



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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August 2016

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Minister Musings

In August 1648, the New England Puritans developed a blueprint as to how their churches were to function. This blueprint is known as

the Cambridge Platform. Although this document was based on earlier documents from the Church of England, it differed from those earlier documents in very important ways.

One major difference between the Cambridge Platform and its predecessors had to do with the concept of who makes the decisions as to how a church is run. The congregational polity of the Cambridge Platform maintained that the people of the congregation, rather than an outside denominational authority, held the power. It was a radically democratic way of doing church and it became part of the blueprint for the organization of our eventual democracy as a nation.

Although people have a voice in our democracy, and in our church, it is, as most things are, much more nuanced and complicated than one would initially believe.

Before ratifying our U.S. Constitution, many insisted on a Bill of Rights to protect a minority from the will of a majority. It is not always appropriate for a simple majority to carry the day for in so doing, minority voices are easily marginalized. For example, should a democratic society vote to ban all dogs, those minorities who rely on their service dogs for their very well-being would feel their basic human rights violated. Simple majority rule voting is not always appropriate.

In the U. S, we have what is called a republican democracy. It is republican in a sense that we elect legislators who legislate on our behalf. We as individuals do not participate in the everyday decision-making of our democracy. Our elected leaders make these decisions directly. Sometimes we agree with our elected officials and sometimes we don't. In the

next election cycle, we can choose to elect someone else to better represent us if we desire.

On many levels, our church operates the same way. Decisions are made without the entire congregation voting – and this is not a violation of democratic principles. At every Board of Trustees meeting, decisions are made that affect this congregation. Our committees often do this as well. If we charge a committee to purchase a new set of mugs for coffee hour, that committee may send out a survey to ascertain what types of mugs the congregation might want. If that committee ends up purchasing a set of blue mugs, it isn't a miscarriage of justice against those who may have preferred red or green. Nor is the committee's decision to carry out what they've been charged to do a violation of our 6th UU Principle (i.e. the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large).

We also have democratic checks and balances built into our governance. Nobody likes to be "checked" (or even vetted) but for the long-term viability of this congregation, we cannot simply do whatever we want when we want. I know - it's frustrating, disappointing and hard. (That seems to be built in too!)

What I also know is that UUMAN has an incredible set of volunteers (and please remember that most of us are volunteers) who are simply trying to do their very best for our community and this congregation.

May you be well,

Dave

Stewardship: Much More than Money

Stewardship should be a two-way street. You—the individual *you*—are a steward of UUMAN, helping preserve and improve our beloved community for future generations. In the other direction, our community—the collective *you*—is your steward, concerned for your happiness, that you feel accepted and respected, and that you feel engaged as a vital part of UUMAN.

In addition, stewardship is much more than just your monetary pledge. Equally important are the pledges you make of your time and talents. Giving back to our community can be as small a commitment as an hour or two one Saturday morning, or a recurring commitment, such as chairing a committee or teaching Religious Education. UUMAN has many needs, and one of them is sure to be a match for your schedule and skills. Here is a list of some current needs (by no means complete), which are mainly short-term projects.

Please volunteer for one of them, if you can. If you have other interests, you can probably find who to contact in the UUMAN directory. Or ask someone.

Mike Chambers
Stewardship Chair

Contact	Task
Mike Liebergesell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawn-mower operators. Remove a small tree behind FH classrooms that is pushing against the brick retaining wall. The tree should be removed roots and all.
Claire Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are looking for someone to water plants on Fridays this summer.
Toniann Read Melissa Begley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCY teachers—Training for new volunteers is coming up, on August 21.
Susan Wilson	<p><u>Discovery Hall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the outside of the outer door to the Youth Room, replace and paint the molding. The door also needs to be repainted. (Any leftover black paint could be used to paint the two lights on either side of the front door, which would be nice but not necessary!) The front of Discovery Hall could stand a pressure-washing and painting. The molding on the outside entrance to the kitchen should be replaced and painted, along with the door. <p><u>Fellowship Hall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and paint the bases of the columns in the portico. Paint the outer side of the outside door to the kitchen. There are three name plate holders on the minister’s door; please remove the two that are not going to be used. <p><u>Sanctuary</u></p> <p>Pressure-wash the cobwebs that are over the main doors to the foyer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two outside access doors on either side of the attic where the air handlers are installed for our HVAC systems. The doors are locked with padlocks, which makes it awkward to get into the spaces to change the air filters. We would like to have latches installed that would keep the doors firmly shut but make access easier. (From a safety standpoint, we would need to be sure that the latches would not close and accidentally lock a person inside.)
Mike Chambers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ushering—Handing out Orders of Worship, passing the baskets, and counting the money. A great way to meet your fellow UUMANS!



Celebrate and Welcome Our New Settled Minister

Special Concert and Party

As we begin the new church year with our new settled minister, Dave Dunn, what better way to kick it off than with a special concert and party!

Emily Pinkerton, the music director at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh where Reverend Dave did his internship, reached out to him and said that her group, The Early Mays, would be in town the weekend of August 20 and were interested in playing here. So we are going to have a Special Concert and Welcome the New Minister Party!

It will be on Saturday, August 20 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. with the party starting in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 and the concert starting in the Sanctuary at 7:30.

About the Musicians

The Early Mays are from Pittsburgh, PA. We will be requesting donations at the door for the musicians (bring some cash, whatever amount you care to give) to compensate them for their time, talent, and traveling expenses. They will also have CDs available for purchase (bring some cash). They are a tremendously talented group! You can listen to their music at the website: <http://www.theearlymays.com>

Emily Pinkerton, Ellen Gozion and Rachel Eddy share

songs based in a love of American tradition, while also exploring their own creative voices. All three are celebrated solo artists who bring their rich and carefully honed craft to The Early Mays. Emily weaves folk, classical and world music traditions together in her songwriting. She recently won a 2015 New Music USA grant to compose a song cycle for banjo and chamber ensemble. Ellen is an accomplished ballad singer and visual artist who has taught at the Augusta Heritage Center, and was an American Music Abroad finalist with the US State Department. Born and raised in West Virginia, Rachel is a prolific performer who has shared the stage with musical legends including Tim O'Brien, Uncle Earl and Bruce Molsky. She moved back to the US last year after 6 years of living and touring in Europe.

There is an unsurpassed magic that springs from entwined and entrancing vocal harmonies. The Early Mays love the camaraderie of the studio, the road, and rehearsals, and you can feel the gratitude radiate from whatever stage they are on. You'll never leave a show without carrying a little bit of that warmth away with you.

Press Quotes

"The Early Mays are three talented writers, singers, and instrumentalists, coming together on a masterpiece of a debut album. It is clear that the folk trio carefully crafted each other's songs by adding emotionally stirring harmonies and delicate folk instrumentation (banjo, fiddle, and organ). While playing together for the first time at a late-night Christmas Eve service, they realized the full potential of future collaborations, thus forming The Early Mays. Using crowd funding to source their self-titled debut, the group brings traditional and original material to spectacular life. This is more than a band that writes and performs songs—it's a group of serious musicologists who have studied the folk genre all their lives. It's a rare combination of knowledge and talent." **Cindy Howes, Folk Alley/WYEP, Pittsburgh, PA**

"...They sang harmonies that made my own heart sing. Close, perfect, high and sweet, intricate parts worked out that seemed as natural as breathing, we were swept away." **Susanna Robinson Kenga, LBSpy,**

Lewisburg, WV



"As local folk music goes, The Early Mays are a bit of a supergroup. Together, they literally make beautiful music — a play on the Appalachian folk all three are steeped in, with close vocal harmonies, and guitar, banjo, and fiddle work." **Andy Mulkerin, Pittsburgh City**

Paper

- Janet Lacey

Sharing the Plate: 50-50 Sundays

The UUMAN 50-50 Sundays are usually on the third Sunday of the month. On these Sundays, fifty percent of the undesignated plate offering goes to a non-profit organization chosen by the Social Justice Committee.

HomeStretch was chosen by the committee to be the recipient three times this year, February, July and August. In February, we collected for them \$327.50 and in July, \$248.50. August 21 is the next planned 50-50.

Besides being the recipient of 50-50s, volunteers at UUMAN have helped HomeStretch with maintenance projects, building and maintaining their community vegetable garden, and donating back-to-school supplies.

- Michelle Liebergesell

About HomeStretch

The heart of the HomeStretch mission is helping homeless families get back on their feet and into permanent, sustainable housing. This is no small endeavor since many families typically come to them with salaries at, or below, the poverty threshold. Supporting a family at this income level brings much financial hardship; the family cannot make ends meet and inevitably becomes homeless.

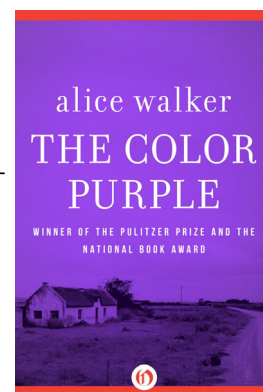
HomeStretch gives homeless parents and their children a safe and comfortable place to live while simultaneously helping them address the root causes of their situation and return to a life of self-reliance and stability. After graduating from HomeStretch, the families have a strong grasp on their finances, have reduced insurmountable debt, and have accumulated savings. Many have even increased their income through job skills training and improved employment. Go to www.HomeStretch.org to learn more.

—Linda Etheridge

A Page from The Page Turners

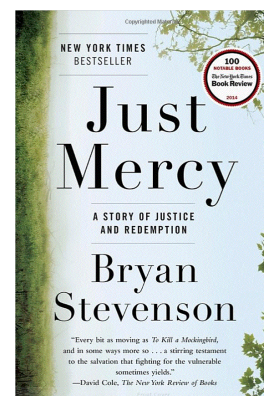


Believe it or not, the small town of Eatonton, Georgia has been the home town of several remarkable people over the years. This month, let's celebrate the prize-winning poet and novelist from Eatonton: Alice Walker. The Page Turners, UUMAN's women's book club, will meet on August 13, when our selection will be Ms. Walker's *The Color Purple*. You may have seen and loved the movie; the novel won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize.



Following that, our September book will be *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy* is the UUA's "common read" for 2016, so we expect it will have a lot of meaning for us on many levels.

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", 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

Earth Ministry Committee

Camping Trip

Join the Earth Ministry Committee for camping at Vogel State Park on the weekend of September 16 -18. Vogel is on the outskirts of Blairsville, GA. There is a 22-acre lake with a hiking trail around it. Vogel is one of Georgia's oldest and most beloved state parks, located at the base of Blood Mountain in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Driving from the south, visitors pass through Neel Gap, a beautiful mountain pass near Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia. To learn more, go to <http://gastateparks.org/Vogel>

The Pioneer Group Campsite has been reserved. This campsite will accommodate up to 40 people and many tents. There is an Adirondack Shelter, covered picnic tables and a pit toilet. There are no showers, but Jennifer and Gus have a portable one that they are willing to share. For those requiring more creature comforts, there are individual campsites that will accommodate RVs and campers and a limited number of cabins (reserve now!) in the park, and all are welcome to join us in the group campground for meals and campfires.



Camping Group 2015—Music

If you plan to stay in the Group Campsite, you can purchase your tickets for \$10.00 for each adult in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, July 31. Children are free. The tickets are non-refundable, but can be sold to other adults. The money will be used to cover the cost of the group campsite, firewood and supplies.

- Michelle Liebergesell



Camping Group 2015



Heart and Hand

This year, the Heart and Hand Market has raised \$435 for the UUSC Refugee Crisis Fund. This donation will go directly to partners of the Service Committee operating on the ground in countries receiving refugees from the Middle East. The work focuses on the safe passage of refugees fleeing for their lives.

Thank you to all who contributed the work of their hands and to those who purchased these treasures. Heart and Hand will reopen in September. Please continue your handwork this summer to be ready for the Market reopening.

Linda Etheridge

UUCA Event Announcement

UUCA WINE, CHEESE, AND THE SPOKEN WORD FEATURING NELSON TRIMBLE, AUGUST 12



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta Performing Arts Coordinating Team (PACT) is pleased to announce the August Wine, Cheese, and the Spoken Word event for Friday, August 12, 7:30 pm, in the Underground Theatre, featuring Nelson Trimble and hosted by Carol Welter.
<http://www.uuca.org/currentupcoming-production/>

The Underground Theatre is the primary performing arts venue of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta, 30329 (alternate address for the parking lot: 1597 Interstate-85 Frontage Road, Atlanta, GA 30329). Doors open at 7 pm; readings are from 7:30-9:30 pm. Suggested admission donation is \$5, but no one is turned away. PLEASE NOTE: The readings may contain adult content and language. Any questions about this event or the series (occurs the second Friday of each month) should be sent to Carol Welter at welterdelis@gmail.com

Tubing on the Chestatee River—an Earth Ministry Event

What a great way to spend a hot, summer Sunday afternoon—tubing on the Chestatee River!



FROM THE GARDEN

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

We'll be continuing our work in the garden at UUMAN on Monday, August 8 and Monday, August 22, working from 9:00 a.m. to around 11:00 a.m., although someone is usually there around 8:30 or so, if you'd like to get an early start in the hot weather. 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!

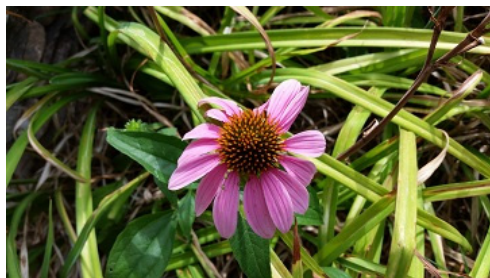
— Claire Sullivan
cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



Pink Hydrangea



White Lilies with Pink Stripes



Pink Cone Flower



Pink and White Crape Myrtle



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
8/2	Ian G. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
8/7	Sue Hagood is celebrating a birthday
8/22	Lilyan G. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
8/25	Tim Link is celebrating a birthday
8/26	Rebecca Ben-David is celebrating a birthday
8/27	Claire K. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
8/7	It's All about Relationship A culture built on competition and exclusion does not promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person; we all suffer for that. It falls to those who believe in the power of love to demonstrate it in our lives, in relationships, in a way that advances in the world this most fundamental of all religious principles.	Dave Hudson, Worship Assoc
8/14	On Friendship Join us as we consider friendship from a number of angles, from President Obama's inability to understand the value of political friendships to the role gossip plays in managing friendships.	Lyn May, Worship Assoc
8/21	Ingathering Prepare your heart to go deep for the coming year as we celebrate ingathering, young and old together. Please bring a small amount of water that is meaningful to you to contribute to the water communion ritual.	Pastor Dave Dunn
8/28	Green Living as a Spiritual Practice Join us as we explore where we fit into the planet's environmental health as individuals and a community. Green living is often seen as a way to live into our principles and may even be considered a moral obligation but it's also more than that. Green living can be a life-giving spiritual practice.	Rev. Kim Palmer

August Events

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge lletheridge1@gmail.com
First and third Saturdays of the month at 1:00 in the sanctuary.	The Weekend Women's Group 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: nybharucha@gmail.com

August Events

Date	Event
2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.	21st Century Humanism 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 peltier.john@gmail.com
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	UUMAN's Painting Group 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.
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15	Daytimers 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 dan@uuman.org
Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	The Common Grounds Coffee House Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen! Doors open at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN 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 at 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 campoften@aol.com
Every other Sunday afternoon, 12-2:00 p.m.	Spiritual Autobiography Explore the key passages of our lives, in a way that allows us to begin to uncover our true selves, our vital inner core, and the spirit of life that animates us. For more information, contact Dave Hudson: hudsondavid@bellsouth.net

For more information about events, see the UUMAN Events Calendar at 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 preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org