

## January 2025

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## Our Unitarian Universalist Denomination

UUA General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be held in Baltimore, MD on June 18-22.

Some congregations form GA "Watch Parties" sharing an online streaming feed on a big screen. (A single \$410 registration could be used to accomplish this.)

Info about GA can be found here: <https://www.uua.org/ga>

In addition to GA, SUUSI is another summer event that is attended by UUs nationwide (including many from UUMAN). SUUSI is the Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute that will be held on the campus of Radford University (Radford, VA) on July 20-26. It a fun, action-packed, all-ages UU summer camp full of music, workshops, nature outings...with childcare! Several UUMAN members are on SUUSI staff and we even have one member on the SUUSI Board (Stephen Shanahan).

Friction Farm, the music duo who led one of our Sunday services last July, were just two of the many talented musicians who perform at SUUSI each year.

When we lived in PA, we took our four children to the "Ohio SUUSI" every year from 1999 - 2012 (when they began going off to college). UU summer camp was so important to them that they never wanted to go anywhere else for vacation. It always had to be UU summer camp.

Although SUUSI might appear expensive at first, the cost is all-inclusive (i.e. room, board, most all workshops, music performances, etc. )

Before you make your summer plans, you might want to check SUUSI out. (<https://www.suusi.org/index>)

I plan on attend both GA and SUUSI in person and I hope to see you there!

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

Dave

This year's theme is "Meet the Moment."

At GA last year, significant changes were made to Article II of the UUA Bylaws, which details the foundational elements of the denomination. The changes were passed with 80% of the delegates voting to approve the changes. Part of the change is a representation of six fundamental values with love at the center.



UUs pride themselves on making decisions in a democratic fashion yet last year, we at UUMAN had some rich discussions as to how the denomination might not actually be as democratic as we would hope.

One way for us at UUMAN to become more involved in our democratic denomination would be for us to attend GA. The "Multiplatform" registration, allowing for both in-person and online streaming of all programming, costs \$410. Online registration for the business sessions only can cost as little as \$0. (That's right, it can be free!)



## Welcome Beth Harris!

Beth Harris joined UUMAN in November 2024, She has enjoyed a varied career that included being a mail clerk for an insurance agency, a department secretary at a college, a scheduling administrator responsible for 6 campuses, and

positions with administrative and bookkeeping duties for tree services and a substance abuse recovery center. She is a Retiree from the former Georgia Perimeter College.

As she has a student's soul and a teacher's heart, she enjoys learning new things and volunteers her time teaching classes for senior citizens in various software.

Her father's job took her family from Louisiana to New Jersey (twice) to Alabama (where both her parents grew up) and to Georgia in 1981, so she calls herself a "Cajun Southern Yankee" when asked.

While she misses her Mom (who passed in 2019), she is grateful to still have her Dad around, as well as her brother, his wife, and her beautiful niece. She is currently owned by three cats. And all her friends who keep her going.

She is grateful for the opportunity presented by her job at UUMAN and looks forward to learning more and being as helpful as she can by keeping the office and the books as organized as she can get them to be! One request? While she is good at remembering names and recognizing faces, it sometimes takes a few times to put them together! So please be patient?

Please join the board in welcoming Beth Harris to UUMAN as our new office administrator!

- Laurie Wheeler



## Kid's Community: A Re-Launch and Introduction

I Hello, I'm UUMAN member Kassie Love, and I'm the Kid's Community Coordinator. I realize that if you're not a parent of current youth, you might be wondering, "What's Kid's Community?" Simply put, Kid's Community is the place where youth go after story time, when they leave the service.

The Kid's Community Program was developed in response to the needs of families at UUMAN and is mostly staffed by parent volunteers.

As a parent of three little UUMANS, I see every Sunday that many of the most meaningful interactions my children have are with older or young adult members. It's important that our youth have diverse connections with people across all generations of our congregation.

If you're reading this and do not currently have youth in our MCY programming, you are just the type of person who could help expand the diversity of our Kid's Community volunteer base.

To learn more about the shiniest new program at UUMAN, find me (Kassie Love) in Breeze or at service! And visit our webpage <https://uuman.org/kids-community/>

- Kassie Love

## Be “Cyber Aware” and Be Safe!

As we have become more aware of internet scams, most of us know not to click on suspicious links, or fall for offers online that seems to be too good to be true, or share too much personal information on social media. However, as we have become more savvy, cyber scammers have gotten sneakier and sometimes harder to spot.

Churches have become popular targets for scammers, and unfortunately UUMAN was targeted in November. Information from Breeze including some members' names, emails and phone numbers was accessed. There was NO financial or other member information accessed. The scammers, posing as our President and Minister sent emails and texts to members requesting gift cards. As soon as Communications and the Board were made aware of the situation, Martin sent an email to the congregation letting them know these were scam emails and texts. This type of scam is called “phishing”.

Common phishing scams targeting churches include emails appearing to be from a pastor or church leader, requesting urgent donations, asking for personal information like credit card details, or directing individuals to a fake website to "update" their church membership details, often using phrases like "immediate action needed" or "urgent request" to create a sense of urgency.

If you ever receive a suspicious email or text from someone at UUMAN please talk directly with that person to verify that the communication is legitimate. If there is an email and you suspect it to be a scam or phishing, please contact the Communication committee at [communications@uuman.org](mailto:communications@uuman.org).

- Laurie Wheeler



## Our 50/50 Shared Plate

I am pleased to announce that a new member of UUMAN, Joan Rossi, is taking over for me as Share the Plate (50-50) Coordinator. She is retired after a long career in academic laboratory medicine.

We are sharing our offering this month with WORTHY NOW Prison Ministry. The ministry is part of the Church of the Larger Fellowship UU. Worthy Now invites people on both sides of prison walls into beloved community. We declare that all persons are worthy of love, respect, and support—not at some future time when we are better people but as we are right now. To learn more, visit [www.worthynow.org](http://www.worthynow.org)

Half of the cash in the offering on the First Sunday goes to 50-50. You can donate all month long through Breeze (select 50-50) or by writing a check to UUMAN- memo 50-50. Half of the money we collect will go to the recipient and half will go to UUMAN.

- Michelle Liebergesell



# 2024 Auction Recap

Congratulations UUMAN! The Election Distraction Auction 2024, held on November 2, was our most successful auction ever, exceeding our \$22,000 goal and raising \$28,711 to date! It was a night of great fun and fellowship with our Auctioneers Extraordinaire, Canedy Knowles and Martin Poteralski who kept us laughing (and bidding), plus a cast of extras and VIP table guests. The amazing balloon décor was created by the talented Paul Teal, and everyone enjoyed the delicious food, beverages, and friendly bidding competition- It was a night to remember!

Needless to say, this could not have happened without ALL of you! You were very generous donors, offering a wide variety of unique, enticing, and exciting goods and services. You were very generous bidders on both live auction and online items and events. You were especially generous with your volunteer time, and we are truly thankful for EVERYONE who helped with the many tasks, including catalog data input and problem solving (Shoutout to Michelle K!), advertising, set up, food planning and prep, bartending, show planning, night of event help, childcare, sound crew, kitchen crew, clean-up crew....so many jobs, and you all stepped up- Thank you UUMAN!

Next year's auction will be here before we know it, and we will need lots of people to step up again. Working on the auction team is really one of the most fun activities to be involved in, so when you are asked to join, don't hesitate to say "YES!"



## MCY January Times

Lexie T. Brown  
Director of Religious Education

### A Holiday Pageant to Remember!

This year's Holiday Pageant was nothing short of magical! The energy, creativity, and spirit of our UUMAN community shone brightly through every scene, every note, and every heartfelt moment. From the youngest stars to our wonderful narrators, each participant brought their unique sparkle, reminding us of the joy and connection this season brings.

We'd like to give a standing ovation to our incredible cast:

**Waverly Carter, Eli Lansdowne, Reed Waggoner, Nora Winder, Lily Peterson, Vivian Waggoner, Sansa Carter, Wilder Carter, Griffin Waggoner, Camila Thompson, and Ellery Arnett.** Your talents and enthusiasm made this pageant unforgettable!




A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who attended, cheered, and contributed to making this event such a success. Your generosity during the offering for the Minister's Discretionary Fund will help those in need and support meaningful opportunities for our youth.


We're already excited for next year's pageant, but until then, may the joy and warmth of the season stay with you all year long!


### Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser – January 25

Mark your calendars for our final Coming of Age fundraiser! Enjoy the Patanian family's famous buttermilk pancakes, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, and sausage. This buffet-style breakfast will be served by the COA youth.



 **When:** Saturday, January 25, 2025, 9:00-11:00 AM

 **Where:** UUMAN

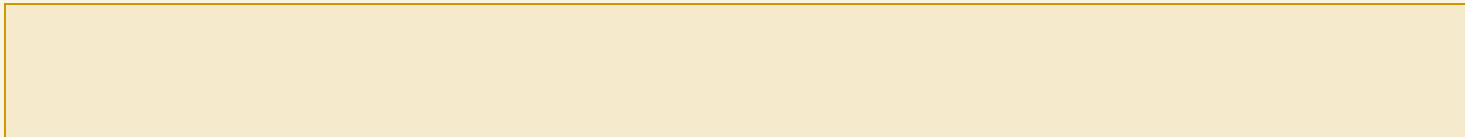
 **Tickets:** Adults \$15, Kids (under 12) \$10

Arrive anytime between 9:00 and 11:00 AM to enjoy this delicious breakfast and support our youth! Proceeds benefit the Coming of Age program.

### Mystery Friends is Back!

We're excited to announce the return of Mystery Friends, a beloved intergenerational program in our congregation! Participants will exchange weekly anonymous letters during March 2025, sharing reflections inspired by thoughtful prompts. The program will culminate in a joyful potluck reveal on Sunday, March 30.

This is a wonderful opportunity to build connections and celebrate the unique stories within our community. Stay tuned for more details on how to sign up and join the fun!



## January: A Month of Sundays

Date	Service Description	Service Leader
1/5	<p><b>New Year, New Horizons: Living Into Our Boldest Dreams</b></p> <p>As we welcome the first day of 2025, we gather to reflect on the possibilities a new year holds for us as individuals and as a community. How can we embrace bold visions for justice, healing, and transformation in the year ahead? Together, we'll explore what it means to step into the unknown with courage, rooted in love, and guided by our shared values. Join us for an inspiring worship filled with music, meditation, and intention-setting as we dream together about the year to come.</p>	Phoenix Bell-Shelton Biggs
1/12	<p><b>Maha Kumbh Mela</b></p> <p>Maha Kumbh Mela is a holy festival held on the banks of the Ganges river every 12 years. It takes place this year from January 14 – February 26 and expects to draw over 400 million devotees. What can we learn from Maha Kumbh Mela?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
1/19	<p><b>The Tyranny of Convenience</b></p> <p>Writer and legal scholar Tim Wu writes that “convenience is the most underestimated and least understood force in the world today?” What could this mean? Is convenience a force for good or evil? Is it a force that promotes freedom or restricts it?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
1/28	<p><b>Five Smooth Stones</b></p> <p>James Luther Adams is called the most influential UU theologian of the 20th Century. He is perhaps most well known for the “Five Smooth Stones” of religious liberalism. What could these be? What do they mean for us? And who is this person James Luther Adams and what was his religious journey?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn

**Bio: Phoenix Bell-Shelton Biggs** is a compassionate minister, visionary leader, and fierce advocate for justice, committed to transforming the world through Radical Love, care, and sanctuary. They embody a holistic approach to ministry, centered on healing, justice, and integrity, disrupting systems of oppression while nurturing inclusive spaces where all can flourish. As a queer, nonbinary BIPOC Unitarian Universalist, Phoenix’s journey of self-discovery informs their approach to faith, embracing a theology of love that transcends boundaries and fosters collective liberation.



### 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
1/6	Rachel O. is celebrating a birthday.
1/7	Lexie T. B. is celebrating a birthday.
1/14	Krishan B. is celebrating a birthday.
1/21	Padraig B. is celebrating a birthday.
1/23	Tammy D. is celebrating a birthday.
1/24	Donna M. is celebrating a birthday.
1/29	Dave D. 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)