



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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IN THE INTERIM: What UUMAN and the Puritans Have in Common



One of our most revered convictions as Unitarian Universalists and religious liberals is belief in the power and the promise of human community. That conviction is transcendent among us.

In other words, no matter to any extent we differ in our personal takes on religion, spiritual practice, politics, and the meaning of life, we meet on a holy ground called "community" that surpasses (transcends) individualism, while affirming individuality. We are united by principle and purpose. We are in covenant.

So were the Puritans. Yes, they played by different theological rules. Yes, by modern standards they were often insufferably...well...Puritan. However, when they emigrated to these shores around 400 years ago, the Puritans brought with them a radical idea called the free church. They formed independent, self-governing congregations whose members supported one another in right relationship, united by an idealistic vision of what they called a city set upon a hill (a biblical reference), and that Unitarian Universalists call just and loving community, or alternatively, a world made fair and all her people one.

We are the Puritans' descendants. The Unitarian Universalist Association is an association of autonomous congregations who covenant to affirm and promote the seven principles and six sources that are the bedrock of our free-range faith. The closing sentence of that declaration is crucial: As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Plain and simple, a covenant is a promise to treat everyone in the community to which you belong as you yourself want to be treated: with dignity, respect and compassion. There are covenants-within-covenants that go into greater detail concerning how to go about doing this, complete with guidelines for repair when disruptions occur, as they sometimes do in every human community.

In 2009, by congregational vote, UUMAN approved a Respectful Relations Covenant. A Healthy Congregation Team (HCT) was then formed to ensure that the covenant does not gather dust on a shelf, but is an integral aspect of UUMAN community.

Every corner of congregational life gets a check-up and tune-up during a ministerial transition, and the Respectful Relations Covenant's turn is coming up. So when you hear the HCT or I talk about covenant and community a little more than usual over the next few months, please don't assume there's a crisis going on behind the scenes. We're just checking and tuning, and we welcome your wisdom.

"Whatever we do here, we do in covenant with each other."

- Rev. Cynthia Prescott

UUMAN Respectful Relations Covenant

Approved by UUMAN Congregational Vote - November 15, 2009

One of UUMAN's greatest strengths is the diversity of talent, energy, perspective, vision, and experiences each of us brings to our congregation. To reach our full potential as a community and to honor our Mission Statement, I aspire to ensure UUMAN is an accepting place where people of every faith background, age, race, culture and sexual orientation will be welcome and free to seek a deeper social and spiritual commitment. I acknowledge the need for individual responsibility for the health of our community and the awareness and practice of healthy communication.

As a member of the congregation of UUMAN, I will:

1. Respect others' inherent worth and dignity, relating to others in ways that reinforce the Seven Principles.
2. Accept responsibility for my own words and actions.
3. Respect others even when we disagree, valuing the insight and perspective those differences might bring.
4. Seek to understand by listening actively, attentively and respectfully to the views, perspectives, and opinions of others.
5. Speak my truth honestly and directly with care and compassion.
6. Aspire to have the courage to speak up when I or others are not being respected or heard.
7. Honor the confidentiality and private disclosures of others.
8. Communicate in ways that foster productive outcomes, or lead to positive actions by the congregation, whatever the medium might be.
9. Encourage others to embrace the principles and spirit of this covenant.
10. Use the Restoring Productive Behavior Guidelines when I believe this covenant has not been lived up to.

Whatever we do here, we do in covenant with each other.

Life Events Gifting Program

Please consider using the Life Events Gifting Program for honorariums, memorials, congratulations, birthdays, anniversaries, and other types of gifting. For details please check the poster in the narthex on the left wall just before the Fellowship Hall doorway or contact Jan Wilson at janbillwilson@msn.com

Worship Committee

Living the Mission

The Worship Committee invites you to participate in Sunday service by presenting a short statement about how you are living the UUMAN mission. During a "Living the Mission" segment of the service, a member shares about the time, treasure, or talent that she or he gives to UUMAN and how it has helped them grow, discover truth, or uphold justice.

The statement is most successful if it is a story, e.g., "I felt this need and was called to fill it and this was the positive result." It could include interactions with others with whom you worked and relationships that resulted from working together. The Living the Mission statement should be a maximum of 300 words and must be written and submitted a week before it is presented. If you are interested in sharing your experience with the congregation, please contact Shelley at shelley.nagrani@gmail.com



UUMAN's annual Heart's Desire Goods and Services Auction is **February 7, 2015, starting at 6:30 p.m.** On this date, UUMAN comes together in the spirit of service, stewardship, fellowship, and merri-ment. Patrons of the Hearts (another name for UUMAN members, friends of UUMAN, and guests of all) attend the UUMAN Heart's Desire Goods and Services auction for an evening of food, libations, and acquiring services donated by UUMAN members, friends, and local businesses. Attendees acquire desired items by "just sign up," "silent auction" or "live auction" bidding techniques. The very spirited attendee works hard to out-bid others for items they covet or they know will just help UUMAN. In this one evening, our community generates between \$15,000 - \$20,000 for the benefit of UUMAN. Tickets are \$10.00 each and go on sale January 4, 2015.

For each ticket purchased, UUMAN members get one guest ticket for non-member friends. Scholarship tickets (at no charge) are available for anyone needing financial assistance to attend. Goods and Service items available for sign-up or bidding come in many shapes and sizes across a variety of bid levels. Traditional favorites include great dinners, travel opportunities, handy-man services, and so much more. Stop by the Heart's Desire Table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays beginning in January to learn more, buy tickets, donate items, and check out what items will be available.

Roswell Roots

A Festival of Black History and Culture

February 1-28, 2015



Throughout the month of February, the city of Roswell will celebrate the 14th annual [Roswell Roots Festival](#), the largest and most comprehensive Black History celebration in the state of Georgia.

Special art exhibits, cultural events and history presentations will celebrate the long and storied history of African Americans in Roswell.

Many UU congregations make a special effort to address social and racial justice during Black History Month, so this celebrated local festival should be of particular interest to UUMANites. To review the full listing of February events, click on the link above and also pick up one of the Roswell Roots flyers on counters in the foyer and Fellowship Hall.

—Kitty Meyers



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

Date	Celebration
1/2	Lily H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Jamie Hagood is celebrating his 40th birthday
1/5	Noah S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/7	Miller M. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/8	Annelies Woesten is celebrating a birthday
	Nelson Hagood is celebrating a birthday
	Dharma H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/30	Marre Woesten is celebrating a birthday
1/31	Evan B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

Creating Kindness Chains for Heart and Hand



My son and I have been working on the 31 Day Kindness Chain that MCY gave out - Day 4: Make something for the Heart and Hand Sale at UUMAN. Corbin strung beads and bells on pipe cleaners to make door knob "jingers" and candy cane ornaments. While he worked, I explained that it will be like a little store and people can buy the crafts. The money that is collected will help our church do the good work that it does. His response: "I love our church." I do too buddy, I do too.

—Shared on Facebook Heather Moll-Dunn

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLIGHT SERVICE

We gather together on Christmas Eve in the glow of love and peace.

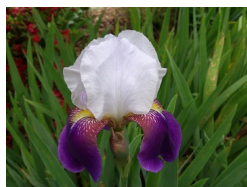


FROM THE GARDEN

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

Below are some of the “Best of the Garden 2014” pictures and events. We had a good year, with a group finally formed who meet on a regular basis during the growing season. We'll meet again in March. A UUMAN announcement will be sent out the week before as a reminder.

— Claire Sullivan cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



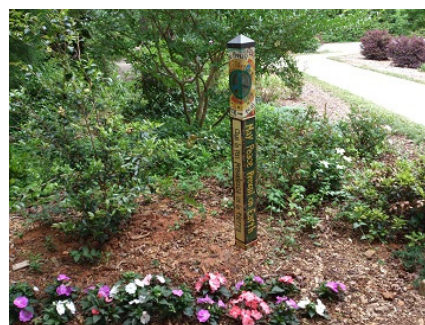
Hostas



Mums



A couple of favorite pictures



The Peace Pole



Fall Daffodils



The Yucca bloomed for the first time in three summers



Herbs



Tibetan Prayer Flags were added by MCY

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
1/4/15	Vision - The Art of Developing Clarity We will explore the parameters for honing our innate abilities to understand ourselves, others, and universal laws with the ultimate purpose of nurturing wisdom, love, and compassion.	Lay Speaker Huu Mai
1/11/15	Covenant and Community (What the Puritans Knew) A short, perhaps occasionally surprising, history of covenantal religious community, followed by reflection on the UUMAN-Right Relations Covenant, now just past its 5th anniversary.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
1/18/15	Faith in Action Sunday	Toniann Read
1/25/18	Confessions of a UU Kid What it was like growing up in this faith. Thoughts from a Baby Boomer on why religion still matters, liberal religions like ours in particular.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott

Sharing the Plate: 50-50 Sundays

January's 50/50 will be the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**.

The International Rescue Committee helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and gain control of their future. IRC teams provide health care, infrastructure, learning and economic support to people in 40 countries, with special programs designed for women and children. Every year, the IRC resettles thousands of refugees in 22 U.S. cities, including Atlanta. www.rescue.org

More January Events

Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN 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 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 at campoften@aol.com
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More January Events

Date	Event
Humanism 2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.	21st Century Humanism 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 peltier.john@gmail.com
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge l etheridge1@gmail.com
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	UUMAN's Painting Group 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.
Every Friday at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.	Bridge Group Join us for Bridge! New players of any level of Bridge knowledge are welcome to join us. A 30-minute lesson by an expert Bridge player is offered for \$5 for those who want to play but don't know how or want to refresh their knowledge.
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15	Daytimers 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 dan@uuman.org

For more information about events, see the UUMAN Events Calendar at www.uuman.org

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN), located at 11420 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075. We welcome nearly all imaginable newsletter submissions, and publish as many as possible. We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically close of business on the 20th of the month proceeding the issue date, although we have been known to accept submissions within a reasonable time before publishing. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org

