

January 2026

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Sustained Non-Violent Protest

While attending a recent “No Kings” protest here in Atlanta, I was chatting with a fellow protester who was inspired by the turnout on that sunny

Saturday afternoon. (There were perhaps 10,000 protesters in Atlanta that day.) He then asked me whether protests like this, and those that were occurring simultaneously across the country, would make any difference regarding what the current executive branch of our government is doing to our country and to our world (i.e. humanity and our environment).

I responded by saying that I believe everything we do makes a difference, yet we can never necessarily know what that difference will be, what form it will take and when it might take place. Our failure to achieve our desired end is always a possibility yet our actions may inspire others to succeed where we've failed.

I then said that if our goal is to put an end to what the current administration is doing, it would likely require regular, daily, sustained, non-violent No Kings-like protests in Washington D.C., the seat of power, to significantly move the needle.

It was at that “No Kings” rally that I heard about this very thing - a planned sustained, daily, non-violent protest that would begin taking place in our nation's capital beginning November 5. (The anniversary of our most recent presidential election.)

I traveled to D.C. and attended that mid-week rally where there were perhaps 5000 in attendance. After the rally we then marched from the Washington Monument to the Capitol and then onto the Supreme Court. I also attended the rally and march on the following day. (I met some Unitarian Universalists attending from California, Pennsylvania and Maryland.)

I then returned once again for subsequent protests outside the White House on Nov 24 and Dec 13.

Although Americans are familiar with Saturday afternoon protests from time to time, they aren't used to such daily, sustained movements. In the relative recent history of the Civil Rights Movement, the Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted 381 days. The protests at Standing Rock in 2016 lasted approximately 300 days. Just last month, anti-corruption mass protests in Bulgaria led to the resignation of their government. Earlier in 2025, due to quick action and mass protests, South Korea's President was removed from power after he sought to commit a coup by first declaring martial law in the country.

Yet again, although I believe that daily, sustained, non-violent protests can significantly move the needle, there is no guarantee that they will lead to the results one is looking for. The 1988 mass protests in Tiananmen Square and the 2019 protests in Hong Kong led to further repression. Yet, without a doubt, these actions have inspired others around the world to continue to strive for freedom and human rights – and many have succeeded and achieving their ends.

If the protests in our nation's capital continue, I plan to continue to attend them because, in these circumstances, with the current administration presenting such a grave threat to our democracy, there is no guarantee that the upcoming midterm election results will be certified or respected.

If one believes that the current administration is grave threat to our democracy, it doesn't seem to make much sense to rely on that democracy to save us from that threat. With love (and non-violence) at the center, I wonder what the plan is.

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

The Congregation That Doesn't Know Any Better

On January 13, 2026, UUMAN will turn 35 years old. On that day, 35 years ago, which is known as Charter Sunday, 20 individuals and the founding Minister Lauralynn Bellamy signed the Membership Book. If you are adventurous, you can track down the Membership Book and look at the first page to see the list of "Charter Members".

UUMAN however started before Charter Sunday. In late 1989 Rev. Lauralyn Bellamy started advertising across the 400 North Corridor about a new Unitarian Universalist Church starting and a small group of people began meeting in private homes and subdivision clubhouses. Then in September 1990 the group started meeting in the cafeteria at Barnwell Elementary School on Barnwell Road.

Around this time Rosie and I had been discussing the desire to find a "church" in the Alpharetta area. We saw the advertisement in the local newspaper and decided to go one Sunday to Barnwell. What I remember was that everyone was very welcoming, and we seemed to have a lot in common with them. There was no nursery or RE classrooms, the few children at the time were at the back of the cafeteria, where we could hear them during service.

In the early days UUMAN moved around a little (okay maybe a lot) as it grew and tried to find a long-term home. There are many stories about this time, too many to tell in this short newsletter article however if you are interested, I'd refer you to Annette Pate, Ashok Nagrani, Merri Beth Stephens, Jim Saunders, and Bev Jordan to name a few. As I like to say, "they know where the skeletons are buried"!

In 1994 UUMAN found its home and began to put down roots in the north metro area when it bought the Crabapple Road property and the building, we call Fellowship Hall. Fellowship Hall served as both our sanctuary, where we held Sunday services upstairs and RE classrooms downstairs. The Operations storage closet (next to where we keep coffee mugs) was the primary bathroom. There are many stories of it being used in the middle of a service. Again, see one of our long-time members for the stories.

In 1999 the property next door, what we now call Discovery Cottage/Hall, was purchased, which gave us more space to hold meetings and RE classes. At the time the building was a rental house and required extensive work to get it to the point where it could be used.

In late 2000, 9 years into UUMAN's beginning, plans started for building a new sanctuary. As you can imagine, this was an enormous undertaking, for a congregation of 100+ members, requiring a lot of faith and fund raising. In August 2003, after much hard work and planning, a dedication ceremony for the new sanctuary was held to a packed crowd including UU representatives from around the southeast. Speakers that day reflected on the history and the many accomplishments to date and praised UUMAN for its work in building a liberal religious home in the north metro area. At the time UUMAN was known in UU circles as **"The Congregation That Doesn't Know Any Better"**.

UUMAN has a very rich history, and I've only touched the surface of the 35 years. If you want to learn more about UUMAN's history, much of it is preserved on our Google "Public" share drive including our monthly newsletters (1996-present), Board minutes and photos. Here are a few links to videos and documents that will help you along your way of learning more about UUMAN's history.

[UUMAN History - Brief Timeline](#)

[UUMAN 25th Anniversary Slide Show](#)

[Sanctuary Dedication Ceremony August 2003](#)

Read and watch carefully as there will be a test to see how much you know about UUMAN's history!

Bob Popp, UUMAN Charter Member



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 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 September recipient was the **Xerces Society** who received a total of **\$574.72**.
- ◆ In October we collected **\$419.70** for **Roswell Empowered**.
- ◆ The November recipient was **North Fulton Community Charities** for which we collected **\$2,938.75**.

The **total donated** to our partner organizations from 50/50 through November is **\$15,590!**

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

Joan Rossi, Share the Plate Coordinator

UUMAN's Big Game Tailgate and Auction



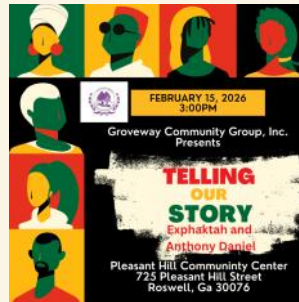
Calling all fans of UUMAN! Our yearly Goods & Services Auction will be hosted Sunday, February 8th at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall, with stadium food and an entertaining pre-game show! A **\$20 ticket** gets you in the door to just sign up or bid on unique items, special services, fabulous getaway locations, and memorable events donated by the UUMAN community to support our mission and vision.

We welcome your donations, as well as your wish lists! Is there an event or a service that would like to see offered again? Hosts want to know!

We also welcome team players to help set up and break down.

Please send donations, ideas, or offers to help through January 18th to harvest-moon@uuman.org

~ Laura Keck, UUMAN Board Secretary



Roswell Roots Festival Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The UUMAN Choir to perform in interfaith service on January 25.

The City of Roswell is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Roswell Roots Festival by expanding programming and kicking off the festival on MLK Day, Jan 19. The festival will continue through February 28.

While a brochure is not yet available, roswellroots.com has started listing events. Some events require tickets, so check out the offerings now. Also check the website often for updates but make sure to add these two events below to your calendar:

Choir Event: Sunday, January 25 at 5 pm, Mt. Zion is hosting an interfaith service. Alex will lead the UUMAN choir in singing two pieces, including the favorite "We Rise." (888 Zion Circle, Roswell, GA)


Grovesway Event: Sunday, February 15 at 3pm, Grovesway Community Group will host its annual event called Telling Our Story at Pleasant Hill Community Center. More information regarding the event and purchasing tickets will be available soon. Tickets will be \$15.

~ Courtney Rozear

MCY & RE January Update: Rest, Renewal, and a Fresh Start

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education

December was a very full and joyful month for our UUMAN families! Between the Holiday Party, pageant rehearsals, and our beautiful multigenerational pageant “The Snow Tree” (which you can now watch on our YouTube channel!), there was a lot to celebrate.

The final week of December and the first week of January are intentionally set aside for rest and recharging our batteries for kids, families, volunteers, and staff alike. 

RE programming resumes on Sunday, January 11.

Please note:

January 18: There will be no RE or MCY programming as we travel to Montgomery to visit the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice. We still have 5 seats available, and 50% scholarships are available—I would love to see those spots filled! [Click here for tickets!](#)

January 25: Programming returns to our regular schedule.

I'm so grateful for the care, creativity, and flexibility our community shows one another. I'm looking forward to stepping into this new year together—grounded, refreshed, and ready for what's ahead.

New Parent/Guardian Ministry Begins This Month

We're excited to launch a new 2nd Hour Parent/Guardian Meetup at UUMAN! Starting this coming Sunday, the group will meet the first Sunday of each month at 11:15 am in Fellowship Hall Room 3.

This is a relaxed, welcoming space for parents and guardians to connect while kids are in childcare. Come enjoy coffee and conversation, swap tips and concerns, share the highs and lows of parenting, and help shape future family-friendly events. Our hope is to strengthen and support current UUMAN families while warmly welcoming new ones looking for community and connection.

OWL for 4th-6th and 10th-12th Grade Levels

MCY is thrilled to offer both the 4th-6th and 10th-12th grade levels of the Our Whole Lives, or OWL, sexuality education curriculum beginning January 11th! If you are interested, there is a [mandatory parent orientation on Sunday January 4th, from 11:15-12:45](#). Complete registration form [HERE](#), make sure to let us know on the form if you need childcare for this adults only meeting.

Schedule for 4-6th and 10th-12th listed below. Prices listed in the registration form.

| OWL for Grades 4-5 | |
|---|--|
| MODULES TO BE COVERED AT EACH SESSION, 2026 | |
| Dates/Time | Schedule |
| Jan 4 | Mandatory Parent Orientation 11:15-12:45, FH Room 2 |
| Jan 11 12:30-1:45 | 1 - Sexuality and Values |
| Jan 18 | MLK JR HOLIDAY |
| Jan 25 12:30-2:30 | 2 - Images in Popular Culture 3 - Body Image |
| Feb 1 12:30-1:45 | 4 - Changes in Puberty |
| Feb 8 12:30-1:45 | 5 - Gender |
| Feb 15 | SCHOOL BREAK |
| Feb 22 | |
| Mar 1 12:30-1:45 | 6 - Feelings and Attractions |
| Mar 8 12:30-1:45 | 7 - Reproduction and Staying Healthy |
| Mar 15 11:15-12:30 | 8 - Decisions and Actions |
| Mar 22 12:30-1:45 | 9 - Consent and Peer Pressure |
| Mar 29 12:30-1:45 | 10 - Healthy Relationships & Celebration |
| Facilitators | Mike Chambers, mikechambers755@gmail.com |
| | Miriam Patanian, miriam.patanian@gmail.com |

MCY & RE January Update: Rest, Renewal, and a Fresh Start

OWL for 4th-6th and 10th-12th grade levels (continued)

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|------------------|--|
| OWL Facilitators | Valorie Baylis |
| | baylisva@gmail.com |
| | Stephen Shanahan |
| | stephen.shanahan@gmail.com |
| | Andrea Rodriguez |
| | arodriguez5396@gmail.com |

| OWL for Grades 10-12 | |
|---|--|
| MODULES TO BE COVERED AT EACH SESSION, 2026 | |
| Dates/Time | Schedule |
| Jan 4 11:15-12:45 | Mandatory Parent Orientation 11:15-12:45 |
| Jan 11 12:15-1:45 | What is Sexuality |
| Jan 18 | MLK JR HOLIDAY |
| Jan 25 12:15-2:30 | The Sexual Body Body Image |
| | |
| Feb 1 12:15-1:45 | Gender |
| Feb 8 12:15-1:45 | Healthy Relationships |
| Feb 15 | SCHOOL BREAK |
| Feb 22 | |
| | |
| Mar 1 12:15-2:30 | Attractions Communication Online and In Person |
| Mar 8 12:15-2:30 | Consent Sexual Expression and Pleasure |
| Mar 15 11:15-12:45 | Caring for Our Sexual Selves |
| Mar 22 12:15-1:45 | Reproductive Responsibilities |
| Mar 29 12:15-1:45 | Envisioning Your Future |

January: 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 |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 1/6 | Rachel O. is celebrating a birthday! |
| 1/7 | Lexie B. is celebrating a birthday! |
| 1/14 | Krishan B. is celebrating a birthday! |
| 1/21 | Padraig B. is celebrating a birthday! |
| 1/23 | Tammy D. is celebrating a birthday! |
| 1/24 | Donna M. is celebrating a birthday! |
| 1/29 | Dave D. 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 |
|------|---|------------------------------|
| 1/4 | The Buddha, Krishna and Camus The Buddha was, well, a Buddhist (I guess? 😊), and Krishna is a principal deity in Hinduism; while Albert Camus was a Humanist. Upon what could these dissimilar personalities agree? | Rev. Dave Dunn |
| 1/11 | Nothing Personal...But It's Not About You 😊 It's natural for us to look out for Number 1. Part of it is our biology... self-preservation, survival of the fittest. But in the long run, is this the best strategy for us as a community and as individuals? | Rev. Dave Dunn |
| 1/18 | MLK Sunday and 30 Days of Love This year marks the 14th anniversary of the UUA's 30 Days of Love campaign. It is a period for intentional action, service, education, and reflection running from Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to Valentine's Day. How might we deepen the connection to our faith at this time? | Rev. Dave Dunn Liz Martin |
| 1/25 | Anton Chekov's Interdependent Web Most Unitarian Universalists can relate to the cosmos as being an interdependent web of all existence. What are the implications of belief in this? How did the great Russian writer Anton Chekhov understand this interdependence and its implications? | Rev. Dave Dunn |