

December 2024

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Extending our Values

It goes without saying that most of us are much more than disappointed with the results of November's election. If it had gone

“our way” (and I use that term loosely knowing that we all don't necessarily feel the same way), we would be relieved to know that, for the most part, our values would be represented by our democratically elected officials. Yet the results are the results; and many of those elected hold values diametrically opposed to the values we hold dear; and therefore, we are unable to find the relief we so desire.

With this election, many of the most vulnerable in our community will now be even more so; and they won't be looking so much for relief but for real help and assistance. More often than not, we don't (or can't) know just who these vulnerable people are. (We can make assumptions, yet our assumptions can be wrong; or they greatly diminish or minimize the breadth of those who need help.)

Since we can't rely on our elected officials, we must take it upon ourselves to do that work. We must take it upon ourselves to be diligent and intentional about extending our values into the world – extending compassion, fairness, equity, justice, love.

And since we don't know just who might be needing help, we should simply assume that everyone (and that means EVERYONE) needs it. We are empowered to extend this help universally into the world.

This is social justice!!!

Social justice isn't simply lobbying your local officials, canvassing on behalf of candidates or protesting in the streets. It is also extending our values into the world in every moment and in every interaction we have. If we believe in an interdependent and interconnected universe, even our smallest gestures matter - and they make a difference. (In an interdependent and interconnected universe, they can't not make a difference.) Everything matters.

Most of us will get no relief knowing that our elected officials can't be counted upon to represent our values - yet we are empowered. We are empowered to create social justice in any way possible. We are empowered to create a better world by extending, extending, extending our values into the world.

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

Dave

UUMAN's Facebook Pages Clarification

At last Sunday's Congregational meeting, I attempted to explain the difference between two Facebook pages many members have seen. However, it's a LOT easier to show, rather than simply tell, so here's what the UUMAN public Facebook page, available at this link

<https://www.facebook.com/UUMAN.ATL> looks like:



This page is publicly viewable, i.e., visible to billions of people on the Internet. It typically receives upwards of a hundred views and ten engagements every week.

We maintain tight controls over what is posted there, usually a simple Service Description graphic and description, welcoming people to join us Sunday mornings in fellowship. Said descriptions have already been disseminated and reviewed.

As Communications Deputy, my only content contribution is writing descriptive text to draw in a casual viewer, who may or may not read the text in the graphic. My challenge is to make the "teaser" text inviting but not repetitious.

Such posts are timed to coincide with what Meta (the parent company of Facebook) tells us are "active period" slots which are most likely to be seen, often on the Monday or Tuesday afternoon or evening before the following Sunday.

We also have a members-only closed Facebook group called UUMAN Members, available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208919115798062>

which looks like this:



While it may seem confusing to have two pages called "UUMAN...", it does state clearly that this is a "private group" with (as of this writing) 88 members.

This page is monitored, but only to the extent that any post that seems completely out of bounds with our members' expectations may well be flagged and/or deleted. This hasn't really been much of an issue in the recent past, but as always, as one of three* administrators I depend on others to provide some perspective. What may seem perfectly acceptable to me might seem blatantly inflammatory to others, and vice versa.

Lastly, a word about the other Meta-owned platform, Instagram, which is available here:

https://www.instagram.com/uuman_atl/

We are NOT actively managing our Instagram account, beyond simply posting messages and graphics identical to those on Facebook, because it's very easy to do so using the Meta administrative tools. If anyone in the congregation wishes to take on this task and make regular photographic contributions to be posted on Instagram, that'd be welcomed with open arms.

Thanks for your patience, and feel free to call, text, or email me with any specific questions or suggestions about these programs.

As always, requests for changes to our website or policy are best handled through our entire committee, communications@uuman.org

Dirk Bender

Communications Committee Deputy



Christmas Concert

A Season of Gratitude Celebrating the successful implementation of Breeze Online Giving

In the warm embrace of this season of Thanksgiving, the halls of UUMAN resonate with joy and gratitude. Six months ago, we embarked on a new journey together, transitioning from GiveLify to Breeze Online Giving—a step forward for our community in creating a more effective way of Online Giving. Today, we pause to reflect on the success of this change and to thank you, our members, for making it all possible.

With hearts full of generosity and a shared commitment to our mission, the UUMAN community has embraced Breeze Online Giving with enthusiasm and trust. More than 400 online giving transactions have been made this church year alone—a testament to the spirit of giving that thrives within our congregation.

Through Breeze, we have discovered new ways to connect and contribute. Whether it's the expanded payment options, the ease of managing pledges and other contributions, or the convenience of the Breeze Church Management app, your support has brought these advantages to life.

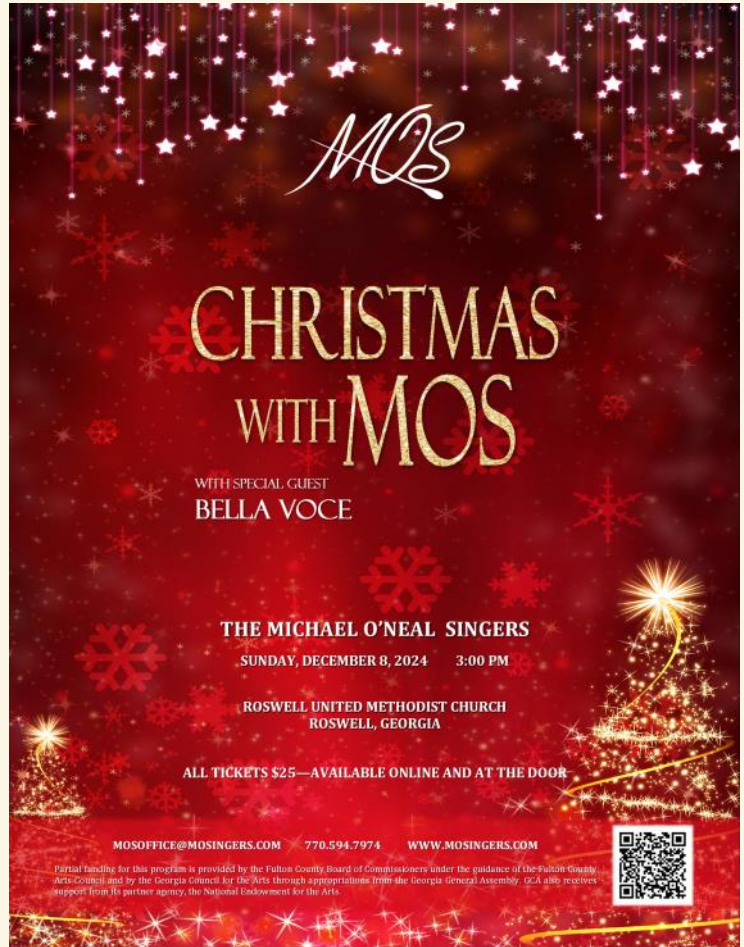
If you have any questions or encounter any issues with Breeze Online Giving, please don't hesitate to reach out to Marc Soule at membership-tech@uuman.org or contact me directly. We're here to assist you!

Thank you for your generosity, adaptability, and commitment to UUMAN. Your contributions—of time, resources, and spirit—continue to make a difference.

With gratitude,

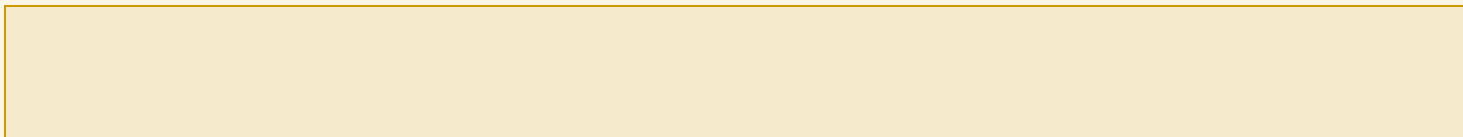
Margriet van de Steeg

Special-projects@uuman.org



Seeking the Christmas spirit? Come listen to this non-profit organization's Christmas concert by a choir yours truly is in, and even Santa will be there!

Meredith Hall



December: A Month of Sundays

Date	Service Description	Service Leader
12/1	America's Native Stories 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
12/8	Having Your Own Back Service Description: You messed up; so, what's next? What to do? Enter a state of denial? Disregard? Or perhaps you mercilessly beat yourself up? Why do you do what you do in such situations? How is this working for you?	Rev. Dave Dunn
12/15	Service of Seasonal Music Bah humbug Ebenezer Scrooge! Get in the holiday spirit by joining us for a holiday celebration of music and cheer.	Alex Pietsch, Chalice Choir and other wonderfully talented musicians
12/22	Holiday Pageant – The Warmth of Love Join us for a heartwarming and humorous holiday celebration as our children, youth, and choir present "The Warmth of Love" during our Sunday service. This pop-up pageant takes us on a journey through winter traditions from around the world, highlighting the power of love, kindness, and community during the holiday season. Filled with music, laughter, and the joy of togetherness, this special service is perfect for all ages. Don't miss this festive event that will leave you feeling uplifted and ready to embrace the season of love!!	UUMAN Children and Youth

Date	Service Description	Service Leader
12/24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (7PM) Let us share the warmth of this holiday season in joyful celebration. May the glow of our candles symbolize the hope that will sustain us through the dark times of winter and throughout the coming year.	Rev. Dave Dunn
12/29	Flowers at the Threshold of Renewal In the spirit of renewal, we transform the year's end into a threshold of potential. Through my Mexican heritage, I explore how endings carry hidden seeds of growth. Darkness becomes not a conclusion, but a sacred pause—a moment of quiet gestation before the inevitable blooming of new possibilities.	Valeria Caamaño



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.

Date	Celebration
12/1	Ever B. is celebrating a birthday.
12/9	Presley C. is celebrating a birthday.
12/14	Muriel M. is celebrating a birthday.
12/15	Carole H. is celebrating a birthday.
	Duco V.D.B. is celebrating a birthday.
12/17	Joaquin F. is celebrating a birthday.
	Bruce L. is celebrating a birthday.
12/23	McPatti L. is celebrating a birthday.
12/28	Jacqueline G. is celebrating a birthday.

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the monthly newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). Please email your news articles and artwork to newsletter@uuman.org