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Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday mornings at 11 AM

- **Feb. 2: *The Inclusion Puzzle* with Rev. Paul**
When we organize ourselves to achieve a goal, the very focus that lends power to our efforts, by definition, excludes. How do we solve this puzzle?
- **Feb. 9: *IllUmination* with Worship Arts Team (rescheduled from Jan 12)**
- **Feb. 16: *Love at the Center* with Rev. Paul**
Rev. Paul will offer reflections on the new list of Unitarian Universalist shared values.
- **Feb. 23: *Living Love Through the Practice of Inclusion* with Rev. Paul**
Reflections on this month's *Soul Matters* theme: inclusion.

ILLUUMINATION (rescheduled)

Because of last month's winter weather, we had to reschedule our annual IllUmination festivities.

The main fellowship potluck event will be Saturday, Feb. 1 at 5:30. Anyone wishing to help with the set-up and decoration of Thomson Hall is welcome to come to the church at 3:30 PM on Saturday, Feb. 1. The IllUmination-themed Sunday morning service will be the following week, on Feb. 9.

Questions? Want to help? Contact Rebecca Roetzel at rebecca.roetzel@gmail.com

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Sunday mornings at 10 AM

FORUM is an adult religious education program that meets in the south end of the Mehta Wing

- Feb. 2: Topic and speaker to be announced.
- Feb. 9: *2nd Sunday Share the Plate* with the THEA Foundation.
- Feb. 16: *How I Came to be a UU* with Marvin Schwartz.
- Feb. 23: *What's on Your Mind?* with Clyde Bailey.

RE-QUESTORS meets in the UUCLR library to discuss thought-provoking books on a wide range of topics (see pg. 7 for name and description of current book). If you would like more information or an invitation to participate online, contact Joe Meehan at josmeehan@sbcglobal.net.

RECONNECTIONIS a gathering for those in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are looking to connect with like-minded peers for open discussions on chosen topics. They meet in the Pehrson Room in the RE Wing. For odd-numbered months, they meet on the first Sunday with the Forum group in the Mehta Wing.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Sunday mornings at 10 AM

We're exploring the new UUA Values through storytelling, conversations and most importantly, Legos! The LEGO ValUUES curriculum introduces children to the values of pluralism, interdependence, generosity, equity, justice, transformation and love through creative and hands-on play. This class is open to all youth in grades K-12 The nursery is available for both the 10:00 and 11:00 hours.

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 others by living our principles in our community, and working to transform our world and ourselves.



REFLECTIONS: How I Spent the Martin Luther King Holiday

REV. PAUL BEEDLE



On the Saturday before the holiday, about a dozen UUCLR members took part in the Day of Service event at McDermott Elementary School, now one of Little Rock's designated Community Schools. On the actual holiday, I attended City Year of Little Rock's Equity Summit at Henderson Middle School. Our friend Jennifer Cobb, City Year of Little Rock's Executive Director, met me at the door and expressed her thanks that so many of us came to help.

City Year is a program born in Boston in 1988. When President Clinton created AmeriCorps in 1993, among those he enlisted to help were City Year's founders, Michael Brown and Alan Khazei. City Year became a member organization of AmeriCorps, and President Clinton asked Stephanie Streett (now Executive Director of the Clinton Foundation) to bring City Year to Little Rock. City Year's mission is to support students and schools, develop civic leaders, and to share promising practices discovered in its local partnerships.

Young adult AmeriCorps members serve in schools all day, every day, preparing students with academic, workforce and interpersonal skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Through this work, they acquire valuable skills that help them and prepare

them to be leaders in their communities and their careers. And they earn a stipend.

Most in the room that afternoon were bright young African Americans, many of whom attended a school with City Year programs. There were also a handful of community members like me, there to learn about equity in education. The four-hour summit included interactive presentations on four topics:

- "Breaking Language Barriers: Supporting English Language Learners for Inclusive and Equitable Education";
- "Healthy Minds, Healthy Futures: Advancing Health and Dental Equity for Student Success";
- "Safe Spaces, Strong Futures: Promoting Equity for LGBTQIA+ Students in Education"; and
- "Emerging Practices," which included presentations about Community Schools (by the city of Little Rock's Chief Education Officer, Jennifer Glasgow) and creating pathways for Black men to enter and thrive as professional teachers (by Little Rock school District teacher Deandre Smith).

Much in these presentations served as continuing education for these young adult AmeriCorps members to equip them to serve the students they tutor and support more effectively.

Community Schools like McDermott seek to address inequities in education and foster stronger connections between schools, families, and communities. Besides McDermott, there are five other elementary schools (Stephens, Chicot, Washington, Watson, and Mabelville) and two middle schools (Dunbar and Mabelville) designated Community Schools. Programs developed in Community Schools vary from school to school according to community needs and available partnerships, and may include services to address food insecurity, hygiene, clothing, transportation needs, and mental health support.

I came away inspired and with a renewed feeling of hope for the future. These young adults are clearly motivated and committed to helping their students and the community. I can't think of a better way I could have spent the holiday.

— Rev. Paul

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Dear Friends,

As I write this, it is, Jan 21 “The Day After”. I am still reeling and trying to cope with our new reality, and I have already committed myself to continuing to stand up, even taller, for our future. Right now, I will fight back against my despair by helping others.

I spent some time at McDermott Elementary on January 18 with some other UU’s and LOTS of young folks from City Year. We spent time sorting through donations in the school pantry and doing lots of painting of walls and murals to brighten the school. I hope some pictures were taken of the children’s faces when they came back to their school and saw the change.

I found this time that I spent at McDermott along with Lisa Brents, Crystal Amos and her daughter Blair, Chris Thomson, Sky Brower, Sue McDoonald and Margot Cameron (I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone) was very healing. I encourage everyone to do something positive for others right now. It will be a healing experience for you.



There is some real momentum for UUCLR to adopt McDermott as part of our community—I hope you can join in! Looking ahead, we have our rescheduled IllUUmation potluck on Saturday, Feb 1 at 5:30 (please join us for decorating/set-up at 3pm). And, be reminded that this is a POTLUCK, and you are encouraged to bring a friend. Building community at this crucial time is very important. Let’s all work to welcome new faces—there are lots of people coming through our doors who are seeking a welcoming, warm community and that’s what we are!

Best, Debbie

JANUARY 2024 BOARD MEETING REPORT

Your Board met on Jan 2. We heard the Program Council report, and we know that we need to spend time on some of the inner-workings of our teams and committees. We are already beginning conversations/plans about building our budget for next year and the pledge drive that will support that budget and dreams for next year.

Plans are being laid for offering a new Adult RE class soon (thank you Zenyth!). We are getting closer to having some cameras installed to help with safety issues for all of us. And we celebrated the announcement that Rebecca Roetzel will serve as our next Church Administrator! She is spending time with Karen Walls, our long time administrator to learn the ins and outs of the job.

We will celebrate, with much gratitude, our long-time relationship with Karen at our IllUUmation service on February 9. Our next board meeting is February 18 and you are invited to watch in person or via Zoom. And, I am always happy to answer questions!

— Debbie Goolsby, Board President

8TH PRINCIPLE UPDATES: MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE!

On Saturday, January 18, UUCLR teamed up with City Year and the Little Rock School District to serve at McDermott Elementary School. Projects included beautifying the school with murals, supporting the school pantry, and partnering with Arkansas Period Poverty Project. Thank you to Lisa Brents, Crystal Amos and her daughter Blair, Chris Thomson, Sky Brower, Sue McDonald and Margot Cameron!

If you haven't already, read Rev. Paul's *Reflections* article and Debbie Goolsby's *Board President Report* to learn more about City Year and McDermott Elementary.



2024 TAX LETTER

By now you should have received an email that has your 2024 tax letter containing all your contributions.

If you have not received it or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Treasurer, John Althoff, johnalthoff@comcast.net or 501-837-8570



FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to bring fresh flowers for services, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Mehta Wing, or you can call and let Martha Nixon know (501-247-7355).

If you would like your flowers to commemorate a special occasion, or to be in honor or memory of someone, let us know so that information can be shared on the back of the order of service.



NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Have you considered becoming a member of UUCLR? *New Member Recognition* is February 16 and we would love for the congregation to welcome you, along with our other new members! Please contact Cas Rifkin, casrifkin12@gmail.com or 501-454-3814 if you have any questions about the process or think this is the next move for you to commit to your spiritual home. You may also speak with one of our Sunday morning Membership Team welcoming greeters when you come in.

The congregation is invited to join us for cake in the Mehta Wing after *New Member Recognition* on to welcome our newest members.

BOOK EXCHANGE & RECYCLING FEBRUARY 2

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.



LUUNCH OUT SUNDAY

Please join us after services at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 23 for *LUunch Out Sunday*. Our Dutch treat meal will be held this month at *Bleu Monkey Grill* at 10700 N Rodney Parham Rd..

In order for restaurants to welcome us, we need to give them a count of how many are coming, so please sign up in the Goolsby Foyer before services on February 23. That way we can call ahead to make sure there are enough seats available. Everyone is welcome!

Contact Cas Rifkin, *Membership Liaison*, at casrifkin12@gmail.com if you have any questions prior to Sunday.



FAITH IN ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

2nd Sunday Share the Plate: February's Recipient is the THEA Foundation

The mission of the THEA Foundation is to advocate the importance of art in the development of our youth through educational and promotional activities and to encourage individual participation in art through scholarship, partnership, and other programs.

We choose a worthy non-profit organization and donate our 2nd Sunday Share the Plate collection for the month. To make suggestions as to future recipients, contact Dylan Ashcraft at ashcraftjd@gmail.com.

Stephens Elementary School Food Pantry

Join our group of dedicated volunteers that pick up and distribute food at Stephens Elementary. Every Friday at 8:30 a.m. our Pantry Team picks up food from the Arkansas Foodbank and distributes it to families at the school. Contact Nell Matthews at uuclrnell@gmail.com to become involved.

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. Questions? 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 deck box behind the arbor in plastic bags, please! Paper bags get wet and disintegrate. Thank you, Lance, for your Faith in Action!

ANNOUNCING UUCLR'S NEWEST STAFF MEMBER



As you know, our beloved Office Administrator, Karen Walls, is retiring. We are thrilled to announce long-time church member Rebecca Roetzel will be stepping in to fill Karen's large shoes (and many hats)!

Karen will work alongside Rebecca for a while to ensure a smooth transition, and states that she is pleased to pass the torch to Rebecca's talented and more-than-capable hands.

Rebecca Roetzel, with her husband Mike and their adorable progeny, Katy and Luke.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

The annual Buffalo River Memorial Day trip is May 23-26. There will be lots of outdoor fun and fellowship. **NOTE: indoor lodging and camping spots need to be reserved as soon as possible!**

Please contact Zenyth (zenythp@msn.com) for more information.

SAVE THE
DATE!
Memorial Day
Weekend

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

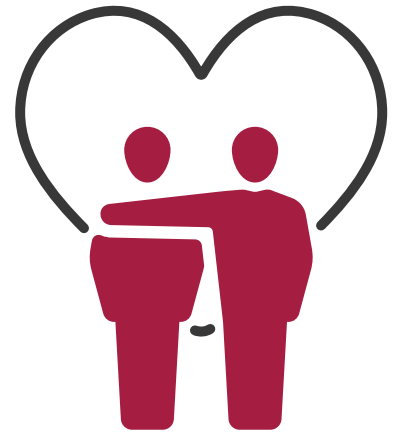
Happy Birthday to Members & Friends!

Paul Clifford.....1	Horace Morgan..... 14
Rebecca Roetzel.....1	Jerry Blackburn..... 16
Jeremy Lusk.....2	Mary Lou Basham 17
Eileen Wetherall.....3	Phillip Peters 19
Selma Blackburn.....8	Sharon Marcum 20
Alyce James8	Chris Thomson 20
David McCullough.....8	John Perez..... 21

CARING PARTNERS

UUCLR has a Caring Team to help support people who have needs like meals, rides, housework and yard work. Thanks to those who have already signed up!

If you need any assistance with any of these tasks, please contact Sue McDonald at (501) 442-6623 or the church office at (501) 225-1503. We have volunteers ready and waiting to lend a hand.



CLASSES AND GROUPS (ADULT)

BETWEEN THE LINES BOOK CLUB (PEHRSON) FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M.

The book for discussion on Monday, Feb. 3 will be *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. *Between the Lines* attendees meet in person at the church. If you have questions, please contact Mindy Morrell at (501) 951-7773 or mindymorrell@hotmail.com.

FORUM

Forum is an adult religious education program that meets in the south end of the Mehta Wing at 10 a.m. every Sunday. It is a discussion group which has a variety of programs and topics throughout the year. On 2nd Sundays, the plate collection goes to a charitable organization (see page 8) and a representative joins us in Forum. The REConnection group joins in on the first Sunday of odd-numbered months.

RECONNECTION (PEHRSON) SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.

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. REConnection members meet with the Forum group on the first Sunday of odd numbered months.

RE-QUESTORS (IN PERSON AND BY WEBEX) SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.

RE-Questors meets every Sunday at 10 am in the Library and on WebEx to discuss a chosen book. Our current book is "The Coming Wave: Technology, Power, and the Twenty-First Century's Greatest Dilemma" by Mustafa Suleyman. It's about the challenges we face controlling rapidly growing new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and biotechnology. You do not have to read the book to join in the discussion. If you would like more information or an invitation to participate online, contact Joe Meehan (josmeehan@sbcglobal.net).

SHORT STORIES DISCUSSION GROUP(PEHRSON AND ZOOM) LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, NOON TO 1 P.M.

The Short Stories discussion group meets once a month at noon in the Pehrson Room and on Zoom. The stories are selected from the *Best American Short Stories of 2022* by Andrew Sean Greer. The February story will be "Man of the House" by Kim Coleman Foote. Join us Feb. 28 for a lively discussion. Feel free to bring lunch. Look forward to seeing you there. If you have questions or want to get on the list for updates and Zoom invitations, contact Janice Peters—Janicep@comcast.net

YOUNG AT HEART

February's *Young at Heart* will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 11:45. The menu is going to be a Taco Bar (with vegetarian options) and dessert.

For the program, Joanne Kriehn will be taking us on a trip through Switzerland! Joanne has visited that beautiful country three times and loves to take pictures and write notes.

Come join us! The meal is \$10 which reimburses our cooks and goes toward a fund to sponsor leadership opportunities.



BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COVENANT GROUPS

At UUCLR, we are committed to increasing our connections and opportunities for building community. Covenant Groups meet monthly for 2 hours and use a discussion framework that supports deep listening, deep exploration of secular and spiritual topics, and building deep connections.

Questions? Contact Linda Vanblaricom - lvbuu2@gmail.com

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: FEB. 22

Let our Fairy Godparents care and have fun with your child(ren) while you go out with other UU friends, just have some time to yourself, or have a date night. UUCLR loves to support young families doing things together, but adulting also means also having some adult time. Bring your child to the nursery in the Religious Education Wing which is the north wing of the building from 5 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 22. There is no cost.

Please bring a meal, snack, and drink for only your child and a change of clothes in case of an accident. You must pre-register for childcare by Wednesday, Feb. 19. All Fairy Godparents have background checks and they will cherish your little ones while you are away.

Register your child(ren) online at uuclr.org to or on the sign-up sheet outside the nursery in the Goolsby Foyer.

Questions? Email or text Lisa Brents at lisakbrents@gmail.com / 870-464-7665.



Minister

Rev. Paul Beedle

Call for an Appointment

(504) 458-2254

RevPaulBeedle@gmail.com

Office Admin

Rebecca Roetzel—Wed-Fri

501-225-1503

uuclr@uuclr.org

Ass't to the Office Admin

Amber Triplett—Tues

Director of

Religious Education

Stephanie "Fin" Judkin

DRE@uuclr.org

Music Director

Kendi Jensen-Loving

AV Ministries Director

Chad Loucks

chadloucks@mac.com

Board President

Debbie Goolsby

debbiegoolsby@sbcglobal.net

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday

Approximately 8 am - 1 pm

Hours may vary; call before coming

Church Phone 501-225-1503E-mail:

uuclr@uuclr.org

Web: www.UUCLR.org

Program Council Team Liaisons

Communications: Karen Walls

Facilities: Bill Kimpel

Faith In Action: Sue McDonald

Fellowship: Kater Reynolds

Lifespan Faith Development:

Joe Meehan

Membership: Cas Rifkin

Worship Arts:

Laurie Smith Prud'homme

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

TAX PREP HELP

Starting on January 30 and ending on April 11, AARP Tax Aide will be offering free tax prep help EVERY Thursday and Friday from 9AM to 2PM in the Mehta Wing of the church. (no appointments)

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

- 11 am Outside rental (Thomson)
- 3:30 pm IllUUmation Set Up (Mehta)
- 5 pm IllUUmation Dinner (Mehta)

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

- 10 am Recycle/Book Exchange (Mehta)
- 10 am Forum (Mehta Wing)
- 10 am REConnection (RE Wing)
- 10 am REQuestors (Library)
- 11 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 4 pm Indian Education Group (All Church)

MONDAY, FEB. 3

- 7 pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson Rm)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

- 3 pm Strings rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

- 9:30 am Indian Education Group (downstairs RE)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

- 4-9 pm ACPJ (Mehta Wing)

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

- 10 am Forum (Mehta Wing)
- 10 am REConnection (RE Wing)
- 10 am REQuestors (Library)
- 11am IllUUmation Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 Vegetarian Potluck (Mehta)
- 1 pm Iris Society Board (Library)
- 2-4pm Iris Society (Mehta Wing)
- 4 pm Indian Education Group (All Church)

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

- 5:30 pm Membership (Pehrson Rm)
- 6:30 pm Night Bloomers Garden Club (Pehrson)
- 7:30 0pm Finance Meeting (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

- 3 pm Strings rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm Program Council (Pehrson)
- 6:30 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

- 9:30 am Indian Education Group (downstairs RE)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

- 5:30 pm Small Group Dinners (Off site)

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

- 10 am Forum (Mehta Wing)
- 10 am REConnection (RE Wing)
- 10 am REQuestors (Library)
- 11am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 1 pm Freethinkers (Mehta Wing)
- 4 pm Indian Education Group (All Church)

MONDAY, FEB. 17

- 5 pm LWVPC meeting (Pehrson)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

- 3 pm Strings rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)
- Deadline to register for Psarents' Night Out

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

- 9 am Exec Team (Pehrson Rm)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

- 5 pm Parents' Night Out for (RE Wing)

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

- 10 am Forum (Mehta Wing)
- 10 am REConnection (RE Wing)
- 10 am REQuestors (Library)
- 11am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:30 Health & Safety ad hoc Committee (Pehrson)
- 12:30 LUUnch Out (Off site)
- 4 pm Indian Education Group (All Church)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

- 3 pm Strings rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

- 12 pm Short Stories discussion group (Pehrson and Zoom)
- 7:30 pm NA Group (Mehta Wing)

