

August 2022

Inside this issue:

A New Church Year	1
Stories Under the Stars	2
Meatless Monday Dinner	2
UUMAN Multi-Generational Tubing Trip	2
Earth Ministry/ Earth Keepers Clothing Swap	2
New Member Corner	3
Letter Writing Party at UUMAN	3
Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute Family Camp	4
August 2022: A Month of Sundays	5
Life Celebrations	5



A New Church Year!

I return from my summer break (i.e. vacation and study leave) refreshed and ready to begin a new church year at UUMAN. I

am excited and I must admit that I missed you all! (Well...most of you. Haha...just kidding!) 😊

This summer, after officiating my son's wedding in Philadelphia, Tammy and I spent some time in Savannah, attended a wedding in Colorado, visited one of our sons in Pittsburgh and I attended SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute), along with 22 other members of UUMAN, at the beautiful Western Carolina University.

The theme for this year's SUUSI was "Gratitude." With SUUSI cancelled in 2020 and being virtual in 2021, we were most grateful to again meet in person in 2022. Yes, COVID it still with us now after almost two and one-half years, and it was an issue at SUUSI, overall, we were grateful to spend time with our UU friends from the southeast (e.g. taking workshops, hiking, playing music, just plain relaxing, etc.).

It may seem like a difficult time to dwell in gratitude. COVID is still with us; the US Supreme Court officially issued several decisions contrary to the values and beliefs of many of us, gun violence has never been more prevalent, climate change continues to go un-addressed, our democracy seems to be dysfunctional...the list could go on and on.

Yet, despite all this, we are grateful to be alive!

Rather than choosing to dwell in despair when everything seems to be going wrong, author Barbara Ehrenreich says, "...or, more realistically, you can think of life as an interruption of an eternity of personal nonexistence, and seize it as a brief opportunity to observe and interact with the living, ever-surprising world around us."

Yes, let's be grateful to be alive...AND that we can be alive TOGETHER with one another... AND that we can be alive together in service to our mission...AND that together we bend that arc of justice in our own small way.

As my summer break ends, I'm grateful for that which has happened in my absence: grateful that we hosted our Family Promise guests for three full weeks; grateful that we had wonderful volunteers leading our Sunday worship services, grateful that we now have a Labyrinth (ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication will take place on Sunday, August 21 after the service) and grateful that we have a new set of Board leaders who've graciously stepped forward to guide this congregation into the future.

Yes, I am grateful for my time off, yet I'm grateful to be back again with you all, refreshed, and ready to take on a new church year!

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

~ Dave



Enjoy a summer evening together under the stars!

Celebrate the commonality and diversity of human experience thru the art of personal storytelling.

Bring a camp chair and beverage if you like!

All CDC guidelines will be followed. This is a multigenerational event.

Saturday, August 13

8:00 - 9:30 pm

UUMAN Outdoors Behind Fellowship Hall

For more details, and to RSVP, [CLICK HERE](#)

~ Kelly Callen

Meatless Monday Dinner



Join us for a delicious Meatless dinner & Documentary Showing of "[Textile Mountain](#)"

All CDC guidelines will be followed. This is a multigenerational event.

Monday, August 22

6:00 - 8:00 pm

UUMAN Outdoor Portico

For details, and to RSVP, [CLICK HERE](#) (RSVP is currently not available; check back).

~ Kelly Callen

UUMAN Multi-Generational Tubing Trip



Chestatee River provides a beautiful, gentle ride for all ages 4 and up.

Bring a picnic and join us directly after church as we caravan up to Dahlenega directly after service!

All CDC guidelines will be followed. This is a multigenerational event.

Sunday, September 4

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Appalachian Outfitters

1182 Golden Avenue

Dahlenega, GA 30533

For details, and to RSVP, [CLICK HERE](#)

~ Kelly Callen

Earth Ministry/ Earth Keepers Clothing Swap



All CDC guidelines will be followed. This is a multigenerational event.

Saturday, September 20

9:00 - 4:00 pm

UUMAN Outdoor Portico

For details, and to RSVP [CLICK HERE](#)

~ Kelly Callen

New Member Corner

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Mike and Debra Burrell. Our next UU101 and New Member Sunday will be held in September.

Mike and Debra Burrell joined UUMAN on June 5, 2022. Debra is retired from a series of careers and Mike is a retired lawyer who is now a novelist. They've recently moved to Atlanta from Birmingham to be closer to family members. They were long-time members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham, where Debra was active in worship associates and the flower committee, as well as the choir and other music programs at UUCB.

~ The UUMAN Membership Committee



Letter Writing Party at UUMAN

Dear UUMAN friends,

Last Sunday after service we were thrilled to have more than 20 people show up to discuss how UUMAN can get involved in the next elections and the political process as a whole.

We decided on an initiative that we will be working on during the Fall. We are going to be writing letters to GA voters who have not been regular voters encouraging them to show up in November.

In a recent service I talked about UUA goals to become a "Good Trouble Congregation". One of the goals is sending 20 letters per member.

On **August 7**, UUMAN will be hosting the first LETTER WRITING PARTY right after the service (more details to follow).

UUtheVote is working with many partners on this initiative and we have chosen to support VOTE FORWARD. They have a GA list and that is the one we will be working on.

If you would like to join us this is what you need to do in order to download your 20 letters and join us on **August 7**:

1. Go to <https://votefwd.org/uu> and sign up. You should receive a confirmation email.
2. Follow instructions on the confirmation email to register.
3. After you register you will receive another email stating that you are approved for letter writing.
4. Log in and choose GA campaign, commit to 20 letters, download and print them with you on August 7.

"I WANT TO WRITE LETTERS BUT I CANNOT COME ON AUGUST 7". No problem, send them out following the instructions on the website and let me know so your letters can count towards our overall goal.

Let me know if you have questions.

We will meet grievance and hate with love, beloved community and fun!

Carla Kapeskas
Board of Trustees - Special Projects
Social Justice Chair



Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute Family Camp

UUMAN was well-represented at this year's Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI)! We loved spending time with these families:

- Dave Dunn
- Bralley
- Callen
- Liebergesell
- Patanian
- Patlis / Friedman
- Rohan / Shanahan

You'll recall that SUUSI is a family camp that includes all sorts of activities and programming to nourish the hearts, minds, lungs, and souls of UUs of all ages. It was a wonderful way to connect with UUs from across the country while engaging in the activities that feed us—from twice daily worship to alcohol inks painting, to daily hikes, bikes, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards, to vision boarding, to yoga, to taking our very own Todd Callen's stand-up comedy class. Dave was part of a very important Covenant Accountability Team to help ensure that everyone had a place to live our values and respectfully return to our covenant.

Our teens slept in their own dorm and got to know each other while dancing, connecting with small groups, playing kickball, and lots of fun activities throughout the night. There are so many ways to volunteer your time while at SUUSI—whether it be at the bookstore, driving a star car for those who need assistance getting around campus, or being a monitor in the teen dorm. I enjoyed connecting with my fellow UUMANites each day and carving out time to think about how we show up for each other and for our broader community.

I'm so grateful for the covenant we have to each other and look forward to Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute connecting with you all again soon. Stay healthy.

~ Miriam Patanian



On June 10, UUMAN updated its Covid-related guidance: UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. As the Atlanta Metro area and all but one of our members' counties are yellow, or medium risk, we request that people wear masks indoors and practice social distancing (no hugging/kissing). We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted--thank you for continuing to do your part to keep us all safe! Please check the top of our landing page for the most up-to-date information: uuman.org.

August 2022: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
8/7	I'm Trying As we start anew – a new church year, or perhaps a new school year – there will be initiatives and programs, successes and failures. Can we choose the lens through which we look at these things? What might be the healthiest lens?	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/14	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.	Rev. Dave Dunn
8/21	UU The Vote As reproductive justice is on the ballot this November, actively taking part in the election is especially important. Our denomination has provided many tools for us to use, providing an answer for those of us wishing we knew what to do.	Amanda Bralle Mandi Winders
8/28	I Think...Therefore I am Deluded According to the ancient Indian sage Patanjali, in its most basic sense, yoga is the “cessation of the turning of thought.” Yet, modern western philosophy is said to start with Descartes who uttered his famous phrase “I think, therefore I am.” Well...what are we to make of this?	Rev. Dave Dunn

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



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 membership@uuman.org.

Date	Celebration
8/2	Connor B. is celebrating a birthday
8/5	Dave and Tammy D. are celebrating their anniversary of 33 years
8/9	Josie B. is celebrating a birthday
8/12	Rick I. is celebrating a birthday
	Bev and Steve J. are celebrating their anniversary of 65 years
8/13	Reece B. is celebrating a birthday.
8/14	Abby A. is celebrating a birthday.
8/17	Kelly C. is celebrating a birthday
8/19	Rosie P. is celebrating a birthday
	Gillian P. is celebrating a birthday
8/21	Elizabeth N. and Michael T. are celebrating their anniversary of 12 years
8/22	Lucia B. is celebrating a birthday
8/26	Rebecca B.-D. is celebrating a birthday
8/27	Viktoria K. is celebrating a birthday