

## October 2025

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## UU Institute – Trainings in Unitarian Universalism

This fall I've talked a lot about how UUMAN and the UUA work. (See service "[How Does UUMAN Work?](#)") I've talked about polity (i.e. how a denomination organizes and grants authority), covenant, values, mission and vision (i.e. our "why"; why we exist). I've tried to give the 10,000 ft, birds eye view of the denomination and our place within it. I've talked about church governance (i.e. what the Board of Trustees does) and shared ministry (i.e. what we actually do within our walls and beyond).

Again, I've talked about our congregation's organization and our "why," but I haven't really discussed "how" we do this work together. How do apply what the Buddhists call "skillful means" carry out our work, to live our values, realize our vision and fulfill our mission? What might the best practices be to achieve this?

Among the many roles of the UUA specified in Article II of its bylaws, the UUA will "assist congregations in their vital ministries...support and train leaders both lay and professional... foster lifelong faith formation and spiritual development...."

To that end, one of the resources they've created is the [UU Institute](#). Per its website, "The UU Institute is an online learning community offering trainings and other learning experiences that support members, leaders and professionals in Unitarian Universalist communities."

Since I've been the minister here at UUMAN, I've been blessed (and you've been blessed) to have had skillful UUMAN Board members leading this congregation – and many of them have taken the leadership trainings provided by the UU Institute.

Many of our "Governance" leaders have taken the following courses:

**UU Board Foundations**—Leading the congregation as a system, spiritual grounding, knowing our "Why"

**Centered Leadership**—Covenant, polity, governance and ministry

But what about what we do within our walls and beyond? What trainings are available for "ministry?" Consider the following:

**Guiding the Membership Journey**—How do we welcome, include, connect and build relationships with those who walk through our doors?

**Worship for Transformation**—How can we take our worship experience to the next level?

**Covenant Calls Us In**—What is covenant and how do we live into it?

**Widening the Welcome**—Greeter training: How to go from welcoming to "radically" welcoming?

These are just a sampling of the UU Institute courses available for a nominal fee (usually \$15; UUMAN will pay the cost of anyone wishing to take a course).

A healthy congregation is one where the leaders have been trained in the ways and workings of church life. They have been given the "skillful means" with which to address the unique issues and challenges that arise throughout the church year.

Many of these courses can be taken as a group or committee (e.g. Membership, Greeters, Worship, etc.)

Please check out the [UU Institute](#). It is worthwhile training.

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

Dave

## All Ages RE —Meet the Pollinators!!

On September 14, our very own Denise Wilson, who is a pollinator outreach ambassador with the Xerces Society led our All Ages RE session.


During that time adults, youth and children participated in a Pollinator Census in our own beautiful garden. The tally sheet we used is attached. If you missed this exciting exercise you can lead your children in your own garden using the tally sheet provided. It was so much fun learning more about the importance of invertebrates!


The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international nonprofit organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Their website has a wealth of information that you might find of great interest:  
<https://xerces.org/>

The Xerces Society is the September recipient for our 50/50 donations.

Thank you to Denise and everyone who participated.

Your Social Justice Team









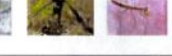



You can upload counts here (or go to the website on your computer <http://GSEPC.org>)

Name of Plant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather Conditions: ☐ Sunny ☐ Partly Cloudy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Rainy Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

	Description of Insect	Number of Insect Landings on Your Plant
<b>Carpenter Bee</b> (16-22mm)	Shiney Hiney 	
<b>Bumble Bee</b> (10-19mm)	Fuzzy Rear 	
<b>Honey Bee</b> (12-15mm)		
<b>Small Bees</b> (smaller than a honey bee)		
<b>Wasps</b> (13-25mm)	Some have a skinny waist 	
<b>Flies</b> (6-13mm)	Antennae very short. Eyes take up most of their head. 	
<b>Butterflies &amp; Moths</b>	Don't overthink it 	
<b>Other insects</b>		





## Rivers Alive Roswell

Rivers Alive is an annual tradition in Roswell. The event, co-hosted by Keep Roswell Beautiful and the City of Roswell, is part of a statewide campaign to clean and preserve Georgia's 70,100 miles of rivers and streams. It is a fun and rewarding way to spend a morning!

Litter pickup, storm drain marking, and non-native, invasive plant removal are some of the projects tackled by the volunteers. Project sites included Riverside Park, Waller Park, Dotsie Garner Mills Park, Don White Memorial Park, Seven Branches, and sections of Big Creek, Foe Killer Creek, and Hog Waller Creek.

Our UUMAN crew took on the project of cleaning up a portion of Hog Waller Creek near the Waller Park Recreation Center. They literally jumped into the creek and scoured it for trash. Thanks to the following folks for their efforts: Rachel O, Kyle B, Nat P, Cathy B, Gena B, Rollin M, Courtney R, and Debbie Jo.

Think about joining us next year.

Bob Popp

UUMAN Earth Ministry



## 50/50 Update

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 as 50-50 are included.

Thanks to the generosity of our UUMAN members and friends we continue to support many groups and organizations in our community.

Our July recipient was **El Refugio** who received at total of **\$558.81**.

August recipient was the **Butterfly Project**. This is the beginning of a partnership with the Emerson UU church in Marietta, who have been supporting a family from another part of the world establish a new life in our country. The Butterfly Project received at total of **\$814.10**.

The total donated to our partner organizations from 50/50 through August is **\$11,657**.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting those in need in our community.

Joan Rossi, Share the Plate Coordinator

## MCY October News

### Autumn Festival at UUMAN (10/26)



The highly anticipated Autumn Fest is occurring October 26th at UUMAN! This festival is going to be a day of fun for all ages, with a hayride, costume contest, native plant swap, and more! There will also be a potluck, so bring a spooky dish for the chance to win a prize for the spookiest dish! We need volunteers to help make this day a success—there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Here are some of the available volunteer roles:

- Decorations Team
- Potluck (Prize for Spookiest Dish!)
- Set-Up
- Costume Contest Host/Hostess
- Hayride Attendant
- Clean-Up
- Bring Hay Bales for the Hayride

Contact Andrea Rodriguez to help with Autumn Fest!

October Fun at UUMAN – Dress-up Sunday & Autumn Festival! Get ready for some festive fun at UUMAN!

Leading up to our Autumn Festival on October 26th, we'll be hosting a themed Sunday for the service before Autumn Fest! We will also be having a costume parade during service on October 26th!

Dress up and join the fun:

**Oct 19** – Witches & Wizards: Channel your magical self!

**Oct 26** – Costume Contest: Funniest, Scariest, Cutest, Best Handmade, and Best Group!

- Andrea Rodriguez

### Native Georgia Plant/Seed Swap at Autumn Fest

UUMAN's MCY will hold its annual Autumn Fest following the service on October 26. Earth Ministry will join the fun by offering a Native Georgia Plant/Seed Swap.

Be a part by beginning now to collect seeds or plants that have germinated from their acorns or seeds. This is a great family project from collecting seeds and plants to then planting them. Collect seeds from wildflowers: purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, Georgia asters, butterfly weeds (these seeds need cold stratification to germinate - another teachable step with the kids), and cardinal flowers. Please divide the seeds into bags marked with their names.

Dig germinated trees that you place into cups with their names: southern live oak, white oak, red maple, loblolly pine, sweet gum, and black cherry. These plants and acorns thrive best replanted in the fall through December. (You may also bring their acorns, spiky seed balls, and berries in identified bags.)

Native spring flowers are a step beyond bringing beauty and life. Help keep our butterflies and hummingbirds, and all their friends alive. If you are on your way with gardening take one and give one. If you are new to the game, take what you need and give back next year. You may bring your plants and seeds on **Sunday, October 19** or **the day of Autumn Fest - October 26**.

Please contact **Laura Keck** or **Linda Etheridge** with questions.



## October: 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)

10/5	<b>Faith and Uncertainty</b>  Is faith by definition blind? What about trust? Is trust a sure thing? Is trust also blind? What about truth? Of what are we certain? What realm does that occupy? What do we call the realm that all else occupies?	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/12	<b>Radical Welcoming</b>  This is a story about making myself vulnerable by implementing radical welcoming and how it can turn out gloriously. I will try to share how my selfish desire to make friends in a new place, at almost any cost, turned into a very UU kind of activity. Sometimes it was uncomfortably unpredictable but the only way to get comfortable with unpredictability is to have lots of experience on the edge. Its also a story about sailing.	Seth Pratt
10/19	<b>Are Our Chakras Balanced?</b>  The idea of chakras dates back to the ancient Indian Vedic scriptures. They are thought to be, or describe, energy distribution centers in the body. What are their significance? Can they provide a fresh lens for us to view how we are living our lives?	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/26	<b>Service of Remembrance</b>  Please join us as we remember those who have passed over the course of the year. Let us remember how they have shaped our lives in ways we could not have imagined.	Liz Martin

Date	Celebration
10/2	John & Miriam P. are celebrating an anniversary of 21 years.
10/3	Alex P. & Karen A. are celebrating an anniversary of 13 years. Dillon L. is celebrating a birthday.
10/4	Aria G. is celebrating a birthday Callum A. is celebrating a birthday. Eli L. is celebrating a birthday Jacob P. is celebrating a birthday
10/5	Bruce & McPatti L. are celebrating an anniversary of 34 years.
10/6	Rollin M. is celebrating a birthday.
10/9	Michelle K. is celebrating a birthday.
10/11	Michelle L. is celebrating a birthday.
10/13	Callum M. is celebrating a birthday
10/14	Alex P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/15	Hayden & Lexie B. are celebrating an anniversary of 9 years.
10/18	Olivia P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/19	Becky N. is celebrating a birthday.
10/22	Annette P. & Jim S. are celebrating an anniversary of 30 years. Jerry J. & Laura K. are celebrating an anniversary of 19 years.
10/24	Ann & Joseph C. are celebrating an anniversary of 33 years.
10/25	Stephen S. is celebrating a birthday.
10/26	Dave P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/29	John P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/30	Jan W. 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](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)