



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

WWW.UUMAN.ORG 11420 CRABAPPLE RD, ROSWELL, GA 30075 770-992-3949

November 2018

Inside this issue:

Mission, Vision, Membership, Belong, Faith Foundation	1
Winter Solstice Celebration	2
Fifty/Fifty Raffle	2
Notes from the Board of Trustees	2
Sharing the Plate—50/50	3
Classical Music Concert at UUMAN	3
Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest	3
Life Celebrations	3
A Month of Sundays	4
November Connections	4



## Wrapping Up This Fall’s Sermon Series: Mission, Vision, Membership, Belonging, Faith Formation

I’ve never done a sermon series before, but in case you didn’t know, we’ve been doing one this fall. The arc of my most recent sermons here have focused on reflecting what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist; what it means to belong, to be a member of this congregation; what it means to have a vision for the future, why it is necessary for us, as Unitarian Universalists, to do faith formation.

As part of the series, we did a service on “Belonging.” What does it mean to be a member, what does it mean to belong to this congregation? We said that membership means, “Taking off the bib and putting on the apron (Michael Piazza).” Membership means joining us in commitment to our mission and ministry. “Membership is...a covenant among individuals to become something new (Renee-Noelle Felice, Belonging, Commission on Appraisal, 65).” Membership is a covenant we, the existing members, make with our newest members; giving them authority to change us, to make us something new.

We also dedicated a Sunday to faith formation (“Faith Formation – 2020”) which emphasized that as Unitarian Universalists, we are completely responsible for growing our faith. Unitarian Universalism doesn’t sell a system of beliefs. We create an environment for you to plant and nurture the seeds of your faith - “we don’t sell fruits here, only seeds (Judith Frediani).”

We later did a Twilight Zone skit as a way to playfully paint our vision for the future of UUMAN (“Engaging in UUMAN’s Vision”). In this sermon I also emphasized that “the method is the message;” that participating in the process in vision creation is the transformative part. Some of the visions that were suggested included:

- We envision that UUMAN will be a place of prayer, love and voting.
- We envision that UUMAN will live sustainably off the grid.

- We envision that we will encourage our kids to speak the truth.
- We envision that we will empower kids with a knowledge of sexuality.
- We envision that we will be attuned to the homeless and others in need.
- We envision a congregation that plays in worship

We spent one particular Sunday discussing UUMAN’s mission. Might there be a way that we could all inscribe this mission on our hearts...or at least remember it? We described “UUMAN – In Six Words” as a way of editing, paring down to the bare essentials, the essence of UUMAN.

In the very near future, we will be engaging one another in congregational visioning in an effort to formally articulate the future we wish to create. Who knows, we might end up tweaking or even re-writing our mission statement. It will depend upon you. Changing our mission will depend on the discussions you have and the visions you articulate.

On my first Sunday back after returning from summer break, I related that despite this congregation facing a new culture and society that is no longer pre-disposed to churchgoing, all of you chose to spend your Sunday morning here at UUMAN (“I So Appreciate”). And I so appreciate the many of you who continue to give your time, talent and treasure to this place that feeds you in ways that no other place can.

Thank you & take care,

Dave



## Winter Solstice Celebration

Save Saturday, December 22 for UUMAN's annual ceremony celebrating the return of the Light. This year we have a special surprise for the young ones, so we hope they will come.

Arrive starting at 6:30, we will begin when the stars start twinkling. We will head to the sanctuary if it rains. Pot luck to follow. If you are interested in helping, please contact Donna Melcher.



## Play the Odds at the Upcoming Fifty/Fifty Raffle

Ready to win that big Mega Millions prize? Yeah, me too. But let's face it the odds are really against us. Come and play a game where the odds are more in your favor. UUMAN will be holding a drawing for a fifty/fifty raffle on December 23. Fifty percent of whatever we raise will be given to holder of the winning ticket. Ticket sales will start at the November Congregational meeting, November 11th. and continue right up to drawing on December 23. Tickets are five dollars apiece or five tickets for \$20.00.

The winning ticket will be drawn by Santa and his trusty elves at our December 23 holiday service.

Proceeds from the raffle will go to boost up our Infrastructure Depreciation Fund.

See one of the Finance Committee Members to purchase tickets.

Colin J. Decker

UUMAN Treasurer



## Notes from the Board of Trustees

One of the things I love about UUMAN is that we are a Welcoming Congregation!. But do you know what's really behind that?

According the UUA website:

"In the 1980s and 90s, when the word "welcoming" became a code word for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, the Unitarian Universalist Association launched a Welcoming Congregation Program to help us learn how to undo homophobia—and later, transphobia (prejudice against transgender people)—in our hearts and minds, our congregations, and our communities."

And UUMAN is thankfully a part of this program. But just becoming a Welcoming Congregation is just the beginning. Beginning in 2019 we will required to renew our status of a Welcoming Congregation annually.

So what's involved. Well there are now "Five Practices" of a welcoming congregation that must be renewed which are laid out on the UUA Website. Beginning later this year, we'll be looking for people to help the board with completing the renewal. So here are the questions I'd like you to ponder:

Is UUMAN being a Welcoming Congregation important to you?

Are you willing to do the work to help UUMAN maintain its status as a Welcoming Congregation?

If the answer to either or both of these is YES, consider being a part of helping UUMAN continue as a Welcoming Community. Watch this space and UUMAN Announcements for information on how you can join us in sustaining this amazing honor.

Peace,

Randy Blasch

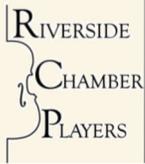
Past President



## 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.

—Michelle Liebergesell



## Classical Music Concert at UUMAN

The Riverside Chamber Players will present their fall concert at UUMAN on November 4 at 3PM.

To open RCP's 16th season, a new work will be performed by Composer-in-Residence, Michael Kurth, scored for violin and three cellos - String Quartet No.3, "The One with All the Cellos". Four exceptional cellists will also come together for some serious (and not-so-serious) quartet playing. You will be enthralled by the rich sonorities of these instruments and surprised by the cello's endless versatility. Come be a part of this very special world premiere and meet the composer and musicians following the concert!

Tickets available online at [www.riversidechamberplayers.org](http://www.riversidechamberplayers.org) or at the door.

Adults \$20 Seniors (55+) \$15 Students/teachers - free admission

- Marc Lee



## Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Do you have a Christmas sweater that is Ugly, Unfortunate, or Otherwise Problematic? Please wear it to church Sunday December 9 and the Fashion Police, led by Lyn May, will judge you and your sweater. All in good fun, mostly.

- Jim Nickens



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

Date	Celebration
11/1	Susan Wilson is celebrating a birthday
11/6	Shelly Nagrani is celebrating a birthday
11/8	Milana N. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
11/9	Terry Parkerson is celebrating birthday
11/10	Linda Etheridge is celebrating a birthday
11/12	Merri Beth Stephens is celebrating a birthday
11/13	Steve Allerton is celebrating a birthday
11/14	Ilona Walker and Randy Jue's children, Alexander and Arianna, are celebrating a birthday Doug Wilson is celebrating a birthday
11/17	Ember S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
11/18	Joss H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
11/20	Carolyn Lee is celebrating a birthday
11/21	Joe Creech is celebrating a birthday Jen Saltzman is celebrating a birthday

## A Month of Sundays

## November Connections

Date	Topic	Service Leaders	Date	Event
11/4	<p><b>Life is on the Line</b></p> <p>We must insure government of, for and by the people. Power has no allegiance and can be used against us. The determining factors are the values we live, the work we do and continuous civic engagement. The challenge of our times is joining hands, working together for the benefit of all and resisting the forces that divide us. Everyone has to act now.</p> <p>Life on this planet and our democracy are the issues at hand.</p>	Jennifer Ratcliffe	<p><b>Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.</b></p> <p><b>UUMAN's Painting Group</b></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 <a href="mailto:painting@uuman.org">painting@uuman.org</a></p>	
11/11	<p><b>Who We Are</b></p> <p>It has often been said that UUMAN is a place of refuge - a progressive island in a sea of reactionary conservatism. For someone looking for such a refuge, how might they find us? Where are our lighthouses? What are our beacons of hope? Have we been afraid to show our true colors? Have we been afraid to</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn	<p><b>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15.</b></p> <p><b>Location of meetings vary.</b></p> <p><b>Daytimers</b></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. <a href="mailto:dan@uuman.org">dan@uuman.org</a></p>	
11/18	<p><b>Bread Communion</b></p> <p>Bread is a symbol of life-giving sustenance and today we will share a bread communion together. Please bring a bread (homemade if possible) that elicits memories of childhood sustenance. You will have the opportunity to share this memory with us. We will then collect bread for donation to NFCC.</p>	<p>Rev. Dave Dunn</p> <p>Toniann Read</p>	<p><b>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary</b></p> <p><b>Centering at UUMAN</b></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 <a href="mailto:campoften@aol.com">campoften@aol.com</a></p>	
11/25	<p><b>To be announced...</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.uuman.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/">https://www.uuman.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/</a></p>	Loren Kirby	<p><b>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</b></p> <p><b>Circle of Women</b></p> <p>We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Linda Etheridge <a href="mailto:lletheridge1@gmail.com">lletheridge1@gmail.com</a></p>	
			<p><b>Saturdays , 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available .</b></p> <p><b>Mindfulness Meditation</b></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 <a href="mailto:jkevinking@yahoo.com">jkevinking@yahoo.com</a> (470) 723-4070</p>	

*For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to [www.uuman.org](http://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](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)