



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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February 2020

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Transgender Inclusion in Congregations

What is the difference between sex and gender, gender identity and gender expression?

What barriers do trans people and trans people of color face?

Are we as welcoming as we can be? Might there be a nuance to welcoming? What might be the difference between Invitation, Inclusion and Radical Welcome?

What are the characteristics of UUMAN's cultural "iceberg" (i.e. what cultural norms are explicitly above the surface and what are below the surface)?



Please **register** and join us as we take this wonderful online course together.

You can register by scrolling through the "Upcoming Events" on the main page of the UUMAN Website or via the Signup Genius link:

[Trans Inclusion in Congregations Sign Up](#)

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Sunday, 6-8PM; February 9, 16; March 1, 8, 15, 22

Instructors (online): Rev. Mykal Slack & Zr. Alex Kapitan (hosted by Dave Dunn)

The "What to Expect" section below is from the Transforming Hearts Collective website describing the course:

What to Expect

This is an online course geared toward people from generally LGBTQ-welcoming congregations or faith groups who want to deepen their understanding of gender and transgender identities and are invested in creating truly trans-affirming faith communities.

There are six sessions.



Zr. Alex Kapitan and Rev. Mykal Slack

Each one includes a 45- to 60-minute lecture by instructors Mykal and Alex, reflection questions, resources to take it deeper, and a short informal quiz.

Sessions 1 and 2 are designed to ground you in this work, theologically, spiritually, and historically, and help you explore why we are called as people of faith to dismantle gender-based oppression—as well as exploring how each and every one of us are impacted by it and practices that can help us stay present.

Sessions 3 and 4 explore gender diversity and the lived experiences of trans people—including the ways that race, class, and other factors influence those experiences—along with trans spirituality.

Sessions 5 and 6 are all about culture and how to transform it. Expanding the circle of inclusion within a congregation or faith group requires understanding the unique culture of that group, along with how that culture works to include or exclude.

At the end of this course you will have a number of practices, frameworks, and tools that to help create an action plan for full trans inclusion in your congregation or faith group/space.

I am sure that you will find this course informative, thoughtful...and even fun! (The optimism and joy from the Alex and Mykal are palpable.)

See you there,

Dave



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50



Life Celebrations

One Sunday each month our unpledged offering is shared with a nonprofit organization. This month's chosen recipient is **Family Promise**. Their mission is to help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.

UUMAN participates in this program by housing families once a quarter for a week- providing them with food, shelter, love and community.

Michelle Liebergesell
50-50 Coordinator

Leadership at UUMAN

All organizations need leaders in order to enable their mission and thrive. UUMAN is no exception to this rule. Every year UUMAN has a need for new Board of Trustees and committee chairs as people roll off or move into new roles.

On **Saturday, February 8** we will be having a **UUMAN Leadership Workshop** where we will explore and discuss what it means to be a leader at UUMAN. If you have an interest in serving in a leadership role the Mission and Vision of UUMAN please plan to attend.

Thank you for all you do for UUMAN!

Bob Popp
Vice President

Love & Generosity Stewardship Campaign

SAVE THE DATE!

The evening of **Saturday, February 29, 2020, 6:00 PM**, will be the celebration kickoff of our 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign! Can you believe I just said 2021!

Please join us for a fun evening of festivities, fellowship, food, drink and reflection on our commitment to UUMAN and our vision for the great year ahead of us.

Childcare will be provided.

~ Tanya Romine

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



Notes from the Board

by Leslie Wolfe, UUMAN Board of Trustees Secretary

Hi, UUMAN – I'd like to introduce myself as the (not-really) new secretary of UUMAN's Board of Trustees. My daughters, Mallory Cundiff and Colleen Reynolds, and I joined UUMAN in 2017 after attending for about a year, knowing that we had finally found a church home that fits our liberal, spiritual, and non-doctrinal views.

You elected me to a two-year term that ends June 2021. It's my pleasure to serve! As board secretary, my main responsibility is being the official record-keeper of the Board's actions and ensuring that those actions are represented and recorded thoroughly, yet succinctly and accurately.

It's a job suited to my background as a current English teacher at Centennial High School and former broadcast journalist, as well as PR director for a huge East Cobb Methodist church years ago, an experience that helps me understand the inner workings of a church and its community. UUMAN is obviously a much smaller version of my old church – but just as busy, committed, changing, struggling, serving, supporting – all the things that churches with any dynamism experience.

As a member of UUMAN, it's exciting to be part of a community that is committed to helping those who need the help the most, fighting for social justice and the environment, in a safe setting that allows – encourages – members, from the littlest on up, to seek their own truth. I think our new mission statement says it best: As a church community, we seek to nurture our spirits and strive for justice, in the never-ending hope that we can transform the world. I'm looking forward to the rest of my term as your secretary.

~ Leslie Wolfe, UUMAN Board of Trustees Secretary

Help Wanted

There are many ways that you can get involved in support of the UUMAN mission. Here are some of the current needs:

Greeters

Greeters welcome visitors and everyone that enters UUMAN on Sunday morning prior to service; this is a great way to get to know people; if you are interested, contact membership@uuman.org

Choir

The UUMAN Choir is always looking for people interested in singing; For more information, contact Alex Pietsch at music-director@uuman.org

RE Teachers

The religious education program for our children and youth is well under way. If you are interested in getting involved in teaching or helping, please email re@uuman.org

Coffee House

Every month on the third Saturday we set up the Sanctuary to have live local music. We need help moving chairs around in the Sanctuary, setting up tables and putting up the backdrop for the show. It takes an hour or less if we have four or more volunteers helping. If you'd like to help, contact coffee-house@uuman.org

UUMAN Upcoming Events

Date	Event
12:00pm-1:00pm	The UUMAN Cancer Support Group meets on the first Sunday of every month , 12:00 – 1:00 pm in Discovery Hall. The group is for cancer survivors and their care-takers. Bring your own lunch. Questions? Contact the facilitator Kim Palmer at kpalmer01@gmail.com
7:00pm-8:30pm	<p>Earth Ministry</p> <p>We deeply embrace the natural world and are stewards of our Earth for now and for the next seven generations. We are respected in our community for environmental action.</p> <p>We invite YOU to join us! We meet the first Monday of every month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall, the small brick house to the right of our UUMAN sanctuary. There is much we can do together! For more information, contact earthministry@uuman.org</p>
7:00-9:30pm	<p>Common Grounds Coffee House</p> <p>Common Grounds Coffee House is held the 3rd Saturday every month in the UUMAN Sanctuary. Music starts at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7:00 PM.</p> <p>\$5.00 suggested donation at the door. We also collect food donations for North Fulton Community Charities.</p> <p>Our Coffee House has live music, poetry, and refreshments for sale, including sweet treats, fruit with cheese and crackers, sodas, tea and of course fair trade coffee. You are also welcome to bring your own refreshments. Tell a friend! Bring a friend!</p>
Begins 2/2 12-1 PM	<p>Faith Forward Class</p> <p>The Faith Forward class begins Sunday, Feb 2, and will run for 8 consecutive Sundays from 12-1 PM in the Sanctuary. The curriculum includes principles and history of Unitarian Universalism, as well as programs and organization of our local congregation. It is particularly suited for new members, but can also be beneficial for those who may have had it in the past, both to get to know new members, and because our leadership and programs continue to grow and evolve. If you would like to attend, please email adultenrichment@uuman.org or membership@uuman.org.</p>

Date	Event
2/13 1:30-4:30 pm	<p>North Fulton Community Charity</p> <p>Volunteer day</p> <p>Come and join me at our volunteer day at NFCC.</p> <p>Let's make a positive impact in our community together!</p> <p>~ Carla Kapeskas</p>
May 16-17	<p>You may recall from November's congregational meeting that the board announced that Dr. Rev. Hope Johnson, UUA Congregational Life Consultant for the Southern and Eastern Regions (whom we've been working with since June) will be facilitating a program at UUMAN the weekend of May 16-17.</p> <p>We are excited to announce that Cameron Young (whom some of you met at the Healthy Congregations training in October) will be joining us, as well.</p> <p>I am in the midst of assembling a small planning group to help us make the most out of our weekend with Hope and Cameron. (Our fabulous Interim DRE, Melinda Mischik, is involved, in case you were wondering!!) Our meetings with Hope and Cameron over the next few months will be virtual, so there is no need to come to UUMAN in the evenings to meet.</p> <p>If you are interested in joining the planning group, please let me know by Wednesday, February 5.</p> <p>Once the group is formed and has our first meeting, we will organize various times and formats for our planning group to connect with the larger UUMAN community for feedback about the weekend's program. Stay tuned!!!!</p> <p>Elizabeth Rohan elizabeth.rohan@gmail.com</p>

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
2/2	<p>Hil I'm a Unitarian Universalist</p> <p>What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? How do you respond when others ask you, "What church do you go to? What is Unitarian Universalism?" Come hear first person narratives from some of UUMAN's congregants.</p> <p><i>New Member Sunday—Welcome!</i></p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
2/9	<p>Watch What Happens</p> <p>Depending upon circumstance, Valentine's Day can attune us to love or loss. Love sweeps us away. Love sweeps us aside. We fall in. We fall out. Might there be Good News in all this?</p> <p><i>50/50 – Family Promise</i></p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
2/16	<p>The Return of Paganism</p> <p>We have all likely heard people say that they are "spiritual but not religious." Might this simply be indicative of a rejection of the traditional organized religions? Might it also be indicative of a return to pagan spirituality? What might this mean?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
2/23	<p>Rutabagas and Parsnips</p> <p>Sacrifice, Fasting and Ashes OH MY.... for many of us, this season that starts this Wednesday was about giving up and not giving in for 40 days, but is there something in Lent for UU's?</p>	Randy Blasch

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>

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

