

February 2026

Inside this issue:

2026 Georgia Legislative Session	1
Safety Update	2
UUMAN 35th Anniversary History Quiz	2
Our 50/50 Shared Plate	3
Roswell Empowered's PRIDE PROM	3
Love in the Public Square and Being Alone	3
MCY February Times	4-5
February: A Month of Sundays	6
Life Celebrations	6



2026 Georgia Legislative Session

Several members of UUMAN kicked off the 2026 Georgia legislative session by showing up for “Pack the Cap” on Monday, Jan 12. “Pack the Cap” was organized jointly by the ACLU of Georgia, Indivisible Georgia Coalition and ProGeorgia. Several hundred concerned citizens were in attendance of this informative event. Although many of the bills currently being sponsored by the majority are at cross purposes to our most dearly held beliefs and values, “Pack the Cap” was an uplifting and hopeful event.

Here is a quick overview of some of the bills being considered during the session:

HB397, SB175 – Contains multiple changes to election procedures, including restrictions on Saturday voting, absentee ballot delivery, State Election Board authority, and poll watcher access.

SB74/HB483 – Seeks to repeal the exemption that protects librarians and library staff from criminal liability when distributing materials that some claim are “harmful to minors.” Under this bill, librarians could face a high and aggravated misdemeanor for lending or exhibiting certain materials – potentially leading to fines and jail time.

HB602 – Would strip state scholarship eligibility (such as HOPE, grants, and loans) from students who are convicted or disciplined for materially and substantially disruptive conduct (including protest-related arrests or violations of campus rules).

SB21 – Would take away legal protections from local governments and their employees that violate immigration laws, preventing schools or governing bodies from adopting “sanctuary” policies. The bill passed the Senate in 2025 but did not make it to a House vote. This vote may take place this session.

HB994 – Would elevate some protest activities from a misdemeanor to a felony

SB36 (Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act) – Although framed as protecting religious exercise, critics warned it could be used to justify discriminatory actions against LGBTQ+ people and others.

SB30 and SB39 (Gender-affirming care restrictions) - Intended to ban puberty blockers and other gender-affirming care for minors and aims to prohibit coverage for gender-affirming care under state-sponsored plans (including state employee and Medicaid plans).

Some bills being introduced by the minority party:

SB389 - Would ban ICE agents from wearing masks and require federal agents working on immigration enforcement to wear an identification badge

SB392 - Would prohibit the armed state forces like the National Guard to come into Georgia without permission of its elected leaders.

SB397 - Would allow people to bring personal lawsuits against federal officers who violate their rights during immigration raids.

The Unitarian Universalist Georgia Legislative Action Network uugalen.org and other organizations will be looking at these bills until the sessions ends (Sine Die) on April 2.

Please contact UUMAN’s Social Justice Committee socialjustice@uuman.org for further information.

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

Dave

Safety Update

Your UUMAN Safety Committee, in concert with Operations, has been working to make our UUMAN campus more secure.

Cable Blocking Access to Upper Parking Lots

In late 2025, the Operations and Safety committees installed a barrier across the driveway beside Fellowship Hall, to prevent access to our upper parking lots during the week. We have long known that non-members use the upper parking lot as a place to meet and drink—we have even found syringes there. This area has also been used as a dumping ground for old household items, such as mattresses. So we thought it important to deter access during the week. The barrier was also recommended by the Roswell PD.

There is now a cable across the driveway with a combination lock. The cable will be taken down prior to services and other large events, so members can park as usual in the upper lot and the choir lot. The cable is flagged with multiple reflective signs; please check to make sure the cable is down when driving to the upper lot. If you have an event during the week for which you need access to the upper lot, contact safety@uuman.org.

Sliding Bolt Locks in Nursery and Choir Room

Previously, there were no locks for the nursery (the door to the hallway) or the choir-room doors. We installed sliding bolt locks to secure these doors. These bolts make it possible to shelter in place in these rooms in the event of a threat. The bolts are near the top of the door, to make it hard for children to engage them. Also, we now unlock the office door during service, to make sure there is an exit path through the office to the front parking lot in an emergency.

Remember, safety at UUMAN is everyone's responsibility. When you're leaving the church, check to make sure doors are locked. Please do not prop open sanctuary doors during service, when doors are locked. If you see something suspicious, let someone know.

~ Mike Chambers

UUMAN 35th Anniversary History Quiz



In honor of UUMAN's 35th Anniversary, a history quiz! Most if not all the answers to the quiz questions can be found in recent UUMANTimes newsletter

articles. The individual that gets the most questions correct will win a very special prize! Only one submittal per individual. Just click on the link below, fill in your name and email, then answer the questions and hit Submit!

[UUMAN 35th Anniversary History Quiz](#)

Good luck.

Bob Popp



Our 50/50 Shared Plate

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 **December** recipient was **Foster Cares Support** who received at total of **\$635.57**.

The total donated to our partner organizations from 50/50 through December is **\$16,225.75!**

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

Joan Rossi
Share the Plate Coordinator



Roswell Empowered's PRIDE PROM

Join us for [Roswell Empowered's](#) PRIDE PROM on Valentine's Evening!

WHEN: Saturday, February 14th 8:00 - 11 PM

WHERE: Melrose & McQueen Roswell 595 Atlanta Street
(2nd Floor)

Special Ticket Discount Code: UUMAN50

UUMAN's Young Adult Group will be hosting a table at this event.

FOR MORE DETAILS about this FUN filled evening: [CLICK HERE](#)

Many thanks to UUMAN's Young Adult group which will be hosting an information table at this event.

Please spread the word. All are welcome!

Kelly Callen
Chief Connector & Catalyst of Opportunities

Love in the Public Square and Being Alone

These are troubling times and many of us feel frustrated, scared, helpless, alone. The list could go on and on. I could also give you a grocery list of things "TO DO" but that would only dismiss those very feelings which drive our everyday interactions and inactions. That is NOT the purpose of these words.

This aloneness is a strategy. It has a purpose. It fills the void we feel when we see videos of people being detained, being pepper-sprayed, being shot on the streets and in detention centers. Everyone ends up deprived of our humanity. So, all we feel is a void that "they" want to fill with fear.

We each of us ask: what could I do to help? Could I be doing more? But there's a more important question to ask ourselves: What do I feel right now?

I say to you do not feel ALONE. This is why we come to church. This is why we feel the tug for connection, why we show up on Crabapple Road, why we donate to the auction, why we love our children and other people's children during religious education, why we volunteer at North Fulton Charities, why we talk to members of the Georgia General Assembly with our partners, why we elect people who hold our values as closely as their own.

When you're not physically at church, know that church is there, that our minister is there, that our members are there. That our President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, who was arrested in Minneapolis, is there, along with their staff. And that there are thousands of UU's out there, getting up every day, doing their thing, our thing, to stay visible, to stay connected, to feel alive in these troubling times.

And try this one last thing: reimagine our world as we would LOVE to see it be. Let your imagination soar, let your dream form in your mind and in your heart, let your words sing, let your steps lead your way home, and know that you are NOT alone.

In joyous service,

Jennifer Ratcliffe,
Social Justice co-chair

MCY February Times

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education



A Powerful Day of Learning and Reflection in Montgomery
On the Sunday before MLK day, a group of 45 people from UUMAN (joined by the PREMO directors and their families) traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to visit The Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The trip marked the culmination of our Senior Youth's anti-racism learning and invited participants of all ages into a deeper encounter with the history of racial injustice in the United States.



The day itself went smoothly. Everyone arrived on time, moved thoughtfully through the spaces, and engaged the experience with care and respect. But the impact of the visit reached far beyond logistics. For many, the exhibits stirred deep emotions, raised hard questions, and lingered long after we boarded the bus home. It was a powerful reminder that this work is not

only intellectual, but deeply human. Whether this trip felt like a first step or one of many along the way, it mattered that we showed up together.



A Second Hour reflection and processing space was offered on Sunday, February 1, for anyone who wanted to continue the conversation and explore next steps for ongoing anti-racism work at UUMAN. Join the conversation by filling out this form ([link](#)).

Thank you to everyone who participated in this meaningful day, and to all who continue to engage in the ongoing work of justice, remembrance, and repair.



UUMAN has been invited to join a joint Youth Con with UU Emerson in Cleveland, GA, April 24–26, and it's shaping up to be a really special weekend for our kids and teens.



Spring Youth Con Interest Survey

The con will center on the theme “Just Dream” and include age-appropriate workshops focused on creativity, self-expression, social justice, and resilience. Youth will spend the weekend building community through hands-on activities, camp-style games, reflection time, and UU connection.

Evenings will include fun group activities and vespers—a calming, meaningful way to close each day. Meals will be familiar, kid-friendly, and inclusive of dietary needs.

We're currently gathering interest (this is not registration yet) so we can plan responsibly and determine how UUMAN can participate. Families are invited to share interest for youth in grades 3–12, and adults—parents and non-parents alike—are encouraged to indicate if they'd like to help as chaperones, drivers, workshop leaders, or meal helpers.

♥ Cost details are still being finalized. Scholarships will be available for UUMAN families, and we may be able to cover costs for chaperones if possible.

➔ [\[Link to Interest Survey\]](#)

New Parent Ministry 2nd Hour Offering

We're excited to share a new 2nd Hour Parent Ministry offering at UUMAN! This relaxed Parent/Guardian Meetup gathers on the first Sunday of each month during 2nd Hour and is a space to connect, share joys and challenges, swap resources, and build community with other parents and caregivers while kids are in RE or nursery.

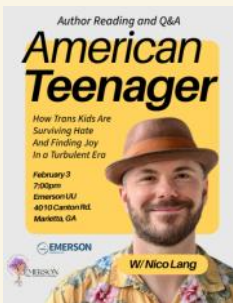
If you're reading this after our February gathering, be sure to mark your calendar for the March meetup. Whether you're brand new or have been around for years, all parents and guardians are warmly welcome. Come for the conversation, stay for the solidarity. During 2nd Hour, everyone is invited to participate in an All-Ages social justice letter-writing project. Together, we'll reflect, write, and take meaningful action in a hands-on way that's accessible for kids, youth, and adults alike. Come as you are and be part of this shared experience of faith, justice, and community.

MCY February Times

All-Ages RE in February

February brings a special All-Ages RE opportunity for our UUMAN community. On February 15th, we'll gather for our monthly multigenerational worship service. This means there will be no Children's Chapel, but the service will be intentionally designed to welcome and include children and youth of all ages.

During 2nd Hour, everyone is invited to participate in an All-Ages social justice letter-writing project. Together, we'll reflect, write, and take meaningful action in a hands-on way that's accessible for kids, youth, and adults alike. Come as you are and be part of this shared experience of faith, justice, and community.



UUMAN has been invited to an event at Emerson UU featuring author Nico Lang. Nico is an award-winning LGBTQ+ journalist and national reporter whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Rolling Stone, and The Washington Post. Nico will be sharing from their book *American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era*, followed by a Q&A.

The author reading takes place February 3rd at 7:00 pm at Emerson 4010 Canton Rd, Marietta, GA 30066. This is a meaningful opportunity to learn, listen, and show up in solidarity. We hope some of you will join us.

♥ From the DRE: How Can UUMAN Support You?

Friends, the world feels heavy right now. Many of us have opened our phones only to be met with heartbreaking headlines about violence, injustice, and fear.

These events raise difficult questions about safety, justice, and how we care for one another. Many of us are trying to find balance: staying informed and engaged while protecting our mental health, and navigating hard conversations with our children about families being separated, violence in the news, and clashes in values with extended family or coworkers.

What do you need from your UUMAN community and from the MCY team right now?

- Do you need spaces to talk with other parents — to laugh, to rage, to cry?
- Do you need childcare so you can participate in peaceful actions or just take a breath?

- Do you want more family-centered events that feel like a refuge from all that pain?
- Are you seeking support for having hard conversations with your kids?

You are not alone. I am still learning how to hold hope in the midst of so much hurt. I want to meet families where you are — not assume what you need, but hear it from you. Your experiences matter. Your emotional and spiritual health matter.

Please email me at dre@uuman.org and let me know how we can better support you, your children, and your family at this time. Together we can build intention into our community so it can be a source of strength, sanctuary, and care.

Siding With Love: UU Justice in Action

As Unitarian Universalists, we are grounded in values of inherent worth and dignity, justice, equity, and compassion for all people. And our faith calls us to act on those values, not just speak them.

One powerful example of this faithful action came in Minneapolis in late January, where more than 800 clergy and faith leaders gathered to stand against harsh immigration enforcement. Nearly 100 clergy were arrested while demonstrating peacefully at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport in below-freezing temperatures, urging an end to deportation flights and calling attention to the human impact of federal immigration policies, including UUA president, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt. [Link to article](#)

Across the country, UU clergy and lay leaders have joined multifaith marches and rallies in solidarity with immigrant communities, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with neighbors facing fear and separation. [Link to article](#)

Locally and nationally, the Unitarian Universalist Association's organizing arm, Side With Love, continues to equip congregations with tools to act in justice-oriented ways. From advocating for immigrant rights and racial justice, to resisting policies that undermine human dignity. Through education, mobilization, and collective action, Side With Love helps UUs transform love into real, world-shaping justice work. [Link to page](#)

Our own Social Justice Committee is also hard at work, making sure our voices are heard in legislative spaces. In a time when so much around us can feel unjust and overwhelming, it is heartening to see our faith tradition living its principles in the world, reminding us that love is not passive, and that we are called to stand with our most vulnerable neighbors.

Written by Lexie T. Brown, Director of Religious Exploration



February: 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	Celebration
2/1	Kyra P. is celebrating a birthday.
2/5	Davis D. is celebrating a birthday.
	Izzy D. is celebrating a birthday.
2/8	Owen P. is celebrating a birthday.
2/9	Meredith H. is celebrating a birthday.
2/12	Jacob C. is celebrating a birthday
2/14	Michelle & Mike Liebergesell are celebrating an anniversary.
2/15	Dan C. is celebrating a birthday.
	James L. is celebrating a birthday.
	Maud V. is celebrating a birthday.
2/22	Riahna B. is celebrating a birthday.
2/23	Liam P. is celebrating a birthday.
2/28	Raffaella S. 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

Date	Topic	Service Leader
2/1	Theology of New Socks Theology of Covenant: How Working with Unhoused Folks in Atlanta Changed Mine We often say that Unitarian Universalism is not a creedal religion, but a covenantal one. It's not too hard to see what that means within a congregational setting. What does it mean as we look outside our walls? And what does it call on us to do when we look at the unhoused people in our interdependent web?	Liz Martin
2/8	Joseph Priestley – Dissenter, Heretic, Unitarian Polymath Joseph Priestly was a chemist, philosopher, historian and political theorist; as well as a Unitarian minister and theologian. Although he was born in England, he was forced to flee to the United States. Why?	Rev. Dave Dunn
2/15	Sending a Little Love to Minneapolis On this Valentine's Day weekend, we will reflect upon and honor the resistance and sacrifice the people of Minneapolis are putting forth as they take the brunt of a militarized Department of Homeland Security. Maybe we can send them a little love?	Rev. Dave Dunn Liz Martin
2/22	Grateful for This? What if compassion starts with gratitude and tenderness? Drawing on her work with compassion science and Cognitively-Based Compassion Training, Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner invites us to explore how these qualities can be intentionally cultivated and expanded. Megan served congregations in Connecticut for nearly a decade before moving in 2019 to Atlanta where she now lives with her husband and their two daughters, ages 12 and 5.	Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and a board-certified chaplain. A life-long Unitarian Universalist, she is the affiliated community minister at the Emerson UU Church in Marietta, GA.