



Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

WWW.UUMAN.ORG 11420 CRABAPPLE RD, ROSWELL, GA 30075 770-992-3949

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Our Enduring Partnership with Mawsynjri Unitarian Church

For more than a decade, our congregation has shared a meaningful relationship with Mawsynjri Unitarian Church in the Khasi Hills of Northeast India. The partnership began in 2010, as our Social Justice Committee explored the theme of water. That exploration led us to Meghalaya — a beautiful mountainous state bordered by Bhutan to the north and Bangladesh to the south, and home to more than 10,000 Unitarians.

In 2011, UUMAN voted to join the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC) and was soon matched with Mawsynjri. In 2014, choir members traveled to India with Atlanta's UUUA choir, where Rick Irwin, Paula Watson, and Pat Lampert received a warm welcome. Rick later became Treasurer of the UUPCC, further strengthening our connection with the UUA.

In 2015, my husband, Mike, and I joined a UUPCC pilgrimage to the Khasi Hills. At Mawsynjri, we received a welcome that included a snack of locally grown sweet potatoes in many colors and given a stole for our congregation.

From 2014 through 2019, visits continued both ways: we traveled to Meghalaya, and members of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India visited us on their way to General Assembly.

I am grateful to the UUPCC for connecting us with Mawsynjri. The friendships formed between the Khasi Hills and the United States have endured, and we would not have had these opportunities to learn from each other's culture without the UUPCC's support. Collaboration between American UUs and Indian Unitarians has led to creative solutions, including a Children's Village where orphaned children are raised while remaining connected to their extended families.

Mike and I sponsored a young woman through the UUPCC as she earned her Bachelor of Science degree, and we have stayed in touch. She is now married with three children. Recently, Google Translate added Khasi-English translation, allowing us to communicate more deeply.

Then came 2020. COVID halted all travel, and in 2021 the UUPCC dissolved. The UUA discontinued nearly all services to the Khasi Hills — including travel coordination

and student sponsorships — leaving only biannual fund transfers and India Partner Calls as official channels. Our visits stopped, and so did theirs.

Carrying the Partnership Forward

It is now up to us, as a congregation, to carry this relationship forward. Will you help? This month, we are supporting a project to build a new fence around the Mawsynjri church grounds. The fence will help make the space safer for children, more welcoming to visitors, and protected from roaming cows.

How You Can Help

The Partner Church Committee is holding an Envelope Challenge fundraiser to support this effort. You can take part by choosing an envelope for any amount that fits your budget, from \$1.00 to \$111.00. When all 111 envelopes are returned with the requested amounts, we will raise \$6,216 for our friends in India.

Join the Partner Church Committee. The committee meets monthly. Our next meeting will be on a Saturday (to be decided) and will include some of our partners from the Khasi Hills

Join the Facebook group: Mawsynjri Unitarian Church. Stay connected through updates, photos, and messages from our friends in Meghalaya.

This fundraiser is only the beginning. We hope to plan a future trip to the Khasi Hills, where we can work alongside our partners — perhaps building, painting, or teaching in the school. Our partnership has always been rooted in shared learning and shared humanity. With your support, our relationship with Mawsynjri Church will continue to grow in spirit, service, and community.

Michelle Liebergesell (she/her)

Roswell Rivers Alive

September 19, 2026



Rivers Alive is an annual tradition in Roswell and sparks renewed pride in our unique riverside city. The event, co-hosted by Keep Roswell Beautiful and the City of Roswell, is part of a statewide campaign to clean and preserve Georgia's 70,100 miles of rivers and streams. It is a fun and rewarding way to spend a morning!

UUMAN (led by Earth Ministry) has been participating in the event for 5+ years. This year the event will be held on September 19th from 8:30am to 12pm. We will be working on cleaning up Hog Waller Creek again this year. I hope you'll consider joining us. Clean ups are family friendly, but ages 5 and up, please.

We can't wait for you to join us! Stay tuned - more information to follow.

~ Bob Popp

Many Paths Wellness

I have been attending classes at Many Paths Wellness. The focus is therapeutic and restorative yoga. In that spirit, starting in August, they are offering a free series for people with cancer and their caregivers. Many Paths Wellness is located in the Roswell Collective off Oak Street. If you or someone you know is on this journey, I hope this class will be a blessing for you.

Namaste,

Courtney Rozear

Pathways to Healing
manypathswellness.com



Share the 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 50-50 are included. Half of the Share the Plate total for the month goes to the recipient and the other half goes to UUMAN.

In June, **Family Promise** received a total of \$540.97 from Share the Plate.

In July, UUMAN supported the **NFCC Back to School Backpack Drive**. Our donation included 15 backpacks, over 400 school items and \$106.24 applied to the July 50/50 total.

I Am Stella Love is our August recipient for 50/50.

Thank you for your generosity to our community and UUMAN.

Joan Rossi
Share the Plate Coordinator

Open Invitation from the Social Justice

After three years of amazing leadership, Jennifer Ratcliffe and Carla Rizzati have decided to step down as co-chairs of the Social Justice Committee. We are grateful for their guidance and leadership and look forward to their ongoing participation as committee members.

As we look to the future, the committee met on July 26 and developed a new structure going forward. Our committee will be led by Bri Boyd and Rick Diaz who have graciously agreed to be co-chairs. Luca Weir-Heib will be the secretary/scribe for the committee and Janet Kaplan is the contact for UU the Vote. Joan Rossi will continue as 50/50 Coordinator.

But Wait! There's more! The committee meetings are now scheduled for Thursday evenings at 7 pm via Google meet. The link is below. There are a lot of important social justice issues confronting our community right now. We'd love to have you join our meeting, if only to see what issues we are discussing and how you can contribute.

Hope to see you on google meet! First meeting is July 30 at 7 pm. Your friends on the Social Justice committee.

Contact us for meeting link and pin. socialjustice@uuman.org

Grovelay Community Group

For the past few years, members of UUMAN have been working with Grovelay Community Group (GCG), a community-rooted nonprofit serving one of Roswell's oldest African American neighborhoods. Members of UUMAN have become members of GCG and UUMAN has supported GCG as a 50-50 recipient.

One member, Jennifer Phillippi, says that she is a "member of GCG because I believe in their mission-if we can help somebody, we must. I love the community they create, and I'm grateful for the wonderful people I get to serve beside. My favorite event is the Free Clothing Giveaway, where we get to help underserved families in our community."

Courtney Rozear added, "Joining Grovelay was an intentional way for me to grow a diverse network of friends outside of work who advocate and serve the vulnerable in our area while being an ally in preserving Roswell's Black history. It mixes three important elements that we call ASAP- advocacy, service, and preservation, which all reflect my values. Honestly, my world outside of work is not racially diverse. Membership in Grovelay is an intentional choice to change that and be a stronger ally.

ABOUT GROVELAY

Founded in 1943, Grovelay was created by residents who came together to strengthen their community and address shared challenges through collective action. What began as informal gatherings rooted in faith, dialogue, and mutual care grew into a lasting organization committed to improving the well-being of Grovelay families across generations.

In 1961, the Grove Way Community Center was set on fire twice by the Ku Klux Klan. The attacks were intended to intimidate and silence. They did not succeed. Residents rebuilt with unity and resolve, reaffirming their commitment to protect the space they had worked to establish.

In 1980, Grove Way Community Organization was officially incorporated in the State of Georgia, formalizing leadership and securing its future as a civic institution. Now operating from 89 Grove Way in Roswell, Grovelay Community Group continues to serve families through scholarships, youth programs, community events, and neighborhood advocacy.

Led by individuals deeply connected to the neighborhood, their work is relational—not transactional. They build trust through consistency, respond thoughtfully to real needs, and remain accountable to the community they serve. Signature events such as the Annual Scholarship Banquet, Senior Brunch, Community Day in the Park, and the Black History Program carry forward the legacy begun generations ago. Rooted in legacy and rising in togetherness, Grovelay exists to strengthen people, preserve history, and protect the future of the place we call home.

CALL TO ACTION

On Saturday, October 3 Grovelay Community Group will hold its annual Scholarship Gala at the Doubletree Hotel. This scholarship is awarded to students who reflect those same values; individuals who have demonstrated strong academic focus while making a meaningful impact through volunteerism and community involvement. It is designed for those who understand that leadership is not defined by titles, but by action.

It would be great if UUMAN members got together to sponsor a \$2500 table. To date, over 35 scholarships have been awarded and GCG is hoping to increase that number significantly to offset rising college costs.

If you are interested in joining this effort and/or attending the gala, please contact Shelley Nagrani at 678-234-7545

August MCY 2026

Lexie T. Brown

Director of Religious Education

Ministry for Children & Youth — August 2026

August 2: In-Gathering Sunday

We are kicking off the new church year with our In-Gathering celebration during worship on August 2!

Here's how your family can participate:

Everyone is invited to bring a small container of water from home to add to our communal water ceremony. Children and youth should bring their backpacks to be blessed as we head into a new year of learning and growing together. And don't forget a favorite stuffed animal — our little ones will have a special guest for Time for All Ages with Grandpa Rollin!

Please note there will be no Children's Chapel or 2nd Hour programming on August 2. We hope to see every family in the sanctuary for this beloved tradition.

August 9: First Day of Religious Exploration!

The first day of Religious Exploration during 2nd Hour is Sunday, August 9, and we have so much in store this year! We are so excited to welcome your children and youth back and hope you'll encourage them to come. Here's a peek at what each group will be doing:

PreK–1st Grade — Free play and Spirit Play! This group simply has fun, explores, and plays together — inside and out on the playscape. Ask any kid about Animal Charades; it's a class favorite!

2nd–5th Grade — A rich mix of stories, free play, structured movement, and indoor and outdoor activities, led by our Children's Chapel instructor with support from our RE instructors.

Junior Youth — By popular vote, Junior Youth is continuing UU Dungeons & Dragons! This year's theme is "Journey of Deeper Joys." Roll for adventure!

Senior Youth — Senior Youth will be exploring World Religions, chosen by the youth themselves. And as always, it wouldn't be Senior Youth without field trips and community projects!

Before August 9 — Please Register!

All children and youth participating in Religious Exploration must have a completed 2026–27 registration form on file. Please fill it out before the first day of RE so drop-off goes smoothly for everyone: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/37dfc7884198>

View and print the [summer schedule here](#). August 16, 23 & 30 — Regular Children's Chapel and Religious Exploration days. See you there!

Questions? Reach out anytime.

August: 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
8/2	Connor B. is celebrating a birthday!
8/5	Dave & Tammy D. are celebrating 37 years!
8/9	Josie B. is celebrating a birthday!
8/12	Rick I. is celebrating a birthday!
8/13	Reecie B. is celebrating a birthday!
8/17	Kelly C. is celebrating a birthday!
8/19	Gillian P. is celebrating a birthday!
8/21	Elizabeth N. & Michael T. are celebrating 16 years!
8/22	Lucia B. is celebrating a birthday!
8/26	Rebecca B. is celebrating a birthday!
8/27	Viktoria K. 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
8/2	Ingathering Water Communion Join us for our annual Ingathering Water Communion service. Please bring a sample of your sacred water to be mingled with our sacred waters of the past. We will also be doing a blessing of the backpacks (or briefcases; if those are still a thing).	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/9	Belonging It is said that membership in a congregation means “taking off the bib and putting on the apron.” What might this mean? What does it mean to be a member of UUMAN? What does it compel us to do? What does it mean to “Belong?”	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/16	Adventures and Apologies in Vietnam Since 1986, Emory’s “Journey of Reconciliation” program has taken students all over the world to learn about peace and conflict...and your humble intern inadvertently found herself in Vietnam in May on this year’s trip. Join me in pondering the very meaning of “reconciliation” and the implications of being an American tourist in Vietnam.	Liz Martin
8/23	Freedom Riders, Freedom Drivers Driving can be a hazardous experience for undocumented individuals – a minor traffic stop could result in deportation. Many UUMAN members have been driving Freedom University’s undocumented students to and from school over the past several years. Here are their stories.	Rev. Dave Dunn & Friends
8/30	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