

August 2023

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A New Church Year!!!

I write this article as I begin my eighth year at UUMAN. Eighth year!!! I am finding it to be a good time to ask myself the following question: Although I am still em-

ployed by the Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North congregation, is it still the same congregation? Is the UUMAN of today the same as the UUMAN of 2016?

The Buddhists and the process theologians amongst us would say that there is no such thing as an abiding “self.” They’d say that we are always in process, always changing, that we can’t point to any fixed thing and say “that’s me” or “that’s us.”

As an example, if the wooden planks of a sailing ship are replaced piece by piece each year such that, over the course of several years, 100% of the original planks are replaced, is it still the same ship? Physically it isn’t the same, it’s completely different; yet functionally the ship still does what it originally was built to do – namely sail. One could argue that the ship, though different physically is still the same functionally. So, is it the same or is it different? Maybe the answer lies somewhere in the middle?

What about UUMAN? Is the UUMAN of 2023 the same as the UUMAN of 2016? In 2019 we re-articulated our values, covenant, mission and vision, and since that time, we have been consistent in our articulation of and in our efforts towards those ideals.

Yet at the same time, since 2016 people have stayed, people have come, people have gone; and despite our consistency in values, covenant, mission, and vision, sometimes, to me, UUMAN feels different.

It is hard for me to characterize it but UUMAN now feels more mature – and more responsible to the institution of UUMAN than in 2016.

I believe this is due the many strong Boards

UUMAN has had in recent years. Most of our Board members have been through some type of church leadership training facilitated by the UUA. These trainings stress the recognition of unhealthy and the practice of healthy church systems.

I also believe that the members of UUMAN feel more empowered than ever before. I don’t hear the words, “Who said you could do that?” at UUMAN very often anymore. No one likes to be micromanaged. If anyone is inspired and passionate about a particular ministry (and they rally a set of other UUMAN members to the cause), it is my hope that they will feel free to pursue that ministry (e.g. social justice initiative, adult enrichment course, community engagement, etc.) to the fullest.

Of course, sometimes ministries and initiatives conflict with one another. We have space and storage issues. We have rental relationships that need to be managed. And in a society with changing demographics that have been magnified by a multiyear pandemic, we have a declining pool of churchgoers and have limited volunteers.

But all in all, we’ve managed to move forward (and change!) despite many obstacles. We now have a stunning new website and we are beginning to integrate our Breeze events and calendar into it. 2nd Hour is offering more opportunities for faith development and interaction. Plans for a Playscape are finally moving forward after being idle for many years.

Of course, there will be bumps in the road and occasional conflicts. Yet, as UUMAN continues to mature, I am confident that we can listen to one another and continue to move forward in a healthy direction and in covenant with one another.

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

Dave

Bridge is Back

Hi Bridge Lovers!

In person Bridge at UUMAN will resume this Sunday, July 30 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon during “Second Hour”. We will have two sections: Beginners and Experienced. We will have prepared lessons as well as supervised play. We’ll play at least until noon, but may stay later if folks want to.

Following are the lesson dates for the rest of this year: July 30, August 20, September 17, October 15 and December 17. Put these dates on your calendar.

John Pruitt

Families Found and Lost

I’ve been thinking lately about family. My dad died when I was in college, many years ago. I lost my mom in 2009. I have a brother, but we’ve never been exactly close. So for many years, my family was very small and insulated: just my daughter and me. We developed an even closer bond, I think, because it was just the two of us. I was quite content during the years we lived together; I still miss them.

But daughters have an annoying tendency to grow up and move in with their boyfriends. Perhaps one day she will atone with a grandchild or two. But not so far.

I found UUMAN in the fall of 2013. I wasn’t really looking—I had no knowledge of Unitarian Universalism, or that there were such churches. But I knew right away that I had found a home. As my relationship with UUMAN deepened, I remember sitting in service, and my heart filling up. I felt accepted and understood, in a way I had not felt since I lost my first family. Over time, UUMAN definitely came to feel like a new family. Not quite the same kind of family, but it filled the same hole in my heart.

Through UUMAN, I added another family in September of 2017, when I married Donna Guile. Many of you know that we first met in UU101 class and became friends working in the Coffee House kitchen. One of the wonderful perks of marriage is that you also gain your spouse’s family, if they’re still around. I have had some special days hunting and fishing with Donna’s dad. Or sitting around the table with my new sister-in-law, or aunts, or nieces, or cousins, learning all the lore and funny stories of my new family. It would have been enough to add Donna to my life, but I got a bonus family in the bargain.

Someone once wrote that we have two families: the one we’re born with and the one we go out and find or create. I have been very fortunate with both types of families. As luck or fate would have it, when I lost one family, two more stepped forward to fill the void. I am forever grateful to have found them both.

Mike Chambers

A Book by One of Our Own



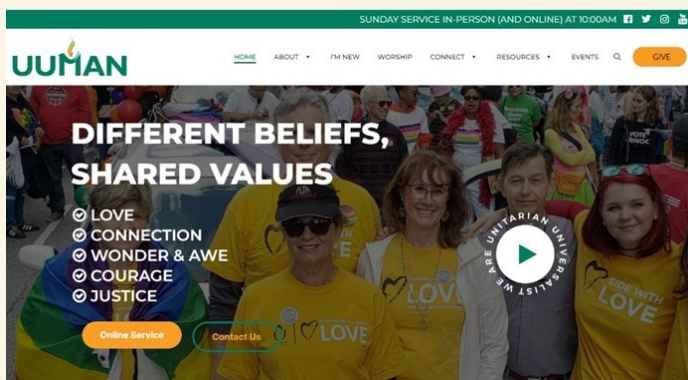
Joe Lamb has written and published a book, “Aberjay Rising, A Tale of Courage”. Here is a summary of the book.

In a dystopian future, a rigid societal structure has emerged, comprising two classes: the Aberjay, a wealthy ruling class, and the Miniyar, a destitute underclass struggling to survive. A physical wall divides these two groups, representing a barrier to social mobility and opportunity. China’s invasion, the development of intelligent robotics, and the lack of clean water due to a warming planet has forced most of society out of the suburbs and into cities where unemployment is high, water is scarce, and the escalation of tensions is boiling.

In this divided world, a young woman named Leena Zhen is forced to confront the oppressive power structure in a desperate attempt to save her dying mother. She faces numerous obstacles, including a police force that seeks to imprison her and a privileged ruling class that refuses to acknowledge her basic right to exist. Through her unwavering determination and resolve, she must transform into a formidable warrior, ready to fight for her own survival and the rights of those around her.



UUMAN.org Website



In May 2023 UUMAN launched its new website at <https://uuman.org/>. The purpose of the update was to not only give the website a new look and feel and make it easier to use but also to deliver our message in a way to attract new members looking for a liberal religious community that they could call home.

The image you see here is of our new front page. The front page is the first thing you see when you go to <https://uuman.org/>. Its where we proudly show our UUMAN Values – Love, Connection, Wonder & Awe, Courage, and Justice! If you click on the green arrow in the white circle, you will be shown a short UUA video that does a great job of explaining who we are as Unitarian Universalists.

There are two other buttons on the front page:

Online Service - clicking on this button will take you to either the last recorded online service in YouTube or on Sunday at 10am to the live online service.

Contact Us – this is for perspective new members that are interested in finding out more about UUMAN. It takes you to a Breeze form which goes to our Membership team.

The website menu is across the top of the page – Home, About, I'm New, Worship, Connect, Resources, Events and Give. The menu is always at the top of every page on the website. There is an abbreviated menu also at the bottom of every page.

Home – takes you back to the front page. Clicking on the UUMAN logo does the same thing!

About – this is a new menu item which was added by the Communications team after the launch of the new website. It contains important information “about” UUMAN including short introductions to Our Staff, Our Board of Trustees and Our Campus.

I'm New – this takes you to a page that was built specifically for people who are new to UUMAN. It tries to answer questions that perspective new members may have and to plug them into our community.

Worship – this page explains what to expect at a Sunday worship service. It also shows the title and a short description of the Upcoming Service.

Connect – shows you a menu of different ways to “connect” and get involved at UUMAN in meaningful ways including Social Justice, Earth Ministry, Parents & Youth, Spiritual Deepening, Social Groups and Places to Serve.

Resources – this presents a list of resources that existing and new members will find helpful including:

Calendar – takes you to our Breeze calendar where you can see all of the scheduled events,

Directory – takes you to Breeze where you can login and search for UUMAN members including emails and phone numbers,

Newsletter – takes you to the Newsletter page where you can read the current or previous month’s newsletters.

Blog – this page in the future hopefully will contain various writings of our UUMAN community. We are still working on how best to utilize this website feature.

Podcast – this takes you to a list of Podcast services (Apple, Google, Spotify, etc.) and links to the UUMAN podcasts that are available at that service including the audio from all of UUMAN’s Sunday worship services (Thank you Dirk Bender!).

Gallery – a photo gallery of events and happenings at UUMAN and UUMAN community engagements. Please send any photos of UUMANites in action to communications@uuman.org.

Events – this page displays all of the Upcoming Events that we want to highlight for our members and friends including upcoming worship services and adult enrichment activities. If you have an event that you’d like to highlight and promote, send a title, description, date & time and location to communications@uuman.org

Give – this page is where you can learn more about how you can financially support UUMAN through pledging and our Legacy Fund.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the UUMAN website please don't hesitate to contact the UUMAN Communications Team at communications@uuman.org.

- Bob Popp

UUMAN Legacy Fund



“What is the legacy that I wish to leave in this world?” “How do I wish to be remembered and what work do I want to continue in this world after I am gone?” These are some of life’s most important questions.

UUMAN’s Legacy Fund can help you with these answers. Consider what this church and this community mean to you, then imagine having the opportunity to pass that joy on to future generations.

With your legacy gift, you can support your dreams of a better world and the ongoing mission of this vital liberal religious community. We thank you for your generosity now and on behalf of all those who will benefit in years to come.

Legacy Fund History

The UUMAN Legacy Fund began with a generous bequest from Rev. Cynthia Prescott in March 2017. We are very grateful to Rev. Prescott for starting us on this journey.

The UUMAN Legacy Society recognizes those members who have made a significant (over \$1000) charitable bequest in their wills or other estate planning documents. A plaque showing the names of these donors will always have an honored place in the sanctuary vestibule.

Special thanks is given to Legacy Society Charter Members, who made this gift during the initial campaign for the Fund (through October 2018).

What is a Legacy Fund?

You can think of it as a permanent savings account. Only some portion of the annual interest from the fund can be used so that it continues to grow. The principle is not touched except under guidelines established by the Board of Trustees. Some organizations call it an endowment fund.

What is the purpose of the Legacy Fund?

Over time the interest that comes from this kind of endowment can support the stability of a church in good and difficult financial times and help it grow and continue to serve its congregation and the community. It can also support grants or scholarships approved by the Board of Trustees.

Why Contribute?

Contributing to the UUMAN Legacy Fund gives you the opportunity to make sure the support and benefits you’ve received are continued and enhanced for those that follow you. It is also a way to leave a personal legacy for future generations that reflects your ideals and values at UUMAN and in the world.

What types of Gifts are accepted?

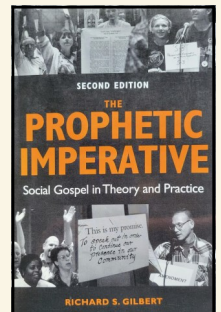
There is a way of giving that fits every purpose and we are ready to answer any questions you may have. UUMAN has established guidelines about gift acceptance and there are two basic ways of giving either through bequest (upon a donor’s death through legal estate documents) or a living gift (made during the lifetime of the donor)

We thank you in advance for considering this gift. To get started now or if you have questions email endowment@uuman.org.

Bob Popp

The Prophetic Imperative Course

Beginning on August 13, I will be offering a course during 2nd Hour entitled "The Prophetic Imperative" based on the book by Rev. Richard Gilbert. The course will have at least three sessions (possibly more). Please sign up using the link below and get a copy of the book. It is not long and it is a VERY compelling read.



The Prophetic Imperative Course Dates, Times, and Location

Dates: 8/13, 8/27, 9/10

Time/Location: 11:15 - 12PM In-Person

Facilitated By: Dave Dunn

Description: In what ways might Unitarian Universalists be described as being prophetic? To what end are we prophetic? Why? What are the ethical implications of being a Unitarian Universalist? Are there any? As Unitarian Universalists, are we compelled to do anything? In the realm of social justice, what is the difference between service, witness and action? This course will focus on the role of the church in the larger community?

Dave Dunn

Religious Exploration Happenings

Religious Exploration with Children and Youth at UUMAN

We have enjoyed many fun and engaging RE offerings on Sundays this summer including a car wash, back to school supply drive, learning about Hindu gods, making friendship bracelets, gardening, making recycled grocery bags for NFCC, playing games and more. We could not have done any of this without our team of wonderful summer volunteers! THANK YOU!

(**Summer RE project**- We repurposed 67 old T-shirts into reusable shopping bags for NFCC!)



As our summer programming winds down, we are busy gearing up for the new school year in RE. As you probably know, our DRE, Lexi Brown is out on maternity leave until mid-September. Big CONGRATULATIONS to Mama Lexi and Daddy Hayden as they welcome baby Koda into their sweet family. We are all so happy for them!

We, the RE team, are working together to make sure the RE program gets off to a smooth start. On July 30, we held a teacher training session for our WONDERFUL RE teachers, subs and volunteers. We had a great turnout including experienced teachers and some brand new teachers, subs and volunteers, and we can not thank them enough! (We still have some openings for teachers- please contact us if you are interested in learning more!) We are excited to kick off the new RE year on August 13th. RE classes will run during second hour from 11:15-12:00.

Here is a sneak peek at what we are offering for each class, from the UUA Tapestry of Faith programming:

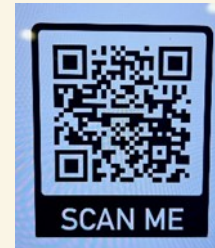
PreK-1: Creating Home- Developing a sense of home that is grounded in faith.

2-4: Toolbox of Faith-What tools does the UU faith offer for the challenges of life?

Junior Youth 5th-8th : Heeding the Call, Qualities of a Justice Maker- Social Justice focused curricula.

Senior Youth 9th-12th : Virtue Ethics-We can shape our lives through intentional decisions.

ALL children and youth participants must register for RE! Haven't registered yet? Here is the QR code- register TODAY!



OR go to: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/37dfc7>

IMPORTANT DATES:

AUGUST 6- Last day of summer RE programming, TBD with Kelly Callen, 10:00

AUGUST 13- FIRST DAY of 2023-2024 RE classes in Discovery Hall, 11:15-12:00

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, (or you want to volunteer!) contact us at RE@uuman.org

- Laurie Wheeler

UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. We are thrilled to see that the counties in which the majority of us live are in the Low Risk category. Masks are optional for indoor activities, and indoor congregational singing can occur at this time. We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted—thank you for doing your part to keep our risk as low as possible!

August 2023: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
8/6	Ingathering Water Communion Join us for our annual Ingathering Water Communion service. Please bring a sample of your sacred water to be mingled with our sacred waters of the past.	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/13	Do We Hear the Cries of Lamentation? The earth is under siege? Our democracy is under siege? The rights of women are under siege? Immigration, separation of church and state, education....the list goes on and on. It can feel paralyzing. Do we hear the cry? What are we called to do?	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/20	The Great Stories Service Description: Throughout world history, the legends and myths from across the globe are embodied in story. Stories, myths and legends are passed down generation to generation. How can the great stories of the past shape our present and future?	Rollin Mathis
8/27	Reimagining Covenant We often view our covenant as a fixed entity; that it's either broken or not, that one is in covenant or out. Is this the right way to look at covenant? Might there be a more useful, more compassionate way to imagine it?	Rev. Dave Dunn



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.

Date	Celebration
8/2	Connor B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/5	Dave and Tammy D. are celebrating their anniversary of 34 years.
8/9	Josie B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/12	Rick I. is celebrating a birthday.
8/13	Reece B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/17	Kelly C. is celebrating a birthday.
8/19	Rosie P. is celebrating a birthday.
	Gillian P. is celebrating a birthday.
8/21	Elizabeth N. and Michael T. are celebrating their anniversary of 13 years.
8/22	Lucia B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/26	Rebecca B.-D. is celebrating a birthday.
8/27	Viktoria K. is celebrating a birthday.

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