

June 2022

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A Note of Gratitude

I write this article as I complete my sixth year of ministry here at UUMAN. It has been a rich experience for me; and I am

grateful that I had the courage to pivot from my earlier profession, a profession that I generally enjoyed, towards UU ministry. Ministry has provided me with an opportunity for deeper engagement in the joys, sorrows, meaning and significance of not only my own life, but also in the lives of all of you who've been willing to share yourselves with me.

I am most grateful for that gift. I am truly blessed to be permitted to be engaged in the richness of your lives. Thank you for that!

Now that I've gotten to know you all much better over these years – through Board work, 2nd Hour Faith Development classes, Stewardship Campaigns, Garden Parties, Social Justice events and marches (and in ridiculous Talent Shows!) – ministry has become even more meaningful.

This was evident to me at our most recent Rites of Passage service when I realized that the little ones when I arrived six years ago are now speaking for themselves and sharing their own bold new ideas; and, I believe, their lives are made richer and more meaningful by their continued presence here at UUMAN, week after week, year after year. It fills me to see this growth in your children.

This pandemic has upended our lives over the past couple of years yet UUMAN is still moving forward. I have so much gratitude for those who continue to believe in and support this congregation. I am grateful for those who've continued to show up despite having to wear a mask, despite not having coffee made in Fellowship Hall, despite not being able to sing, despite us having to work through countless technical livestreaming details, despite us having only pre-recorded or zoom services, despite us trying to figure out how to simultaneously do both in-person and virtual events, despite us having to do virtual children's religious education, etc., etc., etc....

I have immense gratitude for those who stepped up to fill a very large void due to personnel changes; and for those who continue support this community financially, again and again and again; and for those who step forward and serve as leaders of this congregation – those who step forward and say “Here I am (Isaiah 6:8)” even when it would much more convenient to do otherwise.

I am most grateful, and privileged, to serve this community and I look forward to continue helping you live your mission and work toward your vision of a just world.

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

~ Dave



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

membership@uuman.org.

Summer is a season of change at UUMAN. We end the church year with a few traditions: the Coming-of-Age and Crossover high school seniors service, the Outdoor service at Hembree Park, and 9 weeks of lay-led services. This is also a time for Dave, our minister, to take some well-earned time-off to recharge.

Behind the scenes, the Board will welcome new members, discuss next year's budget, and plan for the coming year.

I want to give a special shout-out to the team of RE (Religious Exploration) teachers, who've been guiding the faith formation of future adult UU's practically on their own for nearly 3 years. It's a good thing they're experienced in this subject! I'm looking forward to seeing other adults volunteer to facilitate summer classes, not just to give teachers a well-deserved break, but to shine with your talents and time. If teaching is not your cup-of-tea, there's always signing up to give a sermon. Reach out to the Spiritual Arts team to get plugged in.

As we venture out into the world more and more, please remember that this community needs you, your talent, your time and your treasures. We have survived difficult times and we will continue to do hard things. The secret is to do it together and in joy. Just look around at our youth, our campus, our place in the wider UU circle, and the natural world for inspiration.

Come, let us do the work of transforming the world!

Jennifer Ratcliffe
La soon-to-be Past Prez

Date	Celebration
6/6	Miriam P. is celebrating a birthday.
6/10	Jane S. is celebrating a birthday.
	Burk and Merilee H. are celebrating their anniversary of 33 years
6/11	Jane and Marc S. are celebrating their anniversary of 45 years
	Laurie and Mark W. are celebrating their anniversary of 34 years
6/18	Jim S. is celebrating a birthday.
6/19	Phillip S. and Suzanne R. are celebrating their anniversary of 29 years
6/23	Judy and Willard J. are celebrating their anniversary of 38 years
6/24	Burk H. is celebrating a birthday.
	Carolyn and Marc L. are celebrating their anniversary of 32 years
6/27	Bob and Rosie P. are celebrating their anniversary of 39 years



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

Thanks to your generosity in May, we collected \$540 for Mawsynjri, our partner church in the Khasi Hills of India. Thank you all for continuing to support our mission with your time, effort, and your dollars.

This month, UUMAN's 50/50 recipient is Bronco's Benevolent Foundation, and will go directly to provide snacks and other necessary items for the anxious families living at the transplant hall at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

In 2006 a baby was born in Atlanta with some serious congenital heart problems. His name is Bronco Reece. Bronco received a "just in time" heart transplant in 2015, but the good news soon turned bad when he was diagnosed with PTLD, Post Transplant Proliferative Disease. It is a form of Lymphoma that is a result from the anti-rejection medications he takes daily to maintain his new organ.

Bronco recovered and is now a thriving 22 year old young man. But suffice it to say that he and his mom and dad spent a lot of time at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta on the transplant hall. What they saw were a lot of parents and families coming from all over the south to live in the waiting areas while worrying about and caring for their critically ill children. Many of these families are without adequate funds for hotel rooms, Air BnBs, etc. And eating out for every meal can be quite prohibitive, even if it's just in the hospital cafeteria.

Bronco decided he wanted to fund a pantry for the families, so they can have access to juice, soft drinks, granola bars, fresh fruit, yogurt, and yes - Snickers Bars and chips. They also provide hygiene products for the families.

You may contribute by using the Givelify application on your smartphone and earmarking the donation "50/50". You may write a check to UUMAN and write in the memo line "50/50", or you may place cash in the collection basket on Sunday mornings during June.

Check out their website at: <http://broncosheart.org/>

Thank you once again for everything you do to make our community a better place!

Merry Beth
Your 50/50 coordinator

Summer RE Program

We are happy to announce this year's summer RE program schedule—you won't want to miss it! We have a lot of great things planned with very knowledgeable and interesting UUMAN volunteers to help. We do need more volunteers – both adult and youth to help. Please contact Miriam Patanian if you are interested in being involved in our summer RE Program:

miriam.patanian@gmail.com

Date	Title	Lead Volunteer
6/5/22	Spend time in the Garden!	Bob Popp
6/12/22	Car Wash Fundraiser	Miriam Patanian
6/19/22	Artistic Expressions	Jennifer Ratcliffe & Lexie Brown
6/26/22		
7/3/22		
7/10/22	Artistic Expressions	Jennifer Ratcliffe & Lexie Brown
7/17/22	Make Dog Toys out of T-Shirts	Jennifer Phillippi + someone from Keepers of the Earth
7/24/22		
7/31/22	Acting / Improv Class	Canedy Knowles
8/7/22	Back-to-school Backpacks and Supplies	Merri Beth Stephens, Donna Melcher, John Pruitt
8/14/22	T-shirt bags for NFCC	Elizabeth Rohan, Raffaella Shanahan

Director of Religious Exploration Opening

UUMAN is accepting applications for a Director of Religious Exploration (DRE) to lead programs for children and youth and to implement new programming to fulfill the vision for the program here. We will accept applications on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Link to job description (pdf) [here](#).

Questions? Interested? Email dre-search-chair@uuman.org

After careful review, the Board of Trustees has updated our Covid guidelines to include optional mask wearing during indoors and outdoors events starting on Sunday, April 3rd.

Those individuals who wish to continue wearing masks are encouraged to do so. Please review the entire document ([here](#)) for individual and household safety precautions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact board@uuman.org.

June 2022: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
6/5	<p>A Return to Oneness</p> <p>The message will be about acknowledging the oneness of spirit we were all created in, healing the harm done by seeing ourselves separate from one another, and returning to the oneness of our common humanity.</p>	Spencer A. Murray
6/12	<p>Who Am I? Who Do I Want To Be?</p> <p>In these polarized and trying times, it can be hard to listen to our better angels and easy to fall into angry, vindictive thoughts. But is that who we want to be? How do we remain compassionate toward people who are doing horrible things? How do we remember the common humanity we share, even with our enemies? How can we resist being dragged down by the world, and remain true to who we are?</p>	Kim Palmer
6/19	<p>My Father, Which Art In Earth</p> <p>Poet Conrad Aiken (1898-1973) was one of Georgia's greatest writers, a Unitarian, and highly influenced by his father and grandfather. On this Father's Day, we'll take a look at his life and work.</p>	Orlando Montoya
6/26	TBA	

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