UUMANTIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST METRO ATLANTA NORTH
UUMAN.ORG | 11420 Crabapple Rd, Roswell, GA 30075 | 770-992-3949

November 2026 • News, Worship, and Community

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A True Test for Our Democracy



By Rev. Dave Dunn

The two months between November 3 and January 3, Election Day and swearing-in day of the 120th Congress, could be a perilous time for the state of democracy here in the United States and around the world.

The United States has been the world's standard bearer for democracy, and the integrity of its elections has been a goal that many other nations aspire to.

Yet, although many nations aspire to these standards, many authoritarians and would-be authoritarians aspire to something else, and our mid-term election might prove to be a bellwether for them, a pattern for them to follow, if they would seek to undermine and compromise their country's elections in any way.

The current administration has installed election deniers in many places throughout the country. The FBI, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security have each refused to say that they won't commit "resources" to the states under the guise of "protecting the election." (Elections are administered by the states.)

For the past two years, many groups have been saying that since we once again elected a President who personally fomented a violent rebellion (i.e. a coup) to overturn an election, we'd be naïve to think that he wouldn't attempt to do it again. Those currently in power have had six years to lay the groundwork for their 2nd takeover should it be necessary. Their position is even stronger than it was six years ago.

What's the old saying, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me"?

If the administration does seek to disrupt, call into question or overturn the results of the election in any way, I'm sure that many groups and states are ready to respond with lawsuits. Yet, as has been shown over the last few years, the courts have done little to truly stop this administration's "everywhere all at once" approach. Time after time the courts haven't been able to keep up and have given the power of the Executive the benefit of the doubt; that the Executive's actions, whatever they may be, however egregious they may be, are protected and constitutional. Or, as is more often the case, the Supreme Court will issue an unsigned decision allowing the egregious behavior to continue until a full hearing of the case can be completed (which might take several years and after much unconstitutional damage is done).

So where does this leave us? If the election isn't honored, and the courts fail to act upon lawsuits filed in protest of the administration's actions, what is left to do? Our Declaration of Independence says that "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," signifying that the true, just power of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of this government, our government, stem from "We the People." What then, will "We the People" do?

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

November MCY Times

By Lexie T. Brown, Director of Religious Exploration

qUUeer ATL November Gathering



At this gathering you can expect to:

🎉 Celebrate and reflect on Pride 2026

🤝 Build relationships and make new connections with fellow queer UUs

💡 Share insights and help shape 2027 programming for our group and your congregation

Calling All Queer UUs! 🌈✨

Pride may be behind us, but the community we build together is year-round and we'd love for you to be part of what comes next!

Join us for the qUUeer ATL November Gathering, a special in-person meetup for queer Unitarian Universalists across the Atlanta cluster.

📍 **UUCA Library**

🗓️ **Sunday, November 8, 2026**

⏰ **1:30 PM – 3:00 PM EDT**

This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect after a whirlwind Pride weekend, share what worked, and dream together about what's ahead.

👉 RSVP here









Facilitation for Transformation: Peer to Peer Study Group 4 UU ATL Cluster *Virtual*

You're invited to a Peer Study Group for those preparing to lead the Mosaic Lifespan Anti-Racism curriculum or anyone who would like to get involved in racial justice work. The Facilitation for Transformation training prepares you to lead all levels of the Mosaic curriculum. This digital classroom brings peers together to reflect on and discuss that training, share questions and insights, and build community as we get ready to facilitate this important work. This study group is free.

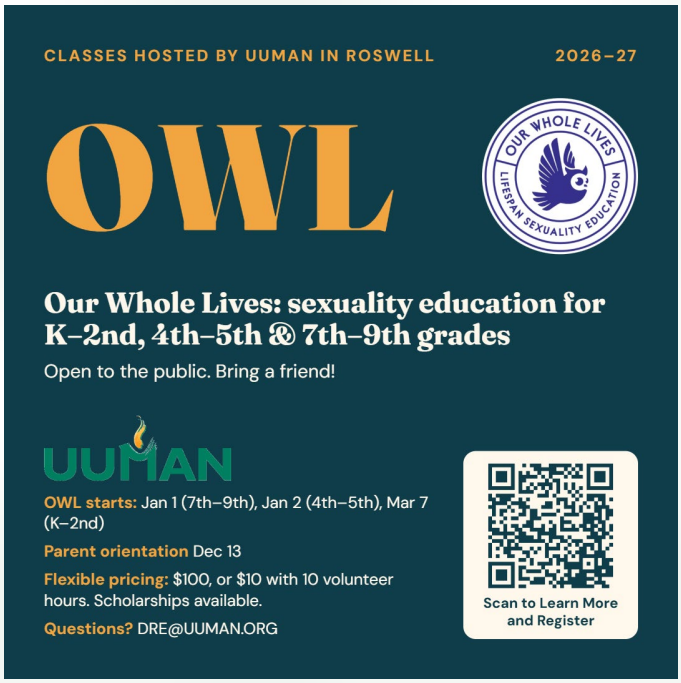
When: Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00pm EST November 17, December 1, 15, January 5. Where: Virtual. Space is limited to 20 participants.

Facilitated by: Lexie T. Brown, DRE at UUMAN, will facilitate, using materials provided by Marisol Caballero, Adult Faith Development Specialist.

Pre-Work:

Participants will complete training from the Facilitation for Transformation workshops from the UU Institute (you will need to create an account). You will need to complete 1 workshop before each session. The training costs $30 from the UU institute, participants will receive a code to access the training for free.

To Register (closes Tuesday, November 10 at 8:00pm EST), go here.



OWL is back!

Our Whole Lives is a caring, honest space for kids and teens (K–2nd, 4th–5th, 7th–9th) to learn about their bodies, relationships, and values. Open to everyone, so bring a friend!

Pricing is flexible, and scholarships are available. Please read the registration form carefully, since the schedule and details are all there.

Scan the QR code or sign up here:



Samhain and Trunk or Treat at UUMAN

On Sunday, October 25th, UUMAN celebrated Samhain with a morning that was part worship, part adventure.

Our multigenerational service was hands-on and tactile, and many people enjoyed learning about witchcraft together. Afterward, we stepped out through a portal to a crackling fire, then followed the path to the mystical world beyond, where ten trunks were waiting with treats to fill every bag.

It was a joyful way to mark the turning of the year. Thank you to everyone who hosted a trunk, volunteered, or dressed up all October to help spread the word!

Want to keep the magic going? Join our CUUPs group at UUMAN on Discord. Blessed be. 🪺🔥

Check out our Contestants and vote here! (Votes due Nov 6th and will be announced in service on Nov 8th)

UUMAN Trunks of Treats 2026
(in no particular order)

1. Tinkerbells as the Crazy Cat lady





2. Senior Youth Ghost Busters





3. Glow Witches Ian Gilham and Nancy Watts



4. Candy Lansdowne



5. **Young Adults and the Dark Spirit**



6. **Skeleton Tail Gating**



7. **Spiders Nest**



8. **The Witches Library**



9. **A Haunted Ritual**



10. **Family of OZ**





!!VOTE HERE!!

Save the Dates : UUMAN Youth Events with UU Emerson!

We are so excited to share that UU Emerson has invited our youth to join them for a series of fun community events leading up to their joint Youth Con in 2027! After the wonderful connections made at this year's retreat, they're continuing to build on those friendships with three upcoming events:

🧠 **Trivia Night & Food on November 14th**

🔍 **Murder Mystery Night on January 16th**

⚽ **Kickball on March 13th**

🏕️ **Youth Con following on March 23–25, 2027**.

Mark your calendars 🗓️ and stay tuned, more details on each event are coming soon!

🌱 Last Call for Fall Youth CONs! 🌱

Registration is still open for our two upcoming CONs at The Mountain, and we'd love to see your teen there! 🌰

A CON is a weekend of fun, friendship, worship, and exploring spirituality, planned by youth with adult support. 🎉 Teens build real community, try new things, and discover what it feels like to belong somewhere that looks out for everyone. 💛 Each CON has its own covenant, so every young person knows they are safe, welcome, and valued. Youth can also step into leadership roles, from helping plan the weekend to serving as peer chaplains. 🌟 It's a great way for your teen to grow in confidence while having a blast.

🗓️ **Intermediate CON (6th-8th grade): November 20-22, 2026**

🗓️ **Senior High CON (9th-12th grade): December 11-13, 2026**

💵 **Cost: Choose what fits your family:** Traditional ($100), True Cost ($215), or free. Adult advisors can choose Supporter 2 ($100), Supporter 1 ($50), or free.

🖍️ Register and learn more:
https://www.themountainrlc.org/youth-conferences/

Don't wait. Sign up today and give your teen a weekend they'll talk about for months! 🍁

IRC Thanksgiving Dinner

By Kevin McCulloch

Join UUMAN on Saturday, November 14th for the Atlanta chapter of the International Rescue Committee's annual Thanksgiving dinner. The goal of this shared meal is simple yet meaningful: to ensure that the IRC's refugee clients feel the warmth of Thanksgiving, many for the very first time.

We are looking for UUMAN volunteers to bring home cooked dishes (6-8 servings per dish; pork and alcohol discouraged) and to help with set up, serving, and clean up. Please contact Kevin McCulloch at adult-enrichment-chair@uuman.org if you would like to volunteer.

The meal will be held at our sister church, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (2650 N Druid Hills Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329). Set up begins at 11 am, and the meal will begin at noon.

Whale Coast Alaska-a More Authentic Travel Experience

By Maya Kaup, Tour Director

A unique, exciting fundraising tour organized by Alaska UU congregations is being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 33 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience!

Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org

Questions: info@whalecoastak.org

Community Solar for Your Home

By John Stiney, Earth Ministry

Community Solar makes it easy to use solar energy to provide the electricity for your home. Community Solar is also a good way to support renewable energy and encourage companies like Georgia Power, Cobb EMC and other providers to replace fossil fuels with solar.

I get my electricity from Georgia Power so I will explain the basics of their plan. The Georgia Power program is a monthly subscription plan. You subscribe to shares in a solar farm and receive credits on your monthly bill tied to their production. Each share costs $24 and generates an estimated 115-215kWh. These kWh are applied to your monthly usage to reduce your bill.

This works well for renters, condo owners, and homeowners who don't want an expensive rooftop solar project.

Here's how to get details and enroll. Go to the Georgia Power Community Solar page: https://www.georgiapower.com/residential/save-money-and-energy/products-programs/residential-solar-solutions/community-solar.htm

I hope this article has encouraged you to select the Community Solar option to keep the lights on at your house.

Share the Plate

By Joan Rossi, Share the Plate Coordinator

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 August, I Am Stella Love received a total of $485.26 from Share the Plate.

In September, Groveway Community received $279.56.

The 50/50 recipient for **October is TransJoy** and the **December recipient is NFCC.**

NFCC Coats Giving Event

By the Social Justice Committee

Thank you for your generosity to our community and UUMAN. Please join the Social Justice Committee in supporting the NFCC Coats Giving Event. Between now and Nov 15 we are collecting new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for all ages and genders. A collection box is available in the church entrance area.

In addition, we are collecting grocery gift cards to help families in need prepare for holiday meals. Gift cards may be given to Joan Rossi, or any member of the social justice committee.

Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Training Up for Our Whole Lives

By Miriam Patanian

I was still a new parent when I first learned about Our Whole Lives (OWL) as a new member at UUMAN. Developed by experts connected with the Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ, OWL is a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education program that offers curriculum for people at important developmental ages:

- Kindergarten-1st grade
- 4th-6th grade
- 7th-9th grade
- 10th-12th grade
- Young adult
- Adult
- Older adult

Each level of the curriculum provides facilitators with everything they need to present to a group of participants over the course of many weeks (each age level differs in the number of modules, from 8 for the K-1st, to 25 for 7th-9th).

UUMAN offered an OWL training in 2012, and I was trained to facilitate our youngest group–the K-1st graders and 4th-6th graders. I have had the honor of co-facilitating many of our kiddos here at UUMAN, and it brings me such joy to see our kids filled with facts, and reassurance, and power.

Fast forward to now. UUMAN's young adults have been asking for an OWL class for them. And they have been patient. So we partnered with UUCA to offer an OWL Training October 2-4th for people interested in being facilitators for the 7th-9th / 10th-12th grades as well as the Adult levels. UUMAN was well-represented at the training, with the following people spending their entire weekend getting trained to become OWL facilitators:

- Valorie Baylis (adult) *(already trained for 7-9th / 10-12th)*
- Lexie T Brown (adult) *(already trained for 7-9th / 10-12th)*
- Liz Martin (adult) *(already trained for 7-9th / 10-12th)*
- Rai Meenakshi (7-9th / 10-12th)
- Miriam Patanian (adult) *(already trained for K-1st / 4-6th)*
- Andrea Rodriguez (adult) *(already trained for 7-9th / 10-12th)*

These amazing people join UUMAN's veteran OWL facilitators:

- Mike Chambers (K-1st / 4-6th)
- Margaret Pendergrass (K-1st / 4-6th)
- Jennifer Ratcliffe (7-9th / 10-12th)
- Stephen Shanahan (7-9th / 10-12th)

I encourage you to ask any one of us why we have chosen to be OWL facilitators. For me? I reflected on my own sexuality education as a child, and knew that I wanted something more for John's and my children–more positive, more affirming, more empowering, more comprehensive. I want that for all children and youth and adults. OWL is justice work. And yes, OWL is resistance work–empowering all ages with the space to explore their sexuality flies in the face of some of the restrictions we've seen at the state and federal levels. What I was not expecting over the course of the training weekend was to experience the connection between sexuality and spirituality–this was an amazing gift.



The training at UUCA was an incredible opportunity to partner with another UU congregation to offer this important training to about 25 people. And we are looking forward to offering OWL to our UUMAN community, and beyond.

November: A Month of Sundays

DATE	TOPIC	Service Leader
11/1	**Service of Remembrance** Please join us as we remember those who have passed over the course of the year. Let us remember how they have shaped our lives in ways we could not have imagined	**Rev. Dave Dunn**
11/8	**Common Ground** The midterms are over....well, they're supposed to be over. We need to move forward and get beyond Red and Blue. Our politics must start affecting change and begin making a difference in people's lives. Can any common ground be found?	**Rev. Dave Dunn**
11/15	**Hello, Goodbye** The UUMAN Internship Committee is looking for your input to complete their final evaluation for Liz' time here. (Wait...January 2025 was just yesterday, wasn't it?) Reflections from Liz' nearly two years as UUMAN's intern minister and the unexpected gifts on this leg of the journey.	**Liz Martin**
11/22	**Bread Communion** Bread is a symbol of life-giving sustenance and today we will share a bread communion together. Please bring a bread (homemade if possible) that elicits memories of childhood sustenance. You will have the opportunity to share this memory with us.	**Rev. Dave Dunn**
11/29	**America's Native Stories** The story of Thanksgiving goes back to the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock. Yet before they were here there were already people here – loving their loved ones and living their lives. Let's hear some of their stories – stories of creation, stories of love and the ubiquitous trickster tales.	**Rev. Dave Dunn**

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
11/1	Susan W is celebrating a birthday!
11/10	Linda E is celebrating a birthday!
11/12	Merry Beth S is celebrating a birthday!
11/13	Steve A is celebrating a birthday!
11/14	Douglas W is celebrating a birthday!
11/15	Mike L is celebrating a birthday!
11/16	Debra B is celebrating a birthday!
11/20	Carolyn L is celebrating a birthday!
11/21	Joseph C is celebrating a birthday!
11/22	Sasha G is celebrating a birthday!
11/24	Griffin W is celebrating a birthday!
11/28	Mike B is celebrating a birthday!
11/29	Lily P is celebrating a birthday!
11/30	Nicholas N, son of Becky N., is celebrating a birthday!

ABOUT THE UUMANTIimes: 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