

July 2025

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Looking Back and Moving Forward: FUEL UUMAN Stewardship Update

As we prepare to begin a new church year on July 1st, we want to take a moment to reflect

on our FUEL UUMAN Stewardship Campaign for 2025–2026.

It's been a meaningful journey over the past couple of months. Together with Carla Rizatti, I had the privilege of co-chairing this year's campaign, and we're grateful for the generosity and engagement of this wonderful community.

Here's where we stand as of June 16, 2025:

- 122 households have pledged, with a total pledge amount of \$283,247.
- Our campaign goal is \$300,000, and we're getting close! With some pledges still supposed to come in, we are hopeful we will get closer to that goal.
- For comparison, last year we received 130 pledges totaling \$261,197, so we're already ahead in terms of total giving — thank you!
- 31 members completed the Time & Talent form, which helps us learn more about how our members want to contribute their energy and gifts throughout the year. If you haven't had a chance to fill it out yet, it's never too late — we'd love to hear from you!

What we've learned:

Most pledges came in quickly in the first few weeks — many of you used the online form we shared via email and on our website. We also reached out through texts, phone calls, and even good old-fashioned mail for those we hadn't connected with yet. Thanks to all these efforts, we've heard from over 90% of our members.

That said, we know life gets busy — and if you have not yet, we request you to do so before July 1. Every pledge, no matter the size, helps support UUMAN's programs, staff, facilities, and shared mission. You can find the pledge form easily on our website under the "Give" section.

To those who have pledged: thank you! Let's start this new church year strong — together.

With gratitude,
Margriet van de Steeg, Co-Chair, FUEL UUMAN Stewardship Campaign

P.S. If you pledged last year and still have a balance for 2024–2025, this is a great time to check in and catch up. Thank you for helping keep UUMAN thriving.

- Margriet van de Steeg

Extinction



There is a creeping sameness stalking the land now. Our streets have corporate names, as do our stadiums. Nothing has value unless it is monetized.

Those that pursue social justice face this problem daily. The current administration prefers one color at the expense of the rainbow. The loss is horrific, but it extends well beyond a single species. In our quest to extend the sprawl and pursue a narrow vision of progress we destroy the progress of millions of years of evolution. It's happening across the globe at an alarming rate. But it is here that we can and must tend the soil. Where nature still lives, we can see the hand of creation, from the majestic trees to the tiniest insect. Miracles abound, but their numbers and varieties are fragile now.

Unitarians on Crabapple became preservationists with the saving of Mimosa Hall and Gardens. The footprints from the past found there tell us who we were, but who we are now is ours to define.

The founders of Roswell established a flawed beginning, and we have paid dearly. The Union army altered that early trajectory but were unable to defeat the enemy within. The beauty in the early foundation was respected and has endured. The beauty that could be seen in the land, in the trees and in the house was allowed to thrive for 183 years. But in this age, there is a disconnect, a disconnect we see throughout the land, an arrogance of species, perhaps souls missing the wildness they grew from.

Our mayor and council exhibit that disconnect. With a fountain pen and a chainsaw, the earth was altered in our town. Perhaps our greatest treasure, our finest and most historic trees were dropped in an afternoon.

We continue to destroy what we have so little of. With every tree cut we identify more with the sprawl that surrounds us. What once set us apart as a historic town in the trees on the Chattahoochee is losing color in each fading sunset.

How do we help our children know what they now can never see?

- Gus Hadorn

Last Riverside Sounds Concert in July

Riverside Park is hosting the last FREE Riverside Sounds concert this summer on Saturday, July 26.

The featured artist, Anythyst Kiah, has released her third album, Still + Bright, which affirms her as an artist of both daring originality and uncompromising depth.

Riverside Park offers trails along the Chattahoochee River, playgrounds, and restrooms. Bring your chairs, picnic blankets and friends for a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great music and a summer evening outside.

You can bring your own food and drinks or enjoy beer, wine, sangria, and food available for purchase at the concert. Arrive early to get a spot on the lawn!

[You can find more information here.](#)

- Martina Austin

Summer Solstice Picnic

UUMANites celebrated the Summer Solstice—the official start of summer and the longest day of the year—at Azalea Park on Saturday, June 21st. Despite the hot day, water enthusiasts kayaked the Chattahoochee, others walked, and many chatted in the shade of the pavilion enjoying a relaxing Saturday afternoon.

Forty-five people attended bringing delicious salads, desserts, and beverages to share. Earth Ministry provided hamburgers, hot dogs, and their alternatives, plus buns and condiments.

While Bob Popp and Marc Soule grilled, Donna Melcher, John Pruitt, and Miguel Flores played a flute, guitars, and mandolin, respectively, to kick off our celebration, entitled The Sun Stands Still. Poems were read, and Donna recited a piece encouraging us to respect what lies in each of the four cardinal directions and what they can represent. Then we ate! So much great food.

Thanks to all who participated and made the afternoon such a success!

- Martina Austin



Summer Solstice Picnic

More pictures!



Summer Solstice Picnic

More pictures!



Mountain Wisdom

Mountain Wisdom Inc., is a mentoring organization committed to fostering healthy teens and families by providing fun filled transformational experiences and challenging outdoor adventures focusing on nature awareness and responsibility.

Adolescence is a critical time of life; it is powerful and transformative. Teenagers can learn and grow from their experiences or be beaten down by them. Most kids at this time feel very much alone. Having adult role models is one of the critical things which can buffer the stress and heartache they all deal with. We meet each young person where they are.

We accomplish this in a complete natural setting. All electronic distractions, junk food and other parts of modern urban life are set aside. They are replaced with a mountain camp setting, fresh cooked food with vegan options. And days full of fun and challenging activities including, hiking, ropes course, music, dance, drumming, singing, archery, journaling, tracking, plant identification, knots, primitive skills, and shelter building.

Campers experience team building and leadership training through interactive, cooperative activities and trust building exercises. Environmental conservation, nature awareness and life skills are essential and help the youth connect to themselves and others.

Through all the different activities and experiences the youth feel a sense of purpose and self-worth. We work with them to set individual Smart Goals and personal purpose. They know they make a difference.

Contact Hawkeye Jay (706-273-1474) or John Burkhardt (425-273-3828) for more information! We have a camp for young men starting this July. Learn more at mountainwisdominc.org

John Burkhardt



Cynthia Prescott Memorial Library

Do you have a question about our Unitarian Universalist faith? Are you waiting for an event to begin and need something to read? Would you like to have new books to read to your child? Help is at hand. Visit the Cynthia Prescott Memorial Library in the Fellowship Hall. Enter your choices on the sign out sheet and take up to 3 weeks to read your books. Return your books to the appropriate section and mark your name off the list. Displayed on the top of the bookcase are several of our newer books that may interest you: "James" by Percival Everett; "Reading Genesis" by Marilynne Robinson; "Soul Boom: Why We Need a Spiritual Revolution" by Rainn Wilson; and "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

As space allows, we accept donations of current books that deal with topics that reflect Unitarian Universalist values: UU and other Faiths, Racial Issues, Aging, Spiritualism, LGBTQ, Environment and Children's books. Generally we do not retain fiction unless it deals with one of our specified topics - such as "James." The books are shelved by topics.

In keeping with our efforts to recycle, the Library is considering having a magazine swap rack. If there is interest, we would offer donated magazines of no more than three months publishing age to have available for pick up. Let me know if this is a good idea!

- Linda Etheridge

lletheridge1@gmail.com


MCY July Times

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education

It's Time to Register for Religious Exploration!

Kick off the 2025–2026 MCY Year at UUMAN

The new Ministry for Children and Youth (MCY) year is just around the corner, and we're excited to welcome your children and youth—nursery through high school—into another year of spiritual growth, fun, and connection here at UUMAN!

 Important August Dates:

Nursery Programming Resumes: Sunday, August 3

Blessing of the Backpacks (Multigenerational Worship): Sunday, August 3 at 10:00 AM All children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to the service, where Rev. Dave Dunn will offer a special blessing and gift each student a small charm to carry with them throughout the year.

Religious Exploration Classes Begin: Sunday, August 10 at 11:15 AM Join us in Discovery Cottage! Come a few minutes early to check in, meet your instructors, and explore our newly transforming learning spaces.

Why Register Now?

For planning, safety, and communication purposes, all children and youth must be registered each year—even if they've participated in the past. This year's registration covers all MCY programming, including:

- Nursery (0–3)
- Children's Chapel during First Hour
- Sunday Religious Exploration classes (PreK–12th grade)
- Special Events and OWL (Our Whole Lives)

Registering helps us build safe, welcoming classrooms, create allergy-aware spaces, and stay connected with your family throughout the year.

[Register Today](#)

We can't wait to see you in August—backpacks, smiles, and all!

Support Our Children's Chapel – Sign Up by July 27


Our Children's Chapel program is growing—and we need your help to make it a welcoming, meaningful space for our kids.

Led by our new Children's Chapel Instructor, Lora Beth, this weekly ministry invites children ages 4 and up into a space of connection, ritual, creativity, and UU faith development. While the instructor leads the lessons and manages setup, we must have a second adult present each week to meet safety guidelines and support the group.

Every family with a child participating in Children's Chapel is expected to sign up to volunteer at least once between August and December.

This is a simple, important way to support our children's ministry—just sign up and show up.

We also warmly welcome non-parent volunteers to sign up! If you enjoy being around kids and want to support faith formation at UUMAN, this is a great way to help.

 [\[Click here to sign up\]](#)

Please sign up by July 27. After that date, families who haven't signed up will be assigned a Sunday. If the assigned date doesn't work for you, it's your responsibility to arrange a swap with another family.

Thank you for helping us create a nurturing, joyful space for our youngest UUs!

MCY July Times

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education

Welcome our new Children Chapel Instructor!

We're excited to welcome Lora Brown as our new Children's Chapel instructor! Lora brings warmth, creativity, and a deep commitment to nurturing spiritual exploration in our youngest UU members. She'll be leading multigenerational worship experiences during first hour using the Soul Matters one-room schoolhouse curriculum. Read her bio below and help us give her a warm UUMAN welcome!

Hello everyone,



My name is Lora Brown, and I'm honored to step into the role of Children's Chapel Instructor here at UUMAN in Roswell, GA. I am a certified educator in Early Childhood Education (Pre-K through 5th grade), Middle Grades, and Special Education, with a Reading Endorsement as well. I bring experience from working with children of all

ages across classroom settings, nonprofit organizations, and faith-based programs—and I am truly passionate about nurturing young minds and hearts.

Throughout my career, I've focused on creating inclusive, engaging environments that support curiosity, creativity, and connection. I believe children thrive when they feel safe to ask questions, explore big ideas, and feel deeply rooted in a loving, supportive community. I'm excited to bring those values into our time together at UUMAN and look forward to growing together in joy and wonder.

-Lora Brown

Print Your 2025 RE Schedule!

Wondering which Sundays are Multigenerational Services, Children's Chapel, or RE classes? We've made it easy!

Download and print the full 2025–2026 MCY schedule and stick it on your fridge or family calendar. It's a great way to stay in the loop and help your child know what to expect each Sunday.

[Printable Schedule](#)

Also available anytime on the UUMAN website under the **Children & Youth** page.

Let's make Sunday mornings smoother for everyone!

July: 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
7/6	Spiritual Music Therapy, Anyone? From birth to death, music is a part of us: our bodies, our hearts, our minds, our spirit. A better understanding and awareness of the power of music on our minds and bodies helps us all to enjoy a more fulfilling spiritual life. Got Music?	Richard Bomba
7/13	The Opposite of Liberalism Hint: It's not conservatism	Kevin McCulloch
7/20	Homeschooling and the Rise of the Evangelical Right Modern conservatism and the evangelical Christian right are inextricably linked today. However, few are aware of the intentional role that homeschooling played (and still plays) in the current iteration of mostly white, Christian fascism our nation is facing. Join a homeschooling survivor as they discuss their experience in this movement and what can be done.	Rachel Osborne
7/27	Falling Upward One person's journey doing Inner work as the path to spiritual growth and transformation.	David Kroeber

Date	Celebration
7/1	Reed W. is celebrating a birthday!
7/3	Elizabeth R. is celebrating a birthday! Sean M. is celebrating a birthday!
7/7	Kyson P. is celebrating a birthday!
7/8	Erin R. is celebrating a birthday!
7/10	Lawton E. is celebrating a birthday!
7/12	Dillon C. is celebrating a birthday!
7/14	Valorie B. is celebrating a birthday!
7/19	Koda B. is celebrating a birthday!
7/22	Sansa C. is celebrating a birthday!
7/23	Joe L. is celebrating a birthday!
7/28	Margaret P. is celebrating a birthday!
7/30	Benny B. 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