

April 2025

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Illegal Immigrant?

These days you can't hear the word immigrant without hearing the word "illegal" in front of it.

Which begs the question:

How does one migrate legally to the United States?

Migration law is very complex yet generally speaking, unless you have highly specific skills that qualify you for employment-based migration, or you have an immediate family member (e.g. spouse, parent) who are citizens or you are designated as a refugee/asylee seeker from another country, the only way to legally migrate is by winning a lottery. (There are other ways to sponsor family members but the wait times are extraordinary. If a U.S. citizen wanted to sponsor a non-citizen sibling to migrate, the wait time is generally 15-20 years.)

Every year, the U.S. gives 55,000 people from around the world the opportunity to migrate to the United States. That represents 0.016% of our population. Many countries, however, do not even qualify for this lottery. At this time, citizens of these countries are ineligible:

- **Asia:** Bangladesh, China (mainland-born), India, Pakistan, South Korea, Vietnam
- **Europe:** United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland), Russia
- **North America:** Canada, Mexico

- **South America & the Caribbean:** Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Venezuela

- **Africa:** Nigeria

Any person who comes to the United States is allowed to apply for asylum (i.e. they fill out an asylum application). Once an asylum seeker completes their application they are permitted to remain in the country legally until their asylum hearing is adjudicated. (This could take a few years.)

David J. Bier of the Cato Institute recently estimated that around 3 percent of the people who tried to move permanently to the United States [taking into account all possible ways to do so (e.g. employment based migration, lottery, immediate relatives, family-based, etc.)] were able to do so legally. "Legal immigration is less like waiting in line and more like winning the lottery: It happens, but it is so rare that it is irrational to expect it in any individual case....trying the legal immigration system as an alternative to immigrating illegally is like playing Powerball as an alternative to saving for retirement."

When thinking about your future, what if it was "illegal" to save your money? What if the only "legal" way to save for retirement was to play the lottery? What would you do?

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

Dave



Our 50/50 Shared Plate

Every month, we share our offering with a non-profit or cause. Half of the cash on the first Sunday of the month is included in the total. For the remaining month, 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.

In February, Mary Hall Freedom Village and UUMAN each received a total of \$892.96 from Share the Plate.

For March, the youth of UUMAN selected Project Hope as our Share the Plate recipient. Project Hope is a non-profit organization providing health and humanitarian aid to families and children affected by the California fires.

Go to projecthope.org to learn more.

Thank you for your generosity to our community and UUMAN.

Joan Rossi

Share the Plate Coordinator

Sweep the Hooch 2025

UUMAN Earth Ministry friends and members participated in the annual Sweep the Hooch sponsored by the Chattahoochee Riverkeepers. We spent about 3 hours cleaning up along a creek that runs into the Chattahoochee just south of Holcomb Bridge. It was a large site with lots of trash as you can see in the photos. Hard to believe that humans can create so much waste. I'm happy we were able to keep it out of our precious river!

- Bob Popp



Our dedicated volunteers



The results of our efforts



An old abandoned homeless camp we cleaned up

Board News: Stewardship and Growth

By Martin Poteralski, President, UUMAN Board of Trustees

Happy Spring! It was great to see so much active participation in our annual Stewardship drive over the past few weeks. Your financial pledge enables us to keep our amazing staff paid, and keep our building and grounds in top condition. Hopefully you also submitted a Time and Talent pledge - our community also runs on volunteers who make everything happen. The new spring of the year is a great time to try out a new volunteer opportunity or committee within the church.

It's also been great to see so much growth of visitors, friends, and new members, especially over the past two years. One of my theories is that in a time of a lot of noise, division, and digital distractions, people are craving community. We're glad to welcome all newcomers! Here are a few ideas of small things we can each do to be a solid and welcoming community:

Try to arrive at Sunday service at least a few minutes before our 10 am start time if possible.

If your situation permits, try parking in the rear paved lot, or the gravel lot behind Fellowship Hall, leaving close-in parking spaces for individuals and families who are most in need of a front parking spot.

When entering the sanctuary, try moving across the room to the seating on the far side of the room from the entrance vestibule, leaving seating space near the entrance door for visitors and late arrivals.

If you arrive a few minutes late to the service, don't worry - but consider waiting in the entrance vestibule area with our ushers until a break in the worship program such as the Hand of Friendship or the exit of the children for Kids' Community.

Be sure to greet new visitors - a friendly voice and introduction goes a long way to making someone feel welcome. Consider sharing ideas about activities that keep you coming back to UUMAN. Help direct visitors to know where to go for Second Hour opportunities.

Growth is a challenge for congregations like ours, but also an incredible opportunity for us to benefit from new voices and new ideas. In the coming weeks, stay tuned for additional opportunities to share your ideas and opinions about congregational growth with the Board.

Earth Ministry First Annual UUMAN Spring/Summer Clothing Swap



When: Sunday, April 6th thru Sunday, April 13th

Who: All are invited to participate. Children and adult clothing.

What: Bring gently used Spring & Summer apparel.

Where: We'll have a table and hanging rack on the portico!

All items that remain, after 2nd hour, on Sunday, April 13th will be donated to North Fulton Charities.

What is a Clothing Swap?

Clothing swapping is a process in which people who have extra or unwanted items bring them to a specific location to share them with others.

Almost everything in your closet is fair game for a swap, including jewelry, shoes, bags, scarves, and other fashion accessories.

Benefits of Clothing Swaps

Clothing swaps are terrific for a variety of reasons.

- They help reduce landfill waste.
- Every year, more than 34 billion pounds of worn textiles get thrown away in the United States alone. When divided by the population, that equates to more than 100 pounds of textile waste per person each year.


- Conventional cotton and polyester are the most commonly used fabrics in the fashion industry. Both materials have considerable negative effects on the environment due to their manufacturing, production, and disposal processes.
- The production of conventional cotton uses a significant amount of water, pesticides, and fertilizers. And polyester fabrics contain toxin-attracting microplastics that contaminate rivers and oceans and endanger animals.
- Participating in and organizing clothing swaps helps to keep garments in circulation for extended periods of time, slowing down new consumption.

Attending a clothing swap is like raiding your friends' closets on overdrive. You never know what gems you will find.

They promote reusing and recycling.

- Clothes swapping is an eco-friendly and sustainable approach to fresh, interesting, and sustainable wardrobe updates.
- Swaps encourage reuse; items that an individual has worn only a few times or not at all can be put to use by another person. Exchanges also provide people with a way to recycle and up-cycle garments. One person's unwanted clothes can be transformed into a whole different outfit for someone else with just a few minor changes and repairs.
- Clothing swaps promote circular fashion and allow all the clothes to have at least one more cycle of life.

- Kelly Callen

UUMAN Earth Ministry 



Common Grounds Coffee House

Music Listening Room

Presenting Atlanta Area's Best Musicians and Songwriters,
in a Warm and Inviting Listening Room Environment.

April 19 performers

Common Grounds Coffee House Music Listening Room Continues
with Our Spring Concert Series of Original Music with

Award Winning Touring Artists, The Rough & Tumble,
and our Local Original Artist Spotlight

Songwriter Session with Hannah Murphy and Ryan Boss.



First Up: Songwriter Sessions

Hannah Murphy, born and raised in Albany, Georgia and now based in Atlanta, has honed her sound and stage presence since the age of 14. Drawing inspiration from her southern roots and legendary folk artists like Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen, Hannah Murphy incorporates elements of bluegrass, jazz, and classic folk into her storytelling. A prominent figure in the Atlanta songwriter circuit, she has left her mark on prestigious venues such as Eddie's Attic, Smith's Olde Bar, and Northside Tavern. Currently, she is actively working on producing and releasing her first EP, titled "Problem Starter", and engaging in collaborations with EDM, pop, and R&B artists.

Ryan Boss started playing the guitar at the age of 14, started writing songs and playing out in his early 20s. His soulful voice, 'from the heart' lyrics, and passionate guitar playing often reflect his influences in a unique way. After taking some time off from playing music, he is back doing what he does best, and this time he is on a mission to share his music, and to play from the heart each and every time.

The Rough & Tumble are a folk/Americana duo, consisting of Mallo-ry Graham & Scott Tyler. Forming in 2011, they spent 8 years full time in a 16ft camper with two big dogs, playing roughly 150 shows a year. At home at festivals, listening rooms, and house concerts

across the country, their commanding stage presence, engaging performances and affecting songwriting won them official showcases at Folk Alliance International, NERFA, SERFA and the Independent Music Awards Americana Song of the Year for their song "The Hardest Part". In 2023 they received recognition for their work in New England as recipients of Club Passim's Iguana Music Fund. Only This Far, the band's most notable work, was released in 2023 and has been described as "quality songs, well written, well played, well sung and arranged, and a pleasure from start to end." In November 2024, The Rough & Tumble released Hymns For My Atheist Sister and Her Friends To Sing Along To, a collection of deeply personal, unifying and uplifting, humanist gospel songs.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRdaHHTXWq4>

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
BYOB

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

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!!!!

Common Grounds Coffee House

Please visit and "Like" our Facebook page at Common Grounds
Coffee House

UUMAN, 11420 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA
www.uuman.org

- Laura Keck

MCY April Times

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education

Mystery Friends: A Magical Connection

This year's Mystery Friends letter exchange was a truly heartwarming experience, bringing together participants of all ages through weekly handwritten letters. The excitement of sending and receiving secret notes built up to the much-anticipated Mystery Friend Reveal & Potluck, where matches were finally revealed in a room filled with smiles, laughter, and connection.

A huge thank you to Rachel O. and Shelley N. for their behind-the-scenes support—especially Shelley, who took the lead in recruiting participants, setting up, and cleaning up the potluck. Your dedication made this event seamless and special.

Watching the interactions unfold was nothing short of magical—the look of joy on participants' faces was a beautiful reminder of why Mystery Friends is such a beloved tradition. I truly hope this program continues for years to come.

To top it off, the feedback was outstanding! Many participants shared how much they enjoyed the experience and expressed excitement for next time. If you didn't get a chance to participate this year, don't worry—Mystery Friends will be back!

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make this experience so meaningful.



A pink poster for the Mystery Friends program. At the top, it features a yellow envelope icon, a magnifying glass icon, and a circular icon with a flame, separated by plus signs. Below these icons, the text reads: **= FRIEND??**. Underneath, it says: **It's True!**
UUMAN's Mystery Friend is back! Can you solve the clues?

Sign up to get your very own new mystery friend and learn more about our UU heritage. UUMAN youth and adults will be paired with a mystery friend and exchange letters with clues about who they are for 3 weeks in March. Your mystery friend will then reveal their true identity March 23. Scan the QR code below or contact Lexie Brown at dre@uuman.org for more information and to sign up.

At the bottom right is a QR code. Below the QR code is the URL: <https://uuman.krescedm.com/form/03c83c>.

A Look Back at Our Inspiring Annual Youth

On a beautiful Sunday in March, our senior youth led a service that will go down in UUMAN history. With the guidance of their dedicated instructors—Elizabeth R, Dave P, and Hayden B—these incredible young leaders planned and executed a moving service centered on gratitude and perspective.

Through powerful storytelling, a thought-provoking skit, and an interactive activity, the youth challenged us to reframe life's hardships and find gratitude even in difficult moments. They acknowledged that struggles are real but reminded us that joy can often be uncovered in unexpected places.

One of the most memorable moments was the creation of the River of Gratitude, a vibrant, aquatic-themed painting made with the help of our children in Kids Community. During the service, the congregation participated in a hands-on activity, painting personal sorrows onto rocks, placing them in the river, and metaphorically crossing to the other side—transforming burdens into silver linings.



Our junior youth also played an important role, serving as ushers and supporting their older peers in this meaningful experience.

We are so proud of our high schoolers for their hard work, dedication, and courage in bringing this service to life. If you missed it or want to experience it again, you can watch the recorded service here: [UUMAN Sunday Service, March 16, 2025 - Youth Group Service](#)

Thank you to everyone who supported and participated—this was truly a service to remember!

MCY April Times

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education

Earth Day Parade – April 13

Calling all young cubs, critters, and creatures! On Sunday, April 13, the children of UUMAN will kick off the service with a Lion King-style parade in celebration of Earth Day! Kids are invited to dress in their favorite nature-inspired attire—whether it's a roaring lion, a fluttering butterfly, or a towering tree. (Costumes provided for those who need them—just no weapons in the Pride Lands!)

We'll have a parade rehearsal on April 6 after service in the sanctuary. Parents, please plan to stay for this short run-through. During Kids' Community Hour, the children will also create a grand banner to carry as they march.

If your child can't attend the rehearsal, no worries—they are still welcome to join the parade on April 13. Let's step into the Circle of Life and celebrate our beautiful planet together! 🌿🦁🎵



April 20th—All Ages RE: Nature Walk & Egg Decorating

Join us for a special All Ages RE on April 20th as we celebrate spring with a nature walk and egg decorating! We'll meet in Discovery Cottage, gather natural materials around campus, and use them to decorate eggs in creative and eco-friendly ways. It's a hands-on, nature-inspired experience for all ages—come explore and create with us!



RE Instructors Needed for 25-26!

We are still looking for RE instructors for the upcoming church year! We especially need volunteers for our 2nd-5th grade and middle school groups. Not sure if you're prepared? Don't worry—the MCY Volunteer Retreat on August 9th will provide all the training and support you need! If you haven't signed up for the retreat yet, do that now!

If you're interested in helping shape the faith journey of our children and youth, reach out to Lexie T. Brown to learn more.

We also need two more nursery volunteers to help provide a warm and welcoming space for our youngest UUs. If you love spending time with little ones, this is a great way to support our community!

If you're interested in either role, reach out to Meara.

Summer RE – Last Spots Left! Sign Up ASAP!

Our Summer Religious Education program is almost full—only a few spots remain! If you've been thinking about leading a fun activity for our UUMAN youth, now's the time to sign up!

Each Sunday from May 25 – July 27 (10-11 AM), volunteers lead engaging activities like crafts, music, games, or outdoor fun. Two volunteers (who do not live in the same household) are needed each week.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this special summer experience! [Sign up now!](#)



April: 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 office@uuman.org

Date	Service Description	Service Leader
4/6	Silence Says It All April 11 is the annual Day of Silence – a day started as a silent protest to the bullying of LGBTQ+ students. What does it mean to be silent? Is there power in silence? (Note: This service will be a highly auditory experience; though not in a way you might expect.)	Rev. Dave Dunn and Love Fiero
4/13	Earth Day Service Join UUMAN's Earth Ministry team as they celebrate Earth Day with an Earth-centered service.	Earth Ministry
4/20	Flower Communion The Flower Communion, created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, is an annual ritual that celebrates peace, beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Please bring a few flowers to share.	Dave Dunn and Liz Martin
4/27	UU Theology: To Infinity and Beyond? 100 Unitarian Universalists meet in a Virginia church to talk about theology" sounds like the beginnings of a very niche joke, but it was a real-life happening earlier this month as lay and ordained, amateur and professional theologians and the theo-curious gathered at the UU Congregation of Fairfax. Without a shared creed or doctrine, what can we say constitutes a collective UU theology? (A.K.A. What does wrangling theologically-minded cats look like?)	Liz Martin

Date	Celebration
4/4	Marc S. is celebrating a birthday.
4/5	Bob P. is celebrating a birthday.
4/7	Rowan F. is celebrating a birthday.
4/14	Hayden B. is celebrating a birthday.
4/16	Dan B. is celebrating a birthday.
4/17	Claudia R. is celebrating a birthday.
	Pat C. is celebrating a birthday.
4/20	Joel S. is celebrating a birthday.
4/22	Nora W. is celebrating a birthday.
4/25	Carole Herman & Dan Ben-David are celebrating an anniversary of 10 years.
4/27	John A. is celebrating a birthday.
4/29	May N. 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