



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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## A New Church Year at UUMAN



On August 11 we will kickoff the new church year with our annual water communion ingathering service. Programming for our



Ministry for Children and Youth (MCY) will begin the following Sunday (August 18). This promises to be a pivotal year in UUMAN's history. Change is never easy yet throughout its history UUMAN has found a way to move forward positively .



Many of UUMAN's members volunteer time and time again in a variety of capacities. They make this congregation what it is. (Thank you for your self-

less efforts!) That said, in this time of change, additional volunteer support will be necessary. We can't ask those who are already volunteering in countless ways to do even more. Help will be needed from others. If you'd like to volunteer in some way yet don't quite know how to plug in, please get in contact with me. (For example, send me an email with the Subject "How Can I Help?")

Some have already stepped forward to help in this time of change. Until we find an Interim Director of Religious Education, the Board has formed an MCY Task Force to plan a Sunday religious education program for our children and youth. Mike Chambers, Rosie Popp and Laurie Wheeler have volunteered to accept this responsibility. Mike has consistently taught RE year after year and he previously served on the MCY Council. Rosie has been one of the co-planners of our successful summer RE program over the last few years. Laurie Wheeler is a former MCY Council Chair and is a professional educator with a focus on special needs children. Many other UUMAN members have stepped forward to assist them as teachers and planners. **THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE RALLYING AROUND THIS MINISTRY AND BEING A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON ITS FUTURE!!! IT IS THE FUTURE OF UUMAN!!!**



One significant change in the coming year is that all children and teachers will begin each Sunday in the worship service. After a brief welcome, opening song and Wondering Time story, children will then exit the service and their teachers will accompany them to their classrooms. We will still have occasional Multigenerational Services (e.g. In-gathering, Blessing of the Animals, Rites of Passage, etc.) but these will occur irregularly rather than the 3rd Sunday of the month as has been the case over the past few years.

UUMAN also has some new faces in ministry leadership this year.



Lyn May will now be chair of the Membership Committee.

Amy Moss will chair the Hospitality Committee.



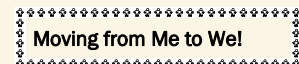
Adult Enrichment will be led by Rollin Mathis.

Jennifer Ratcliffe will now lead the Worship Committee.



There will no doubt be some bumps in the road this year but I am confident that UUMAN will embrace the bumps and respond with grace when they occur. An optimist would say that the bumps keep life interesting...that they provide us with an opportunity for growth! I will always try to be optimistic. I look forward to this new church year with you!

Take care,  
**Moving from Me to We!**  
Dave



## Greetings From the New Board President



Hello! I wanted to take this opportunity to greet the congregation as I have taken on the Board President role effective July.

First, I wanted to call out a big THANK YOU to Elizabeth Rohan for her amazing work over the last year as Board President.

This is a tough job, but Elizabeth always handled things impressively and with UUMAN's best interests in mind, so THANK YOU! Also, a thank you to Laura Keck who served as Secretary and now makes way for Leslie Wolf as incoming Secretary.

I recognize there has been quite a bit of change and heavy emotions over the last 6 weeks, so I wanted to address some top-of-mind items. First, the MCY Task Force is hard at work organizing and preparing for the Fall Youth Program. We will be communicating updates from their work on an ongoing basis.

Second, the Interim DRE Search process has begun with the first step of discussions around creating a task force for the search. Once we begin the steps toward creating a search task force, we will solicit input and participation from the congregation to make sure all voices are heard, and we have a unified vision of what we are looking for. Our hope is to be able to bring on an Interim DRE in January, so we work diligently and expeditiously with that goal in mind.

We had updated the congregation on our reach-out to Hope Johnson from the UUA to help facilitate our healing process with the recent departure of Toniann. Hope asked us to take charge of the healing ourselves initially before she would want to come join us. We have already arranged (and many of you participated) in meetings and board meetings recently, and we are circling back to Hope to ask her opinion on what else we can be doing while also seeing if she would be willing to schedule time with us in the early fall.

We will update the congregation after our conversations with Hope. In the meantime, a reminder that Kim Palmer has made herself available for those looking to talk about recent events and emotions, and the Healthy Congregation Committee is also available for similar discussions.

Some good news, the board approved a 3% cost of living increase for the UUMAN staff. Also, Coffee Talk resumes after service Sunday, August 4, as some Board members will be available to discuss items of interest to the congregation.

Finally, UUMAN had (I think this is the right number) 19 participants in this year's July SUUSI event at Western Carolina University's campus. Another great event and we hope more members will join next year to make UUMAN's presence even stronger.

I am excited and looking forward to serving the congregation with integrity and passion, please feel free to reach out to me, I can always be reached at [toddwcallen@gmail.com](mailto:toddwcallen@gmail.com)

Love and Peace,

Todd



## UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

Once each month, half of our undesignated plate offering is given to a non-profit organization. The other half goes for the work of our congregation. Please consider giving even more generously than usual on these Sundays.

Last Sunday we shared our offering with Freedom University, a non-profit that provides education to undocumented students. The amount of money collected, \$1339.00 was exceptional! Freedom U. received \$669.50 and UUMAN got the same amount for its work.

We are sharing our offering during the Ingathering Service on August 18th with the Premo School. It is a small independent K-8 school located at UUMAN. The Premo School is where academic growth is rooted in a positive, nature-rich, child focused environment. Go to <https://www.thepremoschool.org/#!> to learn more.

Thank you for your contributions!

Michelle Liebergesell

UUMAN's "Share the Plate" Coordinator



## Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to [communications-chair@uuman.org](mailto:communications-chair@uuman.org)

Date	Celebration
8/5	Dave and Tammy Dunn are celebrating their 28th anniversary!
8/7	Sue Hagood is celebrating a birthday
8/12	Rick Irwin is celebrating a birthday Bev & Steve Jordan are celebrating their 61st anniversary!
8/17	Kelly Callen is celebrating a birthday
8/26	Rebecca Ben-David is celebrating a birthday

## Clothing Donations for Foster Care Support Foundation

Through August, we are collecting clothing for Foster Care Support Foundation. New or Used clothing in good condition are acceptable. Place your donations in box in foyer next to sanctuary.

Boy's long dress pants such as khakis are needed. Sizes 14-16 or the equivalent in men's sizes, up to 29" waist- are especially needed. Make sure elastic in pants is springy.

For a list of other goods needed, go to:

<http://www.fostercare.org/help>

Contact Michelle Liebergesell at [mlieberg@bellsouth.net](mailto:mlieberg@bellsouth.net)

## Summer MCY/RE Wraps Up!

The summer religious education program will wrap up on Sunday, August 4th.

We started the summer program out by learning about and planting a garden. Some of the results of that effort were on display after a recent service. If you get a chance take look behind Fellowship Hall and help yourself to some cherry tomatoes. The second weeks the kids made birdhouses with Arnie Moore and Gus Hadorn. Every child went home with a birdhouse. The third week was all about cooking and the kids cooked up some after service delicacies for the congregation!



We also made lunches for the summer MUST Ministry program and cloth t-shirt bags for NFCC. The kids went on a nature walk with Gus Hadorn and got all shook-up with Donna Melcher and John Pruitt.



There was also a water day and a car wash – the car wash raised over \$300 for the service project for “Standup for Kids” that will be done on August 4th.

This past Sunday – July 28th we learned about “Recipes for a Healthy Environment” led by Mike Chambers, Donna Guile, and Raffaella Shanahan. The kids learned about the greenhouse effect, composting, the “3Rs”, and more. Raffaella Shanahan showed us some products which you can use to eliminate waste including: an alternative tooth paste so no tooth paste tube to throw away, a bamboo tooth brush that is compostable, a bees wax cover to replace plastic wrap, and a collapsible metal straw you can reuse over and over again!



Please thank Merri Beth Stephens, Mike Chambers, Donna Guile and Rosie Popp for their leadership this summer in putting together the program and in leading many of the Sunday classes.

Bob Popp

## Why am I putting my pronouns (she/her/hers) on my UUMAN badge?



In two words, it's welcoming. I hadn't thought much about my pronouns until I started working with the MCY council. They started their meeting check-ins with their names and pronouns. I thought it was novel but still pretty unnecessary for me since I never had any trouble with anyone addressing me properly. That is a ME perspective.

Right now at UUMAN though is a time of intense learning and activity. Many things are visible that to us that may not have been before. One of these is about being truly welcoming for persons who are gender non-conforming, questioning, non-binary and transgender. When they see pronouns on name tags, it lets them know that you are more likely to respect their pronouns. It can help them feel more comfortable in putting their own pronouns on their name tags. This is a WE perspective.

There is a good YouTube video you can see here. I hope we can all do this. If it makes you uncomfortable you could ponder that for yourself. I didn't have time to find out the process for getting a new name tag before newsletter publication, but I called Suzy Lamoree (our administration helper) and let her know we might have more volume than normal.

Share your pronouns and invite others to share theirs!

Donna Melcher

# Roswell Resolution of Respect

What do all the people in this picture have in common?



L-R | Donna Melcher, Rev. Melanie Eyre, Rabbi Alexandria Shuval-Weiner, Rev. Kevin Head, Rev. Jeff Myers, Rev. Sydney Magill-Lindquist, Rev. Dave Dunn, Imam Arshad Anwar, Rev. Ryan Young

If you said, they are the members of Roswell clergy that showed up to the Roswell City Council meeting on July 29, 2019 to support a Roswell Resolution of Respect, you would be correct!

In December of 2018, a white nationalist group put up flyers in Roswell Square. According to Southern Poverty Law Center, this group recruits “college age men and indoctrinates them into a fashionable new face of white nationalism. Rather than denigrating people of color, this organization focuses on raising white racial consciousness and building community based on shared racial identity and intellectualizing white supremacist ideology.”

The Resolution of Respect was drafted in response to these flyers and it amplifies the Roswell value of respect for each other. Dave Dunn rallied the Roswell Clergy to be at the meeting and Dillon and Kelly Callen and other members of Roswell congregations were there to support as well.

At the meeting, the resolution was read into the record by Rev Melanie Eyre of One World Spiritual Center. Mayor Lori Henry responded that she was concerned that by passing the resolution, it might actually draw hate activities to Roswell. However she further forcefully stated, “Please know that this is a city of respect. We respect all of our neighbors, all of our races and all of our faiths. I very rarely speak for this council but I will do it on this occasion and I can tell you that every single member of this council and our staff will not tolerate hate in this city and will not tolerate any targeting toward any group because we are inclusive of all of our neighbors and I want you all to know that. That is a commitment that each and every one of us have and we will not tolerate it.”

This is a work in progress and we have started a conversation with the city that we hope will be productive. We will keep everyone informed as we go further.



Donna Melcher; *What should we do when hate arises? Speak Up, Engage Leadership, Act*



Rev. Melanie Eyre introducing the clergy and Reading the Resolution into the record



Mayor Henry responding; *This is a city of respect; we will not tolerate hate.*

Donna Melcher

## Interfaith Service Project

On 7/28 UUMAN, Temple Beth Tikvah, Roswell Community Masjid, Emerson UU, Northwest UU, and Northbrook United Methodist volunteered 100 people for an Interfaith Service project. Our goal was to stuff care bags for families of immigrant refugees imprisoned at Stewart Detention Center at Lumpkin, GA. Together we raised \$2,600 in gas and food gift cards for those families.

Our Minister Dave Dunn has been instrumental in getting us involved in these initiatives. Lauri Wheeler was my partner in making this happen.



I am so proud of the old and new friends who helped us in organizing this event. We tell the world, our neighbors and our children that we care when we put our words into action!

Carla Kapeskas

## Mark Your Calendar For This Awesome Workshop: Active Hope Sunday, 9/29 - 12:15 to 3:00 pm.

This interactive workshop on Active Hope is based on over four decades of community work with thousands of people around the world. It is designed to help you transform fear and despair into inspiration and a sense of empowerment.

We will explore gratitude, anger, grief, and hope and move into a deeper understanding of how to create our best collective future. We will end the workshop with exercises to help us support one another

as we go forth and work towards a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world where all beings can thrive.

As an added bonus, attending this workshop makes you eligible to fill out a brief application to be considered for seed money for environmental/community projects. Mini-grants are provided by The Four Directions Fund at Georgia Interfaith Power and Light.

This workshop is led by Beth Remmes who is a Facilitator for The Work that Reconnects, is on the Board of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, and is a member of Unity Worldwide Ministry's Earth Care Team. Her website is <https://earthspiritaction.com/>.

This event will be sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

Carla Kapeskas

## NFCC Volunteer Day

On 7/29, 10 members of UUMAN volunteered at NFCC stuffing bag packs for the beginning of the school year.



It was a fun event. We loaded a truck and then unloaded it. We sorted through materials and stuffed bags for elementary, middle school and high school kids. I hope those kids have a blast when they see their new bag packs.

I am sorry for those that came and are not in the picture. We took it towards the end of the day.

Join us at the NFCC volunteer day next time!

Carla Kapeskas

## Help Wanted

There are many ways that you can get involved in support of the UUMAN mission. Here are a some of the current needs:

### Greeters

Greeters welcome visitors and everyone that enters UUMAN on Sunday morning prior to service; this is a great way to get to know people; contact [membership@uuman](mailto:membership@uuman) if you are interested

### Gardeners

Help keep UUMAN's beautiful flower beds and grounds looking great; this job can be done at any time however the Gardening Group does meet periodically and will meet on August 12, August 26, and September 9 at 9am; contact Shelley Nagrani at [shelley.nagrani@gmail.com](mailto:shelley.nagrani@gmail.com) for more information.

### Choir

The UUMAN Choir is starting back up after a well-deserved summer break; they are always looking for people interested in singing; contact Alex Pietsch at [alexpietsch1189@gmail.com](mailto:alexpietsch1189@gmail.com) for more information.

### RE Teachers

The fall religious education program for our children and youth will begin on August 18th. If you are interested in getting involved in teaching this fall please email [re@uuman.org](mailto:re@uuman.org)

### Coffee House

Every month on the third Saturday we set up the Sanctuary to have live local music. We need help moving chairs around in the Sanctuary, setting up tables and putting up the backdrop for the show. It takes an hour or less if we have four or more volunteers helping. Contact Phillip Seaver at [gflip@gmail.com](mailto:gflip@gmail.com) if you'd like to help.

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event
8/10 9 am to 1 pm	<b>MCY/RE Volunteer Teacher Training</b>  Teacher training will be held in Fellowship Hall for all teachers supporting the Fall RE program for children and youth. The Fall RE program begins on 8/18.  Contact: <a href="mailto:re@uuman.org">re@uuman.org</a>
8/11 11:30 pm to 1:00 pm	<b>In-Gathering Post Service Celebration!</b>  We will be celebrating the completion of the Fellowship Hall basement renovation with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a religious education meet and greet between parents, children, youth and teachers. Food will be served.
9/1 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>UUMAN Tubing Trip sponsored by UUMAN Earth Ministry</b>  Don't miss making memories on the gorgeous, gentle Chestatee River with us!  All ages will enjoy. We will plan on heading up directly after service from UUMAN's parking lot, or meet us there: 1182 Golden Avenue, Dahlonega, GA 30533  The tubing rental, \$6 each, can be paid either by cash or credit card upon arrival. We will reserve the picnic area so pack a lunch and we'll eat before we float!  Contact: Gus Hadorn, <a href="mailto:gushadorn@gmail.com">gushadorn@gmail.com</a>

## A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
8/4	<p><b>Us Divided? No!</b></p> <p>UUMAN has recently lived through separation and division and most of us still have questions about how to behave with each other, in the midst of our differences. Others might be ready to detach or move on. Social psychology can shed some light into why small group identity creates division in the larger church and how to engage in the work of reconciliation.</p>	Jennifer Ratcliffe
8/11	<p><b>Water Communion In-gathering Service (multigen)</b></p> <p>Join us as we celebrate our annual in-gathering with our traditional water communion service. Please bring a sample of your sacred waters gathered from the summer. (If you forgot to collect water this summer; no worries, we will have some symbolic water for you to share.)</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/18	<p><b>Working Together</b></p> <p>Gravity existed long before Newton “discovered” it. What unknown aspects of our very selves have yet to be discovered? Together, how can any newly discovered aspects of our nature be put together with who we already are to create something beautiful?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/25	<p><b>The World Needs You</b></p> <p>Each one of us is unique. Amongst an interrelated, interconnected web, the world couldn't be the same without you. Are you here for a reason? Do you have a calling? What does it cost the universe if you should not answer?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn

## August Connections

Date	Event
<p><b>Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.</b></p>	<p><b>UUMAN's Painting Group</b></p> <p>Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired). We have easels and tray tables; just bring your paints and a canvas. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN. Contact: Annette Pate <a href="mailto:painting@uuman.org">painting@uuman.org</a></p>
<p><b>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15. Location of meetings vary.</b></p>	<p><b>Daytimers</b></p> <p>The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David. <a href="mailto:dan@uuman.org">dan@uuman.org</a></p>
<p><b>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary</b></p>	<p><b>Centering at UUMAN</b></p> <p>Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:00 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly at 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences.  For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at <a href="mailto:campoften@aol.com">campoften@aol.com</a></p>
<p><b>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Circle of Women</b></p> <p>We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Linda Etheridge <a href="mailto:lletheridge1@gmail.com">lletheridge1@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Saturdays, 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available.</b></p>	<p><b>Mindfulness Meditation</b></p> <p>Whether you have been meditating for years or are curious about possibly starting a practice, we offer a peaceful space to sit as well as a time to share and learn in a community of fellow meditators. Contact J. Kevin King at <a href="mailto:jkevinking@yahoo.com">jkevinking@yahoo.com</a> (470) 723-4070</p>

*For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to [www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org).*

**ABOUT THE UUMANTimes:** The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date.

Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)