

UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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UUMAN's 35th Anniversary Celebration

UUMAN's 35th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled to take place during service and 2nd Hour on Sunday, May 3.

This celebration will coincide with our annual Rites of Passage service. Details aren't yet finalized but we know there will be fun... and food! (And for once, it will be food that you won't have to prepare!) 😊

Although UUMAN had been holding some informal Sunday services for a couple of years, the first official "charter" service (where people signed on as charter members of UUMAN) was held on January 13, 1991 at the Barnwell Elementary School.

As Bob Popp mentioned in his January Newsletter article, the congregation moved around a lot in those early years. This reminded me of my home congregation, the UU Church of the South Hills (Pittsburgh) aka "Sunnyhill," where we once called ourselves the "Church of the Laundromat." (The "Church of the Laundromat" is now the biggest UU church in the Pittsburgh area!)

Like my home congregation, UUMAN has come a long, long way in 35 years and there is much to be proud of. We've had our challenges; with numerous floods in the downstairs in Fellowship Hall (two of them very serious). This has been wonderfully remedied, and it has been dry down there for several years. (I'm knocking on wood here.) Not only has it been dry down there it looks beautiful!

When I arrived in 2016, the upstairs of Fellowship Hall looked very dated and the floor was crumbling. A renovation project that year (or perhaps in early 2017) made the place much more inviting. Again, also beautiful!

Also, when I arrived, Discovery Cottage was in sad shape. The floor was sagging, it was a bit depressing and there was a persistent smell (not a pleasant one either). In just the past few years we've transformed that building, inside and out, and it is servicing us well. And finally, we have our play-scape, the Whimsical Woods; a wonderful, natural place for the children to play. Once again, it's all also beautiful!

And let's not forget the devastating Sanctuary flood we had in January 2023. (I actually loved leading the Sunday service in Fellowship Hall while the repairs were being made. (It was "comfy" in there. 😊 ...and again, I'm knocking on wood!)

We've done a wonderful job with our campus and the Premo School also deserves some credit for both pushing us to make it better and jumping in and doing some of the work themselves.

The campus, operations and logistics aside, UUMAN is also doing an inspiring job in its ministries. We are a known entity in our community. We've shown up at Roswell City Council for years and now one of our members is serving there. We know the Roswell police (in a good way). We are regulars at NFCC, Family Promise, Mimosa Hall and elsewhere.

We are grateful for those who went before us, those up established UUMAN and put us in a position to be what we are today; and sometime, years from now, we hope people (and a minister) who are not yet here will be writing about UUMAN's 70th anniversary. Maybe they will thank us for continuing to lay the foundation upon which they can flourish. May it continue to be a labor of love!

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

Dave

Legacy Fund

Have you ever noticed the two brown wall plaques hanging in the narthex to the right of the entrance to UUMAN? Ever wonder what they are for? They have nameplates with members' names (past and present) on them honoring their contributions to the UUMAN Legacy Fund.

UUMAN's Legacy Giving Fund (originally the UUMAN Endowment Fund) was brought to life in 2018 when the Endowment Committee, (Ashok Nagrani, Bev Jordan, Donna Melcher and Colin Decker), recommended that, instead of managing our investments ourselves, the UUMAN Board of Trustees voted at the time for UUMAN to become a member of the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF). They manage the endowment funds of many UU entities and congregations. Thus the UUMAN Endowment Fund was born with an initial deposit of \$10,000. The name was changed to the UUMAN Legacy Fund in March of 2018.

Gifts given to this fund are designed to build long term financial stability and leave a legacy that expands UUMAN's and liberal religion's presence in our community. Over time, this kind of endowment supports the stability of our church in good and difficult financial times. It can also support projects, grants and scholarships approved by the Board of Trustees.

Contributing to the UUMAN Legacy Fund gives members and friends the opportunity to make sure the same support and benefits they received from UUMAN are there for those that follow them. It is also a way to invest in the future as well as leave a personal legacy for future generations that reflects their ideals and values at UUMAN and in the world.

UUMAN's Legacy Giving Fund is like a permanent savings account. Only some portion of the annual interest from the Legacy Fund can be used. The principle is not touched except under guidelines established by UUMAN's Board of Trustees.

The UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF) invests in socially responsible mutual funds. The ability to how and where we choose to invest (investment screening) can forcefully proclaim our UU ideals. This screening can exclude investments from portfolios based on social, environmental and governance criteria. This criteria is designed to represent UU values expressed in General Assembly and Board Resolutions, UUA Purposes and Principles, etc.

Initial contributors to the fund who gave either a cash gift of \$1000 or more or gave to the fund through their estate documents (bequests) were recognized as charter members of the UUMAN Legacy Society and given a place on the plaque that hangs in UUMAN's foyer. We just recently filled up the first plaque and are now ready to start adding names to the second one!

Ways to contribute:

- Add UUMAN as a beneficiary of \$1000 or more to your will or have a codicil to your will drawn up stating this.
- Cash donation of \$1000 or more to the Legacy Giving Fund (this will be forwarded on to our account that is being managed by the UUCEF). You can contribute through Breeze and designate that it is for this fund when donating.

Once you have completed one of these ways to contribute, contact me, Carolyn Lee (the Endowment Committee representative) at carolynaleefyb@gmail.com and I will send a form for you to complete stating the contribution was made which you will sign and email back. I will then add your name (s) to the new plaque on the wall!

Please consider this investment in UUMAN's future an investment in the future of liberal religion as well. We must create a new narrative that imagines a new world for ourselves and our children's children; be it justice and racial equality here in America or the broader vision of global peace.

Carolyn Lee

Sweep The Hooch 2026!



Sweep the Hooch, the annual Chattahoochee River Cleanup event is the morning of **March 21**.

Registration is open. Slots fill up fast so try to sign-up asap.

Earth Ministry has chosen the Riverside Road (Roswell) location this year. If slots are filled up then just pick another location and help clean up our river.

Be sure to put "UUMAN" as the group.

Here is the link to the Sweep the Hooch page on the CRK website. [Sweep the Hooch - Chattahoochee Riverkeeper](#)

Bob Popp

Stewardship Drive

Our annual Stewardship Drive begins March 22 and continues through April 19. This year, as we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we lift up a theme that beautifully reflects who we are as a community:

Love Without Exception — Then, Now, and Forever.

And speaking of things close to home... we need to share a pastoral concern. Reverend Dave has a problem.

It's an addiction. A serious one.

He has tried everything — cold turkey, hypnosis, even 12-step programs. Yet the struggle continues. What Reverend Dave truly needs is time away at a quiet, restorative rehabilitation center where healing can begin.

Yes, friends. We are talking about his devastating harmonica addiction.

This stewardship season, we invite you to embody Love Without Exception — Then, Now, and Forever — by helping us reach our \$300,000 goal. Your generosity sustains the ministries, programs, and community we cherish... and may very well help Reverend Dave find freedom from the relentless call of the blues.

Thank you for your support, your laughter, and your love.

- Colin Decker

A Note from your Treasurer

I feel like I should start off every communication to the congregation with the assurance that our congregation is financially healthy, because we are. Maybe not flush, but definitely not starving.

Finances are something that the congregation does not talk about much. However, I would like to talk about a few of the things that warm my (treasurer) heart.

First of all, it has been a treat to work with all of you over the past 18 months. Almost everyone has a need to talk to the treasurer at some point and therefore I have gotten to know nearly all of you much more than I would have otherwise.

Thank you for your support and friendship!

Almost as important and almost as much fun, I have learned a lot about how a non profit organization and this church in particular make decisions and manage day to day operations. You all would be pleasantly shocked to learn how much volunteer work gets done, and you would also be pleasantly surprised at how many people do the actual volunteer work! We are blessed by a supportive congregation!

One area that has surprised me especially this year is how often we are able to put our facility to good use by renting it out, mostly to unrelated third parties. Of course, we all know that we rent to Premo School but there are any number of one time or recurring rentals that go on. This has two huge benefits: a) our facility gets more nearly fully utilized, and b) We receive extra income that we definitely enjoy. As of February 28, 2026, rental income from non Premo rentals is almost \$3,000 more than we budgeted for this year! We have plenty of uses for this and it is really nice to have it!

Treasurers always talk about pledges so here are my pledge thoughts. I love you all for pledging! The church appreciates that life sometimes happens and pledges are sometimes very difficult or impossible to handle. You all have another chance to pledge in the next few months. Please pledge! It helps your treasurer sleep well at night.

Seth Pratt

Treasurer

Do protests work?

The billionaire class and the current administration are jointly trying to convince us that protesting doesn't work and that our efforts are useless. Don't listen to them.

During the Civil Rights era (1954-1968), Black Americans used diverse protest tactics to topple the mechanisms that kept them under submission. They faced violence, discrimination, segregation and disenfranchisement. Using a creative and highly disciplined use of nonviolent tactics, the Civil Rights movement achieved Mass Noncooperation and crumbled the foundation of legalized racism in America. Black History holds the key to defeating fascism when we think strategically. Here's how.

Protests fall into three categories: moral protests, direct actions and mass protests. Let's look at their differences and objectives:

Moral Protest

Goal: Reshape public opinion. These protests expose injustices by forcing them into the public spotlight. Organizers intentionally stage conflict with the opposition, revealing heroes and villains. They tell a story.

The conflict it provokes can spark widespread outrage and force onlookers to decide "which side am I on?" Moral protests can swing public opinion rapidly in our favor.

Direct Action

Goal: Shut down the status quo. These actions use people-power to disrupt the normal functioning of society. It clogs up a gear that keeps the status quo from running.

Direct action takes many forms, from striking from work or school, boycotting, and creating noise disturbances to blocking a physical infrastructure like a road or crossing. Our society can't function without workers. When we stop cooperating, people in power must either meet our demands or step down.

Moral Protest

Goal: Show our numbers. These protests flood public spaces with crowds who share a common demand. As fascists try to scare and intimidate us into compliance and tell us that dissenters are working as lone wolves, holding our ground is essential.

Mass protests are a threat. No matter who rich or powerful the elites are, everyday citizens outnumber them, and we can

unseat them if enough of us decide to put our energy that translates into change. Crowds scare authoritarians by proving that we have the numbers.

Mass Noncooperation

When large portions of the public are engaged in all three fluid categories, we have reached **Mass Noncooperation**. You have a role to play. Join us as we change our dependence on an obsolete system of hierarchies, isolation and unchecked authority. The SJ team invites you to participate in the next **No Kings March** on Saturday, March 28th, either to physically attend and/or support behind the scenes.

In the meantime, we encourage every member to strategize, organize, and find allies to transform our world. Any member of our team to share resources, connect with others, and support our challenges as we build the beloved community together.

In joyous service,

Jennifer Ratcliffe,
Social Justice co-chair



UUMAN 35th Anniversary History Quiz Results

First, I want to thank all of you who took the Quiz! I hope you enjoyed learning a little bit more about UUMAN's history. As I said, most if not all the answers to the quiz questions could be found in recent UUMANTimes newsletter articles. I did include a couple of tricky ones. More about that in a bit.

Longest Continuous Active Member

I took this to mean who signed the "Membership book" first and is still attending without any interruptions. You could make the case that it should be the person who started attending first and is still attending with no interruptions. However, I did say "Member" and you're not a member until you sign the book.

Annette Pate (Seller) signed the book on October 6, 1991. She has been attending as an active member ever since.

First DRE

No mystery here. Karen LoBracco was hired as the first DRE in 1996.

First Called Minister

The key word here is "Called". A "called" minister is defined in our By-Laws as "The Minister shall be called upon recommendation of a majority of a search committee elected in accordance to ARTICLE IV. 9.2.1 for such purposes and by an affirmative vote by ninety percent (90%) of the Full Members of the congregation present at any meeting legally called for the purpose. The quorum for such a meeting is to be constituted by forty (40%) per cent of the voting members rather than twenty (20%) per cent of the voting members as called for at other congregational meetings".

Rev. Jeff Jones was our first interim minister after the departure of Rev. Bellamy.

Rev. Greg Ward was our first "called" minister and joined UUMAN in August 1999.

Called Ministers

UUMAN has had 3 called ministers: Rev. Greg Ward (1999), Rev. Paul Daniel (2009) and Rev. Dave Dunn (2016). I should have had a bonus question asking the number of interim ministers. Does anyone know?

I believe the answer is 4 – Rev. Jones, Rev. Turner, Rev. Gillespie and Rev. Prescott.

First Paid Music Director

A considerable number of people answered Amby Holford. He was almost certainly the first choir director however he was not a paid choir director. The first paid choir director was Gay Grooms (2001).

Date Fellowship Hall was purchased

UUMAN purchased the Crabapple Road property and the building we call Fellowship Hall in August 1994. It was dedicated in February 1995.

Date our Sanctuary was dedicated

In 2000 a long-range plan was adopted which called for a new sanctuary to be built. After much fund raising and planning and construction the new sanctuary was completed and was dedicated in 2003. If you are interested in learning more about this entire process, you should talk with Bev. Jordan.

First meeting location

What I meant by this was the first "official" meeting location, which was the Barnwell Elementary School on Barnwell Road. Services began at this location in late 1990.

Founding Minister

Rev. Lauralynn Bellamy was the founding minister.

Date Discovery Cottage was purchased

12 UUMAN members bought Discovery Hall in 1998 and held it as a rental property until UUMAN could afford to buy it. UUMAN purchased the property from the 12 members in 1999. The building was dedicated in 2000.

of UUMAN Board Members

The UUMAN Board consists of 6 members: Vice-President, President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Special Projects Trustee.

Although not spelled out in our By-Laws our minister and our DRE sit on the Board as non-voting members.

Oldest current member

Diantha Horton is our current oldest member. However, we did not do an in-depth analysis of all our members' ages so if anyone has any other information, please let me know.



UUMAN 35th Anniversary History Quiz Results

Current Board President

David Kroeber is UUMAN's current Board President. On July 1 he will become our Past-President and Rachel Osborne will become Board President.

Number of UUMAN committees

The answer is "Unknown" as far as I can figure. There isn't an established list. Pretty much any member can form a committee.

Number of Charter Members

The charter members are the 20 individuals that signed the Membership Book on January 13, 1991, along with the founding minister, Rev. Bellamy.

Name given to UUMAN in the early years

The title of my January UUMANTimes newsletter article was "The Congregation That Doesn't Know Any Better". This is the answer. If you read the article, it explains why.

Bonus Question

This was a tough one. I didn't expect many if any current members to know very many of the people in the photo. Of course, you could have asked me or Rosie! J

The photo is of the Steering Committee which was formed to formally start the process of becoming a UU congregation. Here they are left to right: Roger Comstock (UU Southern Region Executive), Gary Welterlen, Vera Athur, Rev. Bellamy, Rosie Popp, Cliff Brown and Roland (Pete) Peterson-Frye. A few people got a couple of the names. The bonus points will be used to decide a tie.

Final Talley & Winner

- * Third place goes to Jen Ratcliffe with 13 correct answers and 2 bonus points
- * Second place goes to Ellen Milholland with 14 correct answers!
- * Drum roll please...and the winner is Ashok Nagrani with 15 correct answers and 2 bonus points

- * Honorable Mention goes to Liz Martin who had 13 correct answers

I'd like to again thank the contestants! Thank you for taking the quiz. I will be sending you your score.

Bob Popp

Swifter, Higher, Stronger

By Martin Poteralski

During the chilly month of February, I enjoyed watching the Winter Olympics, and the skills of the athletes on display. Whether speeding down any icy track, jumping off a snow-covered mountainside, or gliding gracefully over ice, the skills, dedication, and focus of these superstars is amazing to behold.

Closer to home, I continue to be amazed at what our UUMAN community can do - gold medal-worthy accomplishments and teamwork! Our recent Tailgate Auction raised over \$26,000! It was all made possible by the generous contributions of the entire team of donors and volunteers who made this event happen.

Now we're coming up on one of the most critical times of the year for our community - the annual Stewardship Drive. Over the coming weeks, you'll be hearing more about how your pledges enable our campus to be a worthy home for our community, and our staff to serve us well. Be on the lookout for our spring activities fair, where representatives from our various committees and ministries will be providing info on their missions and plans - and how they are looking for a superstar like you to get involved.

Let's keep our winning team marching to record-setting heights!

MCY March Times

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education

Youth Con – April 24–26 (Grades 3–12)

UUMAN is invited to a joint Youth Con with UU Emerson in Cleveland, GA – and it’s almost here! Theme: “Just Dream.” Youth will enjoy workshops, games, worship, and community-building all weekend.

✦ UUMAN is leading a workshop! We’ll assemble supply bags for unhoused neighbors (all materials provided) as part of a hands-on social justice project.

This is an interest survey (not registration) so we can plan. Please fill it out soon.

♥ Cost: Scholarships will ensure every youth who wants to attend can. Adult volunteers receive a reduced rate.

➔ [Link to Interest Survey](#)



March 15 – Youth Service *Multigen- No Children’s Chapel*

A UUMAN Message for Tomorrow

Join us March 15 as our Youth Group leads worship!

As we celebrate UUMAN’s 35th anniversary, our youth will reflect on the story we hope to tell at our 50th. Who are we becoming? What future are we building? And what message do we want to leave for tomorrow?

Come support our youth and be part of the vision.

UUMAN MCY Discord Is Live! 🎉

We’ve launched a new UUMAN MCY Discord to help our ministry stay connected during the week!

This space is for parents and volunteers to share updates, coordinate events, ask questions, and stay in the loop. There are also dedicated, moderated spaces for youth so they can connect safely as well.

➔ [Join here](#)

📺 New to Discord? [Watch this quick how-to video](#)

March: 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	Topic	Service Leader
3/1	Things Eternal Are some things eternal? Or is everything impermanent? Are they mutually exclusive? Or, perhaps, both/and? Or not? What are the implications?	Rev. Dave Dunn
3/8	101 Zen Stories - Part 2 In the early 20th century, Zen monk Nyogen Senzaki compiled a set of koans and parables to help aid his students in the study of Zen in America. What can these puzzling, often humorous stories mean for us?	Rev. Dave Dunn
3/15	A UUMAN Message For Tomorrow As we mark UUMAN's 35th anniversary, what is the story we want to tell UUMAN members at our 50th anniversary? Who are we, and where do we hope we're going?	Youth Group
3/22	Failure As A Spiritual Practice Can failure be seen as a spiritual practice? Like a lot of things, it depends on what one means by those words. How do you define spiritual practice? How about failure? What is the relationship between risk, consequence, and failure - and what does any of that have to do with spiritual practice?	Liz Martin
3/29	Taize Service A Taize service is a meditative and reflexive prayer service characterized by simple, repetitive chants, extended periods of silence, instrumental music and reading. It is a unique experience.	Rev. Dave Dunn, Liz Martin Alex Pietsch

Date	Celebration
3/1	Priya N. is celebrating a birthday.
3/6	Tanya R. is celebrating a birthday.
3/9	Rozanne G. is celebrating a birthday.
3/12	Claire C. is celebrating a birthday.
3/15	Judy D. is celebrating a birthday.
3/17	Amanda B. is celebrating a birthday.
3/20	Marc L. is celebrating a birthday.
3/23	Todd W. is celebrating a birthday.
3/25	Margaret & Jacob P. are celebrating and anniversary of 9 years
3/26	Diantha H. is celebrating a birthday.
	Dirk B. is celebrating a birthday.
	Lori A. is celebrating a birthday.
3/28	Bev J. is celebrating a birthday.
	Vivian W. is celebrating a birthday.
3/29	Danielle B. is celebrating a birthday.
3/31	Janet L. 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