

May 2026

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Children's Program Growth

Beginning next fiscal year, Lexie Brown, our Director of Ministry with Children and Youth (DMCY), will be expanding her role to full-time.

A lot has changed since she took the position just three years ago. At that time, the program had only 15 registered children. Today, the program has quadrupled in size and we now have over 60 registered. She has brought a creative vibrancy to the program and these efforts have helped grow the congregation. (The last time I checked, every child brings at least one adult parent with them on Sunday mornings!) 😊 Below is a summary of how the program has grown:

| Program Area | July 2022 | Today |
|---|---|--|
| Registered children & youth | ~15 | 60 |
| RE classes running | Minimal / irregular | 4 active classes |
| RE volunteers | Few, inconsistent | 14 trained volunteers |
| Nursery staffing (1st hr only → both hrs) | 1st hr only; 2 volunteers, inconsistent | Paid staff + 2 volunteers (1st & 2nd Hr) |
| Children's Chapel during service | None | Year-round, staff-led |
| OWL instructors | 3 certified (including me) | 6 certified + 1 in training |
| MCY Team size | 4 members (RE Committee) | 10 members with defined roles |
| COA program | Expectations only | Rich, active program with travel |

Here are just a few of the additional highlights of Lexie's work here at UUMAN:

- ☺ Organized UUMAN's first-ever Coming of Age (COA) trip to Boston in 2025.
- ☺ Organized this year's trip to the Legacy Museum in Birmingham AND partnered this trip with anti-racism curriculum for the youth.
- ☺ Organized the entire Atlanta UU cluster of congregations in their participation in the 2025 Pride Parade – complete with Pride float and UU booth in the park (many UUs who have gone before have failed at organizing UUs to do this!).
- ☺ Created a successful Autumn Festival (a big hit!) for the past two years and it will now become a regular occurrence.
- ☺ Creation of Children's Chapel and Nursery care for 1st AND 2nd hours has been pivotal to give parents the ability to fully experience UUMAN during those times.

I want everyone to know and understand that Lexie is truly doing an amazing job – and I'm sure that in the near future she'll be dreaming up some new adventures for our children, our youth...and YOU!

We are blessed to have her here with us at UUMAN!

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

Dave



Racism in the Age of Trump

A Convocation, held via Zoom, of the Unitarian
Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council

**Saturday, May 9, 2026, 11 a.m.-1 pm Central time
(Starts at Noon Eastern, 10:00 am Mtn, 9:00 am Pacific)**

3 Featured Speakers address aspects of this issue



Media and Racism. Dr. Lanier Frush Holt is an associate professor in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. His research sits at the confluence of journalism, media effects, and social psychology. In particular, he investigates the underlying psychological mechanisms that operate when audiences are exposed to race-related news media and examines how that influences their opinions about Blacks. The specific questions his research seeks to answer are: How does the relationship between racial and ethnic identity operate differently for Blacks than Whites,



Racism in Trump Administration Policies. Dr. Alan Spector has worked for racial justice in general since his college days at the Univ. of Wisconsin, later as an SDS organizer. While working toward his PhD in Sociology at Northwestern, he helped found the International Committee Against Racism with Dr. Finley Campbell. He was a professor at Purdue Univ. Calumet/Northwest for 45 years and has given dozens of presentations on issues of race-ethnic justice and served as President of the Association for Humanist Sociology.



Racism is not hate; its trauma trolled. The Rev. Dr. Thandeka, PhD, is a Unitarian Universalist theologian, minister and small group consultant, founder and President of [Love Beyond Belief™](#), creator and co-director of the [Universal Connections](#) small group project and [The Untrolling Project](#). Thandeka's books and essays have helped secure her place as a "major figure in American liberal theology" (*The Making of American Liberal Theology: Crisis, Irony, and Post-modernity, 1950-2005*). She has taught at The Czech Unitarian Academy in Prague, Williams College, Harvard Divinity School and Brandeis University.

There will be time for questions and comments by those in attendance after the three presentations

TO REGISTER send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com;

The Plastic Problem

Recycling, Is that the answer? Recycling! Must we be forever played? Of course, recycling is a good idea, but we took the bait and accepted the blame and responsibility for solving the pollution problem, distracting ourselves from the source. Corporations stoke this narrative, and it works very well for them. Now no one speaks about their responsibility. The fact is only 9% of discarded plastic is ever, or even capable of being recycled.



For sure we are we a part of the problem. We buy and use stuff we don't need, we're careless with our trash, we love convenience at any cost. The advertising industry has played their part well. We should recycle what we can, but we must hold industry accountable. Plastics is the fastest growing market for the fossil fuel industry. Recycling has always been a fraud, and it's always been a way for industry to sell more plastic, and a way for them to defeat regulations. Instead of going to the moon billionaires might just try cleaning up the mess they are creating right here on the one planet that supports life for us all.

Nature provides the model. If the technology is not good enough and the product can't be reused, it's not fit for life. Microplastics are accumulating in our bodies. Do we know the price we will pay for that? Your voice matters. Speak loud so you children will know that you are fighting for their future.

Gus Hadorn, Earth Ministry

Congregational Meeting

Dear UUMAN Members,

Our next Congregational Meeting will be May 17 from 12:00 to 1:00 in the sanctuary. This is an important meeting, where we will elect new board members.

We need your presence or proxy to ensure we have a quorum. In addition to voting for new board members, we'll be saying thank you to outgoing board members Martin Poteralski (VP/President/Past President) and Seth Pratt (Treasurer). We will provide updates on our progress in the past year and our financial status. Childcare will be provided.

Prior to the meeting, there will be a potluck in Fellowship Hall.

Links to the agenda, board member bios, proxy form, and childcare request form will be sent in early May.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Laura Keck

UUMAN Board Secretary

MCY May Times

Lexie T. Brown
Director of Religious Education



Weekly Wonder

Ministry for Children & Youth - April 2026 End of Year, Big Celebrations & What's Ahead 🎉

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Your feedback is 100% anonymous and the more honest you are, the more we can shape this program to truly serve all of us. 🧡 Please take a few minutes to fill out your survey before April 26th, our last day of RE for the 2025-26 year!

👶 Children's survey: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/childyouthsurvey>

👨👩👧👦 Parent survey: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/parentsurvey>

👩🏫 Instructor survey: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/instructorsurvey>

Upcoming Schedule

Apr 19 — Children's Chapel & RE Curriculum

Apr 26 — Children's Chapel & RE Curriculum (Last RE of the year)

May 3 — Rites of Passage / Multigen Service (No Children's Chapel) 2nd hour: 35th Anniversary & RE Party

May 10 — Mother's Day — Children's Chapel No RE / No Nursery

May 17 — Children's Chapel Congregational Meeting — pot-luck before, childcare available during

May 24 — Service at the Park No RE / No Nursery · Tentative parent meetup at playground after service

May 31 — Children's Chapel (1st hour) | 1st day Summer Programming (2nd hour)

👧 Youth News

Joint Youth Con — Apr 24-26 Youth are heading to Cleveland for a joint con with UU Emerson! This social justice themed weekend is sure to be fun, meaningful, and inspiring.

🌟 MAY 3 Highlights

Rites of Passage Service: This multigenerational service (no Children's Chapel) is a chance for our whole community to celebrate our children and youth. We'll recognize accomplishments from OWL, child name dedications, graduating high schoolers, and more.

After service, **party with UUMAN like it's the 90s!** Come dressed up for food, fun, a bouncy house, trivia, karaoke, and more! Fun for all ages, you won't want to miss it! RSVP for the party: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE48A8AE29ABF5C25-62631375-uuman>

Senior Youth: Civil Rights Museum Trip Senior youth are visiting the Civil Rights Museum in Atlanta on May 3rd. There may be a few spots open for adults who'd like to join. You'll miss part of the anniversary celebration, but civil rights are calling! Sign up here: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/dcd831>

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." — Helen Keller

What a year it has been! Through all of it (the learning, the growing, the hard days and the joyful ones) we have shown up for each other and for our children. That is everything. Thank you for being part of this community. We can't wait to celebrate with you.

With gratitude, Lexie T. Brown, DRE Ministry for Children & Youth

Summer Solstice



Please join us to celebrate the Summer Solstice at the Pavilion in Azalea Park on Saturday, June 20, from 3 - 7 PM.

Last year's picnic was a great success, and we hope to again have delicious potluck contributions, kayakers on the Chattahoochee, music, much conversation, and much fun as we observe the longest day of the year. Stay tuned for more information and sign-up opportunities for food and beverages to bring.

- Martina Austin

Multi-congregational Picnic Invitation



From

Northwest UU Congregation:

"We wanted to reach out to you regarding the upcoming multi-congregational picnic that will be held on May 9 at Emerson UUC in Marietta Ga from 11-2. This is a family-friendly potluck event for all ages that will have fun activities for those with children. The Atlanta area picnic was a tradition before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we would love to have you and your congregation as guests. It is so important that area congregations reach out in community with one another, and this will be a great opportunity for our members and friends to get to know one another, perhaps leading to possibilities for collaboration and support for upcoming events and social justice activities in the future."

Faithfully,

Gwen Kahn and Melissa Niedermeyer

Co- Interim Directors of Religious Education for Children and Youth

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Sandy Springs, GA, re@nwuuc.org

Your Voice Matters: Join Us for UU the Vote!

"Democracy belongs to those who exercise it." — Bill Moyers

This May, UUMAN joins a movement that puts our values into action — UU the Vote! This inspiring initiative from the UUA's Side with Love invites us to live our UU principles out loud, especially our 5th principle: the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process, both within our congregation and in the wider world.

This election season's theme says it all, "Ignite Solidarity, Reimagine Democracy." With early voting already underway and the primary on May 19, there has never been a better moment to show up for the things we believe in — together.

And showing up has never been easier! There are so many meaningful ways to get involved, whether you have an hour or an entire afternoon:

- **Voter Registration** — Help neighbors make their voices heard
- **Issue Education** — Dig into what's on the ballot and why it matters
- **Get Out the Vote** — Energize and mobilize our community

- **Voter Protection** — Ensure every vote is counted
- **Watch for updates in the order of service**, via email, on social media, and stop by our information table in Fellowship Hall to learn more and sign up.

This is our moment to turn our principles into action. Come be part of something meaningful. We're stronger when we act together!

Questions? Suggestions? Ready to volunteer?

Contact Stefanie Dye at stefanie.dye@gmail.com

May: A Month of Sundays



| Date | Topic | Service Leader |
|------|---|--|
| 5/3 | UUMAN Rites of Passage Join us for our annual Rites of Passage service. We will honor our children as the move into junior and senior youth; and our senior Youth as the bridge to Young Adults. We will also officially welcome some of your youngest children to UUMAN (i.e. newborns) in a Child Dedication ceremony. | Rev Dave Dunn Liz Martin Lexi Brown |
| 5/10 | We Are What We Drive Among the lines we draw between personal freedom and societal responsibility are those boundaries placed on personal transportation. What should our public policy be to encourage better future collective choices? How do we cope with the status quo in the meantime? | Dirk Bender |
| 5/17 | Let There Be Peace on Earth The UUMAN Chalice Choir invites you to join us as we lift our voices in a service highlighting the power of music to express "that which cannot be put into words". By performing a diverse collection of songs and hymns, we strive to encourage hope, spark reflection, foster community, and inspire peace. This is our last singing during service for the season. Please stay tuned for an invitation to join us after summer break. | Alex Pietsch and the Chalice Choir |
| 5/24 | East Roswell Park Pavilion #1 Service Join us at Roswell's East Roswell Park pavilion #1 for an end of the church year service. Although we won't be sharing, bring some food and drink for a picnic afterwards. (Restrooms and a large playground are adjacent to the pavilion. Once entering the park, the pavilion is at the far end of the park next to the tennis courts.) | Rev Dave Dunn |
| 5/31 | 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 Alex Pietsch |

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 |
|------|---|
| 5/5 | Ann C. is celebrating a birthday. |
| | Kurt B. is celebrating a birthday. |
| 5/8 | Wilder C. is celebrating a birthday. |
| 5/13 | Brian C. & Rachel O. are celebrating an anniversary of 3 years. |
| 5/15 | Paula W. is celebrating a birthday. |
| 5/19 | Laura K. is celebrating a birthday. |
| 5/20 | Addison G. is celebrating a birthday. |
| | Don & Merry Beth S. are celebrating an anniversary of 42 years. |
| | Emmy P. is celebrating a birthday. |
| | Erin & Martin P. are celebrating an anniversary of 22 years. |
| 5/23 | David K. is celebrating a birthday. |
| 5/26 | Elizabeth R. & Stephen S. are celebrating an anniversary of 24 years. |
| | Timothy W. Jr. is celebrating a birthday. |
| 5/27 | Paula W. & Rick I. are celebrating an anniversary of 47 years. |
| | Waverly C. is celebrating a birthday. |
| 5/31 | John P. 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