

## September 2022

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## 2022 Fall 2nd Hour Adult Religious Exploration Offerings

Here are the offerings for the Fall 2022:

Feel free to "drop-in" to any class at any time. Some classes offer the option of registration/signup simply to help the facilitators communicate with attendees in advance and plan programming.

Registration/Signup and more details can be found on the Adult Religious Exploration page of our website: [Register and Sign Up](#)

### Sunday Service Reflections

**Dates:** Every Sunday  
**Time/Location:** 11:15 -12PM  
**In-Person Facilitated By:** Adult Enrichment

### Stewards of the Earth

**Dates:** 9/18, 10/2, 11/6, 12/11  
**Time/Location:** 11:15 -12PM In-Person  
**Facilitated By:** Earth Ministry

### Issues in Unitarian Universalism

**Dates:** 10/9, 10/16, 10/30  
**Time/Location:** 11:15 -12PM In-Person  
**Facilitated By:** Jennifer Ratcliffe

### Eating to Extinction

**Dates:** 12/4, 12/11, 12/18  
**Time/Location:** 11:15 -12PM In-Person  
**Facilitated By:** Gus Hadorn and Jennifer Ratcliffe

### MUUSICShare

**Dates:** 9/11; TBA  
**Time/Location:** 11:15 -12PM In-Person  
**Facilitated By:** Alex Pietsch

### Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Women Ministers of the Frontier

**Dates:** 10/16, 11/6  
**Time/Location:** 11:15 -12PM In-Person  
**Facilitated By:** Dave Dunn

### Neighborhood Connections Ministry

**Dates:** 9/11, 10/2, 10/30, 12/18  
**Time/Location:** 11:15 -12PM In-Person  
**Facilitated By:** Dave Dunn

Participants will agree to volunteer their efforts (8hrs/month) at a non-profit or social service agency in their local community. A list of potential agencies and their contact information will be provided but each participant may arrange their own volunteer service as their spirit calls them.

Please join us for 2nd Hour Adult Religious Exploration!

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

~ Dave

## UUtheVote: Writing Letters

This is part of UUtheVote initiatives and becoming a "Good Trouble Congregation". More here:

<https://www.uuthevote.org/goodtroublecongregation/>

Voting in our super power and engaging in this process aligns us with our 5th principle "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;"

It was a fun and meaningful event.

Together (at UUMAN and from home) we wrote 420 letters!

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to help us make it happen. We shared food and good conversation.

Hopefully we will be doing more of these events in the near future.

Carla Kapeskas  
Board of Trustees - Special Project  
Social Justice Chair

Missing: *Gus Hadorn and David Dunn*



## UU 101 Class

The next UU 101 will be held September 10, 12:30pm-2pm and September 17, 12:30pm-2pm. This 2-session class is for visitors, active non-members or even long time members - anyone who wants to learn more about our faith or who is considering becoming a member. You will learn about Unitarian Universalism, our welcoming culture and long history of social justice. You will learn all about UUMAN and our great programs. You will even get a tour of our campus.

You may attend virtually or in person.

We hold this class twice a year, so if you can't make it this time, we will look forward to having you attend later in the year. If you have questions about the class or about becoming a member, feel free to email the Membership Committee at [membership@uuman.org](mailto:membership@uuman.org).

Laura Keck

## Program Council News

On August 13, the UUMAN Program Council held its annual planning retreat. It was attended by 19 people, a broad range of long-time and new members/friends of UUMAN.

For those of you unfamiliar with the UUMAN Program Council here is a brief description from the UUMAN website - "The Program Council is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Congregation through the committees, communication across committees, providing support to fellow committee members, coordinating mutual activities, and organizing volunteers and contractual services to assist in the accomplishment of its activities within the scope of the budget as approved by the Board."

The meeting/retreat was facilitated by the Program Council Chair - Shelley Nagrani. Shelley took the attendees through a process of identifying:

- What do volunteers do at UUMAN - the Work?
- What are UUMAN's Strengths?
- What are the Obstacles we face in accomplishing the Work?
- What are the Steps we can take of overcome the Obstacles and Accomplish our Priorities and the Work?

The link to the Notes from the meeting can be found at - [Program Council Retreat Notes-08132022](#)

There are two upcoming meetings where the discussion and planning will continue. All are encouraged to attend whether you were able to attend the August 13th meeting or not.

The next meeting will be online via Google Meets on September 1 at 7pm. The Google Meets link to the meeting is - [Program Council Google Meet link](#). The link can also be found on the calendar on the UUMAN website and in Breeze.

Please also mark your calendars for the Program Council Next Steps Workshop to be held in-person at UUMAN on September 10 from 2pm-4pm in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please email the UUMAN Program Council Chair at [program-council-chair@uuman.org](mailto:program-council-chair@uuman.org)

~ Bob Popp

## MUUSICShare



*A MUUSICShare singalong in Birmingham, AL in December 2017*

We hope you'll join us for a music jam after church on September 11. Bring your guitar or other instruments, bring your voice, or just bring your ears to enjoy the music. If Covid is still raging, we'll jam outdoors so we can sing. MUUSICShare will be new here, but it has a history....

A long time ago (about 6 years), in a UU church far away (Birmingham), a group of music enthusiasts starting meeting to play instruments and sing together, just for fun. We called it MUUSICShare, to emphasize the sharing, and of course we spelled it with two U's.

One evening we were jamming at church while another group was rehearsing for a play about refugees. We were asked to play hymn # 159, "This is My Song," for their play. Sharing our music for the play was so much fun that we decided to share it beyond the church. We developed an outreach program, leading singalongs for retirement communities where UU members, friends, and family members lived, as well as other underserved communities. We also performed for the occasional vespers service and other church events before the pandemic forced us online for much too long.

MUUSICShare at UUMAN will be a fun jam for music lovers of all ages and abilities. Will it evolve into something more? That's up to you. We hope to see you there!

~ Debra Burrell



## UUMAN Goes Solar!

On July 28, Creative Solar installed solar panels on the roof of our Sanctuary.



Our solar array will produce 15,500 kWh/year and reduce our emissions by 18,100 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is the equivalent of 900 gallons of gasoline. In addition, we will save over \$80,000 over the life of the system.



Your generosity has not only made us good stewards of UUMAN but also allowed us to put UUMAN on a path to be more sustainable. We will become the 8th church in Georgia to install solar panels and the 1st church north of Atlanta.

If you are interested in learning more about the UUMAN Solar Panels please sign-up and attend the Earth Ministry adult enrichment class after service on September 18. Here's the link to sign up: [Breeze Sign-up Form](#). The class will be offered in person and via Google Meets.

~ Bob Popp

## UUTheVote

### “Good Trouble Congregation”

On July 17, 2022, approximately 20 UUMAN members and friends met in Fellowship Hall to discuss the UUTheVote campaign. The UUTheVote campaign is a non-partisan campaign of the UUA aimed at getting more voters to the polls on November 8, 2022.

The goal of the UUTheVote campaign is “a coordinated national movement of communities working together to fight for justice, accountability, and equity”. There are many ways to get involved in the UUTheVote campaign including writing letters or postcards, texting or calling voters, door-to-door campaigning, registering voters and participating directly in the mid-term election.

On August 7th UUMAN held a Letter Writing Event, that many of you attended, it got us all inspired and headed in the right direction of becoming a “Good Trouble Congregation”. Didn't you always want to get into good trouble? Well now is your opportunity!

In order to become a UUTheVote “Good Trouble” Congregation we have to do 4 of the following 7 things:

- Average 20 postcards or letters per member
- Average 200 text messages per member
- Average 20 calls per member
- Average 20 doorknocks per member
- Reach 20 percent volunteer engagement
- Average 2 newly registered voters per member
- At least 2 congregants are line warmers, poll workers, or poll watchers

The UUMAN UUTheVote Team believes we can reach 4 of these goals: Letters, Text/Calls, Volunteer Engagement and Poll worker/watchers. In order to reach these goals though we need people to step forward and commit to - Letter Writing and/or Text/Calls (we'll help make it easy for you).

Talk to or email Laurie Wheeler [wheelerlmlc@yahoo.com](mailto:wheelerlmlc@yahoo.com) or me [bpopp@att.net](mailto:bpopp@att.net) if you can help with Letter Writing.

Talk to or email Dirk Bender [dirkbender@gmail.com](mailto:dirkbender@gmail.com) or Ann Bender [da\\_bender@hotmail.com](mailto:da_bender@hotmail.com) if you can help with Text/Calls.

Thanks in advance for your commitment and support of this effort.

Bob, Laurie, Ann, Dirk

## Some of My Best Friends

I do not see you as you really are... I see you through my affection for you."

-Willa Cather

Death Comes for the Archbishop

It's not always easy being a liberal in the South. In certain situations, like at work, you have to mind what you say, how much of yourself you reveal. The break room, for example, can be a dangerous place, when it's crowded and a certain orange ex-president is talking on CNN. It tests the limits of your poker face. Don't scowl or roll your eyes. You can bet how the majority of those upper managers voted.

Even if we could remain in our like-minded bubbles, is that really where we want to live? Does diversity and inclusion not extend to politics? If we reject people who don't share our political views, we're shutting out the majority of our neighbors. And probably a few family members. That doesn't seem to mesh with our principles. As UUs, we take it on faith that we should be respectful of other religions. But we have a hard time extending the same spirit of open-minded inclusiveness to those who think differently regarding politics.

There are limits to this spirit of acceptance, of course. I'm not talking about people pushing crazy QAnon theories or advocating violence, but legitimate policy differences. I wouldn't kick a friend to the curb because he believes in trickle-down economics, for example. (Despite all the evidence that it doesn't work.)

I have an old friend who is my opposite politically. When we talk, we don't always shy away from politics. Sometimes, we make each other mad. But we've learned how to ratchet the tension down. How to keep the discord compartmentalized. After the inevitable disagreement, which inevitably solves nothing, we seek common ground. How are the kids? Let's go fishing. We try to walk that line between being honest about our values and being considerate of the other's perspective. It's difficult—a constant struggle. I think they call it love.

Many of my family members are Conservatives. I can't turn my back on them or shut them out, just for that reason. With my brother, I've learned to not talk politics or religion at all. We just don't go there, by mutual, implicit agreement. We focus on things we both love—childhood memories, the Georgia Bulldogs, grilling. Somehow, we've intuited that that's the only way to preserve the peace. Perhaps most importantly, we know that our mom (another shared love) would have wanted it that way.

I realize that there are family members who wouldn't accept this sort of truce, who would keep pushing their agenda until your only choice would be to turn away. There is no simple answer for those situations. But I try to think twice before posting that political meme on Facebook. Before hitting Send on that impassioned email that is bound to widen the gulf, not bridge it. I'm not about to change the minds of certain friends and family, any more than they are going to change my mind. So I often hold my tongue. Some

would call such reticence cowardice. Maybe there can be a fine line between cowardice and kindness. "Be nice," my mom would admonish my brother and me, as she sent us off to school. Sometimes, nice is not the right play—sometimes you have to make a stand. But there are worse things than to err on the side of kindness. I choose my battles carefully, especially with the ones I love.

~ Mike Chambers



## DRE News

By Lexie Tangney

Fall is here, and that means Religious Exploration (RE) is in session! The RE team and volunteers have been spending the summer getting ready to meet again in person for religious exploration. We are looking forward to the curriculum, events, and so much more.

RE for children and youth will begin on September 11th at 11:15 AM. All ages check-in will be held in the new Youth Room in Discovery Hall, after which we will split up into four groups: K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grades, Junior Youth (6-8th grade), and Senior Youth (high schoolers). The first day of programming will include getting to know you games, covenant building, discussing upcoming events, and what to look forward.

As a special treat, The senior youth will have a special guest, Canedy Knowles, who will discuss [CityKids](#),

I encourage the youth and parents to check out the website before the 1st day and come prepared with questions they might have on the foundation. Here is a description from their website:

"Since 1985, CityKids has been at the forefront of understanding what young people really need. We adapt to the current realities of youth culture and progress with community, leadership and activism. We have established and maintained cutting-edge youth development programs, training tens of thousands of diverse young people to be leaders and Activists."

So far we have a wonderful lineup of teacher volunteers, but there is still a need for more! Curricula and schedules are ready to go! It takes a village to run RE! And there are so many opportunities for volunteering with the children and youth, such as teaching RE (we have at least one experienced teacher in every age group), being on an event planning committee (Autumn Carnival, Christmas Pageant, Career Fair, etc.), planning or attending multi-gen days, and so much more. Please contact me at [DRE@uuman.org](mailto:DRE@uuman.org) if you'd like to learn more about the possibilities for being involved!!

# Spiritual Wisdom Studies



# Life Celebrations

## Spiritual Wisdom Studies is changing days to Sunday Evening

In an effort to be more convenient to those interested in participating, Spiritual Wisdom Studies is changing from Friday evening to Sunday evening 7-8:15 pm.

When UUMAN did our visioning with the UUA to work on our mission and vision, we had about a quarter of our congregation participate (50 people). Our top two values at the end of that workshop turned out to be #1: Wonder and Awe and #2: Connectedness. These were what UUMAN members valued most at that point in time. In Spiritual Wisdom Studies we try to choose books to study that relate to Wonder and Awe and Connectedness.

Our favorite book so far was Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard about her life story and lifelong research on how trees cooperate, communicate and support each other through an underground network of mycorrhizal fungi. We are now finishing up the book Before: Children’s Memories of Previous Lives by Jim B. Tucker M.D. based on 60 years of research out of the University of Virginia on children aged 2-5 that report remembering previous lives.

We will start our next book on Sunday, September 25th and at the beginning of each new selection, we open our group to new participants. We will meet on the second and fourth Sundays from 7-8:15. The book we have chosen is Mindfulness: An Eight-Week Plan for Finding Peace in a Frantic World by Mark Williams and Danny Penman. There are meditations online to guide you through the weekly meditation practice spoken by one of the authors in a charming English accent. We will read the chapters, do the meditation practice and meet to discuss our experience. We will start with reading the first three chapters to discuss on September 25th, the meditation exercises start with chapter 4.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email to [adultenrichment@uuman.org](mailto:adultenrichment@uuman.org) and we will place you on the email list.

Janet Lacey  
Spiritual Wisdom Studies Facilitator

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
9/9	Ann and Dirk B. are celebrating their anniversary of 32 years
9/10	Luc G. is celebrating a birthday.
9/22	Debra and Mike B. are celebrating their anniversary of 37 years
	Sam and Carolina F. are celebrating their anniversary of 22 years
9/28	Troy V. d. B. is celebrating a birthday.

UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. As the Atlanta Metro area and all but one of our members' counties are yellow, or medium risk, we request that people wear masks indoors and practice social distancing (no hugging/kissing). We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted--thank you for continuing to do your part to keep us all safe! Please check the top of our landing page for the most up-to-date information: [uuman.org](http://uuman.org).

## September 2022: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
9/4	<p><b>Blessing of the Animals</b></p> <p>Please join us in our annual Blessing of the Animals service. We will bless your furried, feathered, crawling friends in one way or another.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/11	<p><b>Neighborhood Connections Ministry</b></p> <p>Can we Nurture Our Spirit, Strive for Justice and Transform the World one relationship at a time? By simply being present with and having a personal relationship with those in our community who are not necessarily like "us," we can. How is this done?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/18	<p><b>The Wheel of Fortune</b></p> <p>Fate and fortune have puzzled theologian, philosophers, all of humanity throughout human history. Is "what goes on here" defined by arbitrariness or is there some kind of puzzling direction to our existence? What are we to do?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/25	TBA	LAY LED

**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)