

## November 2022

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## We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike

“We need not think alike to love alike” is a quotation often attributed to sixteenth century Transylvanian Unitarian minister

Francis David. He is arguably the first Unitarian minister and this quotation is only arguably his. Some religious scholars believe that this quotation was erroneously attributed to him beginning in the mid-20th Century.

I’ve heard it said that Unitarian Universalists can be prone to argument and, at the same time, conflict avoidance. Actually, I’m not convinced of either. We may be no different than other denominations in this regard.

That said, the potential for argument and conflict within the denomination will be great this year. The precipitating cause will be change. A new UUA President will be elected at the UUA General Assembly (GA) in June 2023. Also at this upcoming GA, revisions to Article II of the UUA Bylaws will likely be voted on. Article II includes, among other things, the Principles and Sources. This is the bedrock of Unitarian Universalism and any change to this will likely stress the denomination.

Amongst the stormy confusion, I hope we can continue to take the longer view. I hope that we can remember that although we do not necessarily think alike or agree on how to move forward, I hope that we can remember that we’re on the same team.

I do believe that most all UUs have a vision of creating something like “Beloved Community” (though we may call it something different), and that each of us may envision it somewhat differently; and that we may disagree as to how to bring it about.

But I believe we need to stay together on the same team because there seems to be another team out there that is actively working against the creation of Beloved Community. They were marching in Charlottesville in 2017. They were marching on the Capitol in 2021. They’re disenfranchising citizens and eroding our democracy in state legislatures. They are restricting the rights of women in the courts. They’re actively denying climate change. They’re controlling what can be taught as history to our children. They’re actively targeting the LGBTQ+ community. This is the team we need to fight...yes fight!

If we are not skillful in our navigation of the year ahead, if we disregard our covenants with one another, many will no longer feel that they can, in good conscience, remain Unitarian Universalists... and this is their right. I would never tell a person to subscribe a position to which they cannot, in good conscience, subscribe.

“We need not think alike to love alike.” Hopefully we can all find a way forward together.

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

~ Dave



## Notes from the Board:

### This year is different

This fall is a very important time for us as a nation and as Unitarian Universalists. This November we hold mid-term elections and UU congregations world-wide continue the process of adopting a re-write of the second article of our by-laws and considering an eighth principle to our seven principles (“Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”).

We can agree that voting and attending church regularly are important to most of us. **This year is different.** Showing up to participate in revisions of our UUA by-laws are also examples of what church is about. We simply do “our thing” in Roswell and seldom consider our connection to the wider denomination. But these are liminal times, and they require engagement and reflection. We are good at that.

Many at UUMAN have participated in letter-writing in advance of the elections because we know that much more is at stake this year. The same is true about by-laws’ revisions. It requires us to stay more engaged than usual, and there are many ways to do this work. Over 60 years ago Unitarian Universalists approved a merger between two denominations. In 2022 WE are deciding the future of our denomination for the next 60 years. What will UUMAN’s role be?

I would like to think that most of us care about what the UUA’s legacy is, otherwise why do we come to church and pledge time, attention, money? Our minister, Dave Dunn, has preached about the 8th principle, and we’ve started having conversations about it. Now is the time to show up and discuss it further. Ask yourself these questions:

Is having a covenant important to UUs?

Do we need to talk about racism and oppression in 2022?

Do you want the denomination to make decisions for you without your input?

I challenge all of us to do more than vote and I challenge all of us to come to the table and speak our truth. When we listen to each other we make better decisions together.

Remember, **this year is different.**

Let’s celebrate that we are asked to make better choices for ourselves and to share the good news of our faith. This faith is a living tradition, a faith that reflects, explores, and advances towards creating a Beloved Community. Now is the time to show up.

~ Jennifer Ratcliffe, past-president, Board of Trustees

## UUMANites at Atlanta Pride 2022



**Left to Right: Ellen (Michelle Liebergesell’s sister), Michelle Liebergesell, Randy Blasch, Michelle Goldy (new member), Dave Dunn, Lexie, Jules**



**Left to Right: Andy (from a different congregation), Jules, Lexie, Lizzy, and Grace.**

# Religious Exploration News

## The Transient and the Permanent in Religious Education and Exploration



It was the summer of 1996 when UUMAN welcomed me as your first paid (as opposed to volunteer) Director of Religious Education. That July I attended my first RE Week at The Mountain and was introduced to colleagues from all

over the Southeast. Experienced and novice religious educators learned together, sharing insights, support and resources. That spirit continues on in 2022, as you welcomed Lexie Tangney as your DRE. What a gift it has been for me to accompany Lexie at the Fall Conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association in Birmingham! By Karen LoBracco

*Thank you for supporting her in growing into her role and thank you for launching me into a fulfilling career.*  
~ Lexie

### LREDA Fall Conference

I recently attended my first LREDA fall conference. It was an overwhelming honor to attend with the very first DRE to UUMAN, Karen LoBracco. The topic of the fall con was "Faith Made Real: Living the 8th Principle." We engaged with strategies to dismantle white supremacy within our Unitarian Universalist spaces, and where our power lies, to create a Unitarian Universalism where faith can be made real. The conference content will support Religious Educators in their individual and congregational anti-racism and anti-oppression work. More information can be found at the LREDA webpage: <https://lreda.org/FallCon>

### Atlanta Pride Event

UUs also set out on participating in the Atlanta Pride event, many of which had their first attendance and had a terrific time showing support and a sense of community with other GA locals. The UUs and I met at the church, drove together



and began to march with our UUMAN colors, showing that we were both a place of understanding and community. After the parade, we had a young adult socialization in Piedmont Park, strengthening our individual and collective soul.

### UUMAN Garden



Together with John Pruitt, the youth prepped and planted the UUMAN garden on Labor Day weekend. We learned about the process to preparing the soil, used some nifty stencils to measure the distance each seed was from the other, poked holes, and dropped in seeds. We have watched the garden grow and produce food. At the beginning of RE, the senior youth group will often do their check in around the garden to tend to its needs.



### Fidget Shelf

We added a fidget shelf, with different knicks and knacks to keep some of our younger UUs entertained and engaged. The younger audience within our congregation has really started to blossom.



### Last, but not least...

Nothing makes me happier than to address UUMAN's first ever Fall Festival on October 29, where we will speak of other traditions and cultures that makes the fall season so special. We will have costume contests, hay rides, games, and even an escape room experience periodically throughout the event. I hope we will have a great attendance and work on strengthening the community we love to foster here at UUMAN.

UUMAN will have a congregational meeting on November 20 at 11:15 a.m. We will be offering child care and need to know how many to account for to ensure proper staffing and planning for the events. You can find this form here; <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/2d3c3e>

~ Lexie Tangney



UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. We are thrilled to see that the counties in which the majority of us live are in the Low Risk category. Masks are optional for indoor activities, and indoor congregational singing can occur at this time. We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted—thank you for doing your part to keep our risk as low as possible!

Go to [uuman.org](http://uuman.org) for the most recent information.

## November 2022: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
11/8	<b>A People So Bold?</b>  Part of UUMAN's mission is to "Strive for Justice." What is the real history of Unitarian Universalism's quest for justice in the world? Are there histories that make us uncomfortable? How can we learn from our mistakes?	Rev. Dave Dunn
11/13	TBA	Rev. Kim Palmer
11/20	<b>Bread Communion</b>  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.	Rev. Dave Dunn
11/27	<b>America's Native Stories</b>  The story of Thanksgiving goes back to the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock. Yet before they were here there were already people here – loving their loved ones and living their lives. Let's hear some of their stories – stories of creation, stories of love and the ubiquitous trickster tales.	Rev. Dave Dunn

**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)



## 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 [membership@uuman.org](mailto:membership@uuman.org).

Date	Celebration
11/1	Susan W. is celebrating a birthday.
11/10	Linda E. is celebrating a birthday.
11/11	Kendall L. is celebrating a birthday.
11/12	Merri Beth S. is celebrating a birthday.
11/13	Steve A. is celebrating his 70th birthday.
11/14	Gaberial K. is celebrating a birthday.
	Doug W. is celebrating a birthday.
11/16	Debra B. is celebrating a birthday.
11/20	Carolyn L. is celebrating a birthday.
11/22	Sasha G. is celebrating a birthday.
11/27	Autumn C. is celebrating a birthday.