for a stimulating discussion. Feel free to bring lunch. Look forward to seeing you there. If you have questions or want to get on her list for updates and Zoom invitations, contact Janice Peters—Janicep@comcast.net

SOMETHING NEAT! ABOUT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM—THIRD THURSDAYS AT 6:30

We have a brief presentation about a UU topic, after which we talk about it and, if time allows, other matters of concern to UUs. We meet in the Pehrson Room and by Google Meet (which requires no special software and runs in your browser). Questions? Contact John Adams by email at arkansawyer@outlook.com.

8TH PRINCIPLE CLASS OFFERING

Your Eighth Principle Team will be offering another session of Racial Healing beginning **March 5**. We will meet Every Tuesday at 6:30 in the Pehrson room through April. If you are interested in being a member of this nine-week discussion group, contact Margot at margotcameron@gmail.com.

Be sure check out our winter 8th Principle Quest suggestions you will find on the church website. Hard copies are also available on the credenza under the name tags in the Mehta Wing foyer. This program is to encourage families to participate in activities that build our understanding of the Afro-American culture and to interact with a diverse community.

Our next video/discussion is scheduled on March 10 after the vegetarian potluck. Contact John Adams arkansawyer@outlook.com for more information or suggestions.

BOOK EXCHANGE & RECYCLING FEBRUARY 4

We collect the following for recycling: Used/outdated electronics (computers, copiers, DVD players, paper shredders, printers, TVs, VCRs, phones, stereos, radios, fax machines, and microwave ovens); dead batteries—AA, AAA, C, D, 9 volt (no rechargeables); selected light bulbs containing mercury (CFLs/4-foot fluorescent tubes). We will have a list of “green stations” and other glass collection sites on the Recycle table. Look for our table in the north end of Thomson Hall in the Mehta Wing.

Bring your books and current magazines to the Mehta Wing/Thomson Hall to share. You do not have to bring a book to take a book.

Please be aware that there are recycling bins at the Coffee Bar and a paper recycling bin by the office. Our team members are responsible for emptying these on a regular basis.



EXPLORING UU CLASS FEBRUARY 11

This is a class designed for people who want to know more about Unitarian Universalist faith and history, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock. It is a useful class for someone who has just attended a couple of times, people on the path to membership, or new members that might not have been able to attend before becoming members. If you are feeling you might have found your spiritual home here, we hope that you will attend and meet some new friends while also learning.

The class will take place at 12:40 pm in the Pehrson Room following lunch at the vegetarian potluck. If you haven't finished eating, feel free to bring your plate into the classroom. The class will last from 1.5 to 2 hours. Childcare will be provided by request. Please register in the Goolsby Foyer next to the greeter's table by February 7. Questions? Contact Cas Rifkin 501-454-3814 or Selma Blackburn at 501-240-3213 or sfblackburn@me.com.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The grand piano in the sanctuary is reaching the end of its life. Bass notes are flat and high notes are sharp even after a visit by the tuner. Back in the 1960s, our piano was the gift of Ben and Mary Thomson, parents of brothers Chris and James Thomson. A Wish List fund has been started to replace the piano. We expect the final cost to be in the \$45,000 range and it may take several years to receive enough donations. If you would like to support this project, please put "Piano" on the memo line of any check or envelope. Or you may go to uuclr.breezechms.com/give/online to donate. Be sure to select the "Sanctuary Piano" in the "give to" box.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Thursday, February 1

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

Friday, February 2

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

12:00pm Short Story Discussion Group
(Pehrson Rm)

Saturday, February 3

10:00am Indian Group Rental
(Mehta Wing)

1:00pm Rental (Library)

Sunday, February 4

10:00am Recycle Sunday & Book
Exchange (Mehta Wing)

10:00am Forum (Mehta Wing)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson Rm)

10:00am REConnection (RE downstairs)

11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:30pm WAT Team (Pehrson Rm)

4:00pm Indian Education Group
(All Church)

Monday, February 5

12:00pm Brown Bag Lunch with Rev Paul
and Debbie Goolsby
(Pehrson Rm)

7:00pm Between the Lines (Pehrson Rm)

Tuesday, February 6

9:30am Rental (Library)

Wednesday, February 7

11:30am Rental (Pehrson)

4:00pm Dulcimer Group (Mehta Wing)

6:30pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

7:30pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

Thursday, February 8

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

Friday, February 9

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

Saturday, February 10

1:00pm Rental (Library)

3:30pm ACPJ tentative (Mehta Wing)

Sunday, February 11

10:00am Forum (Mehta Wing)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson Rm)

10:00am REConnection (RE downstairs)

11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:40pm Exploring UU Class (Pehrson Rm)

12:15pm Vegetarian Potluck
(Mehta Wing)

1:00pm Iris Society Meeting
(Mehta Wing)

4:00pm Indian Education Group
(All Church)

Tuesday, February 13

9:30am Rental (Library)

11:45am Young at Heart Lunch
(Mehta Wing)

4:30pm Membership (Pehrson Rm)

6:00pm Town Hall Recap (Mehta Wing)

Wednesday, February 14

11:30am Rental (Pehrson)

4:00pm Dulcimer Group (Mehta Wing)

6:00pm Tentative Concert (Mehta Wing)

6:30pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

7:30pm NA Group (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 15

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

Friday, February 16

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

5:00pm Tentative Rental (Mehta Wing)

Saturday, February 17

1:00pm Pastel Society (Mehta Wing)

1:00pm Rental (Library)

Sunday, February 18

10:00am Forum (Mehta Wing)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson Rm)

10:00am REConnection (RE downstairs)

11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

1:00pm Freethinkers (Sanctuary)

4:00pm Indian Education Group
(All Church)

Tuesday, February 20

9:30am Rental (Library)

7:00pm Board Meeting (In person
and Zoom)

Wednesday, February 21

11:30am Rental (Pehrson)

4:00pm Dulcimer Group (Mehta Wing)

6:30pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

7:30pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

Thursday, February 22

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

Friday, February 23

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

Saturday, February 24

1:00pm AR Proud Photoshoot (TBD)

1:00pm Rental (Library)

4:00pm Night Out (RE Wing)

Sunday, February 25

10:00am Forum (Mehta Wing)

10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson Rm)

10:00am REConnection (RE downstairs)

11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:15pm LUUnch Out Group (Off Site)

4:00pm Indian Education Group
(All Church)

Tuesday, February 27

9:30am Rental (Library)

Wednesday, February 28

11:30am Rental (Pehrson)

4:00pm Dulcimer Group (Mehta Wing)

6:30pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

7:30pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

Thursday, February 29

8:00am AARP Tax Aide (Mehta Wing)

Minister

Rev. Paul Beedle

Call for an Appointment

(504) 458-2254

RevPaulBeedle@gmail.com

Office Admin

Karen Walls

501-225-1503 uuclr@uuclr.org

Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Judkins

DRE@uuclr.org

Music Director

Jonathan Holland

music@uuclr.org

AV Ministries Director

Chad Loucks

chadloucks@mac.com

Board President

Laurie Smith Prud'homme

laurieprudhomme@icloud.com

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday

Approximately 8 am - 1 pm

(Hours may vary - call
before coming)

Church Phone 501-225-1503

E-mail: uuclr@uuclr.org

Web: www.UUCLR.org

Program Council Team Liaisons

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Communications | Teresa Knight |
| Facilities | Bill Kimpel |
| Faith In Action | Sue McDonald |
| Fellowship | Kater Reynolds |
| Lifespan Faith | |
| Development | Joe Meehan |
| Membership | Cas Rifkin |
| Worship Arts | Monica Clark-Robinson |

