

## September 2025

### Inside this issue:

UU History	1
UUMAN Earth Ministry Fireside Storytelling Event	2
UUMAN is an Honor Congregation	2
MCY News	3
September: A Month of Sundays	4
Life Celebrations	4

## UU History



The UUA's General Assembly (GA) was

held in Baltimore this year. I flew in and out of Philadelphia so I could visit my son there on the way to and from GA. I then took a short train ride from there to Baltimore.

Once arriving in Baltimore, and although it was very hot, I decided to walk the mile between the Baltimore train station and my hotel.

I hadn't spent much time in Baltimore and really didn't know my way around; yet on

the way to my hotel, I came upon the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. I had to stop in for in this church was delivered perhaps the most important sermon in our Unitarian Universalist history. On May 5, 1819, the Rev. William Ellery Channing gave a sermon entitled "Unitarian Christianity."

Prior to this sermon, there was no Unitarian denomination in the United States. Rev. Channing was a Congregational minister yet there was a schism taking place between the liberal and conservative Congregationalists. The conservatives would accuse the liberals of being like "those Unitarian" heretics in Europe; and for years the liberals cringed at the label.



The pulpit from which Rev. William Ellery Channing delivered his "Unitarian Christianity" sermon at the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore on May 5, 1819.

It wasn't until Rev. Channing's Baltimore sermon that he admitted that the conservatives were correct. Rev. Channing essentially planted a Unitarian flag in the ground and said, "Yes, we are Unitarians!"

The American Unitarian Association, the predecessor to the UUA, was formed a few years later.

Although intern minister Liz Martin and I haven't yet put together the specifics of a UU History course that will soon be offered during 2nd Hour, rather than a linear history, it might be more of

an exploration of UU History through case studies. What might be included? Perhaps the following: The First Unitarians and Universalists, The Unitarian Controversy, the Transcendentalist Controversy, Theodore Parker's Activism & "Heresy", Western Conference Schism, Humanism, Formation of the UUA, The UU Activism of James Reeb the Viola Luizzo, the Black Empowerment Controversy...and others.

More information to come on this!

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

Dave

## UUMAN Earth Ministry Fireside Storytelling Event



[Please RSVP here.](#)

Join us on Saturday, October 25, from 7 - 9 PM behind Fellowship Hall at UUMAN to participate in our beloved storytelling event. Whether you share a story or are participating by listening, this event will entertain and inspire you.

Please donate one dollar to help fund this important tradition. We hope to see you there!

This year, Earth Ministry is offering a prize for the story that best captures the imagination of the audience.

- Martina Austin

## UUMAN is an Honor Congregation

UUMAN has once again been recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association as an Honor Congregation for contributing to our larger movement. Our congregation recently received a certificate and letter of appreciation for our support over many years. I'd like to share the words from the UUA president with you for more context on what this means:

Every year, each congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association is asked to give a financial contribution to support the wider movement and sibling congregations across our Association. This contribution supports the Annual Program Fund, which is the single largest source of income for the work of our UUA. Our support of one another strengthens the covenant among us.

Your congregation gave the full requested amount to the Annual Program Fund during this fiscal year 2025. This means you are an Honor Congregation, honoring the covenant between and among our congregations. THANK YOU!

Your giving is a concrete expression of our congregations' covenant with one another, and is a recognition that we are not alone, but are part of an Association of Congregations. This support allows the UUA to serve the diverse needs of the 1,002 member congregations across five regions. Congregational giving through the Annual Program Fund (APF) makes the work of the UUA possible.

Please display this Honor certificate somewhere prominent and share with your congregation my personal appreciation on behalf of all the congregations that your generosity benefits.

Your support strengthens Unitarian Universalism and its vital, liberating message for our

time. Together we are organizing for justice, imagining new ways forward in community, and growing spiritually. Thank you for your giving to the Annual Program Fund. You make so much possible.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Sofía Betancourt, Ph.D.

UUA President

As you can see, your pledges and other contributions go to not only supporting our own congregation and community, but to making a difference within a larger movement supporting our Values. As well, the gifts of your time in volunteer service to our congregation and our ministries helps build our community and make our Values real in the world. Thank you for all that you do!

Martin Poteralski

UUMAN Past President and Member, Board of Trustees

## MCY News

The MCY Team was VERY busy in August, and we're looking forward to settling into routines in September! The month kicked off with a volunteer training led by Kassie Love and Elizabeth Rohan. We have a nearly full roster of volunteers but can certainly use some more support in the nursery! If you're interested, you can sign up [here](#).

We continue to see growth in the MCY program, and we love seeing so many children at UUMAN! Our DRE, Lexie Brown, selected great curricula for each of the RE groups before she went on maternity leave, and she hired Lora Brown to coordinate Children's Chapel during service. Everyone starts in the sanctuary for 10a service, then the children are led to Children's Chapel after the Story for All Ages. Children can enjoy coffee time after service with their families (there are almost always snacks!), then RE starts at 11:15a. Remember that children under 13 need to be escorted by their parent/guardian/caregiver over to Discovery Cottage to be checked in. RE concludes at 12p. For those children 4 and younger, the nursery is available until 11a most Sundays—the exceptions are 8/31 and 10/26.

Lexie developed an [MCY Behavioral Covenant](#) over a year ago that helps create a more consistent approach to managing behavior throughout the various programming offered at UUMAN. The MCY Team is using this covenant as a guide, particularly while Lexie is out and our volunteer capacity is stretched. We encourage you to reach out to Kassie and Elizabeth with any questions you may have about it, as well as to share with them any information about your children that could provide helpful context for our volunteer instructors.

Additional programming for our children and youth this year includes the Our Whole Lives comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education classes. The curriculum is empowering for children and youth and helps create a positive, safe environment in which to better understand their values, bodies, gender, sexual orientation, and relationships with others, all in an age-appropriate way.

- We are hoping to conduct a class for our **kindergarteners, 1st, and 2nd graders** this fall. We currently have 3 children whose parents have expressed interest; once we have at least 6 children we can finalize a schedule and offer a parent orientation.
- We will offer a class for **4th and 5th graders** in January 2026.
- We will also offer a class for **10th-12th graders** in January 2026.

And, if you've heard the rumors about beginning a **young adult OWL class**, they're true! We just need to identify people interested in facilitating that class so they can get trained. If you're interested, reach out to Miriam Patanian, [miriam.patanian@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.patanian@gmail.com)

Helpful links:

- Sign up your children for RE classes [here](#)
- Volunteer for the nursery [here](#)
- MCY Behavioral Covenant [here](#)

Speak to the MCY Coordinator – Kassie Love, [kassieleelove@gmail.com](mailto:kassieleelove@gmail.com)

and Elizabeth Rohan, [elizabethrohan@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethrohan@gmail.com)

-Miriam Patanian

## September: 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](mailto:office@uuman.org)

Date	Celebration
9/9	William Hunter G. is celebrating a birthday.
	Ann & Dirk B. are celebrating an anniversary of 35 years.
9/10	Luc G. is celebrating a birthday.
9/14	Dan P. is celebrating a birthday.
9/22	Debra & Mike B. are celebrating an anniversary of 40 years.
	Sam F. & Carolina P. are celebrating an anniversary of 25 years.
9/28	Troy V. 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)

9/7	<b>How Does UUMAN Work?</b>  How does UUMAN work? What is its work? How do things get done? Who gets to decide? ....and most importantly, what is our Why?	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/14	<b>UUMAN and the UUA</b>  What is the relationship between UUMAN, or any congregation, and the UUA? What characterizes that relationship and what is the significance of that relationship?	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/21	<b>Bridging Divides Through Music</b>  Perhaps better than any other art form, music can be used to bridge divides to heal divisions within ourselves, our families, our communities, and the world. Musician and performer Billy Jonas will lead us across that bridge. (This service is for people of all ages.)  Billy Jonas has been part of the Sacred Music Team and a cantorial soloist at Congregation Beth Ha Tephila in Asheville, NC since 2012. Through this work Billy has had the opportunity to combine and grow two important aspects of his life: Judaism and his love for music. He has been performing worldwide in both secular and faith-oriented contexts.	Billy Jonas
9/28	<b>Pluralism: the Promise and the Perils, or, Adventures and Misadventures in Inter-faith Work</b>  Prior to coming to Atlanta, one of my favorite curriculum to lead in my congregation was Neighboring Faiths. I have long loved learning about what others believe. Starting in 2020, I started working in interfaith chaplaincy at Emory University and quickly discerned that the road to living real-life religious pluralism is both fraught - and - fabulous!	Liz Martin