



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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September 2016

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## Our Covenant

This month will be the start of something very new at UUMAN. (No, not the start of the new church year with a newly settled minister. Hopefully that is

old news by now!) Beginning in September, we will initiate a monthly thematic focus in our worship services and in our MCY program. With time, this thematic focus might permeate into other aspects of our ministry here (e.g. thematic chalice lightings, small group ministry, theological/philosophical reflections, adult enrichment, etc.)

Appropriate to the start of the new church year, September's theme will be Covenant. Some other themes this year include Healing, Identity, Transformation and Risk

We won't be undertaking this thematic approach on our own; rather, we will be informally joining approximately 200 other Unitarian Universalist congregations who will also be focusing on these same themes. This approach to ministry was initiated by the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY in 2006.

Why are we doing this? There are several reasons. Obviously, the monthly theme can provide us with a central focus upon which we can deepen our understanding of our shared existence. Also, we often talk about communication. (Actually, we only talk about communication when we are miscommunicating – when we fail to communicate.) The monthly theme can provide us with another level upon which we can practice communication around a common subject. Reflections upon the common theme can also provide us with the opportunity to see each other's varied perspectives. With this, we may hopefully better understand one another and communicate more effectively as a result.

Also, the common theme can provide families with the subject matter for the sparkling discussion around the dinner table each night. (You all discuss nothing more than UUMAN and Unitarian Universalism at mealtimes, correct?)

It is my hope that we will approach this thematic focus with a light touch. Rather than strict adherence to the theme, flexibility and spontaneity will always be encouraged. I always liked how the "Pirate's Code" was explained in the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean." There was no rigid code per se, they were "more like guidelines." Feel free to color outside the lines.

Again, the theme for September is Covenant. Covenants are our promises to one another; yet these promises are bound up in human frailty and imperfection. One of the central purposes of the covenant is that its rebuilding provides us with a new opportunity to rebuild ourselves better, stronger.

Also, and often overlooked, our covenant provides us with the backbone and support to do the work of this church. Many of us, myself included, are "doers." We like to do stuff – get things done. Yet let us not forget that it is our covenant with one another (and with our world), that provides the base, the support and the reason for our ministry. Catholic theologian Margaret Farley states:

Civilization's history tends to be written in terms of human discoveries and inventions, wars, artistic creations, laws, forms of government, customs, the cultivation of land...At the heart of this history, however, lies a sometimes hidden narrative of promises, pledges, oaths, compacts, committed beliefs, and projected visions. At the heart of any individual's story, too, lies the tale of her or his commitments."

To the end of this quotation I would add " ...and those committed to her or him."

Through covenant may we be committed to one another in our work.

Take care and be well.

Dave

## UUMAN Earth Ministry Team

### When I was a kid...

What do you think of stories that start off with “when I was kid...?” Interesting, folksy, clichéd?

When I was kid, way back in the early 60s, in the summer time, we would “sleep out.” I’m talking ‘bout sleeping outside. We didn’t have more than one or two sleeping bags, but we had lots of quilts and other blankets. This was in New Jersey, where the temps rose into the 80s most summer days and nights cooled in to the upper sixties usually, as I recall.



Let’s sleep out! UUMAN’s Earth Ministry (sustainability team) is sponsoring a camping trip to Vogel State Park North-east Georgia for the week of September 16-18. We will try to leave from north Fulton a little early on Friday afternoon, so we can get to the park in time to make stone soup for supper.

If you’re signed up to go you should have received an email with this info:

- Michelle Liebergesell has planned a brief meeting for after service on September 4. She would like to collect \$10 for each adult going to cover the cost of the campsite, firewood or supplies and \$5 per person to cover the three community meals (Saturday Breakfast and supper and Sunday breakfast)
- Rich Polich, a former Scoutmaster will help organize the meal for Saturday
- Sat. Morning: oatmeal with toppings
- Sat. Lunch: on your own, but we’ll provide peanut butter, jelly and bread
- Sat. Evening: Rich Polich is in charge of the menu. There will be some meat and vegetarian options, Potatoes Robért (Bob Popp’s specialty)
- Sunday Morning: pancakes (can provide a gluten-free option) with sausage

We have the Pioneer Group Site reserved. Please note that it is rustic—there are no showers and it has a pit toilet.

Back to my story...

I’ll remind those of you who didn’t know, or forgot, that I grew up in a family of eleven children. I had six older sisters and one older brother. Some nights, five or six of us would sleep out with no tent. We fell asleep staring up at the stars and woke up dewy.

As I got older, with my neighborhood pals, I would go and do the same somewhere in the woods or near a creek. I camped a little in college and Patti and I camped with friends at the wonderful campgrounds on the Pacific Coast Highway north of L.A and in Yosemite.

We’ve even camped in Georgia numerous times, with UUMAN and the Boy Scouts. Dillon and I camped in South Georgia once—in Adel, I think—on our way to visit family in Florida.

Camping is fun, a great way to commune with the outdoors and with your beloved community. We look forward to your joining us at Vogel on September 16-18.



Camping Trip 2015

- Bruce Langston

## UUMAN Program Fair

Program Fair! Would you like to know what’s going on at UUMAN? Come join us on September 11, after service, for the Program Fair. Representatives for each program and activity will be available to answer questions and share information about the programs here at UUMAN. Light snacks will be served. For information, or to represent your program or activity at the Fair, contact Loren Kirby. See you there!

loren.kirby@att.net

Thank you,

— Loren

# Upcoming Social Justice Field Trips

Also in the works, if there is enough interest, are plans to see the movie *Loving*. Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, are sentenced to prison in Virginia in 1958 for getting married: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRXuCY7tRgk>.

The Social Justice & Action Committee is on the move! We are working on a number of opportunities to put our faith in action in our community. We hope you can join us!

**September 4 - We're All Women campaign film screening and WNBA game.** The award-winning documentary *The Same Difference* is a film about lesbians who discriminate against other lesbians based on gender roles: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/were-all-women-campaign-the-same-difference-screeningatlanta-dream-game-tickets-25095853373>.



A trip to **The Booth Western Art Museum** in Cartersville—Special Exhibition Gallery—to view *By Her Hand: Native American Women, Their Art, and The Photographs of Edward S. Curtis*. Focused on Native American women and their art, the exhibition allows us to more deeply understand their roles within Native society, culture and family: <http://boothmuseum.org/>.

If you would like to suggest a field trip for 2017, please feel free to contact Jen Saltzman at [saltzmanjen@yahoo.com](mailto:saltzmanjen@yahoo.com) or Sheila K. Smith at [piercingthrutheveil@yahoo.com](mailto:piercingthrutheveil@yahoo.com)

**October 9 - Atlanta Pride.** Atlanta Pride Committee strives to promote unity, visibility and self-esteem in lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons in Atlanta and beyond: <http://atlantapride.org/>.

**November 19 (partnering with MCY) - IRC Thanksgiving Dinner.** The International Rescue Committee provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America: <https://www.rescue.org/united-states/atlanta-ga>.

**December TBD - Lost-n-Found Youth.** There are over 750 homeless LGBTQ youth in Atlanta right now. Learn about volunteering at: <http://Infy.org/>.

## Social Justice

### Mothers of Black Boys United Responds to UUMAN Roadside Vigil



On the day that Philando Castile was killed by a police officer, Depelsha McGruder was feeling heartbroken, helpless and hopeless. She sat down and created the Facebook group MOBB United (Mothers of Black Boys). She invited 30 friends and by the end of the night this group had grown to over 20,000. She states that she simply didn't know what to do and sought comfort from others that understand her fear. I was invited to this group by a friend, and as the mother of two biracial boys, I have found comfort in the group as well. The group has now grown to over 130,000. After one of our **#blacklivesmatter** roadside vigils, I posted a picture of us at UUMAN. The response was overwhelming. The post received over 650 likes and over 40 comments. Every comment was positive ranging from thank you to some of the following:

"This level of solitary is absolutely beautiful, thank you for sharing"

"Brilliant"

"This has me in tears"

"This really restores my faith in humanity"

"Amy Moss, is your church Unitarian, by any chance?"

"Wow can your church come help the rest of the nation?"

— Amy Moss, on behalf of Social Justice and Action Committee

## Rev. Kim Palmer — Chaplain, Student, Researcher



When your loved ones are hospitalized and in crisis, you rely on health care professionals to ease their pain, make them well, make them whole again. Does making them whole include the mind and spirit as well as the body? What does good spiritual care actually consist of? Can it contribute to a better health outcome? When you yourself are confronted with an existential threat of illness or death, how can you cope?

For religious people, prayer and scripture might provide purpose and comfort. What about religiously unaffiliated people, i.e. the growing group – perhaps you are one of them - of Nones and Dones?

These are questions that Rev. Kim Palmer, a long-time UUMAN member, is acutely aware of. As a board-certified chaplain at Emory University Hospital, and as a Unitarian Universalist minister, she believes that her job is to respect and care for the spiritual needs of each individual patient and their family members, to contribute to the best possible outcome for the patient's health. On a daily basis, she talks with people spanning the spectrum of religious orientation and tries to offer the appropriate approach that will truly connect with them. Now Kim, and Emory, want to go beyond an intuitive understanding. That is why she has enrolled in Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health as a participant in the national Association of Professional Chaplains' Transforming Chaplaincy Project. And she could not be more excited about it!

A little background here. Back in the 1990s, Kim started coming to UUMAN where she, like many of us, found a spiritual home. Her own outlook is non-theistic, although she does find reverence and transcendence in the grandeur of the universe. In her words, "I can follow a call to service, and a connection to the divine, without reference to god." Though her career as a chemical engineer in the environmental industry was successful, she felt called to do something more – to be of service and to make a difference in the world. Kim realized that "Spending time with my mother in a nursing home at the end of her life was the pivotal event that illuminated my call to ministry and interest in chaplaincy." She decided to pursue a new path, as a Unitarian Universalist minister working as a chaplain. After graduating with a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of

Theology in 2013, and fulfilling the UUA's requirements for preliminary fellowship as a community minister, Kim was ordained here at UUMAN in 2014. Earlier this year, she became a board-certified chaplain. You can read more about Kim's journey in previous newsletters, (August 2011, December 2011, January 2012, July 2013, November 2014).

Kim has been working as a chaplain in Emory University Hospital's Spiritual Health Department. At Emory, the Spiritual Health department is a well-integrated part of the health care team. Emory wants to become a leader in spirituality and health research, demonstrating how their chaplains can be effective and using evidence-based practice to be more aligned with the medical model. They are supporting Kim's new effort, which is to obtain a Master of Science in Public Health – Epidemiology, at the Rollins school, one of the country's top for public health. Kim will continue working part-time in the public health area at Emory while pursuing her degree. Her first semester at Rollins started in August.

Kim has been offered this educational opportunity through the Transforming Chaplaincy Project. This is a national project which will aid in the development of the field of professional chaplaincy. The goal is to enable chaplains to earn a degree in Public Health, become more research-literate, return to do research in the clinical setting, and develop curricula for other chaplains. Participants receive a fellowship for their Master's program tuition and a stipend. Kim has the honor of being among the first 8 selected from across the nation to participate in this project. So, in addition to her classes at Rollins, she and her 7 colleagues will also participate in an online one from the University of Chicago, on Religion, Spirituality and Health. And there is an expectation that the candidates' theses from their Master's programs will be publishable.

Even before her thesis, Kim will have the opportunity to get her research feet wet on a project improving the quality of patient charting using a model that she had developed, and trained other Emory chaplains on. This tool guides them through each visit with a patient, from initiation to outcome. In her preliminary research at Emory, she would like to evaluate its effectiveness, compare other hospitals' approaches, and incorporate improvements. Once she's built some research skills, Kim will embark on her thesis research project, perhaps relating to end-of-life spiritual care for the Nones and Dones.

What will Kim's relationship with UUMAN be during this time? Before conferring "final fellowship", the UUA requires 3 years of "preliminary fellowship" from new ministers. Kim is currently in the midst of that phase. In the past year, as part of her affiliation with UUMAN, she has given several sermons here, taught a Bible studies class, and helped with pastoral care, especially after Rev. Cynthia Prescott's sad, untimely passing. While she is hard at work in the Master's program, Kim will need to delay the final fellowship schedule, but hopes to continue to contribute to and be a part of UUMAN. We look forward to cheering her on as Kim goes into this next phase of her meaningful, loving journey.

— Carole Herman

## What's in a Name Tag?

I still remember my first day at UUMAN, which wasn't so long ago. As I nervously approached the sanctuary doors that first time, I saw the sign for first-time visitors, and went in to seek someone known as a Greeter. My greeter turned out to be very nice and welcoming. That friendly face belonged to Jan Wilson. In the following weeks, she always made it a point to say hello. I have since learned that, for many of us, that initial welcoming presence was Diantha Horton. There are many more of you who have performed this important role.

The point is, we all have a role to play in making visitors feel welcome. We truly are a welcoming, loving congregation. But it can be difficult to get that across to new members. And it's the little things that make a big difference—like someone remembering your name and going out of their way to speak.

I'm as guilty as anyone about leaving my name tag at home, or just forgetting about it. But there really is an important reason why we wear them. It helps people overcome the hurdle of that initial awkwardness and get to know who you are. And it helps us all to learn (and remember) each other's names. So the fact that we wear name tags is much more than a formality, or an annoyance. It really is an important tool in presenting a friendly, accepting face to new members and the community.

— Mike Chambers



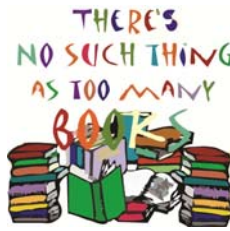
If so, you may have moved into a different Care Circle. The Care Circles are arranged geographically so that the members who live close to you are the ones that are called on first to help you in a time of need. Be sure to let the Membership Committee know your new address as soon as you can by emailing

The Membership Committee will change your address and make sure the UUMAN office know. Every once in a while something gets mailed to members from the office and we need your correct address.

If you are one of those computer savvy members who has changed their address in ICON themselves,

PLEASE ALSO let membership know so your Care Circle can be changed. We want to be able to help care for you.

— Rosie Popp



## UUMAN Book Sale!

**Sunday, September 25**, the UUMAN library will hold a USED BOOK SALE. Please drop off any donations in boxes or bags on the floor of the library until that date. Ilona is looking for one or two volunteers to help set up before service and take down at around 12:30.

If you have any books which you think would make good additions to the library's own collection, please leave it with a note stating that and include your name.

— Ilona Walker



## Sharing the Plate: 50-50

Once each month a non-profit organization chosen by the Social Justice Committee receives half of the undesignated plate offering.

**Homestretch** was the recipient last month for the third time this year. They received **\$295.54**, a total of **\$871.54** for the year.

This month, the third Sunday falls on September 18, and the recipient is **Lost-n-Found Youth**. Lost-n-Found Youth assists homeless youth from ages 13 – 25 in stabilizing their lives, including preparing them for permanent housing and stable employment. In addition, LNFY is Atlanta’s leading non-profit with specialized expertise and dedication to meet the needs of LGBTQ homeless youth and ensuring their well-being.

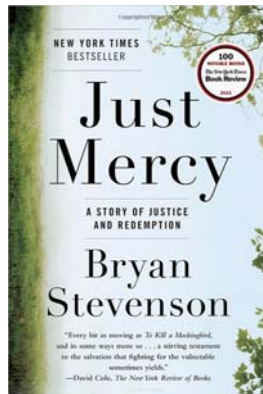
—Linda Etheridge

## A Page from The Page Turners

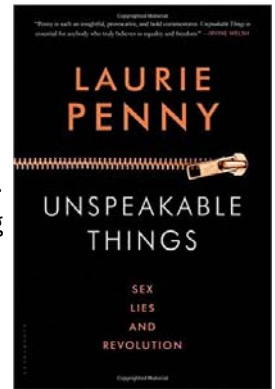


Our women’s book club, The Page Turners, will meet on Saturday, September 10th, to discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. This shocking, deeply felt book by Bryan Stevenson is the UUA’s “common read” for 2016.

Though we may already be aware that the U.S.’s prison population, and in particular its death row population, is skewed to poor and black people, the devil is in the details. Will this dedicated lawyer’s moving stories of working with death row inmates—including children—bring a new perspective to you? Is it a call to action for us all? Check out Stevenson’s TED talk online: [https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan\\_stevenson\\_we\\_need\\_to\\_talk\\_about\\_an\\_injustice?](https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice?language=en) language=en, and see if his experiences resonate with you.



Coming up in October will be *Unspeakable Things: Sex, Lies and Revolution*. Written by Laurie Penny, a young British journalist and feminist, it sweeps across modern Western society. You may find that her thought-provoking ideas and her vivid, bracing style grab you and keep you reading. Besides her books and magazine columns, she has a web site and blog, <http://laurie-penny.com/>. In future months we are planning to read Garth Stein’s well-known 2008 novel, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, and Hope Jahren’s 2016 best-selling, unconventional memoir about loving science, *Lab Girl*.



If you enjoy reading and discussing books in a variety of genres, meeting over snacks and wine, 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 Carolina Patlis for the details. All women, whether UUMAN members or not, are warmly invited to the Page Turners!

—Carole Herman

# FROM THE GARDEN

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

We'll be continuing our work in the garden at UUMAN on Monday, September 12 and Monday, September 26, working from 9:00 a.m. to around 11:00 a.m. We will continue our work throughout the year on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month through November (or sometimes, December). UUMAN announcements will be sent out on the Friday before each work day. If you've never worked in the garden before, please feel free to stop by and see what it's all about. Hope to see you there!

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



Bee on Texas Skullcap



Black and Blue Swallowtail on Zinnias



Newly Planted Coneflowers - Drought Survivors!



These Flying Critters Sure Like the Zinnias



## 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)

Date	Celebration
9/6	Kit Hamblen is celebrating a birthday
9/9	Dirk and Ann Bender are celebrating their 26th anniversary!
9/10	Luc G. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/12	Sheila K. Smith is celebrating a birthday
9/18	Nelson and Marcia Hagood are celebrating their 6th anniversary!
9/24	Maeve H. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Jesse Read is celebrating a birthday
9/27	Mike Saltzman is celebrating a birthday
	Heather M. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/28	Troy vdB. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday



## A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
9/3	<b>From GA toGA</b> Report from your delegates to UUA General Assembly 2016.	<b>Brian Kohn and Paula Watson, Worship Assoc</b>
9/11	<b>Feast of the Sacrifice</b> Eid al-Adha is the Muslim Feast of the Sacrifice which takes place on Tuesday of this week. This holiday commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in submission to God's will. It is also an expression of the covenantal relationship between Abraham and God. What can we learn from this type of covenantal model? Are there other models?	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b>
9/18	<b>Faith in Action</b>	<b>Social Justice</b>
9/25	<b>Nonviolent Communication</b> Nonviolent communication, often called compassionate communication, is a method of communication that is based upon the recognition and understanding of our most basic human needs. In order to remain in covenant with one another, we must attempt recognize, understand and find ways to meet the needs of ourselves and others. Easier said than done! How might we begin?	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b>

## September Events

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> Come paint with us in a relaxed atmosphere with a glass of wine. All are welcome. There is a fee but half is donated to UUMAN.
<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>
<b>Every other Sunday afternoon, 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>

*For more information about events, see the UUMAN Events Calendar at [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)

## September Events

<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>First and third Saturdays of the month at 1:00 in the sanctuary.</b>	<b>The Weekend Women's Group</b> Offers women another opportunity to meet in the intimacy and fellowship of small group ministry. Topics such as love, trust, caregiving, parenting, relationships, community, and faith will all be explored in a setting that fosters deep listening and mutual respect. Contact facilitator Nina Bharucha for more information: <a href="mailto:nybharucha@gmail.com">nybharucha@gmail.com</a>