

## November 2024

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## Volunteering at UUMAN

I first met the UUMAN community during my “Candidating Week” in May 2016. (Candidating Week culminates with a congregational vote regarding whether or not to “Call” the particular minister selected by the congregation’s Search Committee.)

During that whirlwind week I had the natural assumption that everyone I’d met had been a member of UUMAN for years and that everyone knew everything about the inner workings of the congregation. That’s likely a natural assumption that every new member has – that everyone has been here forever, that everyone knows everything yet I (i.e. the new member) don’t know anything, don’t know how anything works and surely don’t want to break anything.

The reality though is that many, many congregants may have been attending for only a few months longer than our newest members; and many more congregants have been here for less than a year.

For a new member, there is no trial period where the congregation is vetting them to see if they’re really cut out for UUMAN. No, our newest members don’t need to ask permission to volunteer in any capacity. New members don’t need to wait to be asked to do anything. They are free to jump right in.

Here are some easy things our newest members OR ANYONE can do:

1. **Sunday Morning Greeter** – What a nice, easy way to meet the people and visitors at UUMAN. No experience necessary. We will tell you what to say.

2. **Brew Crew** – Volunteer to make the coffee on Sunday mornings. You’ll have to get here between 9 – 9:30 to get started; bet as the maker of the coffee, you instantly become the most beloved member of the congregation!
3. **Children/Youth Religious Education Instructor** – Get to know our amazing and talented young people. With minimal prep you’ll also be intimately learning what Unitarian Universalism is all about. (Watch out: Being a six- year Youth Group advisor is what led me to ministry!)
4. **Worship Associate** – Yes...you can be up front on Sundays! As a Worship Associate, you get to participate in the creative process of worship, taking on as much or as little as you want each Sunday. We need to hear your voice!
5. **Sing in the Choir** – Anyone can sing in the choir. There is no musical training, reading of music, etc. necessary. There is instant camaraderie in the Choir...and they know how to have fun.

These are just a few easy ways to get involved at UUMAN...and there are countless others (e.g. Gardening, Social Justice, 2nd Hour Adult Enrichment, Website, etc. )

To know more about these, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES you can think of, please contact our Membership Team at [membership@uuman.org](mailto:membership@uuman.org).

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

Dave

## Playscape News

We are thrilled to announce TWO highly anticipated elements are ready for PLAY in our new Playscape!

### All The World's a Stage!

**Element/Details:** The round outdoor theater stage was completed last week by a dedicated UUMAN Volunteer Team led by Michael Arnett, Miguel Flores & Martin Poteralski!



**Location:** Nestled between the Mimosa trees sitting directly in front of the Stump Jump which will serve as seating during performances.

**More to Come!** Theatre curtains will be installed soon and once the wood has cured the stage will be painted with an image of the earth.

### Platform & Playhouse

**Element/ Details:** The repurposed platform and playhouse was installed by Premo Student Weldon's Dad Charlie! Many thanks to Arnie Moore for donating and installing the beautiful cedar shingles! BIG SHOUT out to Premo Parent, Miranda Philbin, for her continued TIME & TALENT on EVERYTHING in the Playscape and beyond! ;)



**Location:** Nestled between the Mimosa trees.

**More to Come!** The boarded doorway, facing Crabapple, will be replaced with a bespoke rock climbing wall followed by a bit more staining.

More is planned . . . with your help!

Sign up for a **MINI FALL PHOTO session** which supports the Playscape. ;) [CLICK HERE](#)

Don't wait to sign up to choose your **best Day/Time** [HERE!](#)

Happy Fall Y'All! 🍁

The Playscape Team



## Our 50/50 Shared Plate

Every month, we share our offering with a non-profit or cause. Half of the cash on one designated Sunday of the month is included in the total. All month long, checks with 50-50 written on the memo line and Breeze Donations designated 50-50 are included. Half of the Share the Plate total for the month goes to the recipient and the other half goes to UUMAN.

For September, the **SAM Foundation** and **UUMAN** each received \$375.95.

For November, we are sharing our offering with our **Disaster Relief Fund**. It is part of a covenant—a covenant between the UUA and congregations, between congregations who give generously and those in need, and with our community partners. Through aiding our congregations, their members and their community partners, we are able to embody our faith and values. Go to <https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/disaster-response> to learn more.

Michelle Liebergesell and Joan Rossi, Coordinators

## November Common Grounds Coffee House



Doors open at 7:00, show starts at 7:30. \$5.00 (suggested - at the door) (cash only). Bring cash for donations and tips for the performers. Refreshments available for sale, or bring your own.

Some tables are available (get there at 7:00 for a table) Table reservations are recommended. For reservations, please email the host at: [lashbrooksmusic@gmail.com](mailto:lashbrooksmusic@gmail.com)

\*We are also accepting canned and dry goods for North Fulton Community Charities, so bring a few items if you are able.

Come out and support local, live music, and the Listening Room Venues - 'Where Songwriters are Seen, Heard, and Appreciated'

Don't miss this exciting show!!!!

- Laura Keck



# MCY November Times

Religious Exploration with Children and Youth at UUMAN

## Autumn Festival a Huge Hit!

Our annual Autumn Festival was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work, creativity, and dedication of our entire team and community. Families and individuals of all ages joined in a day of fun, food, and togetherness, making this a celebration to remember!

As team lead, I (Lexie T. Brown) had the joy of seeing everyone's talents and hard work shine.



As team lead, I (Lexie T. Brown) had the joy of seeing everyone's talents and hard work shine. We were so fortunate to have Tina Alexander, our Volunteer/Event Coordinator, who recruited many members to the team and assisted at every stage. Cris Peterson, our Entertainment and Activities Coordinator, recruited a wonderful crew of volunteers for the games, booths, and hayride—and even stepped in as our face painter!



Our Logistics Coordinator, Hayden Brown, was indispensable, coordinating setup, managing event logistics, and ensuring a smooth wrap-up.

Valeria Caamano, our Communications Lead, crafted an engaging scavenger hunt and captured the day in photos.



Kassie Love and her husband Dan Carter, along with Andrea Rodriguez and Miguel Flores, not only decorated but also created a fantastic sensory room complete with goodie bags and prizes.



Bob and Rosie Popp ran the potluck with a group of volunteers, making sure food was well-organized and every dish was spotless by day's end.

Our Hayride trio of Gus Hador, storyteller; Mark Peterson, driver; and Krish Bralley, attendant, brought the hayride to life.





## MCY November Times

(continued)

The Culture Fair was enriched by contributions from Merritt Pennick, Jennifer Ratcliffe, Michelle, and Kassie and Dan. Meara Pellar-Kosbar led the spooky donut hang, while Kelly Callen oversaw the pumpkin ring toss with prizes. Lynn Hannan and Amanda Bralley helped make the costume and spookiest dish contests a success, and we thank everyone who dressed up and brought food!



We also extend our gratitude to the UU Church in Emerson members, who joined us to help host games, share dishes, and celebrate in the holiday spirit.



Finally, thanks to our playscape team—Michael Arnett, Miguel Flores, and Martin Poteralski—for building the World Stage in the Whimsical Woods, where we enjoyed our costume contests and more.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and spirit to this wonderful festival. It was a joy to share this autumn day with each of you!

-Lexie T. Brown



## MCY in October

October has been a vibrant, event-filled month here at UUMAN! From themed dress-up Sundays to meaningful journeys and a special playscape dedication, we embraced the season with creativity and connection. Here's a look back at some highlights:



One of October's memorable experiences was the Coming of Age and Senior Youth trip to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA).



# MCY November Times

(continued)

Our youth joined their YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) program, and afterward, we attended the opening of their worship service. The UUCA congregation made us feel right at home, saving seats and offering us a warm welcome. For me, witnessing our shared faith on a larger scale in their beautifully renovated space was a deeply moving experience. UUCA's larger congregation and their new building, complete with state-of-the-art livestream capabilities and an art gallery that reflected monthly service themes, created a powerful "UU mega-church" atmosphere that genuinely brought a tear to my eye. As awe-inspiring as it was, though, it also made me all the more appreciative of our own UUMAN community—nestled in nature with our unique, close-knit connections and our delightful playscape, recently christened as "The Whimsical Woods."

Yes, we have officially named our playscape! After an inclusive and thoughtfully coordinated voting process that involved children and youth from both UUMAN and PREMO, "The Whimsical Woods" emerged as the winning name.



Thanks to the invaluable support of Elizabeth Rohan, Miriam Patanian, and the Social Justice team, we successfully navigated the logistics to create a voting system that represented both groups.

Our October dress-up themes added even more

joy to our Sundays, with everyone from animals to wizards and medieval characters adding whimsy to our gatherings. Thank you to all who participated, making our Sunday services feel festive and full of life.

## November at UUMAN: What's Coming Up

As we move into November, UUMAN's programming will include a blend of regular RE classes, community-building events, and some pauses for the holiday season. Here's what to expect:

- **Sunday, November 3rd: RE Curriculum**  
Regular Religious Education classes will meet at 11:15 am.
- **Sunday, November 10th: RE Curriculum**  
In addition to regular RE, our Senior Youth will be taking a special trip to Eastside UU Congregation (EUUC) for a day of learning and fellowship with other UU youth.
- **Sunday, November 17th: No RE or Kids Community**  
We'll pause programming this Sunday as we head into the Thanksgiving break.
- **Sunday, November 24th: No RE or Kids Community**  
There will be no programming this Sunday to allow everyone time to rest and gather for our annual Congregational Meeting.

In addition to our November Sunday schedule, we're thrilled to announce the **COA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser!** The Coming of Age (COA) youth and their team are working hard to plan a trip to Boston as part of their faith journey, and this dinner is the first of a series of events to support that exciting opportunity.



### COA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

**Date:** Saturday, November 23rd  
**Seating Times:** 5:30-6:00 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm  
**Tickets:** \$20 per adult | \$15 per child (under 12)

This plate-style spaghetti dinner will be prepared and served at two seating times. Each seating is limited, so arrive promptly to enjoy your meal and support our youth. All proceeds from the evening will go directly toward the COA Boston trip fund, helping make this meaningful experience possible. Don't miss out—purchase your tickets early for yourself and any family visiting for the holiday!

Follow this link to purchase your ticket. <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/5eabc6>

November will be a wonderful blend of connection and community support. Looking forward to sharing it with you!

## Pride Parade

On Sunday, October 13, we joined UU's from all over at the Atlanta Pride celebration.



- Jennifer Ratcliffe

## UU Georgia

### Legislative Action Network

#### Shaping The Future Is Not a Possibility, It's a Responsibility

After we vote on Nov. 5, the new Georgia Legislature will be set. What justice-impacting Georgia legislation may be in store? Let's talk about it! .... at UU GA Legislative Action Network's Annual Conference .

Mark your calendar: Saturday, November 16 from 9:30 – 3:30 at UUCA in Atlanta and on Zoom.

The hybrid format enables UU's from across Georgia to conveniently participate -- in person or as a group gathered in your worship space. For people less than 3 hours from Atlanta, we recommend meeting with fellow UU's in-person at the conference at UUCA, 2650 North Druid Hills Rd, Atlanta.

The conference program includes dialogue with issue experts about what the legislature's priorities may be in 2025. We'll dialogue also with each other about how to encourage congregation members to be active in 2025.

Jennifer Ratcliffe



## November Board Corner

The UUMAN Board of Trustees meets monthly to review current activity and issues facing our congregation. We do two key things at the beginning of each meeting (right after the chalice lighting) to calibrate and ground ourselves for the business at hand.

The first is a joint reaffirmation of our Board Covenant, which is:

“With love, we promise:

*To communicate in a transparent and caring way with each other.*

*To listen intentionally and respectfully, with an open mind.*

*To conduct our work with integrity, responsibility, and faithfulness.*

*To respond to disagreement with humility, honesty, and empathy.”*

Then a board member will lead us through a short reading or exercise that we call KTM/TMT, “Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing.” This is meant to provide perspective, inspiration, and a reminder that our purpose in meeting is to serve the UUMAN congregation and our community, carrying out our vision to Nurture the Spirit, Strive for Justice, and Transform the World.

During our October meeting, the KTM/TMT was about doing a “Fall Reset.” Autumn is a time of transition in nature, and I have found that it is invariably a time of transition for me as well. Fall has always felt like the real beginning of the year, with school starting, job changes, moves, relationship beginnings and endings, and deaths & births.

John and Julie Gottman are marriage researchers and counselors, who offer the following process for doing a Fall Reset - it applies to individuals as well as couples. I encourage you to give it a try!

The fall season is the perfect time to hit the reset button in your life. What's the reset button? It's a way of expressing the need for shedding old habits and nurturing what truly matters. By letting go of what no longer serves us, we create space for personal growth and connection. This season encourages us to rekindle our bonds, make cherished memories, and embrace the beauty of change.

Here are three ideas to help you hit the reset button:

- Make a list of all the people you care about in this world. Ask yourself, “What is one thing I can do to make each of these people feel more loved right now?” Then do all those things on your list.
- Take some time to think about your daily habits and rituals, as well as the rituals of connection you share with your partner. What rituals are no longer serving you? Make a point to remove any outdated rituals and identify a new ritual to start that will enhance your life.
- Think about the new path you would like to take. List how that new path will be different from the path you are currently on. How will you embark on this new path?

(source: Marriage Minute newsletter from The Gottman Institute, 9/28/2023)

- David Kroeber

## Political and social engagement does not end with elections!



Your Social Justice team has been very busy in the last 4 months leading up to the elections.

We kicked off these efforts in July when we led a service for UU the Vote. In that service together with 80 attendees we did the “Rich Picture” exercise when we had the opportunity to create some art to visualize the world we would like to see after the elections. In that exercise we had the opportunity to engage in deep listening in a shared experience.



The feedback we received from the service was heartwarming and has helped us move forward with more energy and determination.

From the beginning we felt we needed to engage our UU sisters churches to learn about their efforts towards the elections. We contacted and held meetings with UUCA, Gwinnett, Dahlonga and Emerson.

We also engaged with organizations and partners in our community, deepening and creating new relationships. Organizations such as Groveway, GLAHR (GA Latino Alliance for Human Rights), Southern Poverty Law Center, Center for Common Ground, NFCC, GA Justice Project and Voter Registration Day, Vote Forward, and Southern Center for Democracy to name a few.

On August 25th we organized a letter writing party to infrequent voters in rural GA. More than 40 congregants joined us on that day and together we wrote 600 letters from Vote Forward.

As a congregation many of you also wrote 400 postcards from Common Ground for Democracy inciting people to vote. More than 40 congregants participated in that effort.

Together as a congregation, under the leadership of Gus Hadorn, we implemented the Rosie’s Chart. This tool allowed us to become more accountable, incentivizing our volunteer hours in an effort to protect our democracy.

A group of us took to the streets for the national Voter Registration Day. We held signs and talked to people in their cars promoting voter registration and distributing educational materials.

Some participants had never done that before and those who were there felt a sense of achievement and camaraderie which comes from a shared goal.

At the end of September your Social Justice team together with the Southern Poverty Law Center organized a Town Hall for Democracy. That day we had more than 30 attendees. That initiative allowed us to further our partnerships in our community and discuss such crucial issues regarding the elections and democracy.

We have also participated in phone banking efforts with GLAHR. In that effort we reached out to more than 200 voters in rural GA. Our goal was to remind them of the early voting dates. We are also phone banking with UU the Vote in other states where crucial issues such as reproductive rights are at stake in this election.

Some of our members are taking the next step and volunteering first hand as poll watchers and ballot monitors.

We’ve empowered our younger minds and hearts by introducing them to the electoral process by voting on the new name of the recently constructed outdoor space. The Premo and UUMAN kids chose “Whimsical Woods.”

Many of us are frustrated and feel helpless with the direction our country seems to follow. There is a lot to be concerned about. We feel that a way out of this helplessness is ACTION. What we do, our energy and conviction affect the people around us and ourselves.

A lot has been accomplished and now it is time to CELEBRATE. Join us on November 10 @ noon in a joyful celebration of our efforts and achievements. We will have some games, food and drinks. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and clean that day.

We encourage you to remain active after the elections. There are many issues that need our ongoing engagement.

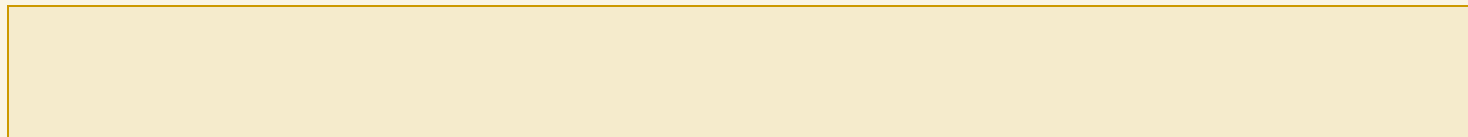
“A healthy social life is found only when, in the mirror of each soul, the whole community finds its reflection, and when, in the whole community, the virtue of each one is living.”

Rudolf Steiner

Carla Rizzati

Social Justice Co-chair





## November: 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	Service Description	Service Leader
11/3	<b>Ashe: Goodness Amongst Fear</b> With the impending election, the anxiety might be going through the roof. What do you fall back on? How do you manage? Would something upon which you can always rely be valuable?	Rev. Dave Dunn
11/10	<b>A Crisis is a Terrible Thing to Waste</b> There is a bumper sticker that says, "A Crisis is a Terrible Thing to Waste". A crisis can lead to feelings of anxiety, depression and hopelessness; yet, heading in the opposite direction, what else can it lead to?	Rev. Dave Dunn
11/17	<b>For Such a Time as This</b> A low-pressure call to whatever action your heart is guiding you to take to make the world just a little bit better. Or maybe to save your whole nation, who knows? We'll explore the Hebrew story of Esther, and see if we find ourselves anywhere in it.	Rev. Misha Sanders
11/24	<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.  CONGREGATION MEETING – NO RE ; NO 2ND HOUR	Rev. Dave Dunn

Date	Celebration
11/1	Susan W. is celebrating a birthday.
11/5	Meara P.-K. is celebrating a birthday.
11/10	Linda E. is celebrating a birthday.
11/11	Kendall L. is celebrating a birthday.
11/12	Merry Beth S. is celebrating a birthday.
11/13	Steve A. is celebrating a birthday.
11/14	Gabe K. is celebrating a birthday. Doug W. is celebrating a birthday.
11/16	Debra B. is celebrating a birthday.
11/17	John B. is celebrating a birthday.
11/20	Carolyn L. is celebrating a birthday.
11/21	Joe C. is celebrating a birthday.
11/22	Sasha G. is celebrating a birthday.
11/24	Griffin W. is celebrating a birthday.
11/28	Mike B. is celebrating a birthday.
11/29	Lily P. 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 preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)