



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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February 2019

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Values, Covenant, Mission, Vision, Strategic Planning, Goal Setting, Long Range Planning

Yes...it's a mouthful!!! It can cause your eyes to glaze over!!! ☺

In November's newsletter, I mentioned that we were coming to the end of a sermon series reflecting upon what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of this congregation.

Here's a sampling:

August 12 - "I So Appreciate...": Appreciating those who've carried us here despite facing numerous obstacles along the way

September 9 - "Faith Formation 2020": What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? What are the seeds of our faith?

September 23 - "Engaging in UUMAN's Vision": What is our shared vision for the future? Why that vision?

October 7 - "Belonging": What does it mean to be a member of this congregation? What does "taking off the bib and putting on the apron" mean?

October 14 - "UUMAN - In Six Words": How would you describe UUMAN in six words? How do these words inform our values, mission and ministry?

November 11 - "Who We Are": Are we a lighthouse, a beacon of hope to others? Does "who we are" include anyone outside our walls?

December 9—" Faith Forward: From Visitor To Leader": How do we continue to grow in faith as UUs? What is that praxis? How do we water the seeds?

December 16 - "Moving from Me to We": From an invisible and subtle essence, smaller than a seed, a single tree grows and bears fruit...and an entire forest is grown. At UUMAN, I (me) grow and bear fruit... and we, an entire congregation grows and bears fruit.

On December 8 and January 9 we kicked off our visioning process which engaged over 70 UUMAN members. (That's a wonderful turnout!) These sessions initiated discussions on our values and covenant. There is more to come however. This is only the beginning.

Here's the bigger picture:

- Building the Congregation's Foundation
- Core Values (What is at our core? Why are we here?)
- Covenant (How will we bring those values into the world through our relationships with one another?)
- Mission (What are we here to do? What is our work? Do our work and mission reflect our values?)
- Vision (What do we want to be...inside our walls and outside our walls? What would our community and congregation look like if we successfully lived our values and mission?)
- Strategic Planning (As a congregation, how will we get there? As a congregation, how can we realize this vision?)
- Goal Setting (What do we do next? In our day-to-day work (e.g. committees, Program Council, etc.), what must we do to implement our strategic plan and begin to fulfill our vision?
- Long Range Planning (If/Then....How can we work through the obstacles that will no doubt arise? How can we continue to re-engage the congregation in tweaking all of the above in the years ahead?)

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We will be following a specific process to work through all of this. The UUA Southern Region will continue to consult with us as we move forward.

This is an imperfect process...yet all processes are imperfect. Not everyone will like or connects with this process...yet we could have chosen other processes - processes that others would no doubt dislike or not be able to connect with. Such is the state of things. Such is the yin and yang of things.

Regardless of the process, it will be led and facilitated by imperfect people (volunteers) who love UUMAN and want the best for UUMAN. It will be led and facilitated by imperfect people who will be doing their very best. Regardless of the process, we hope to listen to the voices of the congregation and we hope that you will listen to each other all along the way.

Let us all take a breath and begin to move forward together.

Take care,

Dave

Visioning Workshops

The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM), in its role to help the congregation define UUMAN's future mission and vision, will be making 2 - 4 of its members available after the next several Visioning Workshops to:

- Serve as your sounding board listening to your comments, concerns, and even advice about the process, the content, and/or the results of each meeting
- Answer questions
- Help resolve any conflicting ideas/opinions about same

Also, if you are feeling unheard or have questions, comments, or advice about the Visioning Workshops that have already occurred (or anything else pertaining to our many ministries!) please contact Bev Jordan, Chair, COSM — text **770-853-5070** or email bjordan@mindspring.com and we will set up a time for us to meet with you.

Bev Jordan, Chair



Coffee Talk with the Board

Join members of UUMAN's Board of Trustees on February 3 right after service! It's time for our monthly Coffee Talk with the Board. Grab your coffee (and retrieve your children from RE) and come into the sanctuary at 11:45 for an informal chat with some Board members (you can find us by way of our yellow name badges).

We are considering having monthly topics at these meetings, so please let us know if you have a particular topic you'd like to talk about. We thought we'd focus this month's conversation on Visioning. Other pressing concerns are welcome, too! If you have any visioning questions, concerns, or just want to chat about something else, please come. We want to get to know you!

In service,

Elizabeth Rohan

President, UUMAN Board of Trustees

Family Promise Week

February 10-17, 2019



Our Family Promise week is approaching and will be here soon. Below is the link to sign up. There are lots of jobs. If everyone who can takes just one, we will have an easy, successful week for the families who will be our guests.

We need a few strong arms the first afternoon to get the beds set up. If you like to cook, consider being the Dinner Lead. The menu is already planned for you. If you are pressed for time, as the Dinner Volunteer you can prepare or purchase food and drop it off.

Attending the Sunday morning adult Sunday School class? Come early and help us pack up and clean the last day. We even have laundry you can take home to wash, dry and fold at your leisure! Young, old, big, small - UUMAN, we need you.

Sign up to help at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4ea8a62ba6fc1-family1>.

Family Promise Team

Family Promise Meals with Meaning Fundraiser Dinner

You are invited to North Fulton/DeKalb Family Promise's annual fund raising dinner on March 21, 2019.



**MEALS
WITH
MEANING**

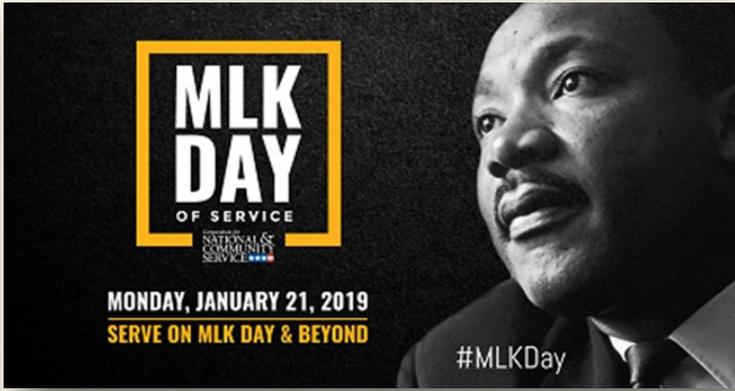
Save the Date
Thursday, March 21st, 2019
Heritage Sandy Springs
6:00PM to 9:00PM

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR A SOUTHERN STYLE DINNER WITH WINE, BEER, AND ICED TEA. LIVE MUSIC, 50/50 RAFFLE AND AN INSPIRING TESTIMONIAL FROM A GRADUATE FAMILY.

\$50 PER TICKET

for tickets please visit our website,
www.familypromisefd.org/events

Please consider joining Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb as a sponsor for our 2019 Meals with Meaning Event. For more information on opportunities to support our "Freedom to Work Program" please contact
Andrea Brantley.
director@familypromisefd.org
(770) 609-5407



MLK Day of Service at UUMAN

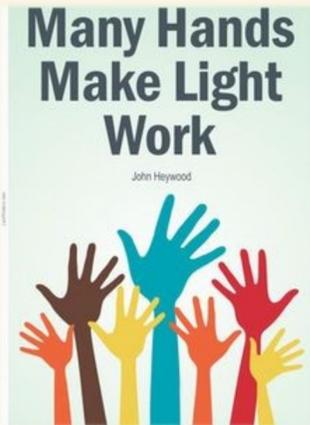
January 21, 2019

A small and mighty group gathered at UUMAN for the morning to help organize, tidy, and clean up—in service to UUMAN and to our community.

Check out the lost and found area close to the restrooms in Fellowship Hall—there are several kitchen items, nice water bottles, jackets, and umbrellas! Children headed to the nursery will have especially clean toys to play with. In Discovery Hall, Leslie painted the wall close to the back door and window now that it's been repaired. We went through the kitchen cabinets to organize and make things easier to find (easy-to-read labels are in the works!).

This hardworking crew tackled many more projects than we listed here, then we celebrated with lunch afterwards. Many thanks to this intergenerational crew who came with gloves and smiles!

- 😊 Carla Kapeskas
- 😊 Luka Kapeskas
- 😊 Vika Kapeskas
- 😊 John Patanian
- 😊 Miriam Patanian
- 😊 Jacob Patanian
- 😊 Olivia Patanian
- 😊 Bob Popp
- 😊 Rosie Popp
- 😊 Elizabeth Rohan
- 😊 Raffaella Shanahan
- 😊 Joel Shanahan
- 😊 Leslie Wolfe





UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

Once each month, half of our undesignated plate offering is given to a non-profit organization. The other half goes for the work of our congregation. Please consider giving even more generously than usual on these Sundays.

The recipient of the **January** offering, **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism**, received \$1015.37.

Our next 50/50 Share the Plate Sunday, is **February 17**.

The recipient of half of the unpledged offering is the **IRC – International Refugee Committee**.

The IRC responds to some of the world's worst crises, delivering aid that saves lives while paving the way for long-term recovery. They serve people who's lives have been upended by war, conflict and natural disasters in countries where people don't have the support they need to recover from crisis.

For more information about the IRC please click on the link below:

<https://www.rescue.org/>

2018 50/50 Sharing the Plate

We were very generous with our 50/50 Sharing the Plate donations in 2018. Our donations came to **\$3,358.74**.

The recipients were:

- ♥ NAACP
- ♥ El Refugio
- ♥ To Write Love On Their Arms
- ♥ Georgia Conservancy
- ♥ Foster Care Support Foundation
- ♥ Discovering MY Purpose
- ♥ Moms Demand Action
- ♥ Pianos For Peace
- ♥ H2H, Inc. (Here To Help, Inc.)
- ♥ Lost-n-Found Youth, Inc.
- ♥ Men Stopping Violence
- ♥ Family Promise

For 2019 we have selected the following so far:

January	Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism
February	International Refugee Committee
March	UUMAN's Youth will select
April	Earth Ministry will select

Looking forward to another successful year for “sharing the plate”!

Michelle Liebergesell

UUMAN's “Share the Plate” Coordinator



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

communications-chair@uuman.org

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 anniversary!
2/15	Dan Cipperly is celebrating a birthday Maud vdB. 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	Service Leaders
2/3	<p>Shall We Yet Overcome?</p> <p>We each have stories to tell about our experiences with racism and white privilege but it can be painful to face our own shortcomings. There is so much work yet to do! Come hear an inspiring story about a white ally in the Civil Rights struggle who was instrumental in the ouster of Bull Connor and in the eventual election of Birmingham's first black mayor.</p>	UUMAN Worship Team
2/10	<p>Expanding the Circle of Compassion</p> <p>Rev. Michael Dowd is an evolutionary theologian and bestselling author.</p> <p>Along with his wife, Connie Barlow, an acclaimed science writer and evolutionary educator (both climate hawks), they permanently travel North America promoting the inspiring side of science, religious naturalism, and one-story spirituality.</p>	Rev. Michael Dowd
2/17	<p>Our Best Selves - UUMAN World Café Sunday</p> <p>Join us in a creative, interactive, multi-generational setting for a deep exploration and dialogue regarding how we can help one another be the best UUs we can be.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn, Toniann Read and Laura Garrison-Brook
2/24	<p>The Aestivation Hypothesis</p> <p>Theologian James Carse tells us: healthy religion encourages a "higher ignorance" which enables openness to continual learning and growth. This service will explore how contemplating the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence can help us to practice the kind of healthy religion that encourages a "higher ignorance".</p>	Rev. Jonathan Rogers

February Connections

Date	Event
<p>Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.</p>	<p>UUMAN's Painting Group</p> <p>Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired). We have easels and tray tables; just bring your paints and a canvas. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN. Contact: Annette Pate painting@uuman.org</p>
<p>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15. Location of meetings vary.</p>	<p>Daytimers</p> <p>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. dan@uuman.org</p>
<p>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary</p>	<p>Centering at UUMAN</p> <p>Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:00 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.</p> <p>For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at campoften@aol.com</p>
<p>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</p>	<p>Circle of Women</p> <p>We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Linda Etheridge lletheridge1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Saturdays, 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available.</p>	<p>Mindfulness Meditation</p> <p>Whether you have been meditating for years or are curious about possibly starting a practice, we offer a peaceful space to sit as well as a time to share and learn in a community of fellow meditators. Contact J. Kevin King at jkevinking@yahoo.com (470) 723-4070</p>

For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to 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