

## August 2024

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## Minister's Sabbatical

I am back from sabbatical!!!

First, I want to thank this congregation (i.e. all of you!!!) for being a congregation that

supports its minister's ability to take a sabbatical. I am truly grateful and appreciative of this gift. I am entering my ninth year of ministry at UUMAN and although I needed a bit of a rest...I'm ready to go once again!

I have to extend a very special "thank you" to our Sabbatical Team (Amanda Bralley (Chair), David Kroeber, Anu Mongia, Tina Alexander and Bruce Langston) and to our Worship Team who kept every Sunday going with different worship leaders each week. (With each minister having their own style, that can be a difficult task!) I'm so happy that you had an opportunity to hear fresh, new voices each and every week, I hope it was fulfilling to you all.

I heard one of the sabbatical ministers say that Dave was probably "reading a book on a beach somewhere." I'm here to say that that was a patently false statement. It wasn't on the beach but at a cabin at The Mountain. I spent the opening and closing weeks of my sabbatical at The Mountain where I did a lot of reading, hiking and harmonica playing. 😊  
(Btw...I'm always reading something.)

From January to May I also took a Zoom course at Meadville-Lombard Theological Seminary entitled "Topics in Worship and Liturgy." It was a wonderful, interactive and challenging class that took me (and all of us taking the class) a bit out of our comfort zone. I will be incorporating some of the many lessons learned from the course into our worship services from time to time.

I also spent about 18 hours each weekend (mid-January through mid-May) in yoga teacher training through the YTT Collective. We met most every Friday evening 5 – 9PM, Sat-Sun 10AM -5PM. That was a lot!!! ...but I made it through and I am now a certified yoga teacher!

Despite having a wonderful sabbatical, I can't wait to get back with you all at UUMAN. I've missed you! There is work to do however! I don't need to tell you all that the world, and particularly this nation, needs the values, ethics and principles of Unitarian Universalism. It is a difficult time, though not a time devoid of hope. Simply engaging in our shared ministry with you all gives me great hope! It fills my soul! Let us continue onward!

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

Dave



## Join Us for FABULOUS Fall Painting Classes!

Longtime UUMAN Member, Artist & Painting Instructor Annette Pate will be offering TWO classes for FALL beginning Wednesday, August 14th!:

All painting levels are welcome!

Enjoy Painting with UUMAN Friends!

Wednesday Evenings or Friday Mornings for a 12 week class

**Time:** Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 - 9:30 pm or Friday Morning Class 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

### **Location:**

Pate Studios  
3705 Thornwood Way  
Marietta, Georgia 30062

**\*\*Pricing/Special Offer!:** \$299 per artist or bring a NEW friend and pay \$249

To RESERVE Your EASEL NOW: TEXT Annette Pate @ [770-744-9240](tel:770-744-9240)

All painting levels are welcome! LETS PAINT!!!

**\*\* Venmo (Annette - Pate - 1)**  
or Zelle to Annette at [770-744-9240](https://venmo.com/Annette-Pate-1)



OR

call her directly, the same number as above, for the payment option that works best for you.



### **Can't make our Fall Class?**

Join us for Annette's Special 4 week Holiday Class Session!

4 sessions beginning Wednesday Evenings, November 6th and Friday, Morning November 8th

(No Class Friday the week of Thanksgiving)

**Time:** Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 - 9:30 pm or Friday Morning Class 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Location:** Pate Studios

### **Pricing/Special Offer!:**

\$99 per artist OR bring a new friend and both pay \$75 each!

To RESERVE Your EASEL NOW:

Venmo @ Annette-pate-1 OR Zelle @ [770-744-9240](tel:770-744-9240)

OR call her directly, the same number as above, for the payment option that works best for you.

"Several years ago I started painting classes with Annette. I had not painted before, but by the end of the first class I knew I would love it, and I still do. Annette is a wonderful teacher, clear, patient, and encouraging. - Darya Aberback

- Kelly Callen



## August Common Grounds Coffee House

Presenting Atlanta area's best musicians and songwriters, in a warm and inviting listening room environment.

**Common Grounds Coffee House, Third Saturday 7:30 pm**

Doors Open at 7:00

Show starts at 7:30

\$5.00 (Suggested) - At Door, Cash Only

Bring Cash For Donation / Tips for the Performers

Light Refreshments are Offered for Sale (or bring your own)

BYOB

We are also accepting canned and dry good donations to the North Fulton Community Charities.

This month, the Common Grounds Coffee House presents:

"Songwriters in the Round" - with three experienced and seasoned Singer-Songwriters and Recording Artists.



As Solo Artists, Julie Gribble, Jason Connelly, and Katie Martin have all toured Locally, Regionally, Nationally, and even Internationally, throughout the years, playing their songs for thousands of listeners.

You'll hear Pop and Folk Music, Sprinkled with Blues, Rock, and Reggae, with Soulful Vocals, Skillful Musicianship, and a genuine passion for the music they share - through Stories and Songs of Life, Love, Struggle and Triumphant!

Check out their bios and a sample of their music at the following links:

<https://juliegribble.net/>

<https://www.thejasonconnellyband.com/>

<http://www.katiemartinmusic.com/>

- Laura Keck

## Discover the Wonders of the Kendeda Building: Join Us on August 17!

Earth Ministry is hosting a special tour of the Kendeda Building on Saturday, August 17. This is a unique opportunity to explore one of the most innovative and sustainable buildings in the United States.



The Kendeda Building, located on the Georgia Tech campus, is renowned for its cutting-edge design and commitment to sustainability. It is the first building in Georgia and the 28th in the world to earn the Living Building Challenge (LBC) certification, demonstrating the highest standards in green building.

The building features rainwater harvesting, solar panels, and a design that encourages energy efficiency and resource conservation. Instead of merely minimizing environmental harm, the Kendeda Building gives back more to the environment than it consumes.

The tour is being led by Jimmy Mitchell, who was the Project Manager and led the Sustainability Team for Skanska, the Construction Managers for the project. We are fortunate to have Jimmy giving the tour with his extensive knowledge and involvement in the project.

Due to limited space, we can only accommodate 15 attendees for this tour, so please contact either Claudia Rossi or Reed Thomas if you would like to attend. We will meet at UUMAN at 9am on the 17th to carpool, with the tour starting at 10am. Following the tour, we will go to lunch at a nearby restaurant.

This will be an inspiring and educational experience, and we look forward to exploring the Kendeda Building with you!

- Claudia Rossi

# MCY August Times

## Religious Exploration with Children and Youth at UUMAN

### Join Our MCY Volunteer Team!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved in our community? Consider joining our MCY (Ministry for Children and Youth) volunteer team! We have a variety of positions available that cater to different interests and skills, ensuring there's a perfect fit for everyone. Volunteering with MCY is a rewarding experience that allows you to make a positive impact on the lives of our children and youth.

#### Volunteer Positions Available:

- PreK-1st RE Instructor (1x)
- 2nd-4th RE Instructor (1x)
- Junior Youth RE Instructor (2x)
- RE Substitute
- Kid Community
- Event Planning
- RE/MCY Team
- Coming of Age
- OWL (Our Whole Lives)
- Time for All Ages
- Field Trips
- Art/Crafts/Music

#### Program Descriptions

##### During Service:

- **Nursery:** Care for ages 0-4 years old. \*Drop off before service starts\* (only available during 1st hour). Located in the Nursery.
- **Dual Path Service:** All ages start in service for welcome, chalice lighting, announcements, 1 song, joys and concerns, and TFAA (Time for All Ages). Then, they are sung out to Kid Community.
- **Kid Community:** For ages 4 and up, led by parent volunteers providing light programming during the 2nd half of the service. Parents are required to volunteer biannually if their kids are in programming. Visitors are asked to volunteer after their third time in the group. Located in Fellowship Hall.

##### After Service (2nd Hour):

- **Religious Exploration (RE):** Check-in between 11:05-11:15 at Discovery Cottage.
- **This includes programming for children and youth** during the 2nd hour, divided into four grade groups: PreK-1st, 2nd-5th, Junior Youth (middle school), and Senior Youth (high school). The groups follow a curriculum, except PreK-1st who engage in free play with guidance from their RE instructors.
- **Multigenerational** ("Multigen"): All ages of children and youth do an activity together during the 2nd hour, forming one large group instead of four separate groups.

#### Other Programs:

- **Coming of Age (COA):** Programming for rising 9th graders, with activities throughout the church year ending with credos presented at the Rites of Passage service.
- **Our Whole Lives (OWL):** Age-appropriate comprehensive sex education offered by trained and certified OWL instructors. More info available [here](https://www.uua.org/re/owl).

#### Summer:

- **Summer Programming:** During June and July, the RE team hosts summer programming during the 1st hour (no children and youth programming during the 2nd hour). All ages (except nursery ages) meet before service starts and do an activity as a group.

#### Why Volunteer with MCY?

- Make a positive impact on young lives
- Connect with a supportive community
- Share your unique talents and skills
- Gain valuable experience and personal growth

#### **\*\*Sign Up to Volunteer\*\***

Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute to our community. We look forward to welcoming you to the team!

#### Register Your Kids for RE 2024-2025!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We're gearing up for another inspiring year of Religious Exploration (RE) at our congregation, and we want your children and youth to be part of it! Register early to join in the fun and community-building of our RE program for the 2024-2025 year.

#### Why Register Early?

Early registration helps us plan ahead and ensures your child or youth can seamlessly join our vibrant RE activities from the very start. Please take a moment to [register using \[this link\]](#)

#### Join Us for a Year of Growth and Community

We invite you to be part of our welcoming community where your children can explore their beliefs, build friendships, and grow spiritually in a supportive environment. At our RE program, every child is valued, and there's always space for new faces!

#### Mark Your Calendars

The first day of RE for the 2024-2025 year is on August 11. We can't wait to see your family there!

Enthusiastically,

Lexie T. Brown  
Director of Religious Education



# Playscape Ribbon Cutting

## August 11



The Playscape Team is excited to announce the grand opening of the UUMAN Playscape will take place Sunday, August 11 after service! The centerpiece elements of the Playscape, the Willow Nest and Stump Jump, have been completed, and will be ready for children to learn, grow, and have fun while exploring their surroundings. If you would like to help name the Playscape, please enter your idea by August 11 [here](#) or at the grand opening.

The Playscape has been thoughtfully designed and executed, keeping the UU Principles and “Love at the Center” in mind throughout the process. UUMAN’s own young people led the charge by participating in the democratic process of voting for a playscape element and theme and playing a central role in the fundraising, design and installation! The Playscape Committee has placed environment and accessibility needs at the center of the Playscape with native plants, elements made of sustainably sourced, eco-friendly materials, and accessible seating areas, paths, and play areas.

This project has been long in the making, and we are so grateful for everyone who donated their time, treasure, or talents to make this playscape a reality. We are especially grateful for the close collaboration we have enjoyed with Premo on many aspects of the space.

With the major aspects complete, we are inviting volunteers to help us put the final, “whimsical” touches on our Playscape. Come join the fun! Please contact Kelly Callen or Donna Melcher if you are interested in assisting.

Rachel Osborne



# The Mountain Learning and Retreat Center

The Mountain Learning and Retreat Center celebrates Unitarian Universalist principles, inspires people of all ages, transforms lives and builds a more compassionate world.

The following lists upcoming events:

## Adult Farm Camp - August 19 - 23, 2024

Experience the joy of farming firsthand. At Adult Farm Camp, you'll gain practical skills and a deeper appreciation for the regenerative practices that fuel our farm-to-fork philosophy. Enjoy edible plant and mushroom foraging, create medicinal products from on-site ingredients, learn to propagate and cook with the regional produce, and more!

Learn more and register: [www.themountainrlc.org/adult-farm-camp](http://www.themountainrlc.org/adult-farm-camp)

## Farm Fest - September 1, 2024

Join the Many Hands Peace Farm for a day of family-focused fun and educational workshops on sustainable farming and regenerative agriculture. Enjoy fresh tasty treats from our local farming community, live bands, and engaging programs to inspire you and your family to build and cultivate your own home garden and kitchen traditions.

Plan on staying for Labor Day Weekend and book a stay in one of our cabins! It's a great way to enjoy Farm Fest and spend time exploring the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Learn more and book your stay: [www.themountainrlc.org/lodging-spaces](http://www.themountainrlc.org/lodging-spaces)

If you are interested in being a premier workshop leader, vendor, or visiting artist, please email our farm manager Raileigh Duschon at [farm@themountainrlc.org](mailto:farm@themountainrlc.org).

## Sunday Gatherings - Every Sunday through October

You're invited to join us at the Many Hands Peace Farm at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center for our Sunday Gathering. Enjoy a full day of events, communing with nature, as well as learning more about the native plants and flowers that nurture our mind and body. We will also enjoy a community potluck lunch so be sure to bring a dish to share!

- Mindful Movement & Meditation
- Food Forest Sound Bath & Foraging
- Community Potluck Lunch
- Herbal Tea & Sacred Circle
- Group Garden Cultivation

RSVP and join our community newsletter by emailing [farm@themountainrlc.org](mailto:farm@themountainrlc.org)

Make it a fun weekend and book a stay with us! Call 828-526-5838 or visit [www.themountainrlc.org/planning-a-retreat](http://www.themountainrlc.org/planning-a-retreat) for more info and to make your reservations.

**Fall Youth CONferences** - Now is the time to start planning for our fall Youth CONS! Join Unitarian Universalist youth, Peer Advocate Leaders (PALs), and advisors from congregations all over the South-east beyond for a weekend full of fun and spiritual growth. Activities include workshops, a dance, and a Coffee House where youth can showcase their talents. Participants stay in our cozy cabins and enjoy healthy, delicious meals suited to each individual's dietary needs.

- Elementary CON (3rd to 5th grade) - October 18-20
- Intermediate CON (6th to 8th grade) - November 1-3
- Senior High CON (9th to 12th grade) - November 15-17

Learn more and register at: [www.themountainrlc.org/youth-conferences](http://www.themountainrlc.org/youth-conferences)

## Fall PAL Planning Weekend - September 20-22

Peer Advocate Leaders (PAL) and Mentors (Age 16 & up) gather to plan the upcoming Youth CONFERENCE season at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. The focus of this weekend is to build a program for all ages that is aligned with our Unitarian Universalist values as a supplement to congregational Religious Education programs. Space is limited to 25 registrants for the weekend. Only register if you plan on attending one or more of the Youth Conferences during the season.

Learn more and register at:  
[www.themountainrlc.org/youth-con/fall-pal-planning-weekend](http://www.themountainrlc.org/youth-con/fall-pal-planning-weekend)

Betty Brown  
Ambassador

## UUMAN's Floor is Fixed!

The podium floor and other worn places have just been refinished. It needs to dry thoroughly before moving or touching in any way. It will be ready for Sunday with a new floor mat and coasters!! Thank you for your care!

~ Bev Jordan

## The Playscape is here!



We are thrilled to invite you to the GRAND OPENING of the long-awaited Playscape on Sunday, August 11! We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony after the Service.

As a reminder everyone is welcome to the space! Children of UUMAN members and UUMAN guests are invited to dive into the fun during supervised hours. Youth aged 13 and up—why not step into the spotlight as play leaders? You can also explore other cool activities that suit your age. And let's not forget the adults! You can kick back in our fabulous Adirondack chairs, cheer on the little ones, or even plan some activities. So come on in and make some awesome memories.

We want YOUR ideas to help give the Playscape a super-cool name. Anyone can share them on Sunday then the children will vote for a winner.

Now that we have the infrastructure and awesome Willow Nest and Stump Jump in place, we're down to add more whimsical elements as talented volunteers join the team. ✨ Please look for signups at the Grand Opening.

~ Donna Melcher



## August: A Month of Sundays



## 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	Topic	Service Leaders
8/4	<b>Ingathering Water Communion</b>  Join us for our annual Ingathering Water Communion service. Please bring a sample of your sacred water to be mingled with our sacred waters of the past.	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/11	<b>The Voice of UUMAN</b>  What is our voice in the world? What is our voice in the community? How are we called to use our voice to strengthen relationships with one another, our community, our world? What are the implications of having no voice? (This service will use a World Café format.)	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/18	<b>Article II and the Seven Principles</b>  The 2024 UUA General Assembly voted to change Article II of the UUA Bylaws receiving 80% of the votes cast. This is a the most substantial change to Article II since the 1980s.	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/25	<b>Bridging the Gap</b>  In a divided country, a divided landscape, how do we (or should we) bridge the gap between those whose ideologies and values might be at cross purposes with ours? (This is a Harvest Moon sermon purchased by Lynn Hannon and Seth Pratt.)	Rev. Dave Dunn

Date	Celebration
8/2	Connor B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/5	Dave and Tammy D. are celebrating their anniversary of 35 years.
8/9	Josie Burkhardt is celebrating a birthday.
8/12	Rick I. is celebrating a birthday.
8/13	Reecie B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/17	Kelly C. is celebrating a birthday.
8/19	Gillian P. is celebrating a birthday. Rosie P. is celebrating a birthday.
8/21	Elizabeth N. and Michael T. are celebrating their anniversary of 14 years.
8/22	Lucia B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/26	Rebecca B.-D. is celebrating a birthday.
8/27	Viktoria K. is celebrating a birthday.

**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 proceeding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)