



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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In the Interim: Doing Church, Being Church

A pre-UUMAN year or so ago, I gave a sermon called iBelieve about trends in organized religion, and the role technology plays in creating new ways to do church. I cribbed the title from a publication of the Yale Divinity School. What I said back then was timely—back then. If I were to write a sermon with the same title at UUMAN, I'd have to start from scratch. That's how fast conditions on the ground are changing these days. Don't panic, but there it is.

Delegates to the latest American Baptist Church Biennial (their UUA General Assembly equivalent) asked themselves, Can we discover new and innovative forms of church that are effective in light of today's multi-cultural and post-Christian realities? I could not have said it any better. Princeton professor of religion Leigh Eric Schmidt points to an increasing desire among seekers for churchless spirituality, i.e. centering prayer, small group ministry, mindfulness meditation, Sufi dancing, theosophy and other inward explorations popular among contemporary Unitarian Universalists and their friends. Churchless spirituality is rooted in adventurous 19th century religious practices encouraged by your liberal faith ancestors and mine, the Transcendentalists. What we're seeing today is equal parts innovation and revival.

Bring it all on. I ask only that we stop referring to our efforts as alternatives to the Sunday service. Nearly two decades of being a minister have worn away the self-importance I felt on ordination day, so it's not about the thrill of the pulpit. I'm awake to the complexities of doing and being church in a post-religious digital age. Yet the Sunday morning service is still where newcomers get their first taste of Unitarian Universalism in action. Certainly very individual's path to the Holy is important, but if ours is to remain a living tradition (see hymnal cover), the we of Unitarian Universalism needs spiritual exploration too. Sunday morning is the gateway.

- Rev. Cynthia Prescott

UUMAN

Ministerial Search Committee

News You Can Use – February

Your Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) is pleased to provide you with another installment of News You Can Use—an update on what we've been up to. We are excited about our section on the new uuman.org website, where you can find the latest information about the search!

WHAT HAS THE MSC BEEN DOING?

We are excited to announce that seven ministers have expressed interest in UUMAN! We have reviewed each candidate's Ministerial Record and website, which includes sermons and other writings.

We have held introductory telephone calls with each candidate, and we have begun interviewing references. We are beginning to narrow our selection to what we feel and think are the best three candidates for UUMAN.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS?

These "pre-candidates" are being invited to Georgia in February/March for pre-candidating weekends, during which we will show them the local area and conduct a more formal interview. We will also observe them deliver a sermon at a "neutral pulpit". Their identities will be kept confidential until one is chosen over the others.

In the meantime, please mark your calendars **April 30-May 8**, when our selected ministerial candidate will join us to lead the congregation in service and meet the various groups at UUMAN. The congregation will then vote to decide if they would like to ask the candidate to become our next settled minister—we will need 40% of our members to vote, and calling the minister will require a 90% affirmative vote of all those present. The minister's start date will be negotiated with the Board, but will likely be in the fall of 2016.

- We will continue to provide you a 5-minute update on our work from the pulpit on the last Sunday of every month.
- We will continue articles in the monthly newsletter, the UUMAN-Times.
- We will send out updates and time-sensitive information via UUMAN Announcements and the UUMAN Facebook page.
- We will be present during coffee hour after every service at the MSC table in Fellowship Hall. Look for our bright pink nametags and ask us a question!
- We will continue to post important information to the MSC bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.
- We will update the search committee website as new information becomes available.

HOW TO CONTACT THE MSC

- Email: search@uuman.org
- In person: before and after Sunday services; look for the people wearing bright pink nametags.

In faith,

Dirk Bender, Joe Creech, Laura Keck, Lyn May, Shelley Nagrani, Miriam Patanian, and Phillip Seaver

Congregational Study/Action Issues 2016

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) invites all congregations to vote yes or no on proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) each year to be voted on at General Assembly (GA). CSAIs are issues selected by Unitarian Universalist member congregations for four years of study, reflection and action. The Social Justice committee is very excited about participating in this process this year.

The proposed issues for 2016 are:

[A National Conversation On Race](#)

[Climate Change and Environmental Justice](#)

[The Corruption of Our Democracy](#)

[Ending Gun Violence in America](#)

The Social Justice Committee, in conjunction with the Program Council, voted yes to include each of the four proposed issues on the ballot at the UUA General Assembly this summer.

At a later date, the congregation will have the opportunity to select one of four topics. Delegates to the GA will then vote on UUMAN's behalf.

For more information on the Congregational Study/Action Issues and the process, please visit:

<http://www.uua.org/statements/current>

<http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/csw/newcsaiprocesschart806.pdf>

Jen Saltzman, Chair

Sheila K. Smith, Co-Chair

Social Justice Committee

MLK March 2016

Black Lives Matter

The Social Justice and MCY Crew at the MLK March and Rally 2016.

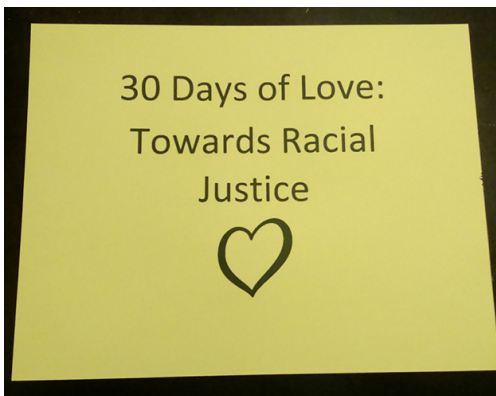


Thirty Days of Love

“Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” ~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Are you ready for revolutionary love? Hopefully, by now, you have seen some of the 30 Days of Love messages posted in the UUMAN Facebook group and sent through UUMAN announcements. Hopefully, you will take the time to read these messages.

We have joined Standing on the Side of Love and other UU congregations on a spiritual journey. Thirty Days of Love is a month-long period of intentional contemplation, action, and service. This year’s theme is racial justice.



As we share these messages, you are invited to explore the link between justice and love. We, the Social Justice Committee, want to hear from you, so please feel free to comment and let us know what resonates with you.

Now, back to the question – are you ready for revolutionary love? At the end of the 30 days, at our next Faith in Action Sunday in February, you will be invited to share your response with us. What are some ways you see yourself standing on the side of love? What are some ways you see UUMAN standing on the side of love? For your participation, we will have a special gift for you.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for 30 Days of Love, there are some actions we can take right away. Right now, we are inviting you to stay woke. To quote Kenny Wiley, UU World senior editor and director of faith formation at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church in Parker, Colorado: "The term "stay woke" is used on social media by people who continue pointing to the ever-growing list of victims of state violence, racial profiling, or other racial injustices. Unitarian Universalists, too, can "stay woke" by continuing to grapple with the magnitude of the work ahead, and by refusing to succumb to the temptation to ignore the racial realities of our country."

Are you ready for revolutionary love? We look forward to hearing from you.

Jen Saltzman, Chair
 Sheila K. Smith, Co-Chair
 Social Justice Committee



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
2/1	Kyra P. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/3	Elizabeth S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/4	Phillip Seaver is celebrating a birthday
2/5	Jacob H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/11	Fischer S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Lily S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/15	Maud vdB. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
2/16	Claire Sullivan is celebrating a birthday
2./22	Riahna Lee is celebrating a birthday
	Annelies and Bernard Woesten will be celebrating their 54 th Anniversary!
2/28	Raffaella S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
2/7	Just Getting Started 25th anniversary celebration service, featuring reflections on UUMAN Past, Present, and Future—and a special message from our youth and children.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
2/14	Ministry: A Field Guide Professional leadership is the biggest-ticket line item in a congregation's budget. Yet no minister ministers alone. The start of UUMAN's annual stewardship campaign seems like a good time to delve into the Many Mysteries of Ministry.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
2/21	Faith in Action: 30 Days of Love A multi-generational service coordinated by the UUMAN Social Justice Committee.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott Social Justice Committee
2/28	I Keep Getting Upset I cannot help getting tossed and turned by the frustration I experience, from the disappointment about attitudes I observe, attitudes that I know we were taught in kindergarten were wrong. By opening that door to support more humane attitudes, we have also left open the door to thoughts, beliefs and philosophies that seek to legitimize inhumanity, as frustrating as that might be. The frustration affects me. Inside. At an emotional level.	Lay Speaker Brian Kohn

February Events

Date	Event
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
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. The 25TH ANNIVERSARY ART SHOW is now exhibiting at UUMAN. Please enjoy the show, and remember a portion of all sales benefit UUMAN. See Annette Pate or the artist to purchase.
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
Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	The Common Grounds Coffee House Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen! Doors open at 7 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
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

February Events

Monday 7:30–9:00 p.m., Discovery Hall	Spirit of Life A 9-session course offering participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song "Spirit of Life." See http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/life for a course description and session materials. Dave Hudson and Jim Saunders will facilitate.
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

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). 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