

April 2026

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The United States at War

On February 28, the United States began launching military strikes targeting Iran; apparently without any plan that might consist of

objectives, follow-up, implications, etc., etc., etc.

Without going into the complicated details of history, the current authoritarian regime in Iran is in place in response to a previous authoritarian and sometimes repressive regime that was, in part, supported by western democracies.

Many, no doubt, would support regime change in Iran yet when looking at the sweep of history, it generally looks like just one more step in a repeating cycle of violence.

Ironically, the Buddhist monks from Texas concluded their March for Peace just a few weeks before this attack on Iran. Their principal mission of this march was to advocate for peace through acts of lovingkindness and compassion in ways that are (obviously) nonviolent.

A colleague of mine was telling me that her mother was expressing both disbelief and dismay that Buddhists, like those marching for peace, bring feathers to a confrontation when others are bringing guns.

Yes, they bring feathers; feathers and flowers; and they will continue to bring feathers and flowers when others bring guns.

In a speech to U. S. top military commanders last year, Secretary Pete Hegseth said, "The only people who actually deserve peace are those who are willing to wage war to defend it. That's why pacifism is so naive and dangerous." I wholeheartedly disagree. Peace is not shot out of a gun.

You will only get peace when you stop waging war and begin to heal the wounds and damage of past wars and violence.

It is waging war that is inherently dangerous and naïve; for history shows that it always leads to more violence and war.

Thomas Merton: "There can be no question that unless war is abolished the world will remain constantly in a state of madness."

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The choice is not between violence and nonviolence but between nonviolence and nonexistence."

Perhaps most importantly, nonviolence is necessary in order to create what some might call the Beloved Community; a community where all, even those who disagree with one another, move forward respecting the integrity of relationship – an integrity that can't be achieved through violence.

Religion professor Douglas Sturm: "The concept of nonviolence is often used merely to designate devices of conflict resolution or techniques of social change that eschew resort to physical violence....That narrow understanding of nonviolence however does not do justice to its full meaning....More broadly understood, nonviolence is...a form of living together. In particular, it is a way of encountering the otherness of the other by which even in moments of aggression and opposition, an effort is made to sustain the fundamental integrity of all parties...."

It is through acts of nonviolence that we can come to "deserve" peace.

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

Dave

Special Projects Internet Upgrade Update

Hello UUMAN! This is your special projects Internet upgrade update. We have completed the installation of a new internet circuit at UUMAN that has been provided by AT&T. Why is that better than the last one you might ask? Well the last circuit that we had for some time was a Spectrum circuit that was based on coaxial cable, and was not synchronous. That means it did not allow the same speeds upload as it did download. Since the upload was very limited, we experienced problems at times when we were live streaming. The new circuit is fiber and is synchronous, which means we get the same 500mb upload as we do download. This has made a world of difference.

The Second piece of our project was to remove all the old Wi-Fi equipment and install new equipment. We completed this project as well with the help of Bruce Langston, Beth Harris and several others. Where before we had multiple networks in different parts of the building, we now have one contiguous network across all buildings, with separate security zones for each purpose (Public, DRE, Admin, etc.). This secures traffic between the networks and provides more control over the bandwidth to make sure everyone can get a good signal all of the time.

The biggest issue you may have noticed is the public network that you connect to does ask you to agree to legal terms and conditions before connecting in compliance with many public Wi-Fi standards. The only problem with this "portal" that you are redirected to on connection is that sometimes the phones remember that you connected to it and don't want to pop up the window once you have left the building and return another day. This is easily fixed by just closing all your browser windows, turning off Wi-Fi and then turning it back on to reconnect. That should get you connected. If you have further trouble just let me know and I can provide some assistance.

The new network connection and Wi-Fi not only provides a better experience for everyone, but it has saved us money. The monthly fees are roughly \$100 less than they were so that is a win! Thank you to all who gave encouragement and support during this project.

—Joe Lamb

Sweep the Hooch 2026

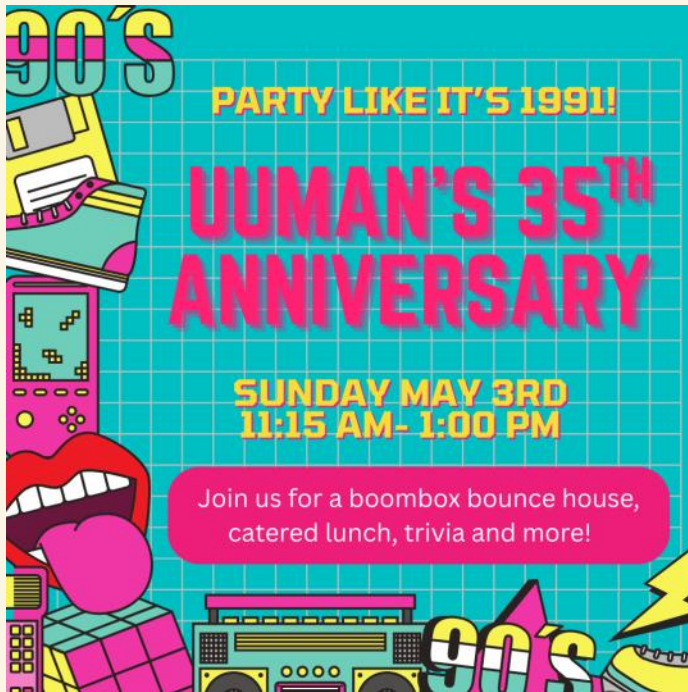


Every year during the spring for the past 15 years the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has sponsored a cleanup of the Chattahoochee River and every year UUMAN members register and turn out to help cleanup our beloved river. The cleanup occurs over 200 miles of the river! Last year the cleanup event cleaned up 36 tons of trash and 4 tons of recycling.

This year's group included 10 members from UUMAN. We spent the morning cleaning the area along Riverside Road from Don White Park to Old Riverside Road. Hope to see you next year if you were unable to help this year.

—Bob Popp

UUMAN's 35th Anniversary Party



UUMAN will celebrate its 35th anniversary on May 3, 2026 right after service that day! Please mark your calendars and plan to party with UUMAN like its the 90's! Come dressed up for food, fun, bouncy house, trivia, Karaoke and more! Fun for all ages! Please RSP Here so we know how much food to get!

The sign-up link is below:

[35th Anniversary Party RSVP](#)

We would also like to collect photos of the past 35 years. You may have some of those both as files and printed photos. We would like all of them. These could be from any year (1991 - 2026). They will be used to build a slideshow that will play in Fellowship Hall on May 3rd.

Please email digital photos to photos@uuman.org. Include a description of who is in the picture, the occasion and the year.

If your photos are printed, please scan with your phone or computer. If you need help, please email

communications@uuman.org and/or see Bob Popp or Dirk Bender.

The deadline for photos is April 21.

—Bob Popp

Earth Day Celebration

UUMAN Earth Ministry has joined with 16 other congregations to co-sponsor a 2026 Earth Day Celebration on April 18 starting at 9am. Details can be found in the flyer shown below. I hope you can make it.

—Bob Popp

Summer Solstice Picnic in June!

Mark your calendars for the **2026 Summer Solstice Celebration** on the afternoon of **Saturday, June 20**. Last year's event at Azalea Park was a lot of fun, and we hope you'll join us this year. More details will be provided.



—Martina Austin

2026-2027 Stewardship Campaign

LOVE WITHOUT EXCEPTION



Dear Members,

As we begin our 2026–2027 Stewardship Campaign, we invite you to live into this year's theme: Love Without Exception – Then, Now, Always.

UUMAN thrives because of you—your generosity, your presence, and your commitment. Your pledge of financial support, time, and talents sustains our worship, strengthens our programs, and expands our impact in the wider community.

In the coming year, we hope to:

- Grow our youth and young adult programs
- Expand our social justice work
- Deepen community engagement
- Strengthen sustainability efforts

To support this vision, we aim to raise \$300,000 in pledges.

We invite you to make a meaningful pledge that reflects your connection to UUMAN:

Submit your financial pledge by [completing the form in Breeze](#). You can also visit <https://uuman.org/donate/>.

Pledge your time and talents through available volunteer opportunities by filling out [this survey](#).

You can read more information in our [Stewardship Brochure](#).

Members of the Stewardship Team will be available after

Sunday services throughout the campaign (March 22 - April 19) to answer questions and provide paper forms.

Thank you for being part of this community—past, present, and always. Your support makes our shared ministry possible.

With gratitude,

Stewardship Team stewardship@uuman.org

Margriet van de Steeg, Carla Rizzati & Colin Decker

UU Justice Jam

The Emerson UU Congregation of Marietta and UU Fellowship of Athens cordially thank you for your interest in our upcoming UU Justice Jam! We're looking forward to coming together on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Emerson UU Congregation in Marietta, GA from 10:30 am-4:00 pm. With several congregations participating, we anticipate a fun day filled with meaningful song, helpful information, and strong connections that will prove consequential in our quest for bringing social justice to our world.

During the day together, we will:

- ♦ Learn simple songs for use at social justice actions
- ♦ Participate in the nationwide movement “Singing Resistance”
- ♦ Share ideas for social justice activities across congregations
- ♦ Explore legal and safety protocols for engaging in social action
- ♦ Hear inspiring choir songs of social justice from various groups
- ♦ Create connections with other UUs doing social justice work

The event is free and registration is now open. When registering, you will have the option of ordering a lunch (\$15.00) or you may bring your own. Whether or not a lunch is ordered, each person attending should register to facilitate our planning. Registration can be completed through the Realm link below or by using the QR code.

We hope you will encourage your congregants—especially those interested in music, social justice, or just connecting with other UUs—to attend this important day of activities. It's a step toward peaceful change in the world.

For more information, go to [Georgia UU Justice Jam](#).

See you there!



ALL ATLANTA AREA UU CONGREGATIONS PICNIC!

- Bouncy House
- Face Painting
- Potluck Lunch
- Fellowship with
Atlanta Area UU
Congregations



Each congregation is asked to send a few
volunteers 30 minutes before and after to
help with setup and clean up. Thanks for
your participation!



May 9th
11 am - 2 pm



at Emerson UU
Congregation
4010 Canton Rd.
Marietta, GA 30066

—Michelle Liebergesell

Atlanta Pride Weekend

The UU ATL Pride Cluster is seeking members from all seven metro-Atlanta UU congregations to plan the metro-wide efforts for Atlanta Pride weekend (October 10 and 11, 2026). We will have an informational booth and be marching in the parade. Committee members will be asked to participate in monthly planning meetings (held on the last Thursday of each month), liaise between their congregation and the committee for specific needs, ideas, and goals, and to eventually recruit marchers and booth volunteers from their congregation.

The first meeting of the committee is Thursday, April 30. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please email Jules Rube (they/them) at j.rube07@gmail.com

2026 Universalist Convocation

When: May 15 - 17, 2026

Where: Clayton Memorial Church, 334 Clayton Memorial Drive, Newberry, SC

Program:

Friday Evening Social

Saturday Full Program

Sunday Service by Universalist Convocation

Keynote Address: Video presentation by Rev. Rhett Baird

Registration Fees: \$20 Friday/Saturday; \$15 Saturday only

Visit our website for full [Program Details](#).

Registration now open! Follow this link to [register](#).

Download [Convocation Flyer](#).

—Forwarded by Beth Harris

**HELP
US
PLAN
PRIDE!**

*The UU ATL Pride Cluster is seeking members from
all seven metro-Atlanta UU congregations to
plan for Atlanta Pride weekend*

<p>PARTICIPATION LOOKS LIKE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend monthly planning meetings (held on the last Thursday of each month)• Liaise between your congregation and the committee for specific needs, ideas, and goals• Recruit marchers and booth volunteers from your congregation	<p>INTERESTED IN JOINING?</p> <p>email Jules (they/them) j.rube07@gmail.com UU ATL Pride Cluster Leader Member of UUCA</p>
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—Forwarded by Beth Harris

April: 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
4/5	Flower Communion The Flower Communion, created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, is an annual ritual that celebrates peace, beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Please bring a few flowers to share.	Rev. Dave Dunn Liz Martin
4/12	The Gift of a Broken Heart A lot of us were raised with the idea that "every cloud has a silver lining" and were encouraged to "look on the bright side!" Nowadays, there's talk about toxic positivity and spiritual bypassing. How do we navigate meaning-making around the worst experiences of our lives?	Liz Martin
4/19	Earth Day Service Since at least the 1st Earth Day in 1970 scientists have been sounding the alarm on the plight of our planet. The question is: have we woken up yet and if so, what do we do now?	Earth Ministry
4/26	UU Values, Ethics and AI Imagine yourself in charge of developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) model for a large tech company. How would your Unitarian Universalist faith and values inform how that model would be built?	Rev. Dave Dunn

Date	Celebration
4/4	Marc S. is celebrating a birthday.
4/5	Bob P. is celebrating a birthday.
4/7	Rowan F. is celebrating a birthday.
4/14	Amy T. is celebrating a birthday.
	Hayden B. is celebrating a birthday.
4/16	Dan B. is celebrating a birthday.
4/17	Claudia R. is celebrating a birthday.
	Pat C. is celebrating a birthday.
4/20	Joel S. is celebrating a birthday.
4/22	Nora W. is celebrating a birthday.
4/25	Dan B. & Carole H. Are celebrating an anniversary of 11 years.
4/27	John A. 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