

## April 2020

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## Staying Connected

In the Harry Potter book series, the name of the nemesis of all that was good was never spoken; he was simply referred to as “he who shall not be named.” Although the anxiety-causing pandemic is still unfolding,

if you are anything like me, you may already feel saturated with news about it.

The virus that shall not be named has no doubt turned our world, our congregation and our lives around. At UUMAN, it has forced us to re-conceptualize and re-invent church; and I feel as if we've had to circle the wagons a bit in response.

A couple of months ago, UUMAN kicked off an Outreach Ministry. Their charge is to help UUMAN be more visible to, and connected with, the larger community through marketing, social media, advertisement, etc. The team is currently comprised of Laura Garrison-Brook, Elizabeth Norris, Amy Moss and Mira DeShazer with technical assistance being provided by Phillip Seaver.

The pandemic has forced the Outreach Ministry team to re-invent itself as it was inventing itself. Over the short-term, they've charged themselves with helping each of us be visible to, and connected with, the larger UUMAN community.

At a recent online meeting of the team, one of the members wisely noted that, we most definitely do not want to be practicing “social distancing” at this time despite what you hear coming from health experts and politicians. Instead, we need to be practicing “physical distancing.” It is still incumbent upon us to remain socially and emotionally connected to each other at this time.

With physical distancing and isolation, the Outreach Ministry team is willing to help us with “Inreach;” willing to help us stay socially and emotionally connected with one another.

They suggest that we hold:

- Regular online Care Circle meetings
- Online Coffee & Conversation each week
- Regular online committee meetings

- Online Happy Hour on Friday afternoons
- Online small group ministry
- Online Adult Enrichment classes
- What other ideas might you have???

These are good ideas. The principal goal here is not to get stuff done, or even to learn something new; the goal at this time is to stay socially and emotionally connected to one another.

This could provide you with an opportunity experience UUMAN in a new way. Maybe you could sit in on an online Earth Ministry, Membership or Program Council meeting from the comfort of your home? Maybe you could sit in on an online Finance Committee meeting (if you're into that)?

Who knows, maybe the virus that shall not be named will help us transcend old barriers and force us be more socially and emotionally connected to one another in healthy and fruitful ways? Who knows? May we be open to the fruit this can bear.

Take care,

Dave

# UUMAN's Weekend to Reflect, Recharge, and Renew

Date to be determined due to virus. Original date is May 16-17, 2020\*

We are pleased to share more details of the weekend when our UUA staff will spend time with us at UUMAN during our Coming of Age/Rites of Passage weekend. Dr. Rev. Hope Johnson, UUA Congregational Life Consultant for the Southern and Eastern Regions and Cameron Young, UUA Congregational Life Consultant for the MidAmerican and Southern Regions will be facilitating a program at UUMAN at a date to be determined, originally set for the weekend of May 16-17. The theme of the weekend is Reflect, Recharge, and Renew. The goal is to reflect on the past few years: the conflicts, losses, and poignant moments we've experienced collectively and individually; recharge by being together as a community; and renew our commitment to UUMAN's mission (Nurture our Spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the World.) and vision (to be a vital and visible community for all, bravely working toward the day when social, economic, and environmental justice is a reality).

The proposed activities are as follows:

## Saturday Morning (approximately 10:00-12:00)

**Conversation with Hope and Cameron** - Hope and Cameron will talk with UUMAN members and friends (20-minute time slots) for those who may have questions or want to get to know them more personally. Email Melinda Mischik (DRE@UUMAN.org) to sign up for a slot. (As always, Hope and Cameron remain available to UUMAN members via email in the meantime.)

**Coming of Age Luncheon** - Hope and Cameron will join us for lunch to help us celebrate our Coming of Age graduates.

## Saturday Afternoon Program (approximately 2:00-4:00)

- We will reflect on issues such as conflict, loss/grief, and the impact of COVID-19 on our congregation and our lives
- We will recharge through meditation and coming together as a community.
- We will renew our commitment to UUMAN's mission, vision, and covenant.

## Sunday

- **Congregational-wide Appreciation Luncheon** to thank the RE Team, RE teachers, OWL facilitators, and nursery volunteers. We will also invite Premo teachers to join us in this celebration.
- **Congregational meeting** where we celebrate what we've accomplished over the past year and talk about what we're poised to do in the future.



[Dr. Rev. Hope Johnson](#)



[Cameron Young](#)

*\*We realize that the date will likely change in light of COVID-19, but we will keep this date until we know what date might be realistic to move this weekend to.*

*Contributors to this article include: Elizabeth Rohan, Melinda Mischik, Carolyn Bommarito, Bev Jordan, Miriam Patanian, Jennifer Ratcliffe, and Laurie Wheeler*

## #UUtheVote

This quarantine can not and will not distract me from the business of helping maintain alive our democracy, and specifically increase voter turnout in the elections in November. I am not alone. Just this week I participated in a zoom meeting with representatives of the UUA (the Unitarian Universalist Association), leaders of several UU churches in Georgia and local activists. We came together to discuss the important work of collaborating with other religious groups and non-profits to find common ground and to strategize on future steps. We weren't flustered by our inability to leave our home or our workplace.

Now that you have more time to sit in front of the computer, I urge you to go the UUA website and type #UUtheVote in the search box and read about available resources. And, if you're so moved, to join our ranks. There is much to do. Several UUMAN members are actively participating in this effort. If you're interested, reach out to me and we'll plug you in.

But in the meantime, here's a list of 7 actions (like our 7 principles) YOU can take. Right now. I hope you'll stay tuned to other events and opportunities to stay connected.

### How to #UUtheVote Without Leaving the House

We looked at our 50+ Ways to UU the Vote and suggest these 7:

Visit Vote Forward to send letters to unlikely or unregistered voters.

Go to Reclaim Our Vote to make calls to voters who were purged from the rolls.

Consider small group meetings instead of large gatherings or gather online using zoom, google hangout, or slack.

Set a date for your congregation to watch **Suppressed: The Fight to Vote** by Brave New Films or the movie **Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook** (available on some streaming services, including Amazon Prime) from each individuals home then hold a group conference call to debrief together.

Call your legislator to advocate for paid sick leave and relief for affected workers—not a bail out for the fossil fuel industry. Call (202) 224-3121 to be connected.

Spend the time to brainstorm who in your life to engage in values conversations with. Start making those calls and texts. See page 27 in our launch guide.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper with your opinion of how the pandemic is being handled and what you would like to see our elected leaders do.

As Audra Friend says, 'Moments like these are actually why it's so crucial we have elected leadership who hold our values of beloved community, welcome and sanctuary, accountability and transparency. We want a country that responds with empathy rather than fear; we hope we can all find a way to do so.'

In closing, we want to share this prayer/poem from Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, which so perfectly captures our aspirations:

*"this is the part where we commandeer cruise ships for people migrating to feast at all you can eat buffets and party pool side and then split the corporate profits with the staff, right?"*

*"this is the part where we teach ourselves how to make our own medicine - the kind from herbs and grandma's recipes and vaccines and antivirals and insulin and epipens too, right?"*

*"this is the part where we open our spare rooms to the college student whose school is closed and the asylum seeker who just got out of detention, and our co-worker who just got evicted and the queer teen who needs a place to crash, right?"*

*"this is the part where we feed lunch to the kid whose school is cancelled and text the people who can't be in public spaces anymore and we breathe, right?"*

*"this the part where we introduce ourselves to our neighbors we've been living next to for 10 years because tomorrow we might need each other, right?"*

*"this is the part where we ask "what do I really need for surviving?" and find a way to seek no more and no less, right?"*

*"this is the part where we stay home, we cancel, we show up, we call, we fight, we let go, we stay, we don't let anyone go it alone, right?"*

*"this is the part where when we say we, we mean: we elderly, we immunocompromised, we sick, we well, we in prison, we free, we who can buffer our way out with money and privilege and we who definitely can't."*

*"right?"*

*right."*

This is the part where we call, we fight, we don't let anyone go it alone, right?

Right.

In loving service,

Jennifer Ratcliffe

Worship Chair

UUtheVote UUMAN Team member

## The NFCC Food Pantry Operations During COVID-19



## Life Celebrations

Due to COVID-19, the North Fulton Community Charities moved food pantry services to a drive-thru option to minimize social interactions and allow us to operate with limited staff members.

- All food pantry orders will be placed online. Clients will be emailed with an appointment time to come pick up their order in our drive-thru.
- Existing NFCC Clients will fill out the [Food Pantry Order Form](#).
- New families to NFCC will start by using our [Get Help Form](#) for all services including food. Please share this link with anyone that finds themselves needing services for the first time.
- Emergency financial assistance for housing or utilities has been moved online ONLY. Clients should also fill out an [Appointment Request Form](#) for any emergency financial assistance.
- The Education Center and Thrift Shop remain CLOSED until further notice.
- We have suspended ALL volunteers at this point.

Thank you for the outpouring of support we've received and the offers to come help, but we are following public health officials advice to keep interactions to as few people as possible. We will let you know when this changes.

Financial donations are still the best way to help at this point. They allow us to help the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time. It also allows us to be flexible in the services we provide to families that need it.

- NFCC

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](mailto:communications-chair@uuman.org)

Date	Celebration
4/5	Chris Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Jason Hagood is celebrating a birthday
	Bob Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/7	Violet F. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/9	Marianne Walker, Ilona's mother, is celebrating her birthday
4/10	Anna Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/13	Shanti G. is celebrating a birthday
4/16	Dan Ben-David is celebrating a birthday
4/17	Pat Carter is celebrating a birthday
4/20	Joel S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/21	Ida G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/25	Dan Ben-David and Carole Herman are celebrating their 5th anniversary! They were married here at UUMAN.
4/27	John Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Dirk and Anne Bender adopted Danielle 18 years ago!

## A Month of Sundays

## April Connections

All in-person Sunday services and any meetings or groups at UUMAN are canceled until further notice. See [this page](#) for more details.

We plan to continue live-streaming Sunday services on [YouTube](#).

**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 proceeding the issue date.

Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)