

December 2023

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Minister's Sabbatical

As you likely know, I plan on taking a sabbatical from February through May of 2024. UU ministers are entitled to sabbaticals after four years of service and are entitled to

one month of sabbatical for each year of service. I am currently in my eighth year of ministry at UUMAN yet have taken no sabbatical.

A sabbatical leave offers an extended time for study, reflection, rest, and renewal—all ingredients for effective ministry. A sabbatical leave is part of the congregation's covenant agreement with the minister; and just as importantly, the congregation will benefit as I will return refreshed, filled with new ideas and with rekindled energy.

Amanda Bralley and I have been serving as Co-Chairs of the Sabbatical Committee – which is a temporary Standing Committee, reporting to the Board of Trustees. The committee consists of the two Co-Chairs and four other members of the congregation. The other members are David Kroeber, Anu Mongia, Tina Alexander, and Bruce Langston. Amanda will serve as the sole chair once I actually begin the sabbatical.

The Sabbatical Committee is charged with the following:

- Help schedule Sunday Service guest speakers three times per month. (This is essentially complete; almost all slots are filled with ordained clergy or other professional speakers)
- Schedule "On Call" minister for Pastoral Care and any Rites of Passage rituals that may be necessary (Rev. Kim Palmer will be available for this)
- Communicate with the congregation before, during and after the sabbatical
- Assist Board of Trustees regarding any issues pertaining to staff supervision
- Assist the minister and congregation in the development of a re-entry and re-engagement program following the sabbatical

I believe we have the right people in place to serve on this committee since they all either serve on the worship team, serve as worship associates, sing in the choir or serve on our technical/livestreaming crew.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us. We can be reached as a team via email at sabbatical@uuman.org.

Among other things, during my sabbatical I plan on spending a two solo weeks at The Mountain (February & May), taking a class at Meadville-Lombard Theological School and deeply exploring the eight-limb path of yoga through a yoga teacher training that will run from late January through early May.

I know that UUMAN has had some history with ministers returning from sabbaticals and then shortly thereafter leaving the congregation. Even though UUMAN's ministerial contract states that the minister must continue at least one full year after any sabbatical, I am not interested in leaving UUMAN. I am finding that the shared ministry we do together to be most fulfilling. Although one of the purposes of the sabbatical is to give me time to generate new ideas and recharge my batteries, I still feel like I have ideas to share and energy with which to pursue them. That said, this spring is probably the right time for me to take this sabbatical.

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

~ Dave



Holiday Common Grounds Coffee House



The December 16 Coffee House will be a special holiday show featuring Lashbrooks and Keltic Kudzu. Doors open at 7pm and show starts at 7:30. \$5 suggested donation at the door, cash only and bring some extra cash to tip the fabulous performers and get some treats from the kitchen.

+David and I will be stepping down from doing the Coffee House after this show and Lashbrooks will take on doing the booking and MC and Sound starting up again in February. Laura Keck will be in charge of Coffee House on the UUMAN side of things.

LashBrooks & The RedBird Project

Troy and Rhonda Lashbrooks return to the stage with their Hippy, Jazzy, Holiday show! Their newest collaboration is called, The Red-Bird Project (Celebrating the Past, Present, and Future of Life, Love, and Music). You'll hear the same soulful vocals and rich harmonies you expect from LashBrooks, plus the delicious 'icing on the cake', with multi-instrumentalist, David Leonard's beautiful piano and guitar accompaniment. Join in with a 'Hippy' sing-a-long that will take you back to the basics of Love and Reflection; celebrate



the Season with familiar Holiday Tunes; and follow along on a journey of Hope and Healing, with songs from 'The Letting Go' by Rhonda Lashbrooks (a new LashBrooks EP project, available at the show).

lashbrooksmusic.net

Keltic Kudzu

Formed at the turn of the 21st Century, Keltic Kudzu is a straight up Celtic/Southern fusion band. We use our traditional acoustic instruments to generate all the energy and fun of your typical full-blown Celtic rock band without the deafening volume and studded leather vests! Four part harmony, fiddle, guitar, mando, bouzouki, whistle and bagpipes join forces to wipe out stress and put a smile on your face. For our set at Common Grounds, expect a mix of traditional favorites and holiday songs.



Keltic Kudzu in 2023 includes:

Lori Buonamici: Fiddle, vocals

Tom Crawford: Mandolin, octave mandolin, irish whistles, harmonica, and vocals

Jennie Fabianski: Hand percussion, vocals

Tim Porterfield: Guitar, foot percussion, vocals

Upcoming shows:

January: no show, will be back in February

~ Janet Lacey

Our 50/50 Recipient This Month: Family Promise

Our 50/50 recipient in December is Family Promise. Many of you know Family Promise through volunteering during our hosting weeks in June. But they are much more than just a shelter program.

This year In America, more than 2.5 million children will experience homelessness. Family Promise coordinates local community volunteers to address the root causes of family homelessness and serve families in need. They address the issue holistically using our Family Promise Continuum of Care, which includes Emergency Response, Rotational Shelter, and Housing Stabilization programs that work to provide temporary emergency assistance and housing, and ultimately create a path for families to move from crisis to stability.

You can help Family Promise of North Fulton/Dekalb do this critical work by donating this month, either by dropping money in the plate during service or by using the Givelify app. (Just be sure to select the 50/50 button.) Help make the holidays a little brighter for our neighbors in need.

Thank you,

Mike Chambers

MCY December Times

Religious Exploration with Children and Youth at UUMAN

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

As we prepare for a season of joy and togetherness, we're excited to share important updates and events happening in December. Get ready for festive celebrations, enlightening lessons, and a magical holiday pageant!



Holiday Party - December 3, 11:15 AM in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a heartwarming holiday party on December 3rd at 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite finger food for a sweet or savory swap, participate in friendly competition, and enjoy the whimsical balloon-twisting talents of Turnip, the grumpy elf.

Winter Traditions - December 10, 2023, 11:15 AM in Discovery Hall

Explore the rich tapestry of winter traditions from different religions worldwide on December 10th at 11:15 am in Discovery Hall. Let's celebrate diversity, understanding, and unity as we delve into the cultural significance of the season.

Holiday Pageant - December 23, 2023, 4 PM in the UUMAN's Sanctuary

On December 23rd at 4 pm in the UUMAN's Sanctuary, join us for a magical holiday pageant inspired by 'The Snow Tree' by Caroline Repchuk. Created by Jenni Papp, DRE South-West UUC, North Royalton, Ohio, and adapted by Lexie T Brown, this enchanting event features the heartwarming story of Little Bear and the Snow Tree. Bring the whole family to participate in the festivities as we decorate an evergreen tree with symbolic gifts from the forest animals.

Experience the joy of the season through music, storytelling, and a spirit of togetherness.

Holiday Pageant Rehearsals - December 17 and 22, 2023

If you're interested in being part of the enchanting holiday pageant inspired by 'The Snow Tree,' join us for rehearsals on December 17 at 11:15 am and December 22 at 10 am. We welcome all youth to participate in this magical event!



Sign Up Now!

To join the holiday pageant, please sign up using [here](#). The deadline to sign up is December 16th. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of a heartwarming celebration of peace, friendship, and the return of light.

Please note that there will be no Religious Education (RE) sessions on December 17, 24, and 31. Take this time to enjoy the holiday festivities with your family and friends.

We're looking forward to seeing you at these events and sharing the joy of the season together!

Holiday Party-12/03/23 @ 11:15 AM

Winter Traditions Lesson- 12/10/23 @ 11:15 AM

Holiday Pageant Rehearsals-12/17/23 @ 11:15 AM

Holiday Pageant Rehearsals - 12/22/23 @ 10:00 AM

Holiday Pageant - 12/23/23 @ 4:00 PM



December: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
12/3	Advent and Hanukkah Today marks the first day of the Christian season of Advent. Hanukkah, beginning Dec 7, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple. What can we learn from these holiday traditions?	Rev. Dave Dunn
12/10	Service of Seasonal Music Bah humbug Ebenezer Scrooge! Get in the holiday spirit by joining us for a holiday celebration of music and cheer.	Rev. Dave Dunn Alex Pietsch, Chalice Choir and other wonderfully talented musicians
12/17	Thomas Starr King Abraham Lincoln credited Unitarian and Universalist minister Thomas Starr King with saving California for the Union. On the 199th anniversary of his birth, let us review his most extraordinary life that took him from New England to California.	Rev. Dave Dunn
12/23	Holiday Pageant (4PM) Join us at 4:00 PM for our annual Christmas Pageant! There will be a new twist this year. There is room in the stable for EVERYONE! Holiday Candlelight Service (7PM) Let us share the warmth of this holiday season in joyful celebration. May the glow of our candles symbolize the hope that will sustain us through the dark times of winter and throughout the coming year.	Lexi Tangney
		Rev. Dave Dunn
12/24	Our Holiday Traditions What better way is there to celebrate Christmas Eve morning than with your UUMAN friends!!!? Join us as we share our (and your) many and varied holiday traditions together.	Rev. Dave Dunn & Friends
12/31	TBA	Lay Led



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
12/1	Ever B. is celebrating a birthday.
12/9	Presley C. is celebrating a birthday.
12/15	Carole H. is celebrating a birthday.
	Duco VdB is celebrating a birthday.
12/17	Joaquin F. is celebrating a birthday.
	Bruce L. is celebrating a birthday.
12/23	McPatti L. is celebrating a birthday.
12/28	Jacqueline G. 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



Happy Holidays!