



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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## Working with the Family Promise Homeless Shelter

Part of my seminary studies required me to work at a non-profit of my choice for 8hrs/week for

two full semesters. I chose to work with an organization called Family Promise.



<http://familypromise.org/>

<http://www.familypromisefnd.org/>

Family Promise is a family homeless shelter where screened homeless families (i.e. no chronic homeless, no drug addicts, no alcohol, etc.) are housed in churches each night from approx. 6PM – 6AM. (Families stay at a “day house” in Dunwoody during the daytime hours.) Several local churches participate in the program so that each church hosts the homeless for a week every 3-4 months. The Family Promise model was created to prevent the splitting up of families between men’s shelters (boys and fathers) and women’s shelters (mothers and daughters).

Family Promise is a national organization and when I arrived here in Georgia I contacted the local chapter to investigate whether UUMAN could become a host congregation. It is a very organized program that has pre-defined roles/jobs that churches simply fill.

What UUMAN would have to do while hosting:

Provide an evening meal for the homeless individuals and join them for dinner at approx. 6PM (generally up to 20 individuals maximum; 12 on average)

Play with/read to the children of the homeless “guests” 6:30 – 8:00PM (Position: Evening Hosts)

One UUMAN congregant spends the night at UUMAN 8PM – 6AM (Position: Overnight Host)

The actual times are flexible and would be dictated by UUMAN.

Some things that UUMAN would not have to do:

- Provide any transportation
- Provide any bedding (Family Promise would deliver folding beds on Sunday at a time we specify and retrieve them the following Sunday at a time we specify)

Also in my time here, I have formed some relationships with Roswell Community Masjid (RCM). (They did a workshop at UUMAN in early 2016 that was very well received.)

In their efforts to become a positive presence in our community they have been looking to affiliate with Family Promise as well. They are open to being a “support congregation” to us in the hosting of our Family Promise guests.

Benefits of UUMAN affiliating with Family Promise:

It will give us first-hand experience of homelessness in our community (e.g. causes, difficulties associated with overcoming obstacles, reflecting upon stereotypes, etc.)

It will give us first-hand experience of working with a religious community (i.e. RCM) much different than ours.

It will give us first-hand experience of UUMAN as a social justice organization.

It is multigenerational; our children can play with their children.

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After hearing that UUMAN might possibly affiliate with Family Promise, I received the following unsolicited email:

Dear Dave,

*I've met you a couple of times. I am a friend of several UUMAN members and I attend the Pilgrimage United Church Of Christ.*

*Anyway, I want you to know that our little liberal church in Cobb County also is very involved with Family Promise. I just wanted you to know that we are very devoted to it. At first I was just a laundry angel but now I sleep at the church one night during the week when the families are there. It has helped me step out of my comfort zone and get to know what's really going on with homeless families. It's been a great blessing for me. I just wanted to pass along that feedback.*

I couldn't have said it better myself! Our work with Family Promise gives us the opportunity to safely "step out of [our] comfort zone and get to know what's really going on with homeless families."

Family Promise provides us with a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow in ways we have not yet imagined.

I look forward to working side by side with you on this.

Take care and be well,

Dave

## **Pursuing the UUA's Congregational Study Action Issue: The Corruption of Our Democracy**

After the worship service on Sunday, January 29th, the Denominational Affairs and Adult Enrichment teams showed the 30 minute film *Legalize Democracy* to kick off UUMAN's engagement with the UUA Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) for 2016-2020, *The Corruption of Our Democracy*.

Seven opportunities for learning and discussion of the issues raised in the film will follow on Friday evenings: February 10 and 24, March 10 and 24, April 14 and 28, and May 19. Each session will be facilitated by a different UUMAN member – among them Brian Kohn, Jen Saltzman, Linda Etheridge, Kate and Dave Hudson. Dinner and childcare will be provided, dinner at 6:00, program at 7:00.

"The Corruption of Our Democracy" challenges us to reconsider how we understand, participate and engage in democratic living. It is a call to envision our role as a faith community in promoting a societal ethos that affirms dignity for all, that takes responsibility for the human role in ecological disaster and is open to rethinking our use of political power and production of wealth.

This CSAI also asks us to consider how the legal notion of corporate personhood corrodes our cherished democratic process. A vibrant democracy depends on the full participation of citizens as caretakers

of our shared living, in deep affirmation of our interconnectivity. To safeguard this liberty, we should reflect on the consequences of corporate personhood and the call to take action to eliminate this legal category.

A serious look at the current state of our democracy also demands that we look at how the accumulation of wealth and political power in the history of the United States has been based on structural racism, patriarchy, environmental degradation for economic production, the increased militarization of society, and other oppressions..

See Dave Hudson for more information, 404-358-2408, [HUDSONDAVID@BELLSOUTH.NET](mailto:HUDSONDAVID@BELLSOUTH.NET)

## **Conscious Aging New Adult Enrichment Class**

Are you ready for your third act? If you are over 50 and interested in what might make the rest of your time on this planet even more rewarding, you have a chance to go on a journey of consciousness exploration using extraordinary materials from the Institute of Noetic Science ([www.ions.org](http://www.ions.org)).

Your guide, Donna Melcher, is a trained facilitator and *Conscious S-ager* and would love to have you join her for this 8-week course. Workbook \$40. Limited to 20 participants. Registration required. When: Monday evenings, 7:00-9:00, weekly, beginning Jan. 23, ending March 27 (excluding Feb. 14 and March 14) Where: Fellowship Hall

For more information, contact Dave Hudson at: [HUDSONDAVID@BELLSOUTH.NET](mailto:HUDSONDAVID@BELLSOUTH.NET)

## We Marched!

There were so many reasons to attend the Atlanta March for Social Justice and Women:

#womensrightsarehumanrights

#blacklivesmatter

#refugeeswelcome

#lgbtqrighs

#sayhername

#theresistance

#standingonthesideoflove

There were so many signs and hashtags representing so many issues. I have to admit I was not prepared for the amount of people at the march. It was overwhelming and it was beautiful. I marched with this beautiful crowd of humanity as a woman, as an African-American, as a lesbian, as a Unitarian Universalist. With each sacred step, I thought about how I was putting my values into action. I thought about the UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience I shared with the group before we headed to the march:

### Declaration of Conscience

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change – actions that would threaten not only our

country but the entire planet – we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.



We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or de-spoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.

The time is now.

If you are willing to make this commitment to justice, you are invited to sign the Declaration of Conscience at <http://www.uua.org/action/show-love/declaration-conscience>



I invite you to find something you can do to put your values into action. The time is now! Just recently, we had a member ask about offering childcare for those who want to participate in social justice activities. Yesterday, I learned of an organization asking people to make five calls a day. Do you have five minutes to spare?

Check it out: <https://5calls.org/>

Finally, you are invited to the Social Justice and Action Committee. We meet every second Tuesday at 7 pm in Fellowship.

—Sheila K. Smith (photos include both Atlanta and D.C. Marchers)





## Canadian Folk Duo Performing at UUMAN

On Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 PM, the Riverside Chamber Players will be presenting a special concert at UUMAN featuring the Canadian folk duo - "Naming the Twins". "Naming the Twins" is the harmonizing duo of Robbie Smith and Kathleen Glauser, whose well-matched voices sound a bit like Simon & Garfunkel if Art was a girl, a bit like Peter, Paul & Mary, if one of the boys was taking the night off, a bit like Gordon Lightfoot or Stan Rogers if they had had a girl harmonizer. Not twins by birth, but twins at heart, they share a sibling like sense of humor and harmony.



Concert will be followed by a beer tasting with light refreshments in partnership with the Roswell brewery - Gate City, and the Roswell restaurant - Ale Yeah.

General Admission \$15, Seniors (55+) \$10, Students/Teachers - free For more information please visit [www.riversidechamberplayers.org](http://www.riversidechamberplayers.org)

—Marc Lee

## Roswell Green Expo

Saturday, February 18 from 10-3



Come out to learn about "being green" while having fun and to support UUMAN Earth Ministry (we have a booth). This is a kid friendly event. You can find out more at <http://keeproswellbeautiful.org/event/roswell-green-expo/>. We hope to see you there!

—Donna Melcher

## UUMAN Pagan Group Formation Meeting



If you identify yourself as someone in touch with the earth and nature or are just plain curious about alternative faiths, we invite you to join us for a formation meeting to be held in the sanctuary of the UUMAN church on February 9th at 7:00 PM. The purpose will be to organize a pagan group within the church. During this initial meeting we will gauge the interest and experience of those attending and discuss the possibility of holding Sabbaths, moons and possibly monthly meetings and/or classes. This group will be a subcommittee of the earth ministry group .

—Colin J. Decker



## Sharing the Plate: 50-50

Once each month, 50% of our undesignated plate funds go to a non-profit organization chosen by the Social Justice Committee. Last month, Black Lives Matter Atlanta received \$401.00. On February 19, the recipient will be CDA Kids. Please consider giving generously to this worthy cause.

For almost 50 years, the Child Development Association (CDA) has provided great starts toward brighter futures by affording all children in our community with high-quality early education. The Children's Center on Oak Street in Roswell serves 240 young children a year in nine well-appointed classrooms for ages one-five. The 30,000 square foot center sits on over three acres that include an award-winning playground, nature trail, outdoor amphitheater, and water play structure.

In addition to high educational standards that rival the best learning centers in Georgia, the CDA provides services to level the playing field for its young learners. With over half of children from homes where English is not spoken, the school strives to enhance pre-reading and language acquisition skills through its Early Literacy program. Both English and Non-English language learners experience language-building activities and take home books to read with their families. The CDA also builds a bridge between home and school through the services of a Family Advocate who brings in specialists and refers families for services that address the impacts on a child's learning from the physical (developmental, vision, and hearing screenings), to relief for family hardships like the loss of a parent, home, or a job.

The CDA is able to make these services available through tuition scholarships funded by generous donations. Scholarships fill the gap between the cost and what parents can afford. Market rate tuition in the area is \$300-350 a week per child, and the average CDA family pays \$88 per week. The CDA is the only high-quality preschool in the northern arc of Atlanta that provides scholarships and subsidies based on income. Thanks to the commitment to social justice at UUMAN and the kind 50/50 plate donation on February 19, more young children in the community will start kindergarten just as ready to learn and succeed as their more affluent peers.

There are many ways for the congregation to help CDA. Individuals and groups can volunteer in the school, office, at events, and on the grounds. The signature fundraiser, Down Home Derby, is in its 9th year and breaking attendance records. Please

consider attending or sponsoring through your business. Learn more on how to donate, sponsor, or volunteer at [www.CDAkids.org](http://www.CDAkids.org), or contact Stefanie Dye, Development Director at 770-992-4339 x204.

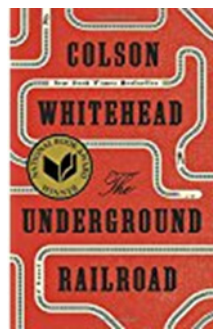
—Michelle Liebergesell  
Social Justice Comm. 50/50 Coordinator

## A Page from The Page Turners



The Page Turners—UUMAN's women's book club—has changed its schedule. Starting this month, we will meet on the second Sunday of each month, at 12:00 noon in Discovery Hall.

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, February 12 at 12:00 PM**. Bring a sandwich to the meeting if you like. Or, after the first hour, some of us might want to continue the discussion over lunch at a nearby restaurant.



The February book is the prize-winning, best-selling, page-turning *The Underground Railroad*, by Colson Whitehead. Described as “an electrifying adventure” and a “searing document” with “deep emotional timbre”, this 2016 novel about a slave’s “desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South” will give us a lot to talk about.

Upcoming books may include the 2008 memoir, *Infidel*, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali and *The End of Your Life Book Club*, by Will Schwalbe. Please bring your suggestions for more books to read and talk about together over the coming months. We do best-sellers and classics, fiction, history, sociology, biography, and more. Comedy, poetry, drama, and how-to's are also possibilities – it's up to you.

If you enjoy reading and discussing books in a variety of genres, getting to know one another and having fun, this is the group for you. Become a “regular”, or just try us out whenever you see that we're sponsoring a book you're interested in. Contact Carole Herman for the details. All women, whether UUMAN members or not, are warmly invited to the Page Turners!

—Carole Herman

## UUMAN

# Chili Cook Off

The UUMAN Chili Cook Off has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 19th, after services. This will be a fun and tasty social event.

Just bring a crockpot full of your favorite chili or soup. We're going to have two categories—a chili division and a soup/stew division. We will sample the simmering stew for lunch, after service, and then vote on the best of the bunch. Fabulous prizes will be awarded. There is a \$5 suggested donation, with proceeds to charity. (Free for kids and cooks.)

Sign up at the link below, or on the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall. (May need to paste the link into your browser.)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=11edogpGjDnFO8AYda0VwYDCrshXUXqRbcQbWAnx18j8>

We can only accommodate 16 crockpots in Fellowship Hall, so we'll take the first 16 entrants. We also need volunteers for setup and cleanup, and to provide side dishes. (Items that don't require heating, please.) Sign up using the same link. If you had signed up previously, please sign up again if you can.

— Mike Chambers.



## Heart and Hand

Thank you UUMAN for donating wonderful treasures to the Holiday Heart and Hand Market and thank you to all who shopped. We raised \$455.55 dollars for the UUSC work with Middle Eastern refugees. The Service Committee joins with other agencies in bringing aid to thousands of displaced people.

Our congregation also donated \$63 to A Guest at the Table and \$621.99 to our 50/50 offerings in November and December that will be sent to the Service Committee for their work in bringing aid to people all over the world.

Heart and Hand Market will appear again in the spring with items made by our hands with love from our hearts. Your continuing generous support of the Market and our other offerings is another example of our congregation "Standing on the Side of Love."

—Linda Etheridge

## New Member Sunday

UUMAN's next New Member Sunday will be Sunday, February 26, 2017. On this special day we will honor our newest members and celebrate after service with a congregation-wide pot luck lunch. If you would like to join UUMAN as an official member and participate in our New Member ceremony, please let the Membership team know by February 17. You can contact the Membership team via email at [membership@uuman.org](mailto:membership@uuman.org), or speak to any of the team members on Sundays.



# FROM THE GARDEN

Dear UUMAN Members and Friends:

While the UUMAN Gardening Group has been on hiatus for the past two months (more or less), our intrepid minister, Rev. Dave Dunn, has been out in the garden recording the events that have taken place during this new year.

He's taken some pictures of our Carolina jasmine covered in ice. (Remember when it actually got cold for a couple of days in January?) He's also captured what the outside of Fellowship Hall looked like before and after the two cryptomeria trees had to be removed due to the fact that they broke our water pipes. Thank you, Rev. Dave!

Meanwhile, I want to sneak in a promotional message about our gardening group. We work on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from March through November. UUMAN announcements are sent out on the Friday before each work day. If you've never worked in the garden before, please consider joining us in the spring. Hope to see you there!

Claire Sullivan    [cbsullivan@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbsullivan@bellsouth.net)

UUMAN Gardening Group



Carolina Jasmine after the ice storm



## 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 Claire Sullivan at [cbsullivan@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbsullivan@bellsouth.net)



Cryptomeria that had to be removed due to breaking water pipes January 2017



Where the Cryptomeria used to stand before breaking our water pipes January 2017

Date	Celebration
2/3	Elizabeth S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/4	Phillip Seaver is celebrating a birthday
2/12	Jacob C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/14	Mike and Michelle Liebergesell are celebrating their 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary!
2/15	Dan Cipperly is celebrating a birthday
	Maud vdB. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/16	Claire Sullivan is celebrating a birthday
2/19	Ciaran W. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/22	Riahna Lee is celebrating a birthday
2/23	Elizabeth M. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/26	Marin G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/28	Raffaella S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

## A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
2/5	<b>Family Promise of North Fulton</b> Many of us likely take for granted the privilege of having a roof over our head and a warm bed to sleep in each evening yet on any given night in America up to 1 million people are without this privilege. Let us examine our ideas and preconceived notions concerning this American tragedy.	Rev. Dave Dunn Darya Aberback, Worship Associate
2/12	<b>Lincoln's Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses, Unplugged</b> How might the profound words of these two addresses inspire us to meet the needs of today? Helpful tip: To get the most out of today's message, it would be beneficial for all to read and become familiar with Lincoln's original words.	Rev. Dave Dunn Bruce Langston, Worship Associate
2/19	<b>Intergenerational Service</b>	Social Justice
2/26	<b>Creating a New Jurisdiction – New Member Sunday</b> What is our jurisdiction? As we are a religious congregation, I think of jurisdiction in terms of our sphere of relevance and service in our community and in our world. Why must we and how can we expand our jurisdiction? Also, please join us as we welcome new members to UUMAN.	Rev. Dave Dunn Brian Kohn, Worship Associate

## February Connections

<b>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</b>	<b>Circle of Women</b> We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson <a href="mailto:HUDSONKD@bellsouth.net">HUDSONKD@bellsouth.net</a> or Linda Etheridge <a href="mailto:l Etheridge1@gmail.com">l Etheridge1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Every other Sunday after-noon, 12-2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Autobiography</b> Explore the key passages of our lives, in a way that allows us to begin to uncover our true selves, our vital inner core, and the spirit of life that animates us. For more information, contact Dave Hudson: <a href="mailto:HUDSONDAVID@bellsouth.net">HUDSONDAVID@bellsouth.net</a>

## February Connections

Date	Event
<b>2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.</b>	<b>21st Century Humanism</b> focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at <a href="mailto:peltier.john@gmail.com">peltier.john@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>UUMAN's Painting Group</b> Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired) on Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN. Contact: Annette Pate <a href="mailto:painting@uuman.org">painting@uuman.org</a>
<b>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15</b>	<b>Daytimers</b> 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 at <a href="mailto:dan@uuman.org">dan@uuman.org</a>
<b>Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>The Common Grounds Coffee House</b> Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen! Doors open at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
<b>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary</b>	<b>Centering at UUMAN</b> Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:10 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 <a href="mailto:campoften@aol.com">campoften@aol.com</a>

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