



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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

April 2016

## IN THIS ISSUE

IN THE INTERIM: A REFLECTION ON COMMUNITY .....	1
UUMAN MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS .....	2
KHASI/INDIAN DINNER BENEFIT .....	2
UUMAN MEN'S GROUP NEWS .....	3
50/50 SUNDAY OFFERING .....	4
HEART & HAND MARKET .....	4
THE PAGE TURNERS .....	4
FROM THE GARDEN .....	5
LIFE CELEBRATIONS .....	5
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS .....	6
APRIL EVENTS .....	6



## In the Interim: A Reflection on Community

*If we are going to use the word [community] meaningfully we must restrict it to a group of individuals who have learned how to communicate honestly with each other, whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure, and who have developed some significant commitment to "rejoice together, mourn together," and to "delight in each other, make others' conditions our own."*

—M. Scott Peck, M.D. *The Different Drum* (1987)

When asked, What's most important to you about belonging to a congregation? the majority of Unitarian Universalists of every belief persuasion reply, Community.

Dr. M. Scott Peck, who died in 2005, wrote extensively about psychological and spiritual development. They didn't teach us that in divinity school! His books helped see me through my early days of congregational ministry. Peck's theory of community is as insightful as ever.

He distinguished between pseudo-community and true community. In pseudo-community, putting on a harmonious face is the protocol. A pseudo-community is friendly, social, caring, loyal, but generally not inclined to go deep. The main dynamic is conflict-avoidance in service to preserving harmony. Individual differences are downplayed. We're all alike under the skin! is an expression of pseudo-community. (Under the skin is actually where we're gloriously different.) Everyone in this community is like-minded! is a variation.

Scott Peck saw pseudo-community as a vital step toward true community, but he cautioned against getting stuck in that early stage. Human community needs tending the way our bodies need nourishing. The problem for a faith community such as a Unitarian Universalist congregation, is that over time, members come and go for perfectly reasonable reasons, like relocating to take a new job. There is no such

thing as instant community. True community means always starting over.

True community is inclusive, but not absolutely. Given Unitarian Universalism's emphasis on inclusivity, when, if ever, might it be justifiable to say to someone, Maybe this isn't the right community for you? Commitment to viewing true community through the "soft eyes" of empathy instead of the "hard eyes" of judgment is crucial. Certainly there are times when we'd all like to take up bat and ball (or pledge) and walk away. True community stops us in our tracks, turns us around in those tracks and leads us back to try again. Or again.

True community embraces dualities: dark/light, secular/religious, joy/sorrow. Ours is a both/and world, not an either/or arena of people defending sides. True community embraces humility, the self-aware sigh of relief we feel when we realize the weight of world doesn't rest entirely on our personal pair of shoulders.

Often I describe UUMAN as a healthy congregation. Since founding, this community has learned a lot. You've gone through difficult times together. On the verge of settling a new minister, you are on course for true community: faith development, covenant groups, brave social action, a dawning self-awareness that congregational leadership is itself a form of ministry.

UUMAN, your best work lies ahead of you.

- Rev. Cynthia Prescott

# UUMAN

## Ministerial Search Committee

### News You Can Use

#### April 2016

Your Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) is pleased to provide you with another installment of News You Can Use—an update on what we’ve been up to.

#### What has the MSC been doing?

Of the seven ministers who expressed interest in UUMAN, we have identified three “pre-candidates” whom we think and feel are the best fit for UUMAN, based on their Ministerial Records, websites, and other information.

Each of these pre-candidates has traveled to Georgia for weekend visits. Each has been given a grand tour of the local area and a more formal interview. We have also observed each of them delivering a sermon at a “neutral pulpit”. We have been asked to keep the identities of all pre-candidates confidential until one is selected over the others.

#### What will happen over the next month?

The Search Committee is allowed to make an offer to one of them no earlier than noon on April 7. If the candidate accepts, our negotiating team will begin finalizing details of the contract, and a customary criminal background check will be requested. The Search Committee should have news about our selection to report to the congregation during service on April 17!

If our offer is not accepted, there will be a second round of possibilities for the Search Committee to consider from the pool of pre-candidates who were not matched in the first round.

The pre-candidate who accepts our offer will spend April 30-May 8 in Roswell, leading two services and meeting with various groups at UUMAN. There will also be two informal cottage meetings in the evenings that week for anyone to stop by and meet the candidate. The draft schedule for this “candidating week” will be posted on the MSC bulletin board soon.

The congregation will then vote on May 8 to decide if they would like to ask the candidate to become our next settled minister—we will need 40% of our members to vote, and calling the minister will require a 90% affirmative vote of all those present. This will be your opportunity to affirm and promote the 5th Principle: the use of the democratic process within our congregation! The minister’s start date will be negotiated with the Board, but will likely be in the fall of 2016.

#### How to contact the MSC

- Email: [search@uuman.org](mailto:search@uuman.org)
- In person: before and after Sunday services; look for the people wearing bright pink nametags.

In faith,

Dirk Bender, Joe Creech, Laura Keck, Lyn May, Shelley Nagrani, Miriam Patanian, and Phillip Seaver

## Khasi/Indian Dinner Benefit

Come experience the food and the culture of the Unitarians in the Khasi Hills!

You are invited to a Khasi/Indian Dinner Benefit for our Partner church, Mawsynjri Cuisine, prepared by UUMAN Foodies on Saturday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. at UUMAN. Childcare is provided.

You can help our Partner Church, Mawsynjri ring their bell by contributing to the construction of their platform! The Hortons have already donated the first \$200 of our \$600 goal.

Thank you Bill and Diantha!

Hosted by the Partner Church Committee

—Michelle Liebergesell



Mawsynjri Church Bell



## UUMAN Men's Group News

The UUMAN Men's Group meets throughout the year to build camaraderie and fellowship. The group meets about 5-10 times during the year. Events range from engaging in service projects (at UUMAN or within the local community) to purely social activities. We use UUMAN Announcements and a Facebook page (UUMAN Men's Fellowship) to schedule and announce events. The group is open to all members and friends of UUMAN and suggestions for future events or projects are welcomed.

So far this year the Men's Group has had 2 events - bowling at the Main Event in Alpharetta on March 2 and this past weekend the group met at Dan Ben-David's home for a campfire and fellowship. If you are interested in getting involved please let Bob Popp, Dan Ben-David or Bruce Langston know and keep an eye on UUMAN Announcements for upcoming events. —Bob Popp



## 50/50 Sunday Offering

One Sunday a month, 50% of the undesignated plate offering goes to a non-profit organization decided by Social Justice. The recipient for March was Care Harbor, and the organization received a check from UUMAN for \$194.50. Since January our congregation has contributed \$782.50 for 50/50.

The 50/50 for April will be on Sunday, the 17th and the recipient will be Trees Atlanta. This establishment is dedicated to protecting Atlanta's urban forest through planting, conservation, and education. To learn more, go to <https://treesatlanta.org/>.

—Michelle Liebergesell



## Heart & Hand Market

Heart and Hand Market first appeared to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's effort to provide sustainable food sources for families in Haiti. We raised over \$1,200 through the sale of items handmade by members of UUMAN. This money built five tire gardens.

Heart and Hand is coming back Sunday, April 10, and will continue each Sunday to support UUSC's work with refugees from the Middle East. The Market will be located at a table next to the Moravian Pie table in the Fellowship Hall where we will offer items made or grown by our congregation.

Please consider donating items such as homemade baked goods, art and craft products, garden veggies/fruits, and herbs and plants. You may bring your offerings on Sunday mornings. Just leave them on the Heart and Hand table.

Join us in this small way to send our love to brothers and sisters caught up in desperation and fear.

—Linda Etheridge

## A Page from The Page Turners



The Page Turners, UUMAN's women's book club, participated in something special last month. That was the 11th annual Roswell Reads Community Read program, which culminated in a luncheon and presentation by Kim Cross, author of *What Stands in a Storm*. The event was held at the Roswell Adult Recreation Center (Grimes Bridge Road) on March 12th. It was a great crowd, with the Roswell Mayor, many individuals and book clubs, as well as the Page Turners, in attendance. Everyone was eager to hear the young author from Alabama who had written this moving story. Although it was a novel, Ms. Cross, an award-winning journalist who writes for *Southern Living* and other media, had meticulously researched the true stories of people who had suffered the April 2011 super-storm in Dixie Alley and brought them to life on the page. Her presentation included a video with maps of the affected areas and photos of the victims and their families, whom she had gotten to know. This was the second time that the Page Turners had joined in the annual Roswell Reads program, and we are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Meanwhile, our meetings continue every month, usually on the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 PM in Discovery Hall. April's book will be the famous 1918 novel about an immigrant family and community, pioneering on the American prairie, *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather, followed by the best-selling *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, by Marie Kondo, in May.

If you enjoy reading and discussing books in a variety of genres, meeting over snacks and wine, getting to know one another, and having fun, this is the group for you. Become a "regular" and join us every month, or just try us out whenever you see that we're sponsoring a book you're interested in. Contact Carolina Patlis for the details. All women, whether UUMAN members or not, are warmly invited to the Page Turners!

— Carole Herman

# FROM THE GARDEN

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

We'll be continuing our work again in the garden on March 28, the 4th Monday in March, working from 9:00 a.m. to around 11:00 a.m. or noon, depending upon how many people come to work and how much work needs to be done. We will be putting down wood chips and weeding. We will continue our work throughout the year on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month through November (or sometimes, December). UUMAN announcements will be sent out on the Friday before each work day. If you've never worked in the garden before, please feel free to stop by and see what it's all about. Hope to see you there!

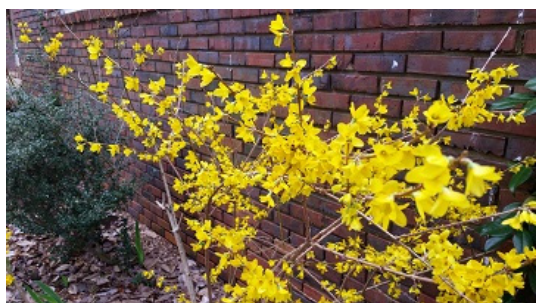
Claire Sullivan  
 cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



**Camellia**



**Andromeda**



**Forsythia**



**Redbud Tree**



**Daffodils**



## 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 Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Date	Celebration
4/5	Chris Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Jason Hagood is celebrating a birthday
	Bob Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/7	Violet F. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/9	Tristan G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Marianne Walker, Ilona's mother, is celebrating her birthday
4/10	Anna Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/13	Liz and Diego Garcia are celebrating their 12th wedding anniversary!
4/16	Suzanne and Marlon Banerian are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary!
	Dan Ben-David is celebrating a birthday
4/17	Sophie D. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/18	Marlon Banerian is celebrating a birthday
4/20	Joel S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/25	Dan Ben-David and Carole Herman are celebrating their 1st anniversary! They were married here at UUMAN.
4/27	John Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Dirk and Anne Bender adopted Danielle 15 years ago!
4/28	Lucas T. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

## A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
4/3	<b>Reason and Spirit</b>  We belong to a species of pattern-seeking, meaning-making animals. Join us as we look through the lens of health to explore how we can use reason to understand and appreciate religion and spirituality.	Rev. Kim Palmer
4/10	<b>What Would Flannery Do?</b>  “When in Rome, do as you done in Milledgeville.” Author and Georgia native Flannery O’Connor was a devout Catholic who deplored being dismissed by critics as a female Christian writer from the South. A yearning to be “intelligently holy” permeates her writing and her life at Andalusia, the O’Connor homestead—in Milledgeville.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
4/17	<b>Faith In Action: Honoring Earth Day</b>  Celebrating the “blue-green hills” of our precious planetary home.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
4/24	<b>Universalism: Radical Equality in a Classless Heaven</b>  Unitarian Universalism’s progressive heritage comes to us from both branches of the ancestral family tree. The ideals and values we hold dearest have Unitarian and Universalist origins of particular meaning in our quest for greater socio-economic diversity.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott

## April Events

Date	Event
<b>2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.</b>	<b>21st Century Humanism</b> focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at <a href="mailto:peltier.john@gmail.com">peltier.john@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>UUMAN's Painting Group</b>  Come paint with us in a relaxed atmosphere with a glass of wine. All are welcome. There is a fee but half is donated to UUMAN.  <b>The 25TH ANNIVERSARY ART SHOW</b> is now exhibiting at UUMAN. Please enjoy the show, and remember a portion of all sales benefit UUMAN. See Annette Pate or the artist to purchase.
<b>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15</b>	<b>Daytimers</b>  The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David at <a href="mailto:dan@uuman.org">dan@uuman.org</a>
<b>Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>The Common Grounds Coffee House</b>  Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen!  Doors open at 7 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
<b>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary</b>  <b>No session on March 19.</b>	<b>Centering at UUMAN</b>  Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:10 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences.  For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at <a href="mailto:campoften@aol.com">campoften@aol.com</a>

*For more information about events, see the UUMAN Events Calendar at [www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org).*

**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 Becky at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)

## April Events

<b>Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</b>	<b>Circle of Women</b>  We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives.  Contact Kate Hudson <a href="mailto:hudsonkd@bellsouth.net">hudsonkd@bellsouth.net</a> or Linda Etheridge <a href="mailto:lletheridge1@gmail.com">lletheridge1@gmail.com</a>
<b>First and third Saturdays of the month at 1:00 in the sanctuary.</b>	<b>The Weekend Women’s Group</b>  Offers women another opportunity to meet in the intimacy and fellowship of small group ministry. Topics such as love, trust, caregiving, parenting, relationships, community, and faith will all be explored in a setting that fosters deep listening and mutual respect. Contact facilitator Nina Bharucha for more information: <a href="mailto:nybharucha@gmail.com">nybharucha@gmail.com</a>