



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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May 2019

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We are the Unitarians!

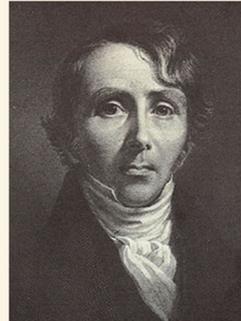


May 5, 2019 is a landmark anniversary for Unitarian Universalists. It will be the 200th anniversary of a seminal sermon given by Rev. William Ellery Channing, minister of Boston's Federal Street Church. This sermon, entitled "Unitarian Christianity," acknowledged the liberal split from Congregational churches and set the stage for this liberal wing to eventually form the American Unitarian Association later in 1825. (In 1961, the American Unitarian Association merged with the Universalist Church of America to form the present Unitarian Universalist Association.)

Channing's "Unitarian Christianity" sermon was delivered at the ordination of Rev. Jared Sparks at the First Independent Church of Baltimore. (The sermon later became known as "The Baltimore Sermon.")

The first liberal cracks amongst the Congregational churches began as early as 1805 with the appointment of a "liberal" professor Rev. Henry Ware to the Harvard Divinity School faculty. Rev. Ware was criticized by the more conservative Congregational theologians - "[Mr. Ware is] not a Calvinist [regarding] his sentiments on important points, such as the depravity of human nature, the impotency of man... and the future state of the wicked (Jedediah Morse)."

The liberal wing was pejoratively accused of being like the infidel deistic Unitarians of England - "Persons...have heard from [Unitarian] pulpits both sermons and prayers, which neither expressed nor implied anything more than sober Deism, and which were totally at variance with the Gospel....many well-meaning people have been led in the dark (Jeremiah Evarts)."



William Ellery Channing



Jedediah Morse

The liberal Congregationalists denied this accusation for years until Rev. Channing's Baltimore Sermon of May 5, 1819. In this sermon, he planted a stake in the ground and essentially said, "We are the Unitarians!"

In Baltimore, Channing forcefully and forever parts ways with the conservative Congregationalists who believed in the Calvinist doctrines of "impotency" and "depravity of human nature" - "[God] created us for good and holy purposes; it is not because his will is irresistible, but because his will is the perfection of virtue....(Channing)."

These new Unitarians also sought to bring reason to religion - "With these views of the Bible, we feel it our bounden duty to exercise our reason upon it perpetually; to compare, to infer, to look beyond the letter to the spirit, to seek in the nature of the subject, and the aim of the writer, his true meaning (Channing)."

The "Unitarian Controversy," as it came to be known officially came to an end in 1825 with the formation of the American Unitarian Association.

William Ellery Channing is the giant of Unitarian Universalism. His writings influenced and shaped the future philosophies and theologies of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker and the movement that came to be known as Transcendentalism.

It will be wonderful to celebrate this 200th anniversary on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Take care,

Dave

UUMAN at Sweep the Hooch



On Saturday, April 6 several UUMAN members and kayaking enthusiasts participated in the annual Sweep the Hooch. The event is hosted by the Chattahoochee Riverkeepers and is focused on cleaning up the Chattahoochee River and bringing awareness to the problem.

Altogether, 1,154 eager volunteers turned out to remove 32 TONS of trash from the river including a bowling ball found floating in the river by Laurie Wheeler.

Hope you can join us next year!

—Bob Popp

NFCC Volunteer Celebration Brunch

During NFCC's Volunteer Celebration Brunch, UUMAN was represented by regular Food Pantry volunteers Steve Allerton, Carole Herman and Rosie Popp. Other UUMAN members who volunteer in the Food Pantry weekly are Sue Tromblee and Bob Popp. The brunch was delicious—egg casserole, chicken and waffles, gourmet donuts and fruit. The program was inspiring. If NFCC did not have all their great volunteers, they would need to hire 50 full time employees to do the same amount of work.

—Rosie Popp



Values, Mission, Vision Update



In December, we started working together on a process to help us move from ME to WE in our collective work at UUMAN. The process includes identifying our core values, developing a covenant to guide our work, defining our mission, creating our vision and developing a strategic plan to keep us focused on our shared priorities.

Progress to date:

Through 3 congregational meetings and 2 meetings with the youth, we identified 5 core values: wonder/awe, connection, love, courage, and justice, and we drafted a covenant, based on input from all of these meetings.

We have collected feedback after service over the month of April. All of you were asked to provide feedback on the covenant and how you would complete this statement to describe what we do at UUMAN:

Because we value wonder/awe, we come together to _____

Because we value connection, we come together to _____

Because we value love, we come together to _____

Because we value courage, we come together to _____

Because we value justice, we come together to _____

The workgroup met on April 28th to begin synthesizing the feedback from all of you.

Next Steps:

Editing of the covenant is already underway!

Over the next couple of weeks, we will compile the feedback to the statements for each value, and we will share our work at the Congregational meeting.

After that, we will work on Mission and Vision statements, based on all of this work. If there are any wordsmiths who are interested in helping draft mission/vision statements, please let us know.

We hope to hold a vote on adopting an updated mission statement in the Fall.

Then, we can move to strategic planning. We'd love your help!

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with any member of the ME to WE workgroup: Elizabeth Rohan, Miriam Patanian, Bev Jordan, Shelley Nagrani, Merri Beth Stephens, Pat Shea, Maya Henson and Stephen Seaver.



Elizabeth Rohan

Partner Church News - Memorial for Basharboy Nongrum

On May 5 our Partner Church, the Mawsynjri Unitarian Church in Northeast India, will be having a Memorial Service for Basharboy Nongrum. This young man had been an important part of the community, volunteering with the Youth group and church music program. He also worked as a carpenter and actor in local Khasi films. UUMAN had raised donations for him to have an operation to repair a hole in his heart, but unfortunately he passed away from a stroke before that could happen in December.

In the upcoming service, the Mawsynjri Church will be distributing the funds formally to Basharboy's younger brother Lamson, who will be following in his brother's footsteps in his own carpentry business. A portion of the funds were also used to purchase a music keyboard for the church, to be dedicated in honor of Basharboy at this service. On April 28, the UUMAN Youth learned more about Basharboy's life from a presentation made by Sophie and Valerie Davis, who had traveled to India recently and met with his family. The Youth also viewed the film Ka Rngai ("The Spirit"), in which he had starred. Basharboy was also remembered at the Indian Dinner presentation that Sophie gave later that day. Both the Youth and dinner participants signed cards that will be emailed to the Mawsynjri Church in time for the memorial service.

—Valerie Davis



Notes from the Board of Trustees

Summer MCY Program

by Elizabeth Rohan, President

Please come to UUMAN's Spring Congregational Meeting on May 19th -after our Rites of Passage service.

The final agenda is forthcoming, but here's a glimpse of the highlights:

 Lunch (provided by the Board—directly after service/before the noon meeting start time)

 Values/Mission/Vision Update

 Financial Updates

 Voting on New Board of Trustee Officers

 Volunteer Recognition Ice Cream Sundae Celebration

And, back by popular demand, we will have:

 A Kahoot! game (with prizes)

 A drawing with two chances to win prizes in drawings where you enter your:

- Kroger receipt that shows your UUMAN donation
- Printed screen shot of your Amazon Smile account, showing UUMAN as the charitable recipient.

The Fall meeting was tons of fun (and informative, too!) Please come!!

We are happy and proud to announce that this year's summer MCY program will be even more fun and interesting than in years past – and that's saying a lot! 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 out. Please contact Merri Beth Stephens, Bob and Rosie Popp, or Mike Chambers if you are interested in being involved in our summer MCY Program.

Date	Title	Lead Volunteer	Objectives
5/26/19	Vegetable Gardening	Bob Popp	Learn about growing your own food
6/2/19	Birdhouses	Arnie Moore	Learn about birds and making a bird house
6/9/19	Cooking	Jane Soule	Learn basics of cooking
6/16/19	Must Ministries	Valerie Davis	Make 100 lunches for disadvantaged kids
6/23/19	T-Shirt Bags for NFCC	Elizabeth Rohan	Make cloth bags for use in the NFCC Food Bank
6/30/19	Nature Walk	Bruce Langston	Learn about the plants and animals that we coexist with at UUMAN
7/7/19	Shake-It Up!	Donna Melcher	Have Fun
7/14/19	Water Day	Need Volunteer	Have Fun
7/21/19	Car Wash	Need Volunteer	Have Fun
7/28/19	Healthy Kids and a Health Environment	Need Volunteer	Learn about the environment and things you can do help
8/4/19	It's a Surprise!	Need Volunteer	Have Fun

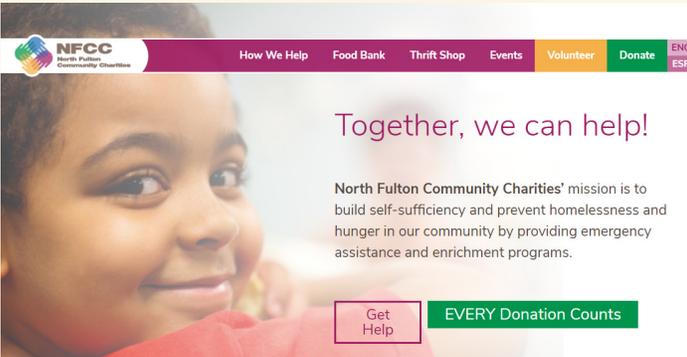
—Bob Popp



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 Chili Cook-off Committee has chosen North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC) to share half of our unpledged plate funds for May 18th. North Fulton Community Charities' mission is to build self-sufficiency and prevent homelessness and hunger in our community by providing emergency assistance and enrichment programs. Go to <https://nfcchelp.org/> to learn more.



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
5/2	Jake H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/5	Ann Creech is celebrating a birthday
5/7	Anna and Kit Hamblen are celebrating their 14th wedding anniversary!
	Levi S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/15	Thomas Seaver is celebrating his 21st birthday
	Paula Watson is celebrating a birthday
	Liam W. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/20	Isabella Dunn is celebrating a birthday
	Addy G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/25	Marjorie Pomper is celebrating a birthday
5/26	Elizabeth Rohan and Stephen Shanahan are celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary!
5/27	Rick Irwin and Paula Watson are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary!
	Melane Sibley is celebrating a birthday
5/28	Escher V. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Adam Fajardo and Ginelle Heller celebrate 8 years of marriage and 17 years together!

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
5/5	<p>We Are the Unitarians!</p> <p>Two hundred years ago today, May 5, 1819, Rev. William Ellery Channing, the leader of the liberal Congregationalists split with the conservative Congregationalists declaring that the liberals would now be regarded as Unitarians. This declaration led to the formation of the American Unitarian Association and eventually the Unitarian Universalist Association.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
5/12	<p>Motherhood is Complicated</p> <p>Motherhood well done is a task to be admired by our children and by society. Mothers must make decisions that can alter a person's life in many ways, sometimes unintentionally.</p> <p>We look at the hard choices of a mother in the past and consider the challenges mothers face in this modern age.</p>	Jennifer Ratcliffe
5/19	<p>UUMAN Rites of Passage</p> <p>Come celebrate with us at our annual rites of passage service! We will be recognizing our Coming of Age Youth, our Bridging Youth as well as our newborns (and relatively newborns) in a Naming Ceremony.</p>	Toniann Read and Rev. Dave Dunn
5/26	<p>Ramadan for Unitarian Universalists</p> <p>The Islamic holy month of Ramadan began on Sunday, May 5 and extends through June 4. What is the significance of Ramadan for Muslims? What can it signify for us? Could Unitarian Universalists ever conceive of a "holy month"? Of what would it consist?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn

May Connections

Date	Event
Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.	<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>
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15. Location of meetings vary.	<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>
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary	<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>
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	<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>
Saturdays, 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available.	<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>

Happy Mother's Day!

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

