

October 2026 • News, Worship, and Community

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Program Council at UUMAN



By Rev. Dave Dunn

We have a new Program Council Chair this year. (Drum roll and cymbal crash...) It's Andrea Santos!

In our Welcoming Team's UU101 and UU102 classes, we tell our newest prospective members how our church is put together. When we do, we generally divide church responsibilities into two categories: Governance and Ministry.

Governance can be generally viewed as the business, fiduciary side of the church. It is headed by the Board of Trustees who have several committees working on their behalf. Some of the Governance committees include Stewardship, Finance, Rentals, Healthy Congregations, Architecture, Landscape and Design (ALDT) (and a few others).

The Ministry side of the church involves what we do as a congregation (i.e. how we fulfill our mission). Some of the ministry committees include Worship, Adult Enrichment, Ministry of Children and Youth (MCY), Social Justice, Welcoming Team (and several others).

(The work of your UUMAN staff can generally straddle between both Governance and Ministry.)

The many, sometimes disparate teams on the Ministry side of the congregation are organized under what we call the Program Council. The council consists of the PC chair and the chairs of each of the ministry committees (and again, sometimes UUMAN staff). The council meets virtually every month at 7PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Recently, some have noticed that somewhat less than the full breadth of the ministry committees have been represented at these monthly meetings. For this reason, and as this new church year gets underway, it might be a good time to discuss how the PC can be most effective and how it can provide value to each of the ministry committees and therefore, to the congregation as a whole.

Each monthly PC meeting is open to anyone from the congregation; so any new ideas would be welcome.

It is the job of the Board of Trustees to see to it that we are serving our mission; yet it is the job of the Program Council and its Ministry Teams to actually do the work.

It must be said that at times, it can be difficult work; yet our ministry, when working together and united in service to our mission, can also be most rewarding and joyful work.

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

Dave

Rivers Alive

By Bob Popp

This year we again cleaned up as best we could in a couple of hours a section of Hog Waller Creek. For those unfamiliar with Hog Waller Creek it runs through sections of Roswell. In many places almost hidden. By the time it gets to the end of Oak Street it's a medium size creek that winds its way around the community center and over stone outcroppings, until it meets Big Creek at Oxbo Road.



If you're looking for a new short hike I'd highly recommend parking at the end of Oak Street and following Hog Waller Creek all the way to Big Creek. Look around as you walk and you'll see stone remnants of Roswell's past. Due to all the severe rain events we had this spring and summer there's been a significant amount of erosion. So be careful.

I hope to see you next year at Rivers Alive.

October MCY Times

By Lexie T. Brown, Director of Religious Exploration

Join Us at Atlanta Pride



The signs are up, the glitter is ready, and now so are the sign-ups!

🌈 We are thrilled to announce that registration for the Atlanta Pride Parade and Booth is officially LIVE for our UU cluster!

This is one of the most joyful and visible ways we show up for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, friends, and family members marching together in the parade and welcoming folks at our booth with open arms and open hearts. Whether you're a first-timer or a Pride parade veteran, there is a place for you! ✨

Here's how to get involved:

🌈 [March with us in the Parade](#)

[Walk alongside your UU community as we celebrate love, belonging, and liberation in the streets of Atlanta.](#)

🏠 [Volunteer at the Booth](#)

[Help us welcome and connect with the community at our cluster booth, a place where people can learn more about who we are and what we stand for.](#) WE ARE LOOKING FOR TAROT CARD READERS AT THE BOOTH!

💖 Teen Block at the Booth — Saturday 12:00–2:00 PM

We're hosting a special Teen meetup at the booth! If you have a young person in your life (or ARE that young person), come hang out, connect with other UU teens, and be seen and celebrated.



🔗 [Sign up for one or both at:](https://uuprideatl.com/) <https://uuprideatl.com/>

Spots are limited, so don't wait! More details on parade day logistics, what to wear, and what to bring will be shared as we get closer. 🌱 🕒

Sign Up to Host a Trunk for Trunk-or-Treat!



Calling all treat-givers, candy wizards, and trunk decorators! 🎃

This year, our Trunk-or-Treat is the star of the show, so let's make it a good one! Bring your trunk, your treats, and your best spooky-fun energy.

When: Sunday, October 25 at 11:15am

Where: UUMAN (exact spot on campus TBD — depends on how many trunks we've got!)

Sign up solo or rally your group, family, or committee, the more the merrier, and teaming up makes candy duty a lot lighter. Let us know what treats you'll be handing out, and please keep nut allergies in mind: nut-free treats are our hero choice, though we know that's not always easy to pull off. *There will be a competition with a prize and bragging rites*

Registration closes Sunday, October 18 one week before the big day. Grab your spot below! 🍬🍪🍩

Sign up here:

<https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/TrunkorTreat26>

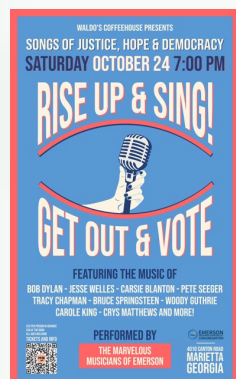
Can't wait to see what you all bring!



UUMAN has started a CUUPs group!

🧙 There are tons of opportunities to get involved with the CUUPs (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) this month. [Sign up to read tarot cards at the UU Pride booth](#). Participate in the Sanhein Multigenerational Service on October 25th (Followed by Trunk or Treat). [Join our new UUMAN CUUPs Discord and invite a friend!](#)

Rise Up and Sing—Get Out and Vote!



On **Saturday, October 24, at 7 p.m.**, Waldo's Coffeehouse will present *Rise Up & Sing – Get Out & Vote!*, an evening of music celebrating justice, hope, democracy, and the power of every voice.

The marvelous Musicians of Emerson will perform songs by Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bruce Springsteen, Tracy Chapman, Carole King, Carsie Blanton, Crys Matthews, Jesse Welles, and others. Come ready to enjoy some

powerful music, sing along, and leave inspired to make your voice heard.

Proceeds will benefit Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation and the Community Accompaniment Program with Asylum-Seekers (CAPAS), which supports individuals and families seeking legal asylum in the United States.

Event Details

Saturday, October 24, at 7 p.m.

Waldo's Coffeehouse at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation

4010 Canton Road, Marietta, GA

For tickets and information, go

to <https://events.humanitix.com/rise-up-and-sing-get-out-and-vote>, where you can purchase advanced sale tickets at a discount, or utilize our new "pay what you can" option. All are welcome!

We are also attaching a release with additional information that can easily be shared or adapted for your congregation. We are attaching two small event posters/flyers for your use, if that would be useful. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact us at:

waldos@emersonuu.org
404-606-2121

Thank you for helping us share this evening of music, community, and civic engagement. We would love to have members of your congregation join us!

UUMAN Trivia 2026 Champion Team!

By the Poteralski Family

UUMAN's 2026 Annual Trivia Championship was held in September. Teams competed on answering tough questions from categories including history, science, sports, film, geography, music, Atlanta culture, notable women, and current events. They also fueled their brains with sweet desserts. In the end, the champion team was JETPIG, named after a mnemonic acronym for remembering UU Values. Congratulations to our 2026 winners! Look for an opportunity to sign up for the 2027 Trivia Championships at the upcoming Auction. Photo of winning team:



Take Note Meaning Matters

By Alex Pietsch, Music Director, UUMAN

The UUMAN Chalice Choir is larger than ever and Music Director, Alex Pietsch, is capitalizing on it!

Our choir retreat “Meaning Matters” was held Saturday Sept 19 in our sanctuary, The choir spent the day working with Dr Cathy Creasey Mittelman, longtime choir director at Emerson UU in Marietta, and an established music educator and vocal instructor.

Music is an important part of our Ministry and Worship programming. The group learned about expressing meaning through lyrics and song dynamics; listening and memorization; and most importantly, connecting with the Congregation through performance.

Dr Kathy Mittelman and the choir worked through several in-progress pieces so you’ll hear their hard work on an upcoming Sunday!

The afternoon concluded with karaoke of an ‘original’ piece: a takeoff on Jimmy Buffett’s “Come Monday,” rewritten as “Come Sunday” about choir members doing their best on Wednesday night rehearsals with promises of giving Alex their all for service.

“I can’t help it , Alex-

Weeknights I’m tired and low .

Remember that night back on Wedn’sday .

I promise on Sunday I’d glow !

I hope you’re not needlessly worried ,

Not seeing my full-blown best.

You can just wait til a Sunday

And see you shouldn’t be stressed

Come Sunday , It’ll be alright .

Come Sunday , I’ll be singing just right.

Yes , I noticed you’re praying and certainly graying,

I promise to turn it on then

A few responses from choir members



“In the battle of the UU Network Musical Director Stars, there were no losers, only winners. Thanks to you and Kathy for an inspirational and energizing event of the year (so far).”

Erik Ferguson



“The camaraderie was great. Time to have fun was built into the program. We learned a lot about the dynamics of each phrase in a song. We also learned how to emote while singing - which helps us connect with the congregation better. The choir is a ministry.”

- Bill C



“I loved having a director and a pianist! The games were fun and helpful. It was so good to see Kathy M.”

-Donna



“I was lucky enough to participate in the Choir Workshop and UUMAN this past Saturday afternoon. My MFA is in Musical Theatre with emphasis on Piano/Vocal Education and Directing. It was so wonderful to hear the Language of Musical Interpretation and Performance technique. We are so lucky to have Alex as our director as he is SUCH A PROFESSIONAL, and it was great to hear it from another professional musician as well.”

-Rebecca



“It was wonderful as I have already said and thanks again for bringing it to us.”

-Betty B

The UUMAN Chalice Choir is always looking for new members, just see Alex Pietsch or you can contact him at Musicdirector@uuman.org

In Harmony ,

Alex Pietsch

“ Building community one voice at a time “

October: A Month of Sundays

DATE	TOPIC	Service Leader
10/4	The Unitarian Journey of Rev. Norbert Capek The journey of Rev. Norbert Capek - from Catholic, to Baptist to Unitarian is most unique. As the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia and credited with the creation of the Flower Communion, his ministry coincided with the Nazi occupation of his country.	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/11	Allyship: The Gift of Seeing On Pride Sunday, let's talk about how allyship begins with really seeing and listening to others and how doing so is more beneficial than we may realize.	Valorie Bayliss
10/18	Covenant, Consent and Our Whole Lives If we believe in covenant as a way of being in the world as UUs, then we have to think about consent as a key to that concept. And a necessary step to achieving consent is good communication. Therefore, learning to apply these ideas to sexual decision-making is a way to tackle/practice that commitment in all areas of our (whole) lives. OWL is a way to start teaching even the youngest members of our community to live in a way that aligns our values with our actions.	Liz Martin
10/25	Thinning of the Veil: A Samhain Service Join us for a multigenerational service exploring Samhain, the ancient Celtic festival that marks the turning of the year from light into dark. A time when the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead is said to grow thin. This service will honor themes of harvest, transition, remembrance, and the wisdom found in the changing seasons. Costumes are welcome and encouraged.	Lexie Brown & Friends

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
10/2	John & Miriam P. are celebrating an anniversary of 22 years.
10/3	Alex P. & Karen A. are celebrating an anniversary of 14 years.
10/4	Aria G. is celebrating a birthday.
	Callum A. is celebrating a birthday.
	Eli L. is celebrating a birthday.
	Jacob P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/5	Bruce & McPatti L. are celebrating an anniversary of 35 years.
10/6	Rollin M. is celebrating a birthday.
10/9	Michelle K. is celebrating a birthday.
10/11	Michelle L. is celebrating a birthday.
10/13	Callum M. is celebrating a birthday.
10/14	Alex P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/15	Hayden & Lexie B. are celebrating an anniversary of 10 years.
10/18	Olivia P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/19	Becky N. is celebrating a birthday.
10/22	Annette P. & Jim S. are celebrating an anniversary of 31 years.
	Jerry J. & Laura K. are celebrating an anniversary of 20 years.
10/24	Ann & Joseph C. are celebrating an anniversary of 34 years.
10/25	Stephen S. is celebrating a birthday.
10/26	Dave P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/29	John P. is celebrating a birthday.
10/30	Jan W. 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